

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Bulletin

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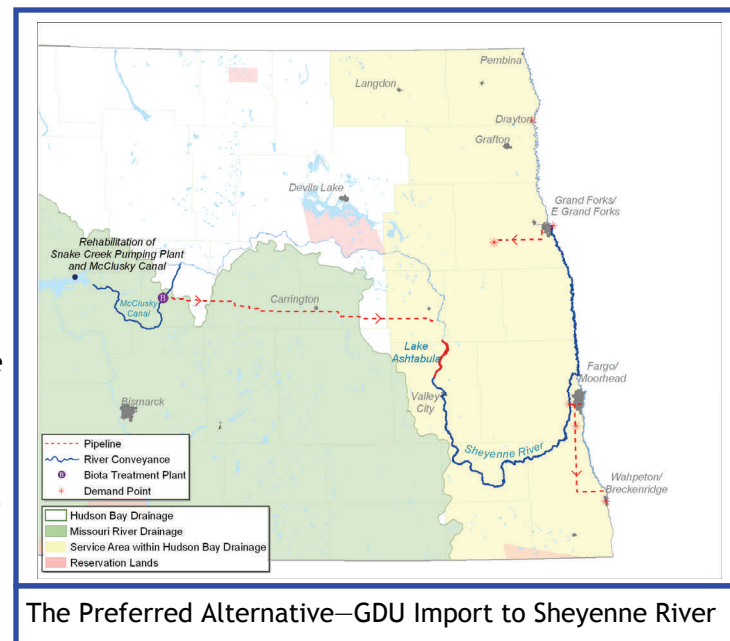
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The Preferred Alternative—The Best Solution

The Preferred Alternative is the best solution to meeting the water supply needs of the Red River Valley. It is the most flexible, the most reliable, environmentally friendly, the least costly to operate, and the least costly of all Missouri River alternatives to construct. This issue covers the Preferred Alternative's cost-effectiveness.

The least costly Missouri River option to construct

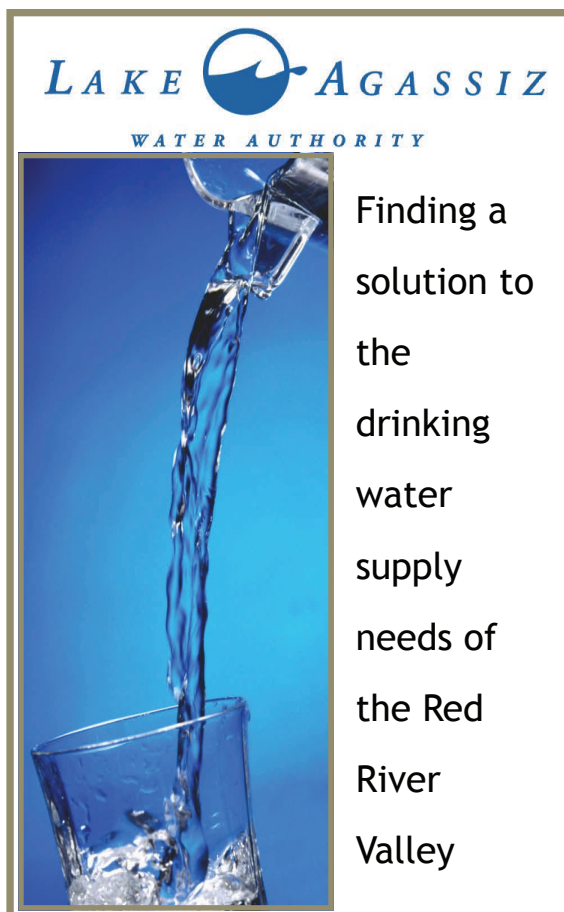
The Preferred Alternative uses existing infrastructure and natural conveyance. Utilizing the existing Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) Principal Supply Works, Lake Ashtabula and the Sheyenne and Red Rivers to capture, store and deliver water to systems in the Red River Valley is advantageous. It makes use of what's already been invested in.



- Using the GDU Principal Supply Works—Snake Creek Pumping Plant, Lake Audubon and the McClusky Canal—saves building a new intake on the Missouri River and installing 42 miles of main transmission pipeline. Savings of over \$150 million.
- Lake Ashtabula provides 22.4 billion gallons of storage capacity, saving the expense of building additional storage reservoirs and water towers in the Red River Valley.
- Using the natural conveyance of the Sheyenne and Red Rivers—the primary water source for the majority of water systems in the Valley—saves the expense of investing in hundreds of miles of additional pipeline.

(The Best Solution continued on Page 2)

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Meetings Update



Finding a solution to the drinking water supply needs of the Red River Valley

- The Agreement of Intent was mailed to the 11 rural water systems and 20 municipalities identified as potentially participating in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Systems were asked to affirm their intent to participate in the Project and their capacity nomination by December 1, 2008. This information is crucial in developing the operating plan for the Project.
- The Lake Agassiz Board of Directors sent a letter to Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne expressing their concern with the delay in issuing a Record of Decision.
- The group reviewed and discussed a draft "Proposed Water Project Allocations: 2009-2011 Biennium" developed by the ND Water Coalition. The final version will be used as a guide for water funding requests at the upcoming legislative session.
- The group discussed issues and questions regarding bonding the local share of the Project and proposed changes that may be presented to the legislature regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply Project section of the ND Century Code.

The Best Solution continued from Page 1

- Existing water treatment plants in the Red River Valley, many of which are state-of-the-art, are used to treat the water. Local water systems expressed they do not want to rely on water treated 200 miles away. They don't want to give up their capacity to treat water locally.

The least costly to operate

- Utilizing the elevation of Lake Sakakawea saves over \$1 million annually in pumping costs. Gravity does most of the work. Once the water is over the Continental Divide—approximately 12 miles from the biota treatment plant—it is 113 miles downhill to Lake Ashtabula. After that, 475 miles of river channel is used to convey the water.



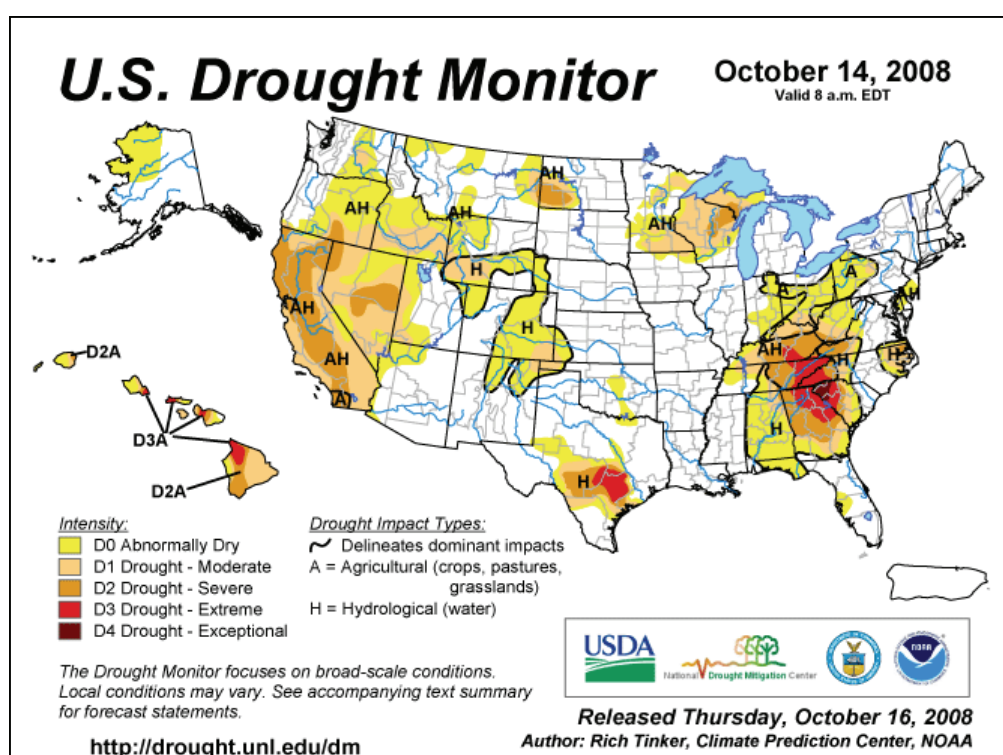
Using the natural conveyance feature of the Sheyenne and Red Rivers saves investing in hundreds of miles of additional pipeline.

- It also has the fewest miles of major transmission line to maintain and replace.

Annual operations and pumping costs are paid for solely by the local water systems each year.

Regional Drought Conditions

Due to recent significant rainfall throughout North Dakota and even snowfall in the western part of the state, the majority of North Dakota has been relieved from the drought conditions that have plagued much of the state all summer. However, the southwest corner of the state is still suffering from moderate to severe drought conditions.



While August was recorded as above average for rainfall, the southwest received only .5 to 1.5 inches of rainfall in August, while the rest of the state received anywhere from 2 to 7 inches, accounting for the ongoing dryness in the southwest part of North Dakota.

Overall, the 2008 summer is the 49th warmest summer on record since 1895, along with the 25th wettest summer in the same time period. The temperatures this summer were 2.1° F warmer than 100 years ago on the average, which contributed to the dryness in the state.

The upcoming fall season is forecast to have warmer than average temperatures, coupled with above normal precipitation, according to the North Dakota State Climate Office.

Operational Plan Development Receives Funding Approval

Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz continue to move forward with the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Current tasks include obtaining commitments from systems to enter into water service contracts and developing the financial plan to pay for the Project.

The next step needed is to develop the operational plan for the Project. This step is crucial in order to develop the terms for the water service contracts and will establish the design criteria for the pre-final design of the Project.

The estimated cost to develop the operational plan is \$750,000, of which the State Water Commission approved cost share funding up to \$630,000.



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Upcoming Meeting

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors

November 12, 2008 10:00 AM—Doublewood Inn, Fargo

Note date change.
