

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 Valenzuela* *Paul Bann* *John T. Stief*
Ken Vein *Meni Moradian* *Alan M. Walter* *Bennie Danks*
Stacy Olson *Bruce Smith* *Keri Hein* *Jeremy Schulte*
Duane E. Frey *Tami Norgard* *Kip Kovan*
Jan Carlsrud



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.

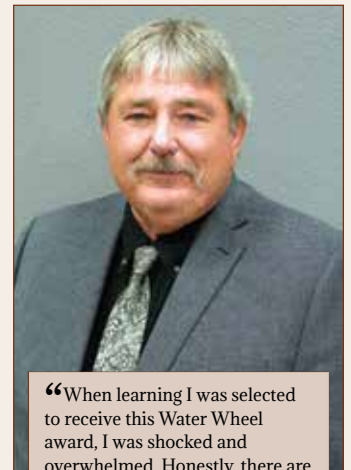
"When I got on the board, it was either get rid of the Oakes Research facility or keep it. It was in disrepair," Kelly says. "Over the years, we've brought it up to where it almost needs to be. I know that was the most fulfilling thing I've done on the board."

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."