

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JANUARY 7, 2013

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on January 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Chairman Rodger Olson called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Approval of agenda order

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Jon Evert, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda, as presented.

Minutes

It was moved by Mark Bittner, seconded by Mark Brodshaug and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2012, meeting.

Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project – Economic Evaluation of Temporary Water Retention Easement Values - Request for Proposals

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug and seconded by Jon Evert to recommend to the Diversion Authority Land Management Committee to issue the Request for Proposals for the Economic Evaluation of Temporary Water Retention Easement Values regarding the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project.

Discussion: Mr. Bittner is concerned about the reaction of the Corps of Engineers as they have some concerns with the timing and whether this would be valuable information. Mr. Brodshaug said the process could have value for other local retention projects. It was also pointed out that it would be up to the Land Management Committee whether to take the matter further.

After taking a vote on the matter, the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Farmstead ring levee evaluation

Lee Beauvais gave a presentation on the farmstead ring levee evaluation they are working on regarding the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. They are looking at existing structures within and outside of the staging area to see if there are ways to leave them in place. There are approximately 100 structures included in the study. The latest alignment impacted the least amount of structures.

Eric Dodds said during the evaluation of applications for hardship buyouts, some structures were on the protected side of the project and were on a FEMA HMP list. Mr. Beauvais said they will be cross referencing properties with other buyout lists. They will also differentiate between farmsteads and individual residences.

Mark Askegaard asked if cemeteries would be included in the study. Mr. Beauvais said they would not. He also pointed out some of the cemeteries out there currently experience flooding. The Corps of Engineers is taking the lead on cemeteries in the inundation area.

Tyler Odegaard asked about the properties along Cass County Highway 17. Mr. Beauvais said they would look at constructing a drain alongside the levee to carry Sheyenne River breakout water, similar to the south side of the Diversion channel. There would be positive drainage along Cass County Highway 17.

Mr. Brodshaug added they cannot change the 100-year floodplain. April Walker said areas would be open to development according to normal floodplain regulations. Mr. Beauvais said the additional depth of water is less than 1' in some areas.

Mr. Bittner said they are talking about floods that no one has seen. He emphasized the need to try and solve flooding basin-wide.

Mr. Beauvais said they hope to complete the study in a couple of months.

Tile drainage concept development

Mike Opat presented information relating to the concept of tiling the staging area for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. He discussed the matter with larger tile installers in the area and looked at a 6 section area using the Diversion channel and an existing legal assessment drain for the outlet. Mains could be installed every mile, draining the water north, until it enters into an east/west feature that carries the water to the outlet. Lift stations could be used if needed, but that would be expensive.

The key would be to get everyone in the project area on board at one time. Mr. Evert asked about doing it as a total plan for an easement. Rodger Olson said the Corps of Engineers would want it to be a voluntary project.

The use of control structures to hold back water would benefit most places. Mark Ottis said long-term studies of tile state that tile is not utilized 60% of the time, but the value of production has changed enough that it might still pay to install tile.

Mr. Bittner asked of producers would support putting in control structures. Mr. Ottis said he did not think they would object as they should be installed for irrigation through the same tile system.

Mr. Olson said the Cass County Joint Water Resource District is willing to continue the study. Subcommittee members agreed it would be good to proceed. Mr. Olson said it will be discussed at the Cass County Joint Water Resource District meeting on Thursday and they can act on the matter. If some concepts make sense, they can be submitted to the Land Management Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered, it was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Matt Ness and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Cass County Joint Water Resource District
Secretary-Treasurer