

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
OCTOBER 3, 2014

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on October 3, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Co-Chair Mark Askegaard, Mark Brodshaug; Mark Bittner; and Mark Ottis; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; Brenda Lovgren, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Administrative Assistant; Eric Dodds and Dustin Dale, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Darrell Vanyo, Cass County Commissioner/Diversion Authority Chairman; Dr. Nancy Hodur, Dr. Saleem Shaik, Dean Bangsund, and David Saxowsky, North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics (NDSU).

Co-Chair Mark Askegaard called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Approval of agenda order

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Mark Bittner, 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 September 16, 2014, meeting.

Ag Risk Economic Evaluation Outline

Eric Dodds introduced representatives from NDSU that will be working on the *Ag Risk Economic Evaluation for Temporary Water Retention Easement Values and Crop Insurance*. Dean Bangsund outlined steps of the project.

Baseline information will be obtained in Cass, Richland, Clay, and Wilkin Counties. They will try to model tract by tract. They will look at impacts to the staging area with and without the Metro Flood Diversion Project in place, with and without Federal Crop Insurance, and with and without a supplemental income program.

Physical effects will be modeled, such as prevent plant, delayed planting, lower yields, crop substitution, etc.

Economic effects will be addressed. It was pointed out there would be lots of variation as annual yields are not always the same.

The data needs already obtained include crop production and acreage, crop mix, revenue and program payments, crop insurance, climate data, planting dates and yield functions. They are in the process of obtaining flowage data, historical flood frequency and timing, GIS/digitized mapping of flood scenarios, and farm-level data from different strata. A problem posed would be the timing and size of future floods.

Potential outcomes could be agricultural production losses. Examples would be lands that would not have flooded, that could possibly flood and lands that already flood, could be flooded for longer periods.

Implications could include overall losses within the staging area, a supplemental income program to offset producer income, and to serve as an educational tool for the Diversion Authority.

Mr. Askegaard said statistics would be critical in the development of the model. Mr. Dodds said NDSU has requested a copy of the hydraulic model. He indicated they are using a 100-year synthetic flood event.

Mr. Dodds will receive updates from the NDSU research team and report to the committee on progress.

Subcommittee members

The group discussed expanding the committee. Mr. Askegaard will present the options to Co-Chair Roger Olson.

Meeting schedule

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2014, at 9:00 am at the Water Resource District office.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Subcommittee to consider, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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