

**GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Garrison Diversion Conservancy District**

**Carrington, ND**

**January 11, 2024**

**10:45 AM**

**AGENDA**

- I. Roll Call
- II. Consideration of Minutes
  - A. >July 19, 2023
- III. Public Relations Activities
  - A. Task Order
    - 1. >2024 Strategic Communications Services – TO GF 1.47
  - B. >2024 Work Plan & Budget
  - C. Submitted Articles
    - 1. >ND Water January 2024
    - 2. >ND Water December 2023
    - 3. >ND Water November 2023
    - 4. >ND Water October 2023
  - D. Submitted News Releases
    - 1. >Matching Recreation Grant Program – 11-27-23
    - 2. >Irrigation Cost Share - 11-10-23
    - 3. >MR&I Grants – 10-30-23
    - 4. >MR&I Grants – 8-25-23
  - E. Garrison Diversion & RRVWSP News Articles
    - 1. 1-6-24 Bismarck Tribune
    - 2. 12-4-23 Foster County Independent
    - 3. 12-2-23 Harvey Herald Press
    - 4. 11-27-23 Foster County Independent
    - 5. 11-6-23 Foster County Independent
    - 6. 10-14-23 Grand Forks Herald
    - 7. 10-12-23 KNOX Radio
    - 8. 10-11-23 Fargo Forum
    - 9. 10-11-23 Sen. Hoeven News Release

10. 10-11-23 Valley News Live
11. 10-6-23 Fargo Forum
12. 9-18-23 Foster County Independent
13. 9-15-23 Griggs County Courier
- F. RRVWSP Newsletter
  1. >2023 Newsletter Analytics
  2. >4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023
  3. >3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023
- G. PR Products
  1. >County Benefits Handouts
    - a) Burleigh
    - b) Pierce
    - c) Sheridan
  2. Redesigned Websites
  3. YouTube Sites
    - a) Updated RRVWSP video
- H. Upcoming Conferences and PR Events
  1. Red River Basin Commission Conference, Jan. 16-18 – West Fargo, ND
  2. Rural Water Expo, February 6-8 – Fargo, ND
- I. Other Business
  1. Career Fairs
  2. Media Interviews
    - a) Prairie Public – Prairie Pulse, Episode #2114 airs January 18, 2024
    - b) Design Develop Construct Journal
  3. Stump Lake Dedication
  4. OIRS Groundbreaking

The following minutes are in draft form subject to review and approval by the Public Relations Committee at its next meeting.

23-01

## **GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel  
Dickinson, North Dakota  
July 19, 2023**

A meeting of the Public Relations Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held on July 19, 2023, at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel in Dickinson. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson at 7:30 a.m.

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Board Chairman Alan Walter  
Committee Chairman Dave Anderson  
Director Margo Knorr  
Director Ward Koeser  
Secretary Kimberly Cook

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Director Nikki Boote

#### **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 Walter to dispense with a reading of the December 12, 2022, Public Relations Committee minutes and approve them as distributed. Second by Director Koeser. Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

**Submitted Articles** - - Kimberly Cook, Secretary, referred to and reviewed copies of articles submitted to the *ND Water* magazine for the months of January, March, April, June and July on behalf of Garrison Diversion.

**News Releases** - - Ms. Cook also referred to and reviewed the news releases prepared by Garrison Diversion and submitted to local and daily newspapers relating to Garrison Diversion programs and activities.

**News Articles** - - Ms. Cook called attention to copies of and reviewed various news articles, which were published in state and local newspapers relating to Garrison Diversion and the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP).

**RRVWSP Newsletter** - - Ms. Cook next called attention to copies of the first and second quarterly RRVWSP newsletters for 2023. She also reviewed the 2023 newsletter analytics.

**Legislative Recap** - - Ms. Cook reported Garrison Diversion was host to four legislative forums at different locations around the state inviting state legislators to visit about the RRVWSP. Overall, it was a nice opportunity for legislators to visit directly with staff and ask questions about the project. A legislative social was also hosted by Garrison Diversion and HDR in conjunction with the annual Water Users Conference at Bismarck.

Duane DeKrey, General Manager, Garrison Diversion, provided a recap of accomplishments for Garrison Diversion and the RRVWSP at the legislative session.

**PR Products** - - Ms. Cook reported the Garrison Diversion, RRVWSP and Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) websites are currently in the process of being redeveloped. She highlighted the changes and improvements being incorporated.

Ms. Cook added Garrison Diversion's site is being updated first and should be live early this fall. The other two sites will follow.

**Meetings and Conferences** - - Ms. Cook reviewed a list of upcoming conferences and events Garrison Diversion will attend with the display booths. A few special events this summer are Water Day at the State Fair, the Irrigation Appreciation Supper and the groundbreaking for the new building at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site.

## **OTHER**

**ND Professional Communicators Awards** - - Ms. Cook informed the committee of the first-place award received by Garrison Diversion for the video prepared on the RRVWSP.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

**(SEAL)**

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Dave Anderson, Chairman

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Kimberly Cook, Secretary

# REGISTRATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel  
Dickinson, North Dakota  
July 19, 2023

NAME	ADDRESS
Kip Kover	GDGD
Say Paul Anderson	GDGD - Ransom
Greg Bischoff	GDGD - Barnes
<del>Russell Smith</del>	GDGD
<del>Dan Carlson</del>	GDGD
Ward Koser	GDGD
Leslie Schaper	GDGD
Dwaine DeKrey	GDGD
Alan McWalter	WARD CITY REP. - GDGD
Meri Merrill	GDGD
Marge Kner	GDGD

**Task Order GF 1.47 – 2024 Strategic Communications Services**

Task Order Effective Date: January 1, 2024

**TASK ORDER EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**REQUEST**

Consideration and approval of a consultant task order in the amount of \$94,700 to provide communications services to Garrison Diversion. The result of this Task Order will facilitate consultant working as an extension of staff to plan, coordinate, and execute communication services that will educate and engage stakeholders, end users, affected landowners, and the public on key areas of the Project. Consultant services will begin in January 2024 and finish by January 2025.

**TASK ORDER OBJECTIVES**

With the RRVWSP currently under construction, this task order will assist Garrison Diversion in the development of a consistent and reliable communications strategy for project sponsors, community leaders, legislators, state leaders, and strategic partners.

A prime objective will be to provide support during the interim legislative session. This will include working with staff to provide project status updates, responses to legislator information requests, preparation prior to 2025 testimony, and legislator outreach.

In addition, the communications services will include assisting staff with outreach, education, and advocacy to provide up to date and accurate information about the Project. These services include the planning and support for the quarterly RRVWSP newsletter, social media, communications strategy, graphic design, and videography.

Lastly, project media coverage will be tracked and reported along with quarterly newsletter and social media analytics. Website maintenance services will be provided on an on-call basis.

**TASK ORDER SUMMARY**

The services to be provided by the consultant team (Black & Veatch and AE2S) are fully described in the attached Task Order.

**Basic Services:** The fee of \$94,700 includes both labor and direct expenses for consulting services to provide the identified communications assistance.

**Special Services:** There are no unique or specialized services required under this task order.



**Black & Veatch Corporation**

Professional Services for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project  
Under General Agreement dated January 17, 2008

**Task Order GF 1.47 – 2024 Strategic Communications Services**

**Effective Date – January 1, 2024**

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Content of this Task Order (TO) is as follows:

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**I. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

1. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Project) will provide an emergency and supplemental water supply to central and eastern North Dakota (ND) in the event of drought conditions providing resiliency for the communities and economy in the Red River Valley. The Project, as envisioned by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion, Owner), will also supply additional water to support industrial development as well as provide an environmental benefit to local rivers during drought conditions by augmenting natural stream flows. The source water will be withdrawn from the McClusky Canal west of the City of McClusky, ND, treated at a nearby biota water treatment plant. A 125-mile, multi-county pipeline will then convey flows from the plant east to the Sheyenne River. Lake Ashtabula located downstream will provide storage allowing for controlled releases to the Red River Valley when flow augmentation is needed.
  
2. Professional services to develop, implement, and support the overall Project’s communication program are being accomplished through the execution of annual task orders. The approach in this Task Order is like what was undertaken since 2021. Black & Veatch’s (Engineer’s) Consultant, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC, will be primarily responsible for the execution of this Task Order working with Garrison Diversion’s in-house staff.

## II. TASK ORDER OBJECTIVES

1. With the RRVWSP project currently under construction and seeking significant funding from the State of North Dakota, this Task Order will assist Garrison Diversion in the development of a consistent and reliable communications strategy for project sponsors, community leaders, legislators, state leaders, and strategic partners.
2. Assistance with preparing for the 2025 legislative session and complying with the regular reporting during the legislative interim. This will include working with staff to organize update calls, testimony development, responses to legislator information requests, and organizing supporters for testimony and legislator outreach.
3. Focus on assisting Garrison Diversion staff with the efforts of education, advocacy, and outreach to provide up to date and accurate information about the Project.
4. Planning and support for events that elevate the status of Garrison Diversion and the Project, including industry conferences and special events.
5. Tracking and reporting of project media coverage as well as quarterly newsletter and social media analytics.
6. Provide website maintenance as requested of the newly developed GDCD, LAWA, and RRVWSP sites.

## III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Under this Task Order, Engineer through its Consultant will provide services in accordance with the Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services dated January 17, 2008 (Agreement).
2. General Description of Activities. The Basic Services to be performed by the Engineer's Consultant consist of professional services associated with the project development and communications for the Project.
3. Work outside Basic and Special Services. Engineer through its Consultant agrees to provide the Basic Services and Special Services identified herein. Work not specifically discussed herein as part of Basic Services or Special Services is considered Additional Services. Additional Services will only be performed with proper separate authorization such as an amendment to this Task Order or a new separate Task Order.
4. Explicit Responsibilities. Basic Services and Special Services explicitly set forth the services Engineer's Consultant will perform and do not implicitly put any additional responsibilities or duties upon the Project Team and Communications Team. Deliverables to be provided are explicitly identified in the Deliverables paragraph of this Task Order.
5. Explicitly Identified Quantities. Engineer's Consultant in development of this Task Order estimates the level of effort required to provide the services discussed. Where specific



information is listed as to the quantity of service to be provided, those quantities listed are considered Basic Services or Special Services and are, therefore, included in this Task Order scope of service and associated fee estimate. Services exceeding the written quantities shown below in Basic Services or Special Services are considered Additional Services.

#### IV. BASIC SERVICES

Basic Services of this Task Order are organized into major tasks as follows:

##### Communications

- Task 1 – Strategic Communications Planning and Management
- Task 2 – Public and Media Relations
- Task 3 – Interim Legislative Session Support
- Task 4 – Education and Engagement Support
- Task 5 – Owned Media Support (Digital, Social, Video, Design)
- Task 6 – Website Maintenance

##### 1. Task 1 – Strategic Communications Planning and Management

This task includes overall management of Project Development related to communications and public outreach, the strategic development of and deployment of communication efforts for various audiences, and Communications Team meetings with Garrison Diversion staff.

##### 2. Task 2 – Public and Media Relations

This task includes the quarterly development and dissemination of the RRVWSP newsletter and analytic reports that show open and click rates, as well as most read articles; as well as media monitoring to identify and assess the positive negative or neutral view of the RRVWSP, Garrison Diversion, and/or LAWA. This task also includes the monthly cost of the Constant Contact email marketing account utilized to send out the newsletter, event invitations, and other Project updates, as well as the annual cost to utilize Meltwater, a program that tracks traditional media and social media sentiments about the Project, Garrison Diversion, and LAWA.

##### 3. Task 3 – Interim Legislative Session Support

This task includes the development of testimony and coordination of legislative meetings related to the interim legislative session and strategic legislative meetings leading up to the 2025 legislative session. This will include working with Garrison Diversion staff and LAWA members to coordinate tasks such as to organize legislative update calls, develop meeting materials for strategy and coordination meetings, testimony development, responses to legislator requests for information, and the coordination of Project supporters for testimony and legislator outreach, as well as graphic design, presentation development, and content for outreach materials.

#### 4. Task 4 – Education and Engagement Support

This task includes working with Garrison Diversion staff and LAWA members to plan, coordinate, strategize, and execute communication services through the strategic development of articles, news releases, handouts, mailers, presentations, and website content graphic to educate and engage stakeholders, end users, affected landowners, and the public on key areas of the project. This task also includes communication and design services as described above to provide an extension of staff on an on-call basis.

#### 5. Task 5 – Owned Media Support (Digital, Social, Video, Design)

This task includes the creation of four quarterly social media plans for Facebook and Twitter, as well as daily monitoring for comments and the development of responses, plus graphic design for social media posts.

#### 6. Task 6 – Website Maintenance

Provide on-call website maintenance services for the Garrison Diversion, Lake Agassiz Water Authority, and Red River Valley Water Supply Project sites as needed. This task includes fixing any issues that may develop with the three sites, as well as providing help to Garrison Diversion staff with creating, removing webpages, or adding new functions to the sites on an as-needed basis. This includes website hosting services and fees.

### V. DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables will be furnished under this Task Order. Documents or deliverables not included in the list below will be provided as Additional Services as authorized by the Owner.

1. Quarterly newsletter article creation, dissemination, and analytics report.
2. Quarterly social media content development, scheduling on Facebook and Twitter, and analytics report.
3. Meeting materials for strategy and coordination meetings.
4. Content and graphics development for owned media such as website, handouts, newsletters, social media, posters/signage, and presentations.
5. Development, media relations, and promotion of earned (traditional) media.
6. Development of standardized talking points for consistent messaging by Garrison Diversion, stakeholders, community leaders, and other interested groups.
7. Hosting services and on-call website maintenance for three websites associated with the RRVWSP – Garrison Diversion, LAWA, and RRVWSP sites.

**VI. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER**

1. Interim Deliverable Review Requirements. Owner commits to review periods for interim deliverables of no more than fourteen calendar days after receipt of deliverables from Engineer’s Consultant.
2. Provide Relevant Information. Owner agrees to provide relevant information and content regarding requirements for the various tasks. The Engineer’s Consultant shall be entitled to use and rely upon all information provided by the Owner or Owner’s consultants in performing services under this Task Order.
3. Advertising and Rental Fees. Owner agrees to pay directly to publication(s) or venues the fees of all public advertisements or in relation to conferences and events.

**VII. FEE**

The total fee for Basic Services provided under this Task Order is Ninety-four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$94,700).

A worksheet showing the fee and level of effort by task is included in Attachment A.

**VIII. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

This scope and schedule start on January 1, 2024, with anticipated completion on or before December 31, 2024.

**IX. DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND ATTACHMENTS**

1. Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services dated January 17, 2008, is incorporated by reference.
2. Attachment A – Fee Estimate Worksheets

**X. ACCEPTANCE**

If this satisfactorily sets forth your understanding of this Task Order, please print and sign this document. You should retain one copy for your files and return an electronic copy via email to Paul Boersma ([BoersmaPM@BV.com](mailto:BoersmaPM@BV.com)) with Black & Veatch Corporation.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Duane DeKrey, General Manager  
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Boersma, Associate Vice President  
Black & Veatch Corporation

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENT A

Fee Estimate Worksheets

DRAFT



**Garrison Diversion Conservancy District**  
**Task Order GF 1.47 - 2024 Strategic Communications Services**  
**BV Project No. xxxxxx**  
**Black & Veatch and Subconsultants**

Task	Lead Firm	Position	Labor Detail	Expense Detail	Sub Consulta	Sub Consult	Expense Detail		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
		Task Description	BV Labor Cost	Hobacca	AE2S Hours	AE2S Sub Costs	AE2S Sub Markup	Total Direct Expense	BV Level of Effort (hrs)	BV Labor Cost	Direct Expense	Fee
<b>IV. BASIC SERVICES</b>												
<b>1</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Strategic Communications Planning and Management</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>\$21,854</b>	<b>\$1,188</b>	<b>\$23,042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$23,042</b>	<b>\$23,042</b>
A	AE2S	Client communications/strategy session/meetings	\$0	\$0	90	\$13,732	\$782	\$14,514	0	\$0	\$14,514	\$14,514
B	AE2S	Analytics and reporting	\$0	\$0	16	\$3,184	\$159	\$3,343	0	\$0	\$3,343	\$3,343
C	AE2S	Communications management	\$0	\$0	36	\$4,939	\$247	\$5,186	0	\$0	\$5,186	\$5,186
<b>2</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Public and Media Relations</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>\$11,207</b>	<b>\$560</b>	<b>\$11,767</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,767</b>	<b>\$11,767</b>
A	AE2S	Quarterly digital newsletter production	\$0	\$0	20	\$3,297	\$165	\$3,462	0	\$0	\$3,462	\$3,462
B	AE2S	Media monitoring and potential responses	\$0	\$0	28	\$7,910	\$395	\$8,305	0	\$0	\$8,305	\$8,305
<b>3</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Interim Legislative Session Support</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>\$22,757</b>	<b>\$1,138</b>	<b>\$23,895</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$23,895</b>	<b>\$23,895</b>
A	AE2S	Graphic design, presentations, and associated materials	\$0	\$0	30	\$4,618	\$231	\$4,849	0	\$0	\$4,849	\$4,849
B	AE2S	Legislative update and strategy meetings	\$0	\$0	72	\$13,885	\$694	\$14,579	0	\$0	\$14,579	\$14,579
C	AE2S	Legislative stakeholder support coordination	\$0	\$0	24	\$4,255	\$213	\$4,468	0	\$0	\$4,468	\$4,468
<b>4</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Education and Engagement Support</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>\$15,415</b>	<b>\$771</b>	<b>\$16,186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,186</b>	<b>\$16,186</b>
A	AE2S	Assist with outreach strategy development	\$0	\$0	40	\$8,240	\$412	\$8,652	0	\$0	\$8,652	\$8,652
B	AE2S	Develop Outreach materials	\$0	\$0	24	\$3,703	\$185	\$3,888	0	\$0	\$3,888	\$3,888
C	AE2S	Support coordination to outreach	\$0	\$0	18	\$3,471	\$174	\$3,645	0	\$0	\$3,645	\$3,645
<b>5</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Owned Media Support (Digital, Social, Video, Design)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>\$13,285</b>	<b>\$664</b>	<b>\$13,949</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,949</b>	<b>\$13,949</b>
A	AE2S	Facebook, twitter, and Youtube platform oversight and monitoring	\$0	\$0	12	\$1,646	\$82	\$1,728	0	\$0	\$1,728	\$1,728
B	AE2S	Quarterly social media planning, scheduling and monitoring	\$0	\$0	20	\$2,558	\$128	\$2,686	0	\$0	\$2,686	\$2,686
C	AE2S	General graphic design support	\$0	\$0	72	\$9,080	\$454	\$9,534	0	\$0	\$9,534	\$9,534
<b>6</b>	<b>AE2S</b>	<b>Website Maintenance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$5,582</b>	<b>\$279</b>	<b>\$5,861</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,861</b>	<b>\$5,861</b>
A	AE2S	Website Maintenance	\$0	\$0	32	\$5,582	\$279	\$5,861	0	\$0	\$5,861	\$5,861
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>\$90,100</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$94,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$94,700</b>	<b>\$94,700</b>

## **2024 WORK PLAN**

### **Garrison Diversion Conservancy District**

#### **Public Relations**

1. Develop, publish and distribute 2023 Annual Report
2. Develop and distribute RRVWSP Quarterly Newsletter
3. Develop ND Water magazine stories (8 issues)
4. Staff Garrison Diversion and LAWA display booths at appropriate conferences and events
5. Prepare and distribute news releases regarding Garrison Diversion, RRVWSP and LAWA efforts
6. Develop and update public information pieces as needed
7. Maintain social media sites for GDCD and RRVWSP
8. Implement 2024 Communications Work Plan
9. Finalize and install wall displays at headquarters building

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District  
Public Relations Budget

	2023	2024
<u>Public Education</u>		
GDCD Tours	10,000	10,000
ND Water Users	20,000	20,000
ND Water Coalition	14,000	14,000
ND Water Magazine	18,000	18,000
Missouri River Joint Board	15,000	21,000
Upper Sheyenne	50,000	50,000
Conferences/Sponsorships	20,000	20,000
Miscellaneous	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Public Education</b>	<b>157,000</b>	<b>163,000</b>
<u>Professional Services</u>		
Communications	\$140,000	140,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>297,000</b>	<b>303,000</b>

# RRVWSP Construction Status and 2023-2025 Work Plan

By Kimberly Cook



Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) awarded two construction contracts this fall for about 20 miles of pipeline for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) pipeline. Construction of the Transmission Pipe East 5C and 5D contracts are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024.

Oscar Renda Contracting received the \$76,663,355 5C contract to construct approximately eight miles of 72-inch diameter water pipeline and three major trenchless crossings east of Carrington, in Foster County. The trenchless crossings will be located at the James River, Kelly Creek, and an interstate gas pipeline. The company is based out of Grapevine, Texas, and has experience constructing other major water transmission projects in North America.

Carstensen Contracting of Del Rapids, South Dakota, was awarded the \$61,677,275 5D contract, which includes construction of 10 miles of 72-inch pipe and a trenchless crossing of Pipestem Creek in eastern Wells County and western Foster County. The company has completed similar pipeline work in northwest North Dakota and central South Dakota.

Construction wrapped up for the 2023 season in late November. While an early heavy snowfall created wet and frozen conditions, an eventual warm-up and mild fall enabled the continuation of construction activity. Garney Construction will complete the remaining 3.5 miles of construction east of

Carrington on the 5B contract during the 2024 construction season.

The RRVWSP's 2023-2025 biennium budget totals \$244 million and consists of \$180 million from the state of North Dakota, \$61 million from the local users and \$3 million from the Municipal Rural and Industrial (MR&I) Program. Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA), have identified the following priorities for the RRVWSP this biennium:

- Install 27 miles of pipeline
- Design 52 miles of pipeline
- Complete preliminary designs of McClusky Canal intake, McClusky Canal pumping station, biota water treatment plant, and hydraulic break tanks
- Secure remaining easements
- Provide financial planning support
- Provide support and/or studies for RRVWSP end users

When the pipeline is complete, 125 miles of buried pipe will span from the McClusky Canal to the discharge structure, which empties into the Sheyenne River about six miles south of Cooperstown. The RRVWSP is projected to serve nearly half of North Dakota's population, from the central part of the state to the eastern side.





# Garrison Diversion and LAWA Reconfirm Partnership

As progress on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) ramps up, the co-sponsors of the state and local project reconfirmed their partnership. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) board members and staff met with Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) board members in October to identify what is working with the partnership and determine if there are areas that could improve.

“The benefits of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project are vast for the entire state of North Dakota. This project would not be possible without the strong partnership between LAWA, representing cities and local water systems, and Garrison Diversion representing the state of North Dakota,” explains LAWA Vice Chair Ken Vein, who has served on the Garrison Diversion Board of Directors since 2004.

The organizations were both created by the state legislature nearly 50 years apart to help solve North

Dakota’s water needs. The state legislature created the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in 1955 to construct, develop and operate the Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) Project. The GDU is the result of the federal Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program that constructed multiple dams on the Missouri River for flood control, navigation, irrigation, and hydropower. After studies determined the soil in northwestern North Dakota was not suitable for irrigation according to federal irrigation standards, the Bureau of Reclamation revised the diversion plan to take water from the Garrison Dam and reservoir to irrigate lands to the east. This became known as the Garrison Diversion. In 1965, federal legislation called for the construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit Principal Supply Works, which included the McClusky Canal, New Rockford Canal and Oakes Test Area. Eventually, congress ended the GDU Project, but Garrison Diversion continued in its mission to provide a reliable, high quality



## RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

PARTNERING TEAM CHARTER      OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is a regional water supply with statewide benefits to address climate resiliency, drought and economic sustainability, along with community and economic development. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and Lake Agassiz Water Authority will work together in an open and transparent environment with mutual respect to represent the involved communities, regions and states. We will strive for consensus through collaboration, delegation and informal communications. Ultimately, we will enter formal project agreements and follow those agreements through planning, construction and operation. We will have a willingness to adapt with changing conditions. Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz will consult with our federal, state and local partners while being mindful of other constituents’ concerns.

*Kimberly Cook*  
*John Bell*  
*John + Julie*  
*Meni Moradian*  
*Bruce Smith*  
*Paul Bann*  
*John T. Stief*  
*Benie Danks*  
*Keri Hein*  
*Alan M. Walter*  
*Tami Norgard*  
*Kip Kovan*  
*Jeremy Schulte*  
*Paul Olson*  
*Duane E. Frey*  
*Jan Carlson*




and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.

In 2003, the North Dakota legislature recognized LAWA as a new water authority. LAWA was created due to increasing water demands caused by the Red River Valley's growing population and climatologist predictions of a severe drought occurring in the next 50 years. Representatives of cities and water districts in central and eastern North Dakota, along with three cities in Minnesota comprise the board of directors. LAWA's purpose is to provide a reliable supply of drinking water to central and eastern North Dakota with a focus on the economic welfare of the people and the reliability of a high-quality water supply.

The original RRVWSP was a federal, state and local project. However, when federal authorization failed to materialize, Garrison Diversion and LAWA were determined to push forward with a state and local project. "Our two organizations are stronger together than we are individually," says Garrison Diversion General Manager Duane DeKrey. "Since refocusing the project 10 years ago, we have made an incredible amount of progress on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Partnership has made that possible."

Garrison Diversion and LAWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2020. The signing was an official affirmation of the cooperative agreement they share in support of the RRVWSP. The memorandum solidified how the two entities work together on planning and constructing the RRVWS. Although the organizational retreat this fall did not include any formal signing of agreements, it provided time for both parties to get some face time with each other and reconnect.

"Like any successful partnership, there needs to be a willingness to share control to amplify the results that either entity could get alone," says Dr. Tim Mahoney, LAWA board chair and mayor of Fargo. "The working relationship between LAWA and Garrison Diversion continues to strengthen and increase in importance as construction and implementation of the project moves forward for the benefit of all parties."

Construction of the RRVWSP is expected to wrap up by 2032, a little less than 20 years after LAWA and Garrison Diversion joined forces in support of the state and local RRVWSP.

## Kelly Klosterman Honored

*Each year at the Joint North Dakota Water Convention & Irrigation Workshop hosted by the North Dakota Water Users Association, individuals are recognized for their service to North Dakota's water industry. At this year's 60th annual convention, Richland County Director Kelly Klosterman was recognized with a Water Wheel Award in honor of his dedication to the water industry.*

Kelly Klosterman has been a member of the Garrison Diversion board since 2007. Since then, he has been an active member of the Executive and Agriculture committees, including serving as chair of the Agriculture Committee, and was also a dedicated member of the Public Relations and Engineering & Operations committees.

In his 17 years with Garrison Diversion, Kelly has been an advocate for irrigation development across the state. He is a steadfast supporter of the McClusky Canal Irrigation Project, putting Missouri River water to beneficial use in central North Dakota.

Additionally, Kelly played an instrumental role in the recent expansion and improvement efforts at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. Major upgrades and improvements to the facility, including the construction of a new research building, were necessary to continue irrigation research at the high level expected from the site. Kelly has given countless hours bringing a vision to reality, leading the charge on securing resources, expanding the acreage and establishing open communication between multiple commodity groups, SBARE and other organizations involved.

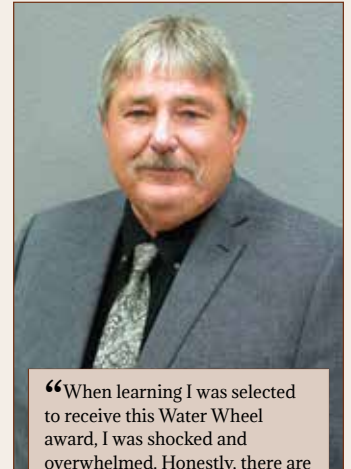
"When I got on the board, it was either get rid of the Oakes Research facility or keep it. It was in disrepair," Kelly says. "Over the years, we've brought it up to where it almost needs to be. I know that was the most fulfilling thing I've done on the board."

Data procured from the Oakes Irrigation Research Site has been invaluable to southeastern North Dakota and the rest of the state for more than 50 years, and now, with the facility upgrades, will continue to benefit farmers and irrigators for years to come.

Kelly has dedicated his time and talents to the Richland County Soil Conservation District, the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee and the Carrington Research & Extension Center Advisory Board.

Since the beginning of his service, Kelly has been a strong advocate for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. He is thought-provoking and level-headed and knows how to get a job done.

Kelly and his wife, Mickie, have two children and reside in Mooreton, where Kelly is a farmer.



"When learning I was selected to receive this Water Wheel award, I was shocked and overwhelmed. Honestly, there are probably more deserving people of this award, but I do really appreciate this honor."

# ENGEL'S POINT

By Kimberly Cook

In early September, the Engel's Point Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was dedicated before a crowd of nearly 50 people, including representatives from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Nelson County Commission, and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) board members and staff.

The 265-acre property along the south shore of Stump Lake seven miles north of Tolna in Nelson County was donated to Garrison Diversion for public recreational uses in the 1970s by local farmer Orville Engel. The tract boasts impressive scenic views of Stump Lake and is comprised of native prairie, wooded areas, rocky shorelines and 63 acres of cropland.

In 2019, Garrison Diversion determined a long-term management plan was needed to maximize public

recreational opportunities at Engel's Point.

"We had been looking for some time for something we could do that would be the highest and best use of the property," Garrison Diversion General Manager Duane DeKrey said. "We reached out to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to see if they'd be interested in managing the property."

That same year, a management and public use plan was developed, and Garrison Diversion, Nelson County and the Game and Fish Department entered into a 50-year agreement to develop the property into a public wildlife and recreational area. In addition to Engel's generous donation, the cooperation of these agencies brought the WMA to fruition.

In order for the project to really take off, the property's access road needed to be built up and repaired to be suitable for safe public access. Garrison Diversion's



Cody Johnson, Nelson County Commission chairman, Jeb Williams, Game and Fish Department director, Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District manager, and Steve Forde, Nelson County Commission vice chairman.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff completed that effort. The project included rebuilding the flooded base of the road and construction of a new road segment from the point where the existing county road enters the lake to the south boundary of the property. Rip rap shoring was also placed along the road to prevent wave-action erosion.

“Public access was a really, really important piece of the puzzle, and you guys really hit it out of the park,” North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director Jeb Williams told the Garrison Diversion’s O&M staff. “We’re happy to be here today celebrating a unique partnership.”

Nelson County will provide long-term road maintenance.

“This here is our newest wildlife management area. We have a beautiful 265 acres of native and seeded grassland, with a nice woody component along the shoreline, which

makes it really good wildlife habitat,” said Brian Prince, Game and Fish Department wildlife resource management supervisor in Devils Lake.

There is additional work to be completed yet, as the Game and Fish Department will be creating two parking areas and making some enhancements for the public.

Motorized vehicles will not be allowed past the parking areas, and the area will be walking access only. Primitive camping and shore fishing opportunities will be abundant. Nelson County and the Game and Fish Department are working on a courtesy boat dock to allow Stump Lake boaters to utilize the structure and walk on a mowed walking trail.

“There are amazing opportunities here for the public.” Prince said. “If you build it, they will come.”



*Garrison Diversion O&M Staff: Duane Anstrom, Tim Silliman, Tyler Schacher, Doug Kurle, Vern Schafer, Darren Murray, Ryan Anderson, John Schuh*



# Matching Recreation Grant Program

Enhancing recreational opportunities throughout the state is a key initiative for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. Its staff and directors are proud to invest in the promotion, development and enhancement of recreation facilities and opportunities within the district.

Since 1990, Garrison Diversion has facilitated a Matching Recreation Grant Program dedicated to returning mill levy funds within the 28-member county district.

Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths of its mill levy to the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Funds from this program have been awarded to install new playground equipment and develop parks, campground facilities and walking paths, among other projects. More \$9 million has been awarded to recreation projects. More \$9 million has been awarded to recreation projects through the program.

Applications are reviewed by Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee. This fall, \$692,521 was awarded to 21 projects. The following projects received Matching Recreation Grant funds in the fall of 2023:

- **Valley City Parks and Recreation District** - \$75,000 for the construction of the Hi-Line Park pickleball courts
- **City of Landa** - \$6,250 to install a vault toilet at the Landa City Park
- **City of Casselton** - \$75,000 to construct the Governor's Drive shared-use path
- **Fargo Park District** - \$62,500 to update playground equipment at the Pepsi Soccer Complex
- **Ellendale Park Board** - \$4,500 to expand the ice skating rink at Ellendale South Park
- **City of Oakes** - \$26,125 to develop a park in downtown Oakes
- **Carrington Park District** - \$26,906 to make improvements to the existing baseball diamond
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- **LaMoure Park District** - \$75,000 to develop the Sunset Park Swim Center
- **City of Towner** - \$3,750 for renovations at the Towner baseball field
- **McLean County Commission** - \$1,618 to install a public stairway at Dynamite Bay
- **Devils Lake Park Board** - \$37,500 to install an indoor playground at the Devils Lake Family Entertainment Center
- **Ramsey County Fair Board** - \$75,000 to construct a multi-purpose event center at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds
- **City of Forman** - \$1,375 to improve and expand the Central Park Community Gardens
- **Sheridan County Park Board** - \$2,850 to replace picnic tables and install a courtesy dock at the Hoffer Lake Recreation Area
- **Mayville Park Board** - \$2,000 for improvements to the basketball courts at Waterpark and Southside Park; \$21,887 for landscaping, signage and parking at Cometville Park; \$6,689 to purchase Funbrella shades for Waterpark
- **Ward County Parks** - \$8,071 to make improvements within several of the county's parks
- **Minot Park District** - \$75,000 to develop the Minot Pump Track
- **Fessenden Park Board** - \$49,250 to install a new splash pad at the Fessenden Park

The spring deadline, **March 1**, is the next chance to apply for grant funds.

For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org) or contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.

# Federal Appeals Court Rules in Favor of North Dakota Water Project

In July, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Missouri Federal District Court's ruling to allow water from the Missouri River to be conveyed to central North Dakota. The ruling relates to the 2021 dismissal of the state of Missouri's challenge of the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental review of the Central North Dakota Water Supply Project (CNDWSP).

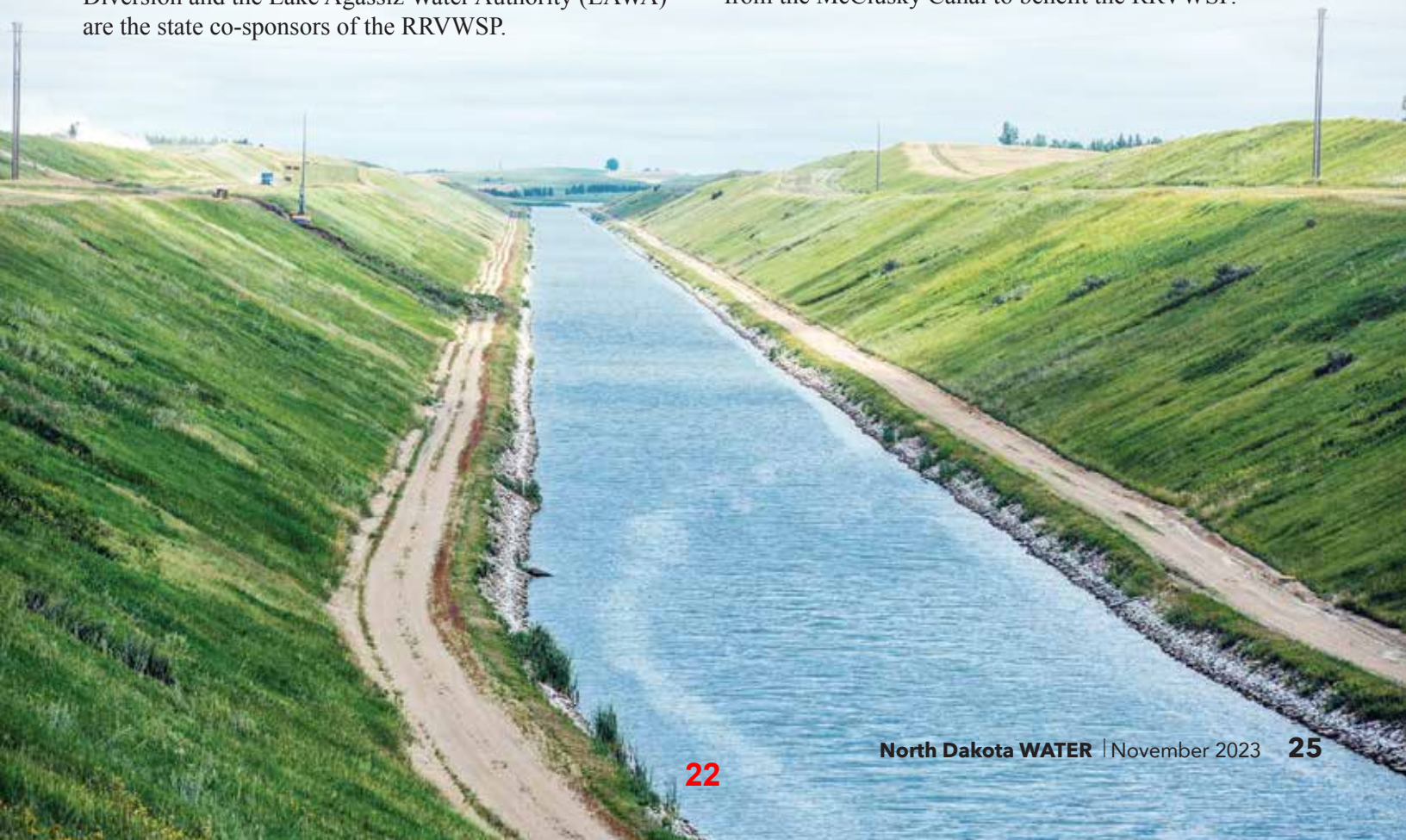
The CNDWSP is a cost-saving option for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP), a state and local project that will deliver water from the Missouri River through a buried pipeline to central and eastern North Dakota communities and water systems. In February 2020, the state of Missouri challenged the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental review of the CNDWSP option which utilizes the McClusky Canal.

"Allowing the use of the McClusky Canal to provide water for central North Dakota is a win for the state. It enables us to put to beneficial use a federal facility that has been largely underutilized since its construction," Garrison Diversion General Manager Duane DeKrey said. Garrison Diversion and the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) are the state co-sponsors of the RRVWSP.

"This is a favorable ruling, and we are very pleased with the result. This really helps the Red River Valley Water Supply Project going forward," said LAWA Chairman and Fargo Mayor Dr. Tim Mahoney.

The McClusky Canal is controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation and is part of the Garrison Diversion Unit project. Five years ago, the CNDWSP, which utilizes the McClusky Canal, was identified as a cost-saving water source for some, or all the water supply needed for the RRVWSP. The CNDWSP includes an intake into the McClusky Canal and six miles of pipeline that joins the main RRVWSP transmission line.

Garrison Diversion requested 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the McClusky Canal from the Bureau of Reclamation. In response, the Bureau of Reclamation conducted an environmental review of the CNDWSP and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which means the project causes no significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to negotiate a contract with Garrison Diversion to take 20 cfs from the McClusky Canal to benefit the RRVWSP.





# Red River Valley Water Supply Project User Meetings Soon Underway

Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) representatives will soon be out meeting with potential recipients of the supplemental and emergency water supply. More than 30 rural water systems and cities originally signed on for the development phase of the project. The project is now in the construction phase and the cities of Grand Forks and Fargo have made financial commitments to the project.

So far, representatives of Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) and the project's consultants have met with the city of Carrington, Southeast Water Users District, and a group of water systems in northeast North Dakota. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2023 and into 2024. RRVWSP leaders intend to meet with water system leaders from central North Dakota to the Red River Valley to answer questions and provide information.

At the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting on August 10, a \$180 million cost-share request for the RRVWSP was approved. It is the largest single approval the SWC has ever considered. During the 2023 legislative session, North Dakota lawmakers approved legislative intent for the RRVWSP for a historic \$953 million in future funding, which includes the approved \$180 million in the Department of Water Resources Budget, SB 2020.

"The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is essential to serve the central and eastern side of our state during drought conditions," said Andrea Travnicek, Department of Water Resources Director. "We are proud to support sustainable and resilient water infrastructure like this project and others that put the Missouri River to beneficial use for our citizens, industry and overall economy."

Lawmakers also approved long-term, affordable financing during the legislative session through North Dakota's Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (WIRLF). During the August 10 meeting, the SWC also authorized Garrison Diversion to seek \$60 million from the state's WIRLF through the Bank of North Dakota.

"We are setting up meetings to provide the latest information about the Red River Valley Water Supply Project's status, including the project's timeline, construction schedule and the projected cost to the end users," explains Merri Mooridian, Garrison Diversion administrative officer and deputy program manager of RRVWSP administration. "Accessing long-term, affordable financing for the end users is a critical step forward for the project because it will help make participation feasible for smaller water systems and cities. We are very thankful for the support from legislators, the Bank of North Dakota, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Commission."

If your water system is interested in receiving water from the RRVWSP, reach out to Duane DeKrey at 701-652-3194 to set up a meeting.

# Garrison Diversion Awards Water Supply Assistance Grants

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program also is in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"One of Garrison Diversion's key priorities is to support rural water in North Dakota. Through the Water Supply Assistance Grant program, we are helping to provide a better quality of life for our citizens and strengthen our rural communities," says Geneva Kaiser, chair of Garrison Diversion's MR&I Committee. "This program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."

In August, the MR&I Committee awarded \$113,438 to 18 water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.



The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- **All Seasons Water Users District** - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **Barnes Rural Water District** - \$23,775 for three customer hookups
- **Cass Rural Water District** - \$17,438 for two customer hookups
- **Central Plains Water District** - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **North Prairie Regional Water District** - \$18,463 for two customer hookups
- **Southeast Water Users District** - \$18,322 for three customer hookups
- **Stutsman Rural Water District** - \$15,440 for six customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **May 1**. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).





1st Place score of 54  
C.J. Hager, Riley Akervik, Mike Nogosek, Brent Geisler

# 19th Annual Top O' the Day Tee-Off

By Kimberly Cook

For 19 years, the North Dakota Water Education Foundation (NDWEF), in conjunction with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), have hosted the Top O' the Day Golf Scramble at CrossRoads Golf Course in Carrington, N.D. Individuals come from near and far to raise funds for the Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship fund honoring two North Dakota water giants, Russell Dushinske and Warren Jamison, remembered for their distinguished service, dedicated leadership and lifelong devotion to water development in North Dakota.

Students whose families have taken an active role in state water resource management and are attending a North Dakota college or university are eligible to apply for one of four \$1,500 scholarships awarded each year.

This year, 123 golfers took to the course on a beautiful, sunny day, contending for top finishes and prizes provided by 19 generous sponsors who filled the course with contests and promotional items. The day ended with dinner and an awards ceremony at the CrossRoads clubhouse recognizing the first-, third- and 19th-place teams, as well as winners of contests featured at many of the holes.

A score of 54 was the tournament best, sending C.J. Hager, Riley Akervik, Mike Nogosek and Brent Geisler home with bragging rights and first-place prizes.

The third-place team of Jesse Hewson, Keegan Richards, Derek Ziman and TJ Struble scored a 57. A score of 65 secured 19th place, bringing Luke Spitzer, Greg Edland, Chad Hoornaert and Jay Tweed into their winnings.

“Many thanks to EVERYONE who’s involved. We are grateful to all the planners, sponsors, golfers and workers that help to make this tourney a success,” Diane Jamison-Richards said. “This tournament is so near and dear to me and I’m so appreciative of all the participants who help keep this scholarship alive.”



Diane Jamison-Richards

Hole contests across the course provide a bit of additional friendly competition for the day. The lucky winners were:

- Men’s Shortest Drive – Cole Broadwell, Carrington
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot sponsored by Jamison Family – Caleb Rogelstad, Carrington
- Women’s Longest Drive – Krystle Neis, Carrington
- Men’s Longest Drive – Alex Belquist, Fargo
- Closest to Pin 2nd Shot – C. J. Hager, Jamestown
- Women’s Shortest Drive – Roz Leighton
- Longest Putt – Kelly Trautmann



3rd Place score of 57  
Jesse Hewson, Keegan Richards, Derek Ziman and TJ Struble.

Also, a genuine thank you to the generous sponsors of the 19th Annual Top O’ the Day Tee-Off, as their participation is vital to the success of the scramble. Many of these sponsors also provided door prizes or games of chance out on the course.

- ND Irrigation Association**
- Bessette Motors**
- Bremer Bank**
- Dakota Central**
- Moore Engineering**
- ND Rural Water Systems**
- Vogel Law Firm**
- Black & Veatch**
- David and Connie Sprynczynatyk**
- AE2S**
- HDR**
- AMERICAN Ductile Iron Pipe**
- Bartlett & West, Inc.**
- First International Bank & Trust**
- Michels Corporation**
- Bank Forward/Insure Forward**
- KLJ Engineering, LLC**
- Ag Country Farm Credit Services**
- Allen Stock**



19th Place score of 65  
Luke Spitzer, Greg Edland, Chad Hoornaert, Jay Tweed

# Oakes Irrigation Research Site Groundbreaking Held

On a blazing hot August day, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) staff and board members participated in the groundbreaking ceremony at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS), located just a few miles south of Oakes, N.D., for a new building that will house offices, a research laboratory and equipment storage. Distinguished guests at the groundbreaking ceremony included Sen. John Hoeven and North Dakota Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring.

Since 1969, when Garrison Diversion, Reclamation and NDSU entered into a working agreement for the OIRS, Garrison Diversion has been supporting the OIRS with financial resources in order to provide a highly effective irrigation research facility in southeast North Dakota. The valuable data gained from the research site throughout its history has positively impacted the agriculture industry.

Due to the outdated nature of the site, the OIRS was in serious need of major upgrades and improvements in order to continue irrigation research at the high level expected from the site. In 2013, Garrison Diversion and the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC) set a plan into motion for major upgrades and improvements to the facility and within time, for NDSU to take over full funding of the site. A proposal was developed to include Garrison Diversion's assistance with constructing a new building at the site, a six-year funding exit plan and passage of the land lease on to NDSU once construction is complete.

"It's been the vision of the Garrison Diversion board to successfully see this endeavor through," said Garrison Diversion Engineer Kip Kovar. "For over ten years, we



*Sen. Hoeven addressing the crowd.*

had a number of individuals and agricultural organizations working together to make improvements to the facility."

The building site is prepped and construction is scheduled to begin in early October. Garrison Diversion is providing the insulated shell and NDSU will complete the inside of the facility. Once construction is complete, Garrison Diversion will pass the land lease on to NDSU.

The data procured from the OIRS has been invaluable to southeastern North Dakota and through the remainder of the state for over 50 years, and now, with the facility upgrades, will continue to benefit farmers and irrigators for years to come.



For more information:  
 Kimberly Cook  
[kimberlyc@gdcd.org](mailto:kimberlyc@gdcd.org)

**For Immediate Release:**

**Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program Awarded \$692,521 to 21 Projects**

CARRINGTON, ND (November 27, 2023) The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) Recreation Committee recently met and awarded matching recreation grants to 21 projects, totaling \$692,521.

“Garrison Diversion’s Matching Recreation Grant Program is an immeasurable benefit for our member counties. We enjoy assisting communities with bringing their projects to life and adding to their activity opportunities,” says committee Chairman Bruce Klein.

The following projects received Matching Recreation Grant funds in the fall of 2023:

- **Valley City Parks & Recreation District** - \$75,000 for the construction of the Hi-Line Park Pickleball courts
- **City of Landa** - \$6,250 to install a vault toilet at the Landa City Park
- **City of Casselton** - \$75,000 to construct the Governor’s Drive shared-use path
- **Fargo Park District** - \$62,500 to update playground equipment at the Pepsi Soccer Complex
- **Ellendale Park Board** - \$4,500 to expand the ice-skating rink at Ellendale South Park
- **City of Oakes** - \$26,125 to develop a park in downtown Oakes
- **Carrington Park District** - \$26,906 to make improvements to the existing baseball diamond
- **Grand Forks Park District** - \$56,250 for infield turf resurfacing at Kraft Field
- **LaMoure Park District** - \$75,000 to develop the Sunset Park Swim Center
- **City of Towner** – \$3,750 for renovations at the Towner baseball field
- **McLean County Commission** - \$1,618 to install a public stairway at Dynamite Bay
- **Devils Lake Park Board** - \$37,500 to install an indoor playground at the Devils Lake Family Entertainment Center
- **Ramsey County Fair Board** - \$75,000 to construct a multi-purpose event center at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds
- **City of Forman** - \$1,375 to improve and expand the Central Park Community Gardens
- **Sheridan County Park Board** - \$2,850 to replace picnic tables and install a courtesy dock at the Hoffer Lake Recreation Area
- **Mayville Park Board** - \$2,000 for improvements to the basketball courts at Waterpark and Southside Park; \$21,887 for landscaping, signage and parking at Cometville Park; \$6,689 to purchase Funbrella shades for Waterpark
- **Ward County Parks** - \$8,071 to make improvements within several of the county’s parks
- **Minot Park District** - \$75,000 to develop the Minot Pump Track

- **Fessenden Park Board** - \$49,250 to install a new splash pad at the Fessenden Park

Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths of its mill levy to the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Funds from this program have been awarded to install new playground equipment and develop parks, campground facilities and walking paths, among other projects. Throughout the life of the program, over \$9 million has been awarded to recreation projects.

The spring deadline, **March 1**, is the next chance to apply for grant funds.

For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org) or contact Garrison Diversion at 701.652.3194.

Contact: Kimberly Cook  
Phone: 701-652-3194  
Email: [kimberlyc@gdcd.org](mailto:kimberlyc@gdcd.org)

**For immediate release:**

### **Irrigators to Benefit from Increased Cost Share**

CARRINGTON, ND (November 10, 2023) – The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) recently learned of approved changes to the State Water Commission (SWC) cost share policy regarding irrigation. Such changes will allow Garrison Diversion to assist with irrigation development along the McClusky Canal at a more affordable rate.

The ND Irrigation Association worked with the SWC, Department of Water Resources and Bank of North Dakota (BND) to make updates to the cost share. The 50 percent cost share for irrigation districts to develop ‘off farm’ works has been increased to a 75 percent cost share.

Additionally, individual irrigators can now access interest rate buydown up to \$60,000 via the Ag PACE program at BND, due to an increase in the SWC’s portion contributed to Ag PACE.

“The increase in cost share is beneficial to irrigators wishing to start up or expand operations along the McClusky Canal,” says Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager. “We hope this will entice additional growers to explore irrigation development in the McClusky Canal service area.”

For more information:  
Kimberly Cook  
[kimberlyc@gdcd.org](mailto:kimberlyc@gdcd.org)

**For Immediate Release:**

**Garrison Diversion Awards \$49,575 in Water Supply Assistance Grants**

CARRINGTON, ND (October 30, 2023) --- The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"The Program is gaining in popularity; word is getting out that we can help with water hookups, and that's great," says Committee Chair Geneva Kaiser. "We're supporting rural water while putting funds back into the district, which falls in line with our key initiatives."

In October, the MR&I Committee awarded \$49,575 to seven rural water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- **East Central Regional Water District** - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **Greater Ramsey Water District** - \$2,150 for one customer hookup
- **Southeast Water Users District** - \$15,175 for one customer hookup and to connect the City of Ludden
- **Stutsman Rural Water District** - \$22,250 for three customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **May 1**, although emergency requests are considered as needed. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects for municipalities, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).

For more information:  
 Kimberly Cook  
[kimberlyc@gdcd.org](mailto:kimberlyc@gdcd.org)

**For Immediate Release:**

**Garrison Diversion Awards Water Supply Assistance Grants**

CARRINGTON, ND (September 1, 2023) --- The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"One of Garrison Diversion's key priorities is to support rural water in North Dakota. Through the Water Supply Assistance Grant program, we are helping to provide a better quality of life for our citizens and strengthen our rural communities," says Geneva Kaiser, Chair of Garrison Diversion's MR&I Committee. "This program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."

In August, the MR&I Committee awarded \$113,438 to 18 water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

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- **Stutsman Rural Water District** - \$15,440 for six customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **May 1**. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).



[https://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-regional/irrigation-global-warming-climate-study-north-dakota-dartmouth-trevor-partridge/article\\_9f211c18-6470-11ee-af54-3bd2b441ba0f.html](https://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-regional/irrigation-global-warming-climate-study-north-dakota-dartmouth-trevor-partridge/article_9f211c18-6470-11ee-af54-3bd2b441ba0f.html)

TOP STORY

## A warming world could increase irrigation's importance, but roadblocks exist to expansion

JOEY HARRIS

Jan 6, 2024



An irrigation system stands in a field along River Road a few miles north of Bismarck on Wednesday.

DARREN GIBBINS, TRIBUNE

JOEY HARRIS

**L**ess than 1% of North Dakota farmland is irrigated, but in a warming world, there could be more demand for the practice.

By midcentury, the benefits of irrigating corn and soybeans will outweigh the costs in North Dakota and other Upper Midwestern states, according to a **recent Dartmouth-led study**.

Corn and soybeans play a central role in the U.S. food system and economy. The crops are used for livestock feed, processed foods and biofuels. They accounted for over 40% of North Dakota agricultural sales in 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Both plants require a lot of water, though corn is thirstier than soybeans.

As the planet warms, irrigation could be an answer to maintaining a prosperous agriculture industry. But there are roadblocks to expansion in North Dakota, and some researchers think soil conservation and plant breeding might be better solutions.

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- 2 **Killdeer rancher accused of making \$6M in illegal cattle sales profits**
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- 4 **Interest strong in new North Dakota property tax credit**

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## Wet and dry

Forecasting rainfall decades into the future is less reliable than predicting temperature. But across the five climate models associated with moderate and high levels of climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions that researchers examined for the study, there was an average of around 10% decrease in overall precipitation during the months of June to September in North Dakota by the middle of the 21st century, according to Trevor Partridge, a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Geological Survey, and the study's lead author.

“It would probably be pretty detrimental to crops in some place like the Dakotas where it’s already fairly arid ... if there’s a little decrease that could have pretty big impacts,” he said.

Extreme weather can cause a lot of loss. An unexpected drought in 2017 led to over \$2.6 billion in total agricultural losses in the Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies, according to **the National Integrated Drought Information System**.

Some evidence points to this already becoming a trend. **A recent analysis of data from USDA’s crop insurance program** by the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization shows that over the past two decades North Dakota was among the top 10 states in payments for drought, excess moisture, hail and heat.

While weather extremes are not new to the Midwest, the size of the payments has increased, said Anne Schechinger, EWG Midwest director and the study’s author.

“Drought payments grew — up 2,679% so just a huge amount — and excess moisture payments grew as well but only by 285%, so excess moisture really has been affecting farmers in North Dakota for a long time so that’s been a common thing, but the drought, we’ve seen it go from less of an issue to much more of an issue lately,” she told the Tribune.

Andrew Hoell, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research meteorologist who was not part of the Dartmouth study, said that no singular model or study will predict future weather patterns perfectly, but increasing temperatures will make North Dakota’s historically variable weather — dry one year and wet the next — more intense. Droughts are harmful not only because they reduce rainfall, but also because they lower water retention in soil.

“It’s almost a certainty that temperatures will be higher in those future droughts, and that would further desiccate the land surface and then make a drought a little bit more intense than the droughts we saw in the past,” Hoell said.

North Dakota State University Crop Economist Frayne Olson said the largest threat that climate change poses to farmers are fluctuations in weather patterns becoming more exaggerated.

“Especially for agriculture, it’s those swings that can cause us the big problems,” he said.

Partridge said irrigation can be a useful tool for farmers to continue to operate and to shore up food security during these swings.

Olson said that irrigation will play a role in addressing future uncertainties around rainfall, but it will likely only be part of the story of how North Dakota farmers will adjust to more volatile weather patterns.

“Irrigation is not the perfect solution. Even if you go into areas like Nebraska or western Kansas or parts of the panhandle, Oklahoma and Texas, where they already do a lot of irrigation, there are still years where they have losses because they can’t pump water fast enough, just physically can’t do it,” he said.

And some experts caution that even in the face of more intense droughts, North Dakota’s physical environment and water use policies pose limits to the extent to which irrigation can and should expand.

## Limits to irrigation

Agriculture is one of the largest consumers of water across the U.S., with more than 40% of freshwater removals going toward irrigation, according to a **U.S. Geological Survey report from 2015**. The practice has led to water shortages in states where irrigation is commonly employed, such as those in the High Plains and American Southwest that have relied on sources such as the Ogallala Aquifer or the Colorado River for water. There is now fear that these bodies of water will dry up due to more water being pumped out than what can go back in year after year.

Partridge said increased weather variability is already leading to the expansion of irrigation in parts of the country that have not traditionally irrigated. He warned that similar water depletion issues could arise in those areas if the practice grows, but said these issues are not inevitable.

“The real challenge is going to be to find that balance between expanding irrigation and ensuring (there is) enough water for other uses,” Partridge said.

North Dakota water use policies are set up to work within that balance, according to Danielle Quissell, executive director of the North Dakota Irrigation Association, a nonprofit group that often works with the state to improve and expand the technology.

That balance is not always in favor of more irrigation, however.

The state’s water management policies are built around the concept of a “sustainable yield,” with the intention of not overusing ground and surface water resources, Quissell said.

“The state won’t grant a permit for (more) water than what will be recharged in a given year ... if you do take more water out of the aquifer in a given year than what’s going in, that is called mining and that will slowly deplete the aquifer so there won’t be water available for future generations, so that’s really what the state’s trying to avoid,” she said.

Most aquifers are fully appropriated for irrigation, Quissell said, but interest is expanding in areas where the water has not yet been fully committed. This includes area that can be irrigated with surface water such as the Missouri River and the McClusky Canal in central North Dakota.

Irrigation is also expensive. Installation prices can be upwards of \$300,000, and there are typically costs to maintain the systems too, according to Quissell.

There are physical barriers to how much irrigation could increase in North Dakota as well. Olson, the NDSU crop economist, said North Dakota does not have the availability of groundwater needed for irrigation to be cost-effective in many scenarios, even if the practice does grow.

“There are areas right now that can be irrigated that are not, so I don’t want to totally say it’s not going to happen, because I do think it will happen; it’s just not going to be to the size and the scale that they have in Nebraska,” he said. Nebraska has historically been among the top irrigators in the U.S.

## Moving forward

Quissell said the Irrigation Association is pursuing strategies to make irrigation more accessible in areas where practicing it makes sense.

One program uses a partnership of the State Water Commission and local irrigation districts to share costs on expanding and improving irrigation infrastructure. Another program tries to make financing irrigation systems easier by having the state-owned Bank of North Dakota buy down interest rates from loans that local banks provide for irrigation systems.

Both institutions have recently increased the level of assistance they are providing, Quissell said.

New technologies are also available which enable farmers to continuously monitor where, when and how much water is needed at different sections of their fields, making for more efficient uses, she added.

Olson said there are technologies and practices outside of irrigation that are likely better suited for North Dakota to address the forecast intensity of future droughts.

One possibility is to plant more drought-tolerant crops such as dry beans, chickpeas or lentils. Soybeans may make more sense to plant than corn in a drier future given the plant’s relatively smaller water needs for a successful yield, Olson added.

“When you think about a flower versus a cactus, some flowers if you don’t water them every other day, they’ll start to wilt and you can tell that they’re getting too dry and they’ll eventually die. But a cactus you can go weeks without watering that and it will still remain fine because it doesn’t have the water use required,” Olson said. “So the same with crops.”

But with the many uses and demands for corn, soybeans and other thirsty plants, it is unlikely that growing less water-intensive crops will be the only answer.

Olson said there are also developments in cultivating varieties of plants which would help make water and fertilizer use more efficient. This is done through making use of knowledge around plants’ past genetic codes to breed better crops. It differs from other more controversial types of genetic engineering that put genetic material from one plant into another, Olson said.

Once a new seed variety is found, it can typically be brought to commercial scale in around three years, he added.

“In natural plant breeding or what we have been doing for centuries where we’re cross-pollinating between Plant A and Plant B to get the kind of things we want, that’s really what we’re doing with (this form of) genetic engineering,” he said. “It’s just in the old days we had to let Mother Nature do the crosses and hope we found a combination that works; well now we can be more precise as we start to understand that genetic code.”

Incentives for farming practices that conserve and strengthen soil will play a role in countering the effects of droughts as well, according to Olson.

“It’s a big issue, the water use thing, and changing water patterns and adjustments, those are big things that we’re going to have to address and will impact North Dakota,” he said. “It’s just I’m not 100% sure what role irrigation will play in that.”



Reach Joey Harris at 701-250-8252 or [joseph.harris@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:joseph.harris@bismarcktribune.com).

By JOEY HARRIS

Energy/Environment Reporter



# Carrington, Fessenden among recipients of Garrison Diversion matching recreation grant program

CARRINGTON, N.D. – fall of 2023:

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) Recreation Committee recently met and awarded matching recreation grants to 21 projects, totaling \$692,521.

"Garrison Diversion's Matching Recreation Grant Program is an immeasurable benefit for our member counties. We enjoy assisting communities with bringing their projects to life and adding to their activity opportunities," says committee Chairman Bruce Klein.

The following projects received Matching Recreation Grant funds in the

- Carrington Park District - \$26,906 to make improvements to the existing baseball diamond
- Fessenden Park Board - \$49,250 to install a new splash pad at the Fessenden Park
- Valley City Parks & Recreation District - \$75,000 for the construction of the Hi-Line Park Pickleball courts
- City of Landa - \$6,250 to install a vault toilet at the Landa City Park
- City of Casselton - \$75,000 to construct the Governor's Drive shared-use path
- Fargo Park District - \$62,500 to update play-

ground equipment at the Pepsi Soccer Complex

- Ellendale Park Board - \$4,500 to expand the ice-skating rink at Ellendale South Park
- City of Oakes - \$26,125 to develop a park in downtown Oakes
- Grand Forks Park District - \$56,250 for infield turf resurfacing at Kraft Field
- LaMoure Park District - \$75,000 to develop the Sunset Park Swim Center
- City of Towner - \$3,750 for renovations at the Towner baseball field
- McLean County Commission - \$1,618 to install a public stairway at Dynamite Bay

• Devils Lake Park Board - \$37,500 to install an indoor playground at the Devils Lake Family Entertainment Center

- Ramsey County Fair Board - \$75,000 to construct a multi-purpose event center at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds
- City of Forman - \$1,375 to improve and expand the Central Park Community Gardens
- Sheridan County Park Board - \$2,850 to replace picnic tables and install a courtesy dock at the Hoffer Lake Recreation Area

Mayville Park Board -

\$2,000 for improvements to the basketball courts at Waterpark and Southside Park; \$21,887 for landscaping, signage and parking at Cometville Park; \$6,689 to purchase Funbrella shades for Waterpark

• Ward County Parks - \$8,071 to make improvements within several of the county's parks

• Minot Park District - \$75,000 to develop the Minot Pump Track

Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths of its mill levy to the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Funds from this program have

been awarded to install new playground equipment and develop parks, campground facilities and walking paths, among other projects. Throughout the life of the program, over \$9 million has been awarded to recreation projects.

The spring deadline, March 1, is the next chance to apply for grant funds.

For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org) or contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.

## Fessenden Park Board receives Garrison Diversion grant

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) Recreation Committee recently met and awarded matching recreation grants to 21 projects, totaling \$692,521.

Fessenden Park Board was among the grant award recipients, receiving \$49,250 to install a new splash pad at the Fessenden Park.

Other grant recipients from across the state are:

- Valley City Parks & Recreation District - \$75,000 for the construction of the Hi-Line Park Pickleball courts
- City of Landa - \$6,250 to install a vault toilet at the Landa City Park
- City of Casselton - \$75,000 to construct the Governor's Drive shared-use path
- Fargo Park District - \$62,500 to update playground equipment at the Pepsi Soccer Complex
- Ellendale Park Board - \$4,500 to expand the ice-skating rink at

Ellendale South Park

- City of Oakes - \$26,125 to develop a park in downtown Oakes
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improve and expand the Central Park Community Gardens

- Sheridan County Park Board - \$2,850 to replace picnic tables and install a courtesy dock at the Hoffer Lake Recreation Area
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  - Ward County Parks - \$8,071 to make improvements within several of the county's parks
  - Minot Park District - \$75,000 to develop the Minot Pump Track
- "Garrison Diversion's Matching Recreation Grant Program is an immeasurable benefit for our member counties. We enjoy assisting communities with bringing their projects to life and adding to their activity opportunities," says committee Chairman Bruce Klein.

11-27-23

## Irrigators to benefit from increased cost

CARRINGTON, N.D. — The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) recently learned of approved changes to the State Water Commission (SWC) cost share policy regarding irrigation. Such changes will allow Garrison Diversion to assist with irrigation development along the McClusky Canal at a more affordable rate.

The N.D. Irrigation Association worked with the SWC, Department of Water Resources and Bank of North Dakota (BND) to make updates to the cost share. The 50 percent cost share for irrigation districts to develop "off farm"

works has been increased to a 75 percent cost share.

Additionally, individual irrigators can now access interest rate buydown up to \$60,000 via the Ag PACE program at BND, due to an increase in the SWC's portion contributed to Ag PACE.

"The increase in cost share is beneficial to irrigators wishing to start up or expand operations along the McClusky Canal," says Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager. "We hope this will entice additional growers to explore irrigation development in the McClusky Canal service area."

## Garrison Diversion awards \$49,575 in water supply grants

CARRINGTON, N.D. – The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"The Program is gaining in popularity; word is getting out that we can help with water hookups, and that's great," says Committee Chair Geneva Kaiser. "We're supporting rural water while putting funds back into the district, which falls in line with our key initiatives."

In October, the MR&I Committee awarded \$49,575 to seven rural water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant

Program:

- East Central Regional Water District - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- Greater Ramsey Water District - \$2,150 for one customer hookup
- Southeast Water Users District - \$15,175 for one customer hookup and to connect the City of Ludden
- Stutsman Rural Water District - \$22,250 for three customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is May 1, although emergency requests are considered as

needed. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects for municipalities, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).

### Area Auction Calendar



#### Pifer's Auctioneers

[www.pifers.com](http://www.pifers.com)

**Wednesday, December 6 - 4:00 p.m.**

Brenda Mork & Donna Neis Land Auction  
Gladstone Inn & Suites, Jamestown - online bidding available

#### Steffes Auctioneers

[www.steffesgroup.com](http://www.steffesgroup.com)

**Closes November 17 - 10:00 a.m.**

Farm Retirement Auction  
Steve & Robbin Manley, Pingree  
2000 Main Ave. E, West Fargo

#### Reuer Auctions

[www.midwestauctions.com](http://www.midwestauctions.com)

**Saturday, November 11 - 12 Noon**

Alice Thomas Large Coin & Currency Auction  
Club 1883 (519 1st. Ave. S, Jamestown)

## OUR OPINION

# Feds should indeed add funding to ever-important Red River Water Supply Project

**T**he math associated with the Red River Water Supply Project is daunting.

If completed, it will consist of a pipe more than 100 miles long, running from the Missouri River to the Sheyenne River near Cooperstown, North Dakota. The Sheyenne, of course, flows into the Red River near Fargo.

It's a project years in the making, with a completion date unlikely before 2032.

And — perhaps sit down before reading this — it comes with a price tag of \$1.16 billion.

As reported in a Forum News Service report earlier this week, “a pipeline will carry water from the Missouri River to the Red River Valley to keep faucets flowing during severe droughts — at a cost.”

The report noted the cost isn't yet known for those of us who'll be turning on those faucets during drought. The state already has agreed to pay 75% of the cost, but that leaves 25% for residential and commercial users. That's at least \$290 million left over, probably to be paid by those of us on the tap end of the project.

Unless ...

According to the Forum News Service report, Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., and others are requesting aid

from the federal government — possibly as much as \$454 million. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton met with Hoeven and Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney to discuss the project, and Touton said the Biden administration supports it.

“I want to reiterate our commitment to projects (and) especially this project,” she said. “We have significant resources that we can bring to bear on these sorts of projects.”

OK, good. Now, let's put these wheels in motion and bring this project home.

In March, we quoted the phrase “water is the new gold,” especially as water shortages plague certain parts of the country and as climate change increases the likelihood of drought. Just think back to 2021, when prolonged dry conditions greatly reduced the flow of the Red River, which provides water for drinking and industry throughout eastern North Dakota. Starting in September 2020, each month for the next 10 was the driest on record for the northern Red River Valley.

And what community is the thirstiest — in terms of residential population and industrial need — in the northern Red River Valley? Grand Forks.

If the federal aid comes

at \$454 million, it'll provide obvious financial relief to get the project started, possibly changing the state commitment or providing some wiggle room to account for what certainly will be inflationary increases. But one thing seems certain: The federal funding will reduce the cost for end users.

And without completion of the water supply pipeline, “we're going to leave billions of dollars stranded in terms of water resources,” Hoeven said in the Forum News Service report.

The goal of the Red River Water Supply Project is to “provide an emergency water supply to central and eastern North Dakota during times of water scarcity so as to protect public health, ensure ongoing economic vitality and provide for environmental benefits in the river systems.”

Altogether, some 27 entities will benefit from the RRWSP. Approximately half of the state's population will be affected.

Hopefully, the feds fully recognize the project's wide implications — from ensuring a source of drinking water to adding reliability to industrial needs — and provide this vital infrastructure funding.

[Red River Valley Water Supply Project funding | KNOX News Radio, Local News, Weather and Sports \(knoxradio.com\)](#)

# Red River Valley Water Supply Project funding

By Doug Barrett Oct 12, 2023 | 8:10 AM

The cost of the proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project was up for discussion at a meeting of the Lake Aagassiz Water Authority on Wednesday. U.S. Senator John Hoeven invited Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton to the table in an effort to help secure federal funding for the project that would bring Missouri River Water to the Red River Valley in times of drought.

The price-tag for the pipeline is expected to exceed \$1.1 billion dollars. Right now the funding would be financed through the State...Garrison Diversion...and local stakeholders. An earlier projection put the Grand Forks share at \$30 million.

Hoeven says obtaining support is a key component of the plan to make it a federal...state...and local partnership. Commissioner Touton has committed to continue working to resolve the issue.

[Federal funds sought for Red River Valley's \\$1.1 billion water supply pipeline -](#)

# Officials press feds to help pay for \$1.1 billion water supply pipeline for the Red River Valley

So far, the state of North Dakota and local governments are splitting the cost for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. If the federal government chips in, user costs would decrease.

By [Patrick Springer](#)

October 11, 2023 at 4:28 PM

FARGO — A pipeline will carry water from the Missouri River to the Red River Valley to keep faucets flowing during severe droughts — at a cost.

That cost for local water users is yet to be determined — but it could be significantly reduced if the federal government agrees to help pay for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

So far, the state of North Dakota has agreed to pay 75% of the \$1.16 billion pipeline project's cost, leaving local residential and commercial water users to pay the remaining 25%.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney and other officials from the area met here with Commissioner Camille Touton of the Bureau of Reclamation to make a pitch for the federal government to contribute \$454 million to help pay for the project.

[Completing the pipeline project](#) would put billions of dollars of infrastructure including Garrison Dam, Lake Audubon and the McClusky Canal to more productive use, Hoeven said after the meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Without completion of the water supply pipeline, "we're going to leave billions of dollars stranded in terms of water resources," the senator said.

"The challenge is getting that federal funding commitment in place," he said. "That's what we're working on. We need to keep pushing it forward."

Touton said the Biden administration supports the project, which will serve more than half of the state's population, including the cities of Fargo, West Fargo and Grand Forks.

"I want to reiterate our commitment to projects, especially this project," she said. Several funding sources, including money from the bipartisan infrastructure bill, could be tapped for a federal share.

"We have significant resources that we can bring to bear on these sorts of projects," Touton said.

Work continues on the water supply project, which involves a 125-mile pipeline along the Highway 200 corridor with an outlet near Cooperstown on the Sheyenne River, which flows into the Red River.

The project is on pace to be completed by 2032, but possibly could be finished sooner if the federal government helps pay, said Merri Mooridian, administrative officer of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, a state entity that is overseeing the project.

Fargo's population and industrial base continue to grow, and businesses want assurances that water will be available even during extended droughts, Mahoney said.

"For us it gives us sustainability and resiliency," the mayor said, adding that ensuring the water supply ranks alongside [flood protection](#) as critical infrastructure. "It's vital for growth and dynamism."

Mahoney added: "If the feds get involved it changes the funding levels for local and the state. If we can get federal involvement, federal money, it helps keep down the cost."

Already, the Bureau of Reclamation has authorized the use of the [74-mile McClusky Canal](#), which delivers water pumped from Lake Audubon, a sub-reservoir of the Garrison Dam's Lake Sakakawea, to the Lonetree Wildlife Management Area in central North Dakota.

That contribution is "huge" Hoeven said, because it greatly reduces pumping costs, making the water supply project more efficient to operate.

In order to provide backup access to the Missouri River, the state has built an inlet near Washburn north of Bismarck, but the plan is to use the McClusky Canal as long as it's available.



10.11.23

## HOEVEN OUTLINES EFFORTS TO FULLY FUND ENDAWS, DISCUSSES PROJECT PROGRESS WITH BOR COMMISSIONER

### ENDAWS Will Reduce Red River Valley Water Supply Project Costs by \$200 Million, Save Operating Costs

FARGO, N.D. – At a meeting of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority today, Senator John Hoeven discussed with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Commissioner Camille Touton efforts to **fund the Eastern North Dakota Alternate Water Supply (ENDAWS) Project**. Hoeven invited Touton to again visit the state and help advance this priority after securing her commitment during a meeting of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee to work with him on funding ENDAWS. To this end, the senator:

- Stressed the importance of the project in ensuring a reliable water supply in the Red River Valley, particularly during times of drought.
  - ENDAWS will allow for additional water to be released from Garrison Diversion Unit facilities to serve as an alternate water source for the state-led Red River Valley Water Supply project.
  - The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District estimates that the alternative water supply would **reduce project costs by \$200 million** while also saving on operating costs.
- Highlighted the opportunity for BOR to generate revenue through Garrison Diversion Unit facilities, which are currently underutilized.
- Addressed an issue where BOR **49** utilizing the municipal, rural, and

[Sen. Hoeven to discuss ENDAWS progress, meet with Fargo Airport Authority \(valleynewslive.com\)](#)

# Sen. Hoeven to discuss ENDAWS progress, meet with Fargo Airport Authority

Sen. Hoeven will be in Fargo for the meetings Wednesday, Oct. 11.

By [Kortney Lockey](#)

*Published: Oct. 10, 2023 at 6:29 PM CDT*

FARGO, N.D. (Valley News Live) - Sen. John Hoeven will host Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner at a meeting of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority to discuss efforts to fully fund the Eastern North Dakota Alternate Water Supply.

This meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Fargo City Hall.

ENDAWS will allow for additional water to be released from Reclamation facilities at the McClusky Canal to complement and help reduce project costs for the state-led Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Later that day, Sen. Hoeven will meet with the Fargo Municipal Airport Authority to review plans for renovating and expanding Hector International Airport's facilities. This meeting will take place at 12:45 p.m. at Hector International Airport.

This includes discussing anticipated timelines and efforts to fund the project, which consists of terminal modifications, apron expansions, an elevated walkway and a parking garage.

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[Red River Valley water pipeline project has funding for another 25 to 30 miles](https://www.inforum.com)  
inforum.com

## Red River Valley water pipeline project has funding for another 25 to 30 miles

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project could be completed by 2032. It will transport water from the Missouri River to primarily service Fargo and Grand Forks.

By [Patrick Springer](#)

October 6, 2023

FARGO — Crews continue to lay pipe that will deliver Missouri River water to the Red River Valley as the pipeline is expected to extend another 25 to 30 miles in the coming two years.

As construction progresses, officials are working to calculate what the cost will be to water users — including residents of Fargo and Grand Forks — who will pay 25% of the project's cost.

“I would say in weeks, not months, we should have pretty firm numbers for users,” said Duane DeKrey, general manager of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, which is overseeing the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

The [\\$1.1 billion project](#) will use the McClusky Canal and 125 miles of pipeline that is 72 inches in diameter to deliver 165 cubic feet of water per second to the Red River to augment water supplies during periods of severe drought.

Given current funding commitments, the project remains on track for completion in nine years, by 2032, DeKrey said.

So far, workers have completed the water intake for the project near Washburn, north of Bismarck, and the pipeline outlet near Cooperstown that will empty water into the Sheyenne River, which joins the Red River near Harwood.

Construction of the pipeline has been concentrated near Carrington, where five miles of pipe have been laid, starting 10 miles east of Carrington.

About \$244 million is available for building and designing the water project during the 2023-25 biennium, including carryover funds.

“It’s not all going for the pipeline, but by far the majority is,” DeKrey said. Money also is available for engineering studies for a water treatment plant. Missouri River water will be treated to remove tiny plants and animals before it enters the Red River to prevent the introduction of foreign species.

The \$70 million treatment plant will be located before the water is transferred to the pipeline from the McClusky Canal, which takes water pumped from Lake Audubon, a sub reservoir of Lake Sakakawea on the Missouri River.

The cities of Fargo and Grand Forks are reviewing their proposed portion of the project’s local cost share. Combined, Fargo, Cass Rural Water District, Grand Forks and East Grand Forks account for 84% of the pipeline’s customers, DeKrey said.

Once the reviews by Fargo and Grand Forks conclude, engineers will calculate monthly water users’ fees for the project.

"That's still in discussion," Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney said. He expects rate figures should be ready in about six weeks, and the figure will depend upon whether the project is able to get some federal money.

Legislators have signaled their intent to ultimately provide a total of \$953 million in state funding for the water supply project.

“The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is essential to serve the central and eastern side of our state during drought conditions,” Andrea Travnicek, director of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, said in a statement. “We are proud to support sustainable and resilient water infrastructure like this project and others that put the Missouri River to beneficial use for our citizens, industry and overall economy.”

After languishing for decades as the now-defunct federally sponsored Garrison Diversion Project, the state took over what became the Red River Water Supply Project nine or 10 years ago.

“After sitting basically idle for a lot of years things seem to really be moving,” DeKrey said.

In the coming weeks and months, Garrison Diversion officials will be setting up informational meetings with local water users.

## Garrison Diversion awards Water Supply Assistance Grants

CARRINGTON, N.D. – The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"One of Garrison Diversion's key priorities is to support rural water in North Dakota. Through the Water Supply Assistance Grant program, we are helping to provide a better quality of life for our citi-

zens and strengthen our rural communities," says Geneva Kaiser, Chair of Garrison Diversion's MR&I Committee. "This program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."

In August, the MR&I Committee awarded \$113,438 to 18 water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- All Seasons Water Users District - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- Barnes Rural Water District - \$23,775 for three customer hookups
- Cass Rural Water District - \$17,438 for two customer hookups
- Central Plains Water District - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- North Prairie Regional Water District - \$18,463

for two customer hookups

- Southeast Water Users District - \$18,322 for three customer hookups
- Stutsman Rural Water District - \$15,440 for six customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is May 1. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).

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# RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

## 2023 NEWSLETTER ANALYTICS



### AVERAGE INDUSTRY RATES FOR E-NEWSLETTERS

**30.35%**

AVERAGE OPEN RATE

**1.11%**

AVERAGE CLICK THROUGH RATE

**0.08%**

AVERAGE UNSUBSCRIBE RATE

The quarterly RRVWSP Progress Report typically receives more engagement with recipients than an average industry newsletter. The Open Rate is the percentage of people who received the newsletter in their inbox and opened the email. The Click Through Rate measures the percentage of people who clicked on each article. The Unsubscribe Rate measures the percentage of people who received the newsletter and decided to opt-out from receiving future newsletters.

### RRVWSP PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 1

**EMAILS SENT: 558**

**OPEN RATE: 39.5%**

**ARTICLES & CLICK RATES:**

- 2023 Legislative Session Update - Click Rate 42.3%
- Introducing Jason Siegert, Garrison Diversion Board Member - Click Rate 35.2%
- RRVWSP Receives State Concrete Award for Intake Structure - Click Rate 22.5%

**UNSUBSCRIBES: 1**

### RRVWSP PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 2

**EMAILS SENT: 556**

**OPEN RATE: 46.3%**

**ARTICLES & CLICK RATES:**

- Legislative Funding Will Accelerate RRVWSP Progress - Click Rate 39%
- RRVWSP Construction Kicks Off - Click Rate 35.4%
- Introducing Bernie Dardis, LAWA Board Associate Member - Click Rate 15.9%

**UNSUBSCRIBES: 0**

### RRVWSP PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 3

**EMAILS SENT: 558**

**OPEN RATE: 51.4%**

**ARTICLES & CLICK RATES:**

- Federal Appeals Court Rules in Favor of ND Water Project - Click Rate 33.3%
- RRVWSP Construction Progress- Click Rate 17.7%
- Introducing Ken Vein, Garrison Diversion & LAWA Board Member - Click Rate 16.7%
- RRVWSP User Meetings Soon Underway - Click Rate 15.2%

**UNSUBSCRIBES: 1**

### RRVWSP PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 4

**EMAILS SENT: 557**

**OPEN RATE: 65%**

**ARTICLES & CLICK RATES:**

- RRVWSP Construction Status and 2023-2025 Workplan - Click Rate 33.6%
- Garrison Diversion and LAWA Reconfirm Partnership - Click Rate 19%
- Introducing Mark Johnson, LAWA Board Member - Click Rate 21.6%

**UNSUBSCRIBES: 0**



## RRVWSP Construction Status and 2023-2025 Work Plan

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) awarded two construction contracts this fall for about 20 miles of pipeline for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) pipeline. Construction of the Transmission Pipe East 5C and 5D contracts are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024.

Oscar Renda Contracting received the \$76,663,355 5C contract to construct approximately eight miles of 72-inch diameter water pipeline and three major trenchless crossings east of Carrington, in Foster County. The trenchless crossings will be located at the James River, Kelly Creek, and an interstate gas pipeline. The company is based out of Grapevine, Texas and has experience constructing other major water transmission projects throughout North America.

Carstensen Contracting out of Del Rapids, South Dakota was awarded the \$61,677,275 5D contract. The 5D work plan includes construction of 10 miles of 72-inch pipe and a trenchless crossing of Pipestem Creek in eastern Wells County and western Foster County. The company has completed similar pipeline work in northwest North Dakota and central South Dakota.

Construction wrapped up for the 2023 season in late November. While an early heavy snowfall created wet and frozen conditions, an eventual warm-up and mild fall enabled the continuation of construction activity. Garney Construction will complete the remaining 3.5 miles of construction east of Carrington on the 5B contract during the 2024 construction season.

The RRVWSP's 2023-2025 biennium budget totals \$244 million and consists of \$180 million from the State of North Dakota, \$61 million from the local users and \$3 million from the Municipal Rural and Industrial (MR&I) Program. Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA), have identified the following priorities for the RRVWSP this biennium:

- Install 27 miles of pipeline
- Design 52 miles of pipeline
- Complete preliminary designs of McClusky Canal intake, McClusky Canal pumping station, biota water treatment plant, and hydraulic break tanks
- Secure remaining easements
- Provide financial planning support
- Provide support and/or studies for RRVWSP end users

When the pipeline is complete, 125 miles of buried pipe will span from the McClusky Canal to the discharge structure, which empties into the Sheyenne River, located about six miles south of Cooperstown. The RRVWSP is projected to serve nearly half of North Dakota's population, from the central part of the state to the eastern side.

## **Garrison Diversion and LAWA Reconfirm Partnership**

As progress on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) ramps up, the co-sponsors of the state and local project reconfirmed their partnership. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) Board members and staff came together with Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) Board members in October for a daylong meeting. The purpose of the discussion was to identify what is working with the partnership and determine if there are areas that could improve.

“The benefits of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project are vast for the entire state of North Dakota. This project would not be possible without the strong partnership between LAWA, representing cities and local water systems, and Garrison Diversion representing the State of North Dakota,” explains Ken Vein, who is the LAWA Vice Chair and has served on the Garrison Diversion Board of Directors since 2004.

The organizations were both created by the state legislature nearly 50 years apart to help solve North Dakota’s water needs. The state legislature created the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in 1955 to construct, develop, and operate the Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) Project. The GDU is the result of the federal Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program that constructed multiple dams on the Missouri River for flood control, navigation, irrigation, and hydropower. After studies determined the soil in northwestern North Dakota was not suitable for irrigation according to federal irrigation standards, the Bureau of Reclamation revised the diversion plan to take water from the Garrison Dam and reservoir to irrigate lands to the east. This became known as the Garrison Diversion. In 1965, federal legislation called for the construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit Principal Supply Works, which included the McClusky Canal, New Rockford Canal, and Oakes Test Area. Eventually, congress ended the GDU Project, but Garrison Diversion continued in its mission to provide a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.

In 2003, the North Dakota legislature recognized LAWA as a new water authority. LAWA was created due to increasing water demands caused by the Red River Valley’s growing population and climatologist predictions of a severe drought occurring in the next 50 years. Representatives of cities and water districts in central and eastern North Dakota, along with three cities in Minnesota comprise the Board of Directors. LAWA’s purpose is to provide a reliable supply of drinking water to central and eastern North Dakota with a focus on the economic welfare of the people and the reliability of a high-quality water supply.

The original RRVWSP was a federal, state, and local project. However, when federal authorization failed to materialize, Garrison Diversion and LAWA were determined to push forward with a state and local project. “Our two organizations are stronger together than we are individually,” says Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager. “Since refocusing the project 10 years ago, we have made an incredible amount of progress on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Partnership has made that possible.”

Garrison Diversion and LAWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020. The signing was an official affirmation of the cooperative agreement they share in support of the

RRVWSP. The MOU solidified how the two entities work together on planning the RRVWSP and constructing it. Although the organizational retreat this fall did not include any formal signing of agreements, it provided time for both parties to get some face time with each other and reconnect.

“Like any successful partnership, there needs to be a willingness to share control to amplify the results that either entity could get alone,” says Dr. Tim Mahoney, LAWA Board Chair and Mayor of Fargo. “The working relationship between LAWA and Garrison Diversion continues to strengthen and increase in importance as construction and implementation of the project moves forward for the benefit of all parties.”

Construction of the RRVWSP is expected to wrap up by 2032, a little less than 20 years after LAWA and Garrison Diversion joined forces in support of the state and local RRVWSP.

### **Introducing Mark Johnson, LAWA Board Member**

Mark Johnson is nearing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving on the Cass Rural Water Users District Board of Directors. He joined the Board in 1995 and later became the Cass Rural Water representative on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA).

Over the years, Mark has witnessed the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) move from a drought mitigation idea closer to reality since construction began in 2020. The coordination between LAWA and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, as well as the end users of the RRVWSP, is something that impresses Mark.

“As a member of LAWA, I wish more citizens were aware of how many towns, cities and water districts are involved in planning the Red River Valley Water Supply Project,” he says. “I’m pleased to work with such knowledgeable people.”

Cass Rural Water Users District customers will benefit from the project because the District purchases water from the City of Fargo which is one of the large users of the RRVWSP. “This project will give us a good backup supply of water,” says Mark.

When Mark isn’t serving on the Cass Rural Water Users District or LAWA Boards, he enjoys spending time with family. He and his wife, Joanne, live in Buffalo. They are retired from farming, which allows them to spend more time with their daughter and granddaughter whenever possible.

## **Federal Appeals Court Rules in Favor of ND Water Project**

In July, the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Missouri Federal District Court’s ruling to allow water from the Missouri River to be conveyed to central North Dakota. The ruling relates to the 2021 dismissal of the State of Missouri’s challenge of the Bureau of Reclamation’s environmental review of the Central North Dakota Water Supply Project (CNDWSP).

The CNDWSP is a cost-saving option for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP), a state and local project that will deliver water from the Missouri River through a buried pipeline to central and eastern North Dakota communities and water systems. In February 2020, the State of Missouri challenged the Bureau of Reclamation’s environmental review of the CNDWSP option which utilizes the McClusky Canal.

“Allowing the use of the McClusky Canal to provide water for central North Dakota is a win for the State. It enables us to put to beneficial use a federal facility that has been largely underutilized since its construction,” says Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager. Garrison Diversion and the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) are the state co-sponsors of the RRVWSP.

“This is a favorable ruling, and we are very pleased with the result. This really helps the Red River Valley Water Supply Project going forward,” says Dr. Tim Mahoney, LAWA Chairman and Fargo Mayor.

The McClusky Canal is controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation and is part of the Garrison Diversion Unit project. Five years ago, the CNDWSP, which utilizes the McClusky Canal, was identified as a cost-saving water source for some, or all the water supply needed for the RRVWSP. The CNDWSP includes an intake into the McClusky Canal and six miles of pipeline that joins the main RRVWSP transmission line.

Garrison Diversion requested 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the McClusky Canal from the Bureau of Reclamation. In response, the Bureau of Reclamation conducted an environmental review of the CNDWSP and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which means the project causes no significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to negotiate a contract with Garrison Diversion to take 20 cfs from the McClusky Canal to benefit the RRVWSP.

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## **Red River Valley Water Supply Project User Meetings Soon Underway**

Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) representatives will soon be out meeting with potential recipients of the supplemental and emergency water supply. More than 30 rural water systems and cities originally signed on for the development phase of the project. The project is now in the construction phase and the Cities of Grand Forks and Fargo have made financial commitments to the project.

So far, representatives of Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA), and the project’s consultants have met with the city of Carrington, Southeast Water Users District, and a group of water systems in northeast North Dakota. Additional meetings will be scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2023 and into 2024. RRVWSP leaders intend to meet with water system leaders from central North Dakota to the Red River Valley to answer questions and provide information.

At the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting on August 10, a \$180 million cost-share request for the RRVWSP was approved. It is the largest single approval the SWC has ever considered. During the 2023 legislative session, North Dakota lawmakers approved legislative intent for the RRVWSP for a historic \$953 million in future funding, which includes the approved \$180 million in the Department of Water Resources Budget, SB 2020.

“The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is essential to serve the central and eastern side of our state during drought conditions,” said Andrea Travnicek, Department of Water Resources Director. “We are proud to support sustainable and resilient water infrastructure like this project and others that put the Missouri River to beneficial use for our citizens, industry and overall economy.”

Lawmakers also approved long-term, affordable financing during the legislative session through North Dakota’s Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (WIRLF). During the August 10 meeting, the SWC also authorized Garrison Diversion to seek \$60 million from the State’s WIRLF through the Bank of North Dakota.

“We are setting up meetings to provide the latest information about the Red River Valley Water Supply Project’s status, including the project’s timeline, construction schedule, and the projected cost to the end users,” explains Merri Mooridian, Garrison Diversion Administrative Officer and Deputy Program Manager of RRVWSP Administration. “Accessing long-term, affordable financing for the end users is a critical step forward for the project because it will help make participation feasible for smaller water systems and cities. We are very thankful for the support from legislators, the Bank of North Dakota, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Commission.”

If your water system is interested in receiving water from the RRVWSP, reach out to Duane DeKrey at 701-652-3194 to set up a meeting.

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## **RRVWSP Construction Progress**

There are currently three construction crew shifts working night and day to lay 72” pipe in the ground in Foster County, near Carrington. They are focused on wrapping up a nine-mile stretch of pipeline that is scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of November.

“As with any construction event, we’ve run into some obstacles, but the crews are working diligently to lay pipe as efficiently as possible,” says Kip Kovar, Garrison Diversion District Engineer and Deputy Program Manager for RRVWSP Engineering.

As of September, nearly six miles of pipe are in the ground. When construction is complete, 125 miles of buried pipe will span from the McClusky Canal to the discharge structure, which empties into the Sheyenne River, located about six miles south of Cooperstown.

Two additional pipe contracts were bid in September and are awaiting approval to award. Contract 5C is an eight-mile contract in Foster County, and Contract 5D is to lay ten miles of pipe, in Foster and Wells Counties. Construction of both contracts will begin in 2024.

## **Meet Ken Vein, Garrison Diversion & LAWA Board Member**

Ken Vein has worked on many historic projects over the course of his careers in engineering and public service. During his time as the Grand Forks City Engineer and Public Works Director, he fought the historic flood of 1997 and helped plan the recovery from the natural disaster. On the opposite end of the spectrum, he has worked on drought mitigation as a consulting engineer and through his seat on the Grand Forks City Council, as well as his service on two prominent North Dakota water boards.

Ken was first elected to the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board of Directors (Garrison Diversion) in 2004. Over the years, he has served as the Garrison Diversion Chair and Vice Chair. He currently Chairs the Garrison Diversion Red River Valley Committee. In 2012, he was elected to his first term on the Grand Forks City Council. The Council seat led to Ken becoming the City's appointed representative on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) Board of Directors, where he currently serves as Vice Chair.

Garrison Diversion and LAWA are the co-sponsors of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP), a drought mitigation project that will serve up to 50% of North Dakota's population when it is constructed. "The importance of Garrison Diversion and LAWA coming together to accomplish drought resiliency for central and eastern North Dakota cannot be understated," says Ken.

Grand Forks is among the three largest end users of the RRVWSP. Due to his City Council seat and serving on the LAWA and Garrison Diversion Boards, Ken has a unique 360-degree perspective on the project that he has helped shape since its very beginning.

"The need for an emergency water source has been recognized since the time of North Dakota's statehood. There have been several unsuccessful attempts until the Red River Valley Water Supply Project found its footing," he explains. "The progress we're seeing now is unprecedented. It's truly gratifying to see construction moving forward and witness this historic project come to fruition."

In addition to his considerable public service duties, Ken is part of yet another historic and high-profile North Dakota project. Since 2019, he has been the Director of Design and Construction for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Construction began this summer

in Medora and is expected to be complete in time to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States on July 4, 2026.

When he's not working on the Presidential Library or promoting the RRVWSP, Ken enjoys riding his motorcycle, four-wheeling, riding bike, and spending time at the family lake cabin. He and his wife, Debra, have two sons. The couple celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2023, a milestone celebration to go along with Ken's many professional accomplishments.



## GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BURLEIGH COUNTY BENEFITS

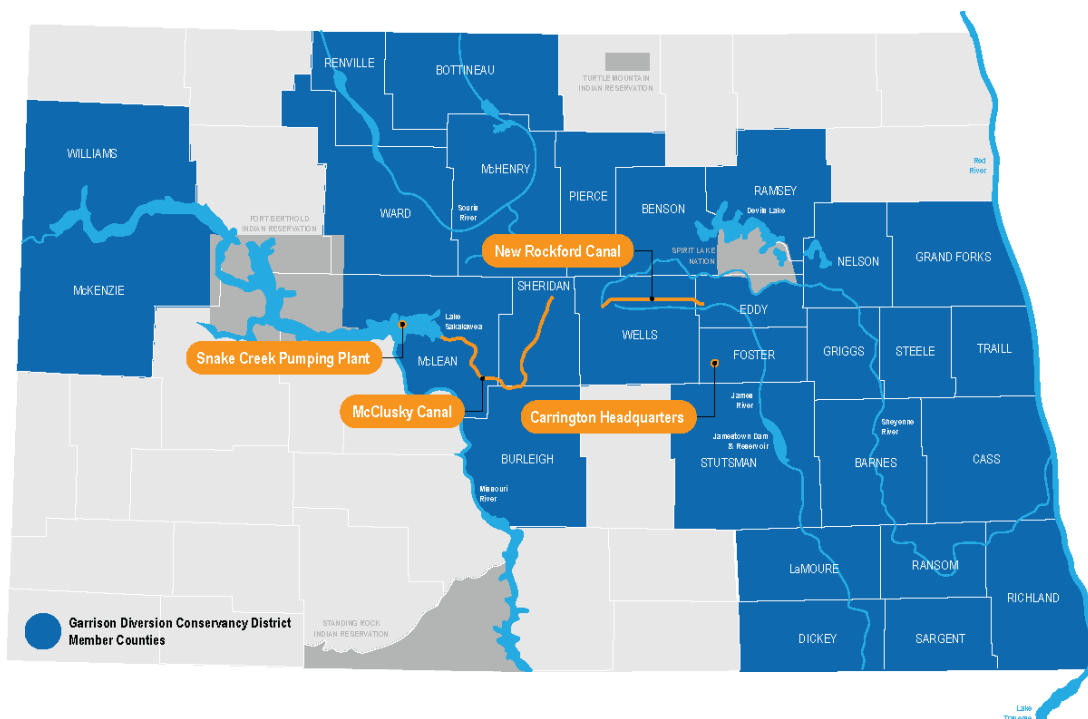
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

### GARRISON DIVERSION OVERVIEW

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) was created by the State in 1955 to develop the federal Garrison Diversion Unit project. Garrison Diversion encompasses 28 counties; each member county elects a citizen to serve on the board of directors and levies one mill to support the activities of Garrison Diversion.

Burleigh County petitioned to join the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in 1988.

**Our mission is to provide a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.**



### FEDERAL MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The federal MR&I water supply program provides a source of funding to water projects in North Dakota. Garrison Diversion's MR&I program is jointly administered by Garrison Diversion and the Department of Water Resources to provide funding to deliver quality water throughout the state.

Dozens of municipal and rural water systems across North Dakota have received funding through the MR&I program to address current and future water demands on their systems.

The South Central Regional Water District, the rural water district serving Burleigh County, has been a recipient of MR&I funds, receiving over **\$57.0 million** to date.



### MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

In 2021, Garrison Diversion created the MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program to provide funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties. Assistance for new customer hookups may be for residential use, livestock use, or commercial/business use.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects that will impact the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

The next deadline to apply for a Water Supply Assistance Grant is May 1, 2024.

PROJECT	GRANT APPROVAL DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
South Central Regional Water	06-01-21	\$1,511.00
South Central Regional Water	06-01-21	\$1,398.00
South Central Regional Water	04-07-22	\$7,474.00
*South Central Regional Water	08-15-22	\$1,351.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$11,734.00</b>

\*Outstanding MR&I Project

### MATCHING RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM

Garrison Diversion returns 20% of its one-mill levy to qualifying recreation projects within the 28-county district through the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Since its inception in 1990, nearly \$8 million has been awarded to recreation projects throughout the district.

As part of the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program, Burleigh County has been awarded **\$825,588.00** in matching grant funds. Grant funds have been used on projects from park updates to walking trails and welcome centers.

The next deadline to apply for a Matching Recreation Grant is March 1, 2024.

PROJECT	GRANT APPROVAL DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
Bismarck Parks & Recreation	1993	\$ 12,000.00
Hoge Island	1995	\$125,000.00
Kimball Bottoms	4-26-05	\$1,625.00
Kneifel Landing	10-04-06	\$7,500.00
Kneifel Landing Fish Cleaning Station	05-05-11	\$5,000.00
Sibley Park Accessibility Improvements	10-09-13	\$16,112.00
Kiwanis Park Playground Equipment	10-08-15	\$23,250.00
Tommy Turtle Park Welcome Center	10-08-15	\$50,000.00
General Sibley Interpretive Trail	04-29-16	\$24,668.00
Sensory Play Space – Magical Moment	05-02-18	\$27,125.00
New Generations Park – Splash Pad	05-02-18	\$40,000.00
Elk Ridge Neighbor Park Amenities	05-02-19	\$100,000.00
McDowell Dam Vault Toilet	09-26-19	\$3,478.00
Zonta Park Prairie Play Nodes	09-26-19	\$15,053.00
Bismarck Parks & Recreation	05-06-20	\$24,529.00
Burleigh County Commission	05-06-20	\$6,000.00
North Central Park Improvements	10-01-20	\$82,136.00
Sertoma Park Fitness Improvements	04-29-21	\$75,167.00
Tom O'Leary Restroom	04-29-21	\$80,513.00

*Steckel Boat Landing Picnic Shelter	04-29-21	\$6,000.00
*4H Arena Play Area	09-23-21	\$31,291.00
*Sibley Campground Electrical Updates	09-23-21	\$36,746.00
*American Legion Splash Pad	09-28-22	\$30,000.00
*Wilton North Park Pickle Ball Court	09-28-22	\$2,395.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$825,588.00</b>

\* Outstanding Recreation Projects

**MISSOURI RIVER JOINT WATER BOARD**

The Missouri River Joint Water Board represents the water resource districts of **Burleigh**, Dunn, Emmons, McKenzie, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Sioux, and Williams Counties in ND to develop and implement solutions to water resources problems and issues within the Missouri River corridor.

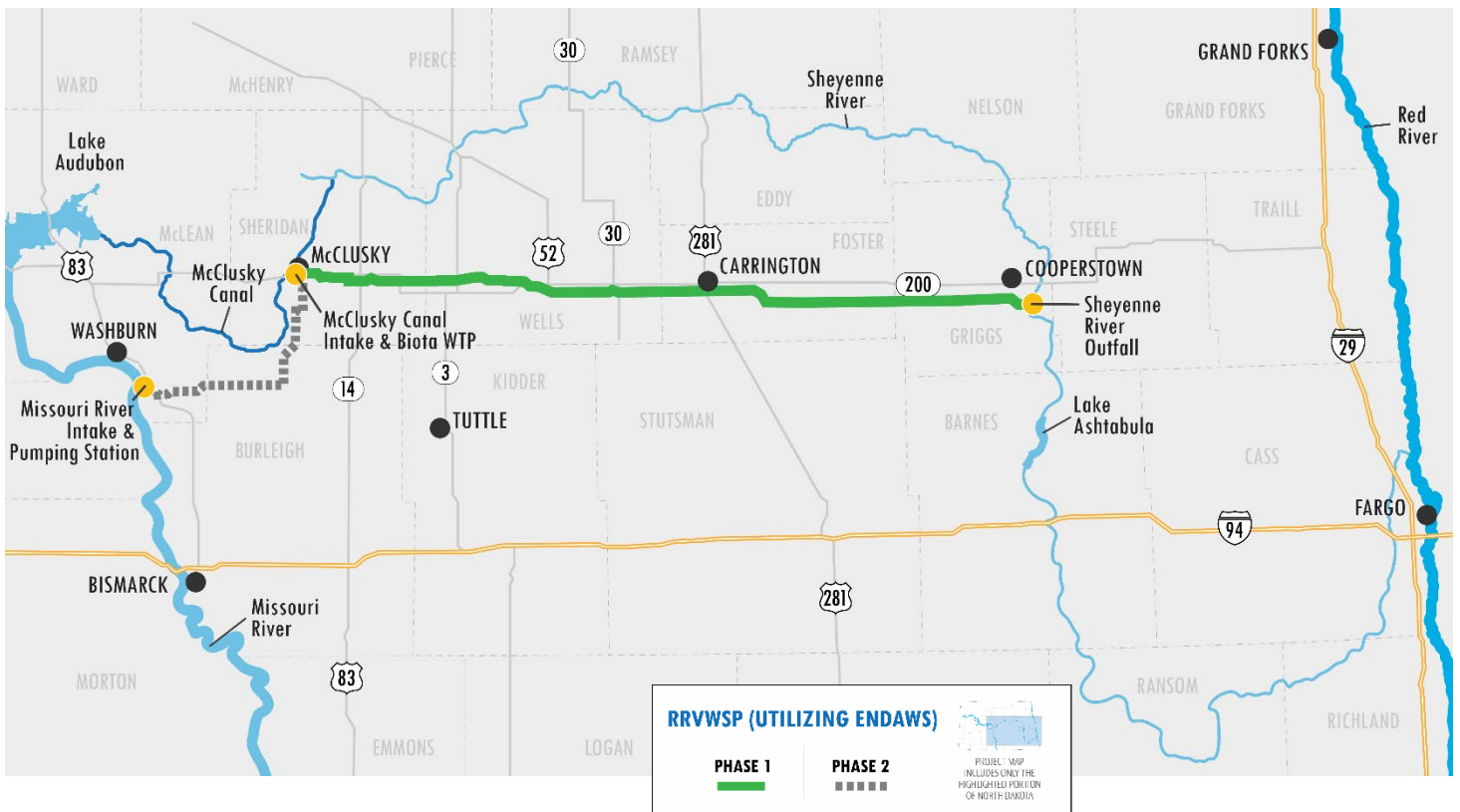
Garrison Diversion has been supporting the Missouri River Joint Water Board’s efforts financially since 2009, and has expended over **\$410,000** to help the group achieve their mission.

**RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (RRVWSP)**

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is a plan to safeguard water for North Dakota communities and rural water systems in times of drought by delivering water from the Missouri River to central and eastern North Dakota through a buried pipeline. Upon its completion, the RRVWSP will benefit about half of North Dakota’s population by providing a supplemental and emergency water supply during droughts.

The water will also provide opportunities for industrial development, as a current lack of industrial water supply has driven industries to obtain water through less desirable means and/or relocation out of North Dakota.

The South Central Regional Water District signed a Development Agreement to participate in the Project Development phase of the RRVWSP, with a nomination of 0.50 cubic feet per second (cfs). Project leaders will continue user outreach meetings in the near future.







## GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PIERCE COUNTY BENEFITS

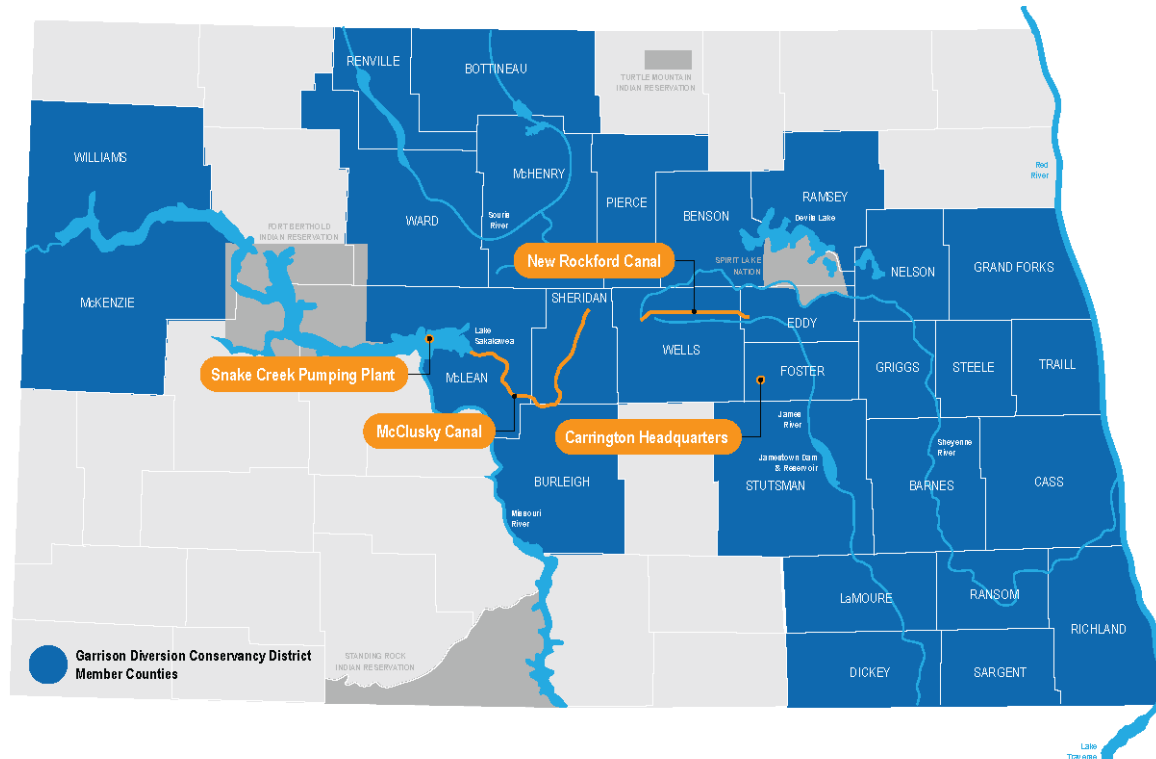
OCTOBER 1, 2023

### GARRISON DIVERSION OVERVIEW

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Pierce County joined the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in 1955.

**Our mission is to provide a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.**



### MATCHING RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM

Garrison Diversion returns 20% of its one-mill levy to qualifying recreation projects within the 28-county district through the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Since its inception in 1990, over \$9.3 million has been awarded to recreation projects throughout the district.

As part of the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program, Pierce County has been awarded **\$133,280.00** in matching grant funds. Grant funds have been used on projects from park updates to walking trails and welcome centers.

The next deadline to apply for a Matching Recreation Grant is March 1, 2024.

PROJECT	GRANT APPROVAL DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
Balta Dam Park	10-04-06	\$6,850.00
Balta Dam recreation Project, Restrooms	1997	\$10,500.00
City of Rugby Walking Path/Trail	2001	\$18,000.00
City of Rugby Walking Path/Trail	06-13-02	\$18,180.00
Eastside Park Developments	04-21-10	\$20,000.00
Eastside Park Improvements	05-06-13	\$9,425.00
Rugby Park Board	04-22-04	\$3,000.00
Rugby Park Board	04-26-05	\$2,873.00
*Buffalo Lake Campsite	04-29-21	\$3,250.00
*Barton Park Picnic Tables/Play Gym	09-23-21	\$1,250.00
*Rugby – Jaycee’s Splashpad	03-30-23	\$40,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$133,328.00</b>

\* Outstanding Recreation Projects

### FEDERAL MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The federal MR&I water supply program provides a source of funding to water projects in North Dakota. Garrison Diversion’s MR&I program is jointly administered by Garrison Diversion and the Department of Water Resources to provide funding to deliver quality water throughout the state.

Dozens of municipal and rural water systems across North Dakota have received funding through the MR&I program to address current and future water demands on their systems.

#### Northwest Area Water Supply Program (NAWS)

The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project, a regional water supply project serving Pierce County, has been a recipient of MR&I funds, receiving **\$178.9 million** to date.

FISCAL YEAR	NAWS PIPELINE APPROPRIATION
1987	\$3,966
1988	\$115,106
1990	\$40,392
1996	\$1,000,000
1997	\$1,030,000
1998	\$1,005,000
1999	\$2,500,000
2003	\$7,327,000
2004	\$2,388,500
2005	\$3,348,000
2006	\$4,122,131
2007	\$3,600,000

FISCAL YEAR	NAWS PIPELINE APPROPRIATION
2008	\$10,910,000
2009	\$7,600,000
2010	\$2,275,000
2012	\$400,000
2016	\$1,900,000
2018	\$11,815,000
2019	\$17,785,000
2020	\$15,655,000
2021	\$20,400,000
2022	\$53,963,682
2023	\$12,700,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$178,883,777</b>

### All Seasons Water Users District

The All Seasons Water Users District, which serves a majority of Pierce County, has received **\$10.243 million** to provide rural water to its service district.

PROJECT	YEAR	FUNDING
All Seasons IV	1999 to 2007	\$3,659,685
All Seasons V	2004 to 205	\$6,091,450
All Seasons Upham	2008 to 2010	\$492,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,243,135</b>

### Rugby Water Treatment Plant

The program provided **\$430,378** for the Rugby water treatment plant in 2018 and 2019.

### MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

In 2021, Garrison Diversion created the MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program to provide funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties. Assistance for new customer hookups may be for residential use, livestock use, or commercial/business use.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects that will impact the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

Pierce County has not yet applied for any benefits through the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program. The next deadline to apply for a Water Supply Assistance Grant is May 1, 2024.



## GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT SHERIDAN COUNTY BENEFITS

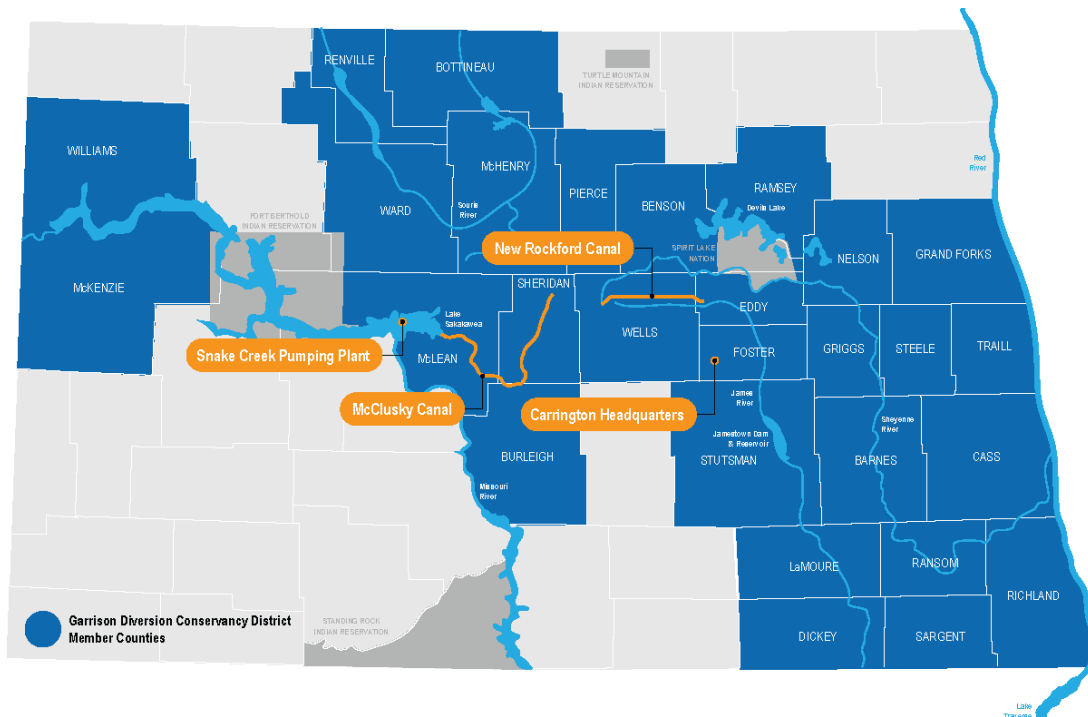
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

### GARRISON DIVERSION OVERVIEW

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) was created by the State in 1955 to develop the federal Garrison Diversion Unit project. Garrison Diversion encompasses 28 counties; each member county elects a citizen to serve on the board of directors and levies one mill to support the activities of Garrison Diversion, which include irrigation, recreation, agriculture and natural resources, and municipal, rural and industrial water supply.

Sheridan County has been a member of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District since its inception in 1955.

**Our mission is to provide a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.**



### RECREATION BENEFITS

#### Matching Recreation Grant Program

Garrison Diversion returns 20% of its one-mill levy to qualifying recreation projects within the 28-county district through the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Since its inception in 1990, over \$9.3 million has been awarded to recreation projects throughout the district.

As part of the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program, Sheridan County has been awarded **\$126,127.06** in matching grant funds. Grant funds have been used on projects from park updates to walking trails and welcome centers.

The next deadline to apply for a Matching Recreation Grant is March 1, 2024.

PROJECT	GRANT APPROVAL DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
Lake Hoffer Park Recreation Project	1991-2003	\$89,903.06
Sheridan County Park Board	04-14-04	\$6,525.00
Hoffer Lake Picnic Tables	09-20-05	\$1,250.00
Hoffer Lake 4-H Building Addition	04-29-08	\$6,250.00
Hoffer Lake Vault Toilet	04-29-08	\$1,230.00
Hoffer Lake RV Campground Phase II	09-28-11	\$9,725.00
McClusky Park	09-28-11	\$1,681.00
Hoffer Lake Beach Area	04-29-16	\$2,620.00
*Hoffer Lake Beach & Swimming Development	09-23-21	\$4,093.00
*Hoffer Lake Recreation Area Tables & Courtesy Dock	09-20-23	\$2,850.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$126,127.06</b>

\* Outstanding Recreation Projects

### Chain of Lakes Recreation Area

Chain of Lakes was created as part of the Garrison Diversion Unit, which was authorized in 1965 to provide irrigation and flood control. It includes both the Garrison Dam and Lake Sakakawea as major features. Heckers and New Johns Lake flow through Sheridan County, East Park Lake is located in Burleigh County and West Park Lake lies in McLean County.

Garrison Diversion, in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation, has worked diligently to develop and enhance the recreational facilities in the Chain of Lakes area in order to provide recreational opportunities for North Dakotans to enjoy.

Much of the work has been completed by Garrison Diversion's O&M staff, who is also responsible for the daily maintenance of the area. Garrison Diversion has invested approximately **\$250,000** into the McClusky Canal Chain of Lakes Recreation Areas.

### McCLUSKY CANAL IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

Garrison Diversion has been instrumental in developing irrigation from the McClusky Canal, and in 2017, completed an Irrigation Master Plan to further irrigation development along the Canal. Currently, nearly 8,000 acres are irrigated out of the Canal, with several of those projects lying in Sheridan County. Over **\$2.0 million** has been invested into the Sheridan County McClusky Canal irrigation projects.

### FEDERAL MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The federal MR&I water supply program provides a source of funding to water projects in North Dakota. Garrison Diversion's MR&I program is jointly administered by Garrison Diversion and the Department of Water Resources to provide funding to deliver quality water throughout the state.

Dozens of municipal and rural water systems across North Dakota have received funding through the MR&I program to address current and future water demands on their systems.

McLean-Sheridan Rural Water has been a recipient of MR&I funds, receiving over **\$745,000** to date.



**MUNICIPAL, RURAL & INDUSTRIAL (MR&I) WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

In 2021, Garrison Diversion created the MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program to provide funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion’s member counties. Assistance for new customer hookups may be for residential use, livestock use, or commercial/business use.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects that will impact the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

The next deadline to apply for a Water Supply Assistance Grant is May 1, 2024.

PROJECT	GRANT APPROVAL DATE	GRANT AMOUNT
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District	06-01-21	\$2,325.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,325.00</b>

**RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (RRVWSP)**

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is a plan to safeguard water for North Dakota communities and rural water systems in times of drought by delivering water from the Missouri River to central and eastern North Dakota through a buried pipeline. Upon its completion, the RRVWSP will benefit about half of North Dakota’s population by providing a supplemental and emergency water supply during droughts.

The water will also provide opportunities for industrial development, as a current lack of industrial water supply has driven industries to obtain water through less desirable means and/or relocation out of North Dakota.

The **McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District** signed a Development Agreement to participate in the Project Development phase of the RRVWSP, with a nomination of 0.42 cubic feet per second (cfs). Project leaders will continue user outreach meetings in the near future.

