

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
FEBRUARY 18, 2010

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on February 18, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at the Fargo Public Library, Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Thomas L. Fischer, Chairman; Mark Thelen and Mark Brodshaug, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Rodger Olson, Maple River Water Resource District; Michael R. Buringrud and Robert Thompson, North Cass Water Resource District; William A. Hejl, Rush River Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Sean M. Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Lee Beauvais, Engineer for the Board; Scott Wagner, Cass County Commissioner; Keith Berndt, Cass County Engineer; Ken Goettel, Goettel & Associates, Inc. and Mike Astrup, resident in Clay County, Minnesota.

**Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study**

Keith Berndt introduced Ken Goettel and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the economic analysis conducted by the Corps of Engineers relating to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study. Mr. Goettel presented some background information on previous work he has done and said he will help the group understand how the Corps of Engineers comes up with those numbers.

Chairman Fischer asked about the schedule from the Corps of Engineers and what affect a delay would cause. Mr. Goettel said a delay can change the schedule, depending on which alternative is involved.

Manager Thelen asked about the discount rate used. Mr. Goettel said the relative benefit-cost ratios between alternatives are more important than absolute ratios.

Manager Brodshaug asked Mr. Goettel if he has ever done a regional cost analysis. He said most are done with the Corps of Engineers.

Manager Thelen asked what the affect would be if a large company relocated out of the area. Mr. Goettel said it depends on the size of the company. It could change the benefit-cost ratio, but doubted it would have a large overall impact.

Scott Wagner said it could be argued that a Minnesota diversion benefits Fargo. Mr. Goettel said the western edge of the area is different with the other rivers coming in. Mr. Wagner said long-term viability is a concern.

Mr. Goettel said there is some ability to change details. The Corps of Engineers does not always have to pick the National Economic Development (NED) Plan.

Manager Olson said the Corps of Engineers is recommending the Minnesota 35,000 cfs alternative and asked what the expectation is of funding other bigger projects. Mr. Goettel said the Minnesota 35,000 cfs alternative would probably have a good chance to proceed.

Manager Buringrud asked Mr. Goettel if the Corps of Engineers would use his numbers if they turned out to be better. Mr. Goettel said there is a reasonable chance that the Corps of Engineers would look at them, but it would take a large difference to change the NED.

Manager Hejl pointed out that the Minnesota option would not prevent I-29 and I-94 from going under water and asked about giving that further consideration. Mr. Goettel said they would look into it more if thousands of houses were at risk of going under water as opposed to just the highways. Mr. Berndt said the Corps of Engineers has factored in transportation costs. Manager Hejl added that there have been several 100-year events in recent years. Mr. Goettel said that does not matter as they are looking more at climate change and additional development in the property protected.

Mike Astrup asked about creating an argument for additional funding. He said local benefits need to be considered along with Federal benefits. Mr. Goettel said if flood risk is not lowered, growth in the area could slow, there could be tax repercussions, etc.

Mr. Goettel will review the technical calculations of the Corps of Engineers and report on his findings to the Board.

Constructing a northwest diversion in North Dakota as an add-on to the Minnesota diversion was discussed. Mr. Astrup asked about shortening the North Dakota diversion to bring the cost down. Lee Beauvais said that was discussed, but it would not create enough of an off-set to the cost of the project.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:



Thomas L. Fischer  
Chairman

ATTEST:



Carol Harbeke Lewis  
Secretary-Treasurer