

GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Carrington, North Dakota
October 7, 2021

A meeting of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held at the Garrison Diversion headquarters in Carrington, North Dakota, on October 7, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Kelly Klosterman at 11 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board Chairman Alan Walter
Acting Committee Chairman Kelly Klosterman
Director Rick Anderson
Director Brian Orn
Secretary Kip Kovar

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Committee Chairman Mark Cook

OTHERS PRESENT

A copy of the registration sheet is attached to these minutes as Annex I.

The meeting was recorded to assist with compilation of the minutes.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Director Anderson to dispense with a reading of the March 25, 2021, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee minutes and approve them as distributed. Second by Director Orn. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. MIKE OSTLIE

Acting Chairman Klosterman introduced Dr. Mike Ostlie, Interim Director, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center, to the committee.

Dr. Ostlie addressed the committee, giving them a brief background on himself and his past work experiences. He also provided a quick update on the growing season this year at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS).

OIRS UPDATE

Construction of Building

Dr. Ostlie stated that Kelly Cooper, Agronomist, OIRS, is currently looking at options for the two existing structures at the OIRS. One building will be demolished, and the other they are looking to keep and reuse.

Acting Chairman Klosterman reminded the committee that Garrison Diversion proposed to provide \$250,000 in funding to assist with the construction of an insulated building at the OIRS. Money was also raised by the Oakes community that could hopefully be used toward heating and electricity. It would be NDSU's responsibility to finish the building.

Acting Chairman Klosterman stated he had priced buildings out earlier, but prices on materials and supplies have gone up beyond the amount budgeted. He has contacted two SIP (structural insulated panel) manufacturers for some rough numbers. The panels are very efficient, and the building would be quicker to construct.

Acting Chairman Klosterman said no matter what, the earliest would be a spring build. If it is a long fall and nicer winter, it is possible the building site could be prepared. The main concern at the OIRS is equipment storage, and Garrison Diversion is checking to see if Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District would have room to store some of the equipment.

Acting Chairman Klosterman asked if the building plan lines up, would NDSU be able to start working on removal of the building and site preparation.

Dr. Ostlie said if Garrison Diversion is going to move forward, then NDSU could be ready as well. He will talk with Mr. Cooper to get a plan laid out.

Acting Chairman Klosterman added it may be difficult to build for \$250,000. We do not want to go any smaller than the original planned building size and had hoped to go bigger. He is also in the process of getting new prices from Morton, who he had checked with previously.

Kip Kovar, Secretary, suggested a specification sheet be prepared indicating what the requirements are for the building that can be used as a checklist. ND Century Code also stipulates sealed bids are required if construction goes over a certain dollar amount. This will need to be looked into.

Acting Chairman Klosterman said once the specification sheet is prepared and new bids are requested, received and compared, another committee meeting will be held to review the results.

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education

Acting Chairman Klosterman informed the committee that the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) is holding input sessions to receive recommendations and begin planning for the 2023 legislative session in regard to the critical agricultural needs of the state agricultural experiment station and extension service. Duane DeKrey, General Manager, Garrison Diversion, will be making a presentation before the board in support of state funding for the OIRS on November 2 at NDSU's Memorial Union.

Mr. DeKrey said he is planning to remind SBARE that NDSU and Garrison Diversion agreed to a six-year funding phase out plan for Garrison Diversion on the OIRS. SBARE needs to include OIRS on its priority list so that following the 2025 legislative session, funding for the OIRS gets inserted into the state's agricultural budget.

ND IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

Dani Hanson, North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA), reported the NDIA has been working with the congressional delegation on project pumping power and is moving forward with a strategy to get legislation offered as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which congress will be putting together later this year. A copy of the NDIA's letter to Senator Cramer asking for project pumping power to be included in the WRDA is attached to these minutes as Annex II.

Ms. Hanson stated that she has been doing groundwork with quite a few of the agricultural groups to start talking about irrigation given the drought this year. She has six agricultural organizations signing onto a letter asking the delegation to put the project power legislation into the overall WRDA package.

Ms. Hanson commented the NDIA is also working with legislators in an attempt to determine if any dollars can be set aside in a discretionary fund from the American Rescue Plan Act allocations for future irrigation projects and education.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion by Director Orn to adjourn the meeting. Second by Director Anderson. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

(SEAL)

Kelly Klosterman, Acting Chairman

Kip Kovar, Secretary

REGISTRATION

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Carrington, ND
October 7, 2021

NAME	ADDRESS
Lisa Achafer	GDCD
Alan Walter	GDCD
Paul Culver	GDCD
Karin Dun	GDCD
Randy Ehlis	Redamation
Mike Ostlie	CREC
Steve Meyer	GDCD - Foster G.
Dwayne DeKroy	GDCD
Rick Anderson	GDCD
Cliff Hammett	GDCD
Dana Anderson	GDCD
Areni Munk	GDCD
Kp Kurn	GDCD
Roger Hestad	GDCD



North Dakota Irrigation Association

P.O. Box 2254
Bismarck, ND 58502
701-223-4615
701-223-4645 (fax)

Dedicated to strengthening and expanding irrigation to build and diversify our economy

September 16, 2021

Senator Kevin Cramer
330 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cramer,

Thank you for your introduction and support of S. 1554, which would clarify the eligibility of irrigation projects in North Dakota to received project pumping or project use power. North Dakota has approximately 290,000 acres of irrigation used in the production of a variety of crops including corn and cereal grain crops, livestock forage, and high value crops such as potatoes, sugar beets, and onions. Especially in dry years such as this one irrigation is vital to supporting agriculture in the state and makes it possible to grow high value specialty crops such as potatoes or onions.

As you are aware, North Dakota has a substantial potential of increasing irrigation. Approximately 300,000 acres in the Missouri River corridor have the water and soils suitable for irrigation. A major barrier to expanding irrigation is cost. While there are state and federal programs to assist with infrastructure costs to establish irrigation, power remains a significant cost to producers and serves as a barrier to expansion of irrigation. Those limited areas of the state where producers are eligible for project pumping power that cost has been mitigated. The building of the Garrison Dam flooded thousands of acres that were well suited to irrigation. These acres were also lower in elevation, thus requiring significantly less power to irrigate. The state of North Dakota was promised access to project pumping power to offset the increased power cost when irrigation was forced to relocate to higher ground. Unfortunately, many producers in the Missouri River corridor remain ineligible for this important benefit promised by the federal government.

S. 1554 would correct this issue and expand eligibility for project pumping power. The North Dakota Irrigation Association is grateful for the delegation's support of S. 1554 and is ready to work with the delegation in securing passage of this important piece of legislation. In that effort, we would ask that S. 1554 be considered for inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). If the Association can provide any assistance to your office as you work with the Senate Environment and Public Works committee to markup WRDA, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Executive Director, Dani Hanson at dhanson@ndwater.net.

Thank you for all you do for North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren DeWitz", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Loren DeWitz
President