

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Joel Paulsen

[Fargo, 4/16/2024] —

The following is a statement from Joel Paulsen:

“It is with a heavy heart that I depart as the Executive Director of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, resignation effective 4/9/2024. This decision was sudden due to irreconcilable differences over contract language that I believe could potentially increase risks, both financial and logistical, to our critical project.”

“During my tenure, I had the privilege of leading efforts that culminated in a landmark settlement agreement benefiting communities affected by our initiatives. Additionally, I oversaw the successful acquisition of substantial funding from the State of North Dakota, ensuring the project’s progression while upholding our commitment to fiscal responsibility.”

“My commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership has always been at the forefront of my professional ethos. It is essential that I remain true to these values, even when faced with challenging decisions. I am proud of what we have achieved together.”

“I am grateful to our Diversion staff team, and the community for their support and collaboration throughout my service. I look forward to new opportunities to continue advocating for sustainable and responsible flood management solutions. Given the opportunity to consult in the future to positively impact the completion of the project is something I am willing to explore.”

For further information, please contact attorney Tim O’Keeffe of O’Keeffe O’Brien Lyson Attorneys.

(701) 235-8000 (office)

(701) 371-6897 (cell)

tim@okeeffeatorneys.com