

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
MARCH 12, 2013

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on March 12, 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 Mark Bittner, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda, as presented.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Mark Ottis and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2012, meeting.

**Red River Retention Authority update**

Pat Downs explained that the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) consists of three representatives from the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resource District and three members from the Minnesota Red River Watershed Management Board. There are also non-voting members on the Board appointed by the Governor of North Dakota, the Governor of Minnesota and the Red River Basin Commission. Mr. Downs said one of the goals of the RRRA is to achieve the 20% Red River main stem flow reduction proposed by the Red River Basin Commission. Comprehensive retention and detention planning is currently underway in North Dakota and Minnesota. Mr. Downs explained that projects start with local water boards. Mark Askegaard asked about the role of the RRRA with the Diversion Authority. Mr. Downs stated that the Diversion Authority asked the RRRA if they would take the lead to look for retention that would benefit the project. The RRRA is also working to streamline the permitting process.

Chad Engels presented retention and flow reduction modeling information. There will be comprehensive retention plans using the latest modeling in 13 watersheds, upstream of Halstad. Site criteria includes controlling a minimum of 20 square miles, avoiding impacts to residential structures/infrastructure, storing a minimum 3-inch runoff, avoiding main stem locations in the lower two-thirds of the watershed, reasonable levee heights, and inundation impacts. Effects of the sites identified in the studies to the main stem of the Red River will be analyzed. In order for projects to proceed they will likely

need to provide local benefits with secondary benefits to the Red River. The Red River Basin Commission will take information from all of the plans completed to see what the stage reduction would be on the Red River. The results should be available in July or August. Mr. Engels pointed out that it is clear from the numbers they are seeing that retention alone cannot resolve the flooding issues in this area.

**Farmstead ring levee evaluation**

Lee Beauvais said residences and farmstead structures within the project staging area are being identified for possible ring levees. Information will be available for individual landowner meetings scheduled in early April.

**Agricultural Impacts Mitigation Plan**

Mark Lambrecht reviewed the proposed Agricultural Impacts Mitigation Plan, setting out information relating to flowage easements and crop insurance.

Mr. Engels pointed out that experiencing crop damage due to summer operation of the project would be very remote.

Mark Bittner suggested the Ag Impacts Mitigation Plan be reviewed with the Corps of Engineers so any concerns they have can be addressed.

Chairman Olson asked everyone to review the document and prepare to discuss it further at the next meeting. He would like to come to a consensus on it at that time.

**Winnipeg floodway operational policies**

Dirk Draper reviewed mitigation relating to the Winnipeg Flood Diversion Program.

**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:

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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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