

**City of Moorhead
Adjourned Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2010 at 8:00 AM
City Hall Council Chambers**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Adjourned Council Meeting was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, on March 12, 2010, at 8:00 AM.

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

1st Ward Council Member:	Luther Stueland	Present
1st Ward Council Member:	Nancy Otto	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Diane Wray Williams	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Mark Altenburg	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Dan Hunt	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Brenda Elmer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Greg Lemke	Present
Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present (Arrived 8:10 AM)

Adjourned City Council Meeting

1. [Permanent Flood Protection Discussion/Update](#)

Minutes: Mayor Pro-tem, Greg Lemke, called the meeting to order.

Michael Redlinger, City Manager, stated that this meeting is an Adjourned Council Meeting from March 8, 2010. He provided the following updates:

- Governor Tim Pawlenty was in Moorhead on Wednesday, March 10th and offered supportive comments on the planning thus far for permanent flood protection.
- If local dollars are available, a North Dakota diversion will be studied thoroughly as there has been significant support for this plan.
- The Metro Flood Study Work Group continues to discuss and evaluate options. No definitive recommendation has been determined.
- As an Adjourned Council Meeting, the Council is welcome to receive public comment.

Council Members appointed to the Metro Flood Study Work Group provided the following information:

- The City of Dilworth has wells in a "Dilworth Aquifer." Drilling into this area could put an end to a Minnesota diversion.
- There have been many comments in favor of a North Dakota diversion. Persons in favor state that it would:
 - Protect a greater number of people;
 - Further more development of land;

- Decrease some concerns for downstream communities;
 - Cause fewer cross boundary disputes; and
 - Create greater economic development.
- The City of Dilworth has retained legal counsel and plans to proceed with legal action if a Minnesota diversion is selected due to its impact on their future city and school growth.
 - It appears that the cost estimate to move the Dilworth rail yard provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was significantly lower compared to the cost estimate of the BNSF Railway Company. The difference could significantly affect the calculated cost/benefit ratio.

City staff clarified the following for Council:

- If local officials choose a North Dakota diversion as the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP), they will be fully committed to studying it. It could cost up to one million in additional dollars.
- The USACE cannot guarantee full completion of the North Dakota study to meet current timelines for inclusion in the Federal "Water Bill."
- At any point between now and the end of the study, local officials can forego a North Dakota study and select a Minnesota diversion.
- The USACE is required to conduct a regional economic development study as part of their report. The analysis includes the National Economic Development (NED) plan, regional economic impact, and other social effects. Local officials can use this information in their decision-making even though it will not change the NED determination.

The Mayor and Council stated the following:

- State of Minnesota and Federal officials appear to be supportive of a North Dakota diversion.
- It will be important to adhere to given timelines to ensure a diversion is constructed in a timely fashion.
- It is important to study both options in order to evaluate all relevant possibilities and the greatest benefit for all communities.
- The quality of the NED plan developed by the USACE is based on a standard that may be much lower than local expectations and standards.
- Any decision should take into consideration the impact on neighboring cities and townships.
- Any joint powers agreement considering cost share should be carefully figured for accurate responsibility and work to protect Moorhead over time.

- By resolution, the Mayor and Council have previously shown its support for a North Dakota 35,000 cfs diversion. This support remains.

The work group will recommend a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) at the March 11, 2010 meeting. The recommendation will then be considered separately by each elected body for official determination.

The following individual addressed the Mayor and Council regarding his support for a North Dakota Diversion:

- Jim Erickson, representing Citizens for a North Dakota Diversion

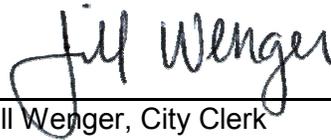
Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 AM.

APPROVED BY:



Mark Voxland, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jill Wenger, City Clerk

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jill Wenger, City Clerk