

NOTES FROM MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
DECEMBER 12, 2014

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on December 12, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Co-Chairs Mark Askegaard and Rodger Olson; Subcommittee members Mark Bittner; Mark Brodshaug, Matt Ness and Ron Sorvaag; 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; Brett Coleman and Terry Williams; Corps of Engineers; Dan Jacobson, and Ray Wolfer, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Managers; Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Dr. Nancy Hodur, Dr. Saleem Shaik, Dean Bangsund, and David Saxowksy, North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics (NDSU); and Don Nelson, property owner in the Comstock area.

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

No action was taken at the meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**Ag Risk Economic Evaluation outline**

Eric Dodds introduced representatives from NDSU that are working on the Ag Risk Economic Evaluation for Temporary Water Retention Easement Values and Crop Insurance. Dean Bangsund updated the Committee on preliminary findings.

Baseline information was obtained from Cass, Richland, Clay, and Wilkin Counties. Analysis was made by comparing water storage with and without the diversion. Key components of the physical model land tracts include acreage, elevation, county/state, and township/range. The range of economic effects on landowners during a flood event could prevent or delay planting of crops. Comparisons were made with 10, 25, 50, 100, and 500-year flood levels, with and without the diversion. The probability of conditions will be determined by applying stochasting analysis across all flood scenarios.

Darrell Vanyo discussed the frequency the diversion would be operable and questioned how to alleviate the length of time the water is on land. Mr. Vanyo would like the Corps of Engineers to review the analysis prior to presenting the information to the public.

Pat Downs stated that other counties and landowners up and down the valley will look at the model regarding the storage of water on their land and determine the value or loss of income. Compensation to landowners due to crop loss is in question. The Diversion Authority would need to resolve compensation issues.

NDSU will continue to evaluate the effects of flood damage with and without the diversion. Final results will be presented at the next regular meeting in January.