



Cities, Water Systems Commit to Red River Valley Water Supply Project Development

By Kimberly Cook

A plan that will safeguard water for North Dakota communities and rural water districts in times of drought, and promote industrial development in the Red River Valley continues to make progress. The proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) would use a buried pipeline to carry water from the Missouri River near Washburn along Highway 200 to the Baldhill Creek or Sheyenne River, providing a supplemental water supply to users in central and eastern North Dakota.

Over the past few months, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) board members and staff, as well as the Lake Agassiz Water Authority, have held more than 100 meetings with prospective RRVWSP water users across central and eastern North Dakota.

“We’ve had a good response to our informational meetings with prospective users,” says Ken Vein, Garrison Diversion board chairman. “It’s critical that we start working now to protect our communities’ and rural water districts’ water supplies, economies, and future development from drought conditions. A serious drought would make it difficult

to meet municipal, rural, and industrial water demands, which would have a devastating impact on North Dakota’s economy.”

As of mid-October, 27 agreements have been signed by prospective users to fund the RRVWSP’s development. Project development generally includes conceptual engineering, preliminary engineering, and financial modeling.

To date, the communities that have provided initial commitment to the project include the cities of Cooperstown, East Grand Forks, Fargo, Grafton, Grand Forks, Hillsboro, Larimore, Lisbon, McVie, Mayville, Tuttle, Valley City, and Wahpeton; as well as the Agassiz Water Users District, Barnes Rural Water District, Cass Rural Water District, Central Plains Water District, Dakota Rural Water District, Grand Forks-Traill Water District, Northeast Regional Water District, Richland County Job Development Authority, South Central Regional Water District, Southeast Water Users District, Stutsman Rural Water District/Jamestown, Traill Rural Water Users Inc., Tri-County Rural Water District, and Walsh Rural Water District.

Garrison Diversion Board *Says Goodbye* to Two Seasoned Directors



**Tim Schindler,
Sheridan County**

Since 1999, Tim Schindler has been a valuable member of the Garrison Diversion board, representing Sheridan County. Schindler has chosen to retire from the board, and will complete the remainder of his term, which ends on Dec. 31.

Schindler has served a wide variety of interests over the years. During his final term, he served on the Engineering and Operations Committee, and previously served on the MR&I (Municipal, Rural, and Industrial Water Supply), Public Relations, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Missouri River committees. His participation on Garrison Diversion's board of directors demonstrated his strong commitment to water development.

Schindler has been active with the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and is a former director and supervisor of the association. He has received several awards for his involvement in soil conservation.

He and his wife, Delila, live on a farm near McClusky, and have three grown children and nine grandchildren. Though he doesn't have any grand plans for retirement, he says he hopes to ride his Harley a bit more often!

Dennis Wendel, LaMoure County

Dennis Wendel, Garrison Diversion's LaMoure County director, has been an instrumental member of the board since 1997. During his tenure on the board, he was an active participant on the MR&I, Public Relations, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Missouri River, and Engineering and Operations committees.

Wendel has also been an active community servant, most notably as a 4-H leader for 30 years, and has received multiple community awards for his service.

His participation on Garrison Diversion's board of directors proved him a responsible advocate for water development in North Dakota.

He and his wife, Marsha, live near LaMoure. They have 12 children and 44 grandchildren to keep them busy in retirement!



Griggs County Director Appointed

The Griggs County Commission recently appointed Nikki Boote to fulfill the remainder of the term for former director John Leininger, who passed away in January.

Boote is a Dickinson State University graduate, and currently works as the business manager for the Midkota School District. She is an engaged community member, and in addition to her position on Garrison Diversion's board, she is active in the Economic Development Corporation, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church's board of directors, a member of the North Dakota High School Rodeo Association, and a past board member for the Cooperstown Medical Center.

"The current board members have a lot of experience, and I will most certainly be leaning on them to help me through," Boote says. "I know I have big shoes to fill!" she says, referring to stepping in for Leininger.

Boote lives in Binford with her family, husband Alan and three boys, Jade, Jory, and Jace.

Together they enjoy watching Bison and Vikings football, and rodeoing in the summer.

Boote's appointment will end on Dec. 31. She is running for the Griggs County director position in the general election later this month.

