



Richland - Wilkin Joint Powers Association

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Summary of Presentation by Joint Powers Association on Proposed Fargo Diversion 4/19/12

- Oppose dam and reservoir as part of Fargo Diversion proposal
- Dam and reservoir raises water levels on more than 50,000 acres, requiring the removal of communities, farms, and businesses including more than 400 homes.
- Dam and reservoir destroy 25% of valuation and reduces students by 20% in Kindred school district, and similar amount of Richland 44.
- Proposed Fargo Diversion removes 81 square miles from flood plain. Minnesota plan only removed 31. Amount of land removed from flood plain determines negative impacts to surrounding area.
- Basin Wide Retention can lower river levels downstream more than diversion raises them, and eliminate need for dam and reservoir.
- Area protected by diversion can be reduced to minimize retention needed to mitigate downstream impacts.
- Diversion path chosen to protect area for future economic development at the expense of upstream residents.
- Project trades potential growth area in Richland and Southern Cass Counties for development territory for Fargo.
- North Dakota Constitution prohibits eminent domain for economic development.
- We are asking the legislature to place conditions on funding for proposed diversion project to protect residents in the surrounding area.