



Oxbow against diversion project

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Oxbow, ND (WDAY TV) - For the first time the city of Oxbow is officially opposing the F-M diversion and joining a group that's trying to stop the plan from happening. It comes after devastating news from the corps on Oxbow's future, and with a timeline - less than a month - to make something happen.

A diversion going around Oxbow is now out of the question, and about any way you lay out the new corps proposals if the diversion goes through, Oxbow is gone.

Jim Nyhof - Oxbow Mayor: "We kind of rode a long for the ride as long as we could."

Mayor Nyhof says Oxbow's only move is to join the Richland/Wilkin joint powers agreement. The city has been in limbo for more than a year now, not wanting to upset Fargo or disrupt progress. Leaders sat back and hoped for the best, but got the worst.

Mayor Nyhof: "Richland/Wilkin County have some steam behind them and they're getting some attention, so if that means us throwing our hat in the ring we're willing to do it."

That group isn't opposing the whole project, just the upstream dam that would wipe out Oxbow, and add water in their counties. Nyhof says the city could work with one of the options the diversion authority has on the table, but it's a long shot. They have less than a month to make something happen. The diversion authority picks a plan on October 11th.

Mayor Nyhof: "Legal council feels they have a case and we are going to have a financial commitment to their council to continue to pursue the dam structure.

Nyhof doesn't have an exact dollar amount right now, but says Oxbow will put in a significant amount of money toward this fight.

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news@wday.com

(701) 241-5306

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