

Upcoming Meetings

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Technical Advisory Committee meeting, January 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Howard Johnson Inn, Fargo.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Ad Hoc Committee meeting, January 9, 2007, 10:30 a.m., Howard Johnson Inn, Fargo.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board meeting, January 9, 2007, 1:30 p.m., Fargo City Commission Chambers, Fargo.

Environmental Impact Statement Schedule

January 2007

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement released. An ensuing 45 day public comment period begins.

Summer 2007

Final EIS released.



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Bulletin

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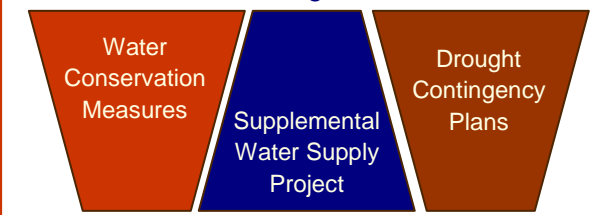
A Three Pronged Solution for the Valley's Water Supply Needs

There is no question that the Red River Valley is facing a water supply crisis. Solving this problem is a priority for many entities, including Lake Agassiz Water Authority and Garrison Diversion. A solution to this problem has been defined and it contains three components; 1) water conservation plans, 2) drought contingency measures and 3) a supplemental water supply project.

Much emphasis has been placed on the supplemental water supply component. The state of North Dakota chose a preferred alternative, the GDU to the Sheyenne River Alternative. See www.lakeagassiz.org for a

Red River Valley Water Supply Project

Three Pronged Solution



detailed map and description of the alternative.

Planning and action is also being conducted on the other two components. A water conservation specialist is helping rural and small city water systems develop water conservation plans. The water conservation plans promote the wise use, management and protection of local water resources. They include conservation measures that reduce consumption and the loss of water due to leaks in the system.

To date, 72 water conservation plans have been completed throughout the Red River Valley. The water conservation specialist is a staff member of the ND Rural Water Systems

See Three Pronged Solution page 2

Special points of interest:

- Three Pronged Solution
- Regional Drought Conditions
- Red River Valley Water Supply Project & LAWA Update
- LAWA Directors Reelected
- Upcoming Meetings/EIS Schedule

Red River Valley Water Supply Project Updates

- The Boundary Waters Treaty work group met on December 14 in Washington, D.C., to brief the Canadian Government on the status of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and to listen to Canadian concerns about invasive species.
- A meeting was held between the Bureau of Reclamation, Garrison Diversion and the ND Department of Health to discuss water quality impacts.
- Garrison Diversion and the Bureau of Reclamation are finalizing the SDEIS for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. It is expected to be released at the end of January 2007.

LAWA Updates

Lake Agassiz Water Authority formed an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate membership dues and the different cost allocation models that could be developed to distribute the user cost share of the project. The first meeting was held December 12.

The committee suggested raising dues for water systems that are considered Tier 1 and Tier 2 systems. These are systems that are projected to have water supply shortages during a long term drought.

The committee did not reach any consensus on the assumption to use in developing the financial modeling assumptions. The committee is scheduled to meet again on January 9.

The Lake Agassiz Water Authority board of directors approved the dues increase to be effective for 2007. They have also approved a 2007 work plan, which includes, collecting aerial survey data, a water quality sampling plan, financial planning and legislative changes for the project.



Three Pronged Solution continued

Association and the position is funded by Garrison Diversion.

Once water conservation plans have been completed for all the water systems, the focus will switch to drought contingency planning. The specialist will work with the same water systems to develop drought contingency plans.

The plan is to have all rural and city water systems in North Dakota's Red River Valley have water conservation and drought contingency plans in place.

The water conservation plans will be in effect at all times, while the drought contingency plans will be implemented only during drought.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Directors Reelected

At the December North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association Conference, five Lake Agassiz Water Authority directors representing water districts were reelected to their positions.

Reelected to positions representing the northern Red River Valley were Clark Cronquist, Agassiz Water District and John Drees, Grand-Forks Traill Water District.

Reelected to positions representing the southern Red River Valley were Keith

Burley, Cass Rural Water Users District and LaVonne Althoff, Southeast Water District.

Reelected to the director-at-large position was Rick Bigwood, North Valley Water District.

Congratulations to these directors on their reelection. Their combined expertise will help guide Lake Agassiz Water Authority throughout the coming year.

These directors were elected to a two-year term.

Regional Drought Conditions

As one looks outside, it sure doesn't look much like winter. Throughout most of the region there isn't much, if any, snow on the ground. Without a normal snow-pack, the drought conditions of last summer do not seem to be easing.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a service of the National Drought Mitigation Center, all of North Dakota and Minnesota are abnormally dry or experiencing a moderate to extreme drought.

Most of the runoff that feeds the Red River, of which over 218,000 citizens in the Red River Valley depend on for their drinking water supply, comes from Minnesota. According to the drought monitor map, dated December 19, 2006, that area of

Minnesota is experiencing an extreme drought.

If the current dry spell that started last summer continues into next summer, we can only expect that the drought conditions in the Red River Valley will worsen.

