

Lake Agassiz
Water Authority

Bulletin

Volume VIII, Issue I

Spring 2010

In this issue:

- Drought & Flooding in the Red River Valley
- 2010 Work Plan
- Regional Drought Conditions
- Draft Operational Plan
- Upcoming Meetings

Drought & Flooding in the Red River Valley

The Red River Valley suffers from two major water issues falling on opposite ends of the spectrum: drought and flood. Both problems are known to come and go depending on the season and weather patterns.

Two major infrastructure projects have been proposed to deal with too little or too much water. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Project) is designed as a supplemental water supply to meet the needs of the people and industries in the Red River Valley in times of drought. The flood control project proposes to divert the Red River around the cities of Fargo and Moorhead, deterring floodwaters from inundating the cities.

Both water projects are greatly needed. Unpredictable and ever-changing weather patterns mean a severe drought can occur at any time. The Project would be effective in providing the Valley with the needed supplemental water supplies. As noted in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, a drought similar to the 1930s drought could realistically be repeated prior to 2050 and would have an annual \$2 billion negative impact. In the wake of the Flood of 2009, the flood control project has become a priority for Fargo. Floodwaters rose to record levels in the city and threatened to do so again in 2010.

Both projects carry hefty price tags, and costs are expected to be divided between local, state and federal funding. Both projects must move forward; the future of the Red River Valley depends on them.

2010 Work Plan

The 2010 work plan has been approved by the Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors.

The first order of the 2010 work plan is to complete items already in progress, that were started in 2009, including the draft operational plan, permitting and environmental services, preliminary design efforts and refining the financial plan.

Continued on Page 2

2010 Work Plan cont.

Continued from Page 1

In Progress Items—

- Draft operational plan – The objective is to develop an overall operational plan for delivering Project water through the Sheyenne and Red River systems to the end users.
- Permitting and environmental services – The purpose is to detail permitting and environmental services required to gain approval for the construction of the pipeline and its appurtenances.
- Preliminary design – The purpose of the preliminary design stage is to gather information regarding the site and installation conditions and to define the basic design parameters of the pipeline project so the detailed design phase can proceed efficiently and without rework.
- Financial plan – Upon completion of the draft operational plan, preliminary design and Value Engineering Review, water service contracts will be drafted and negotiated.

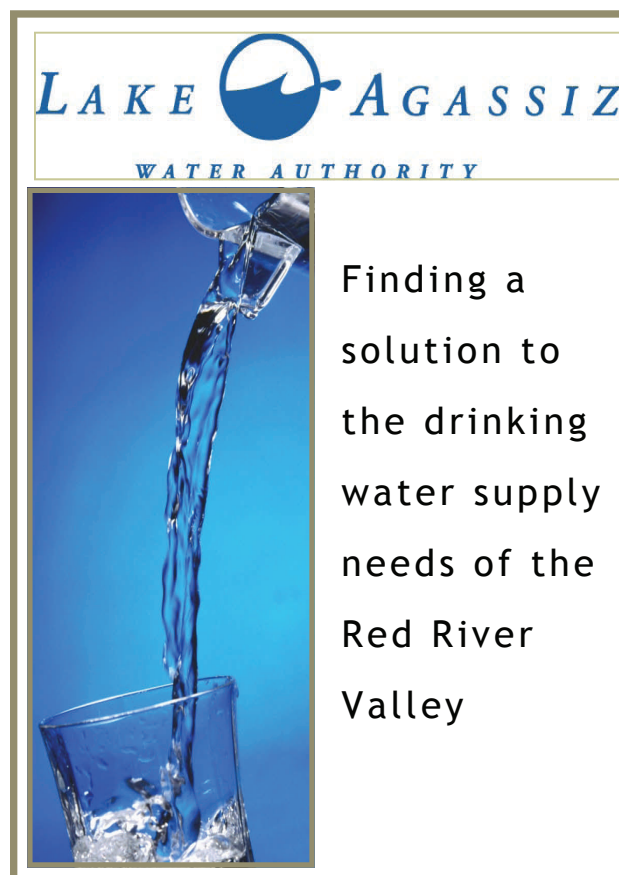
Value Engineering—A Value Engineering Review will ensure the Project is properly designed and that it is the best value for the federal government. A Value Engineering Review typically takes three months to complete.

Record of Decision—Efforts to obtain a Record of Decision will continue.

Authorization—Obtaining authorization for the Project is an important factor in the 2010 work plan. The congressional delegation will be supported in their efforts to obtain authorization for the Project.

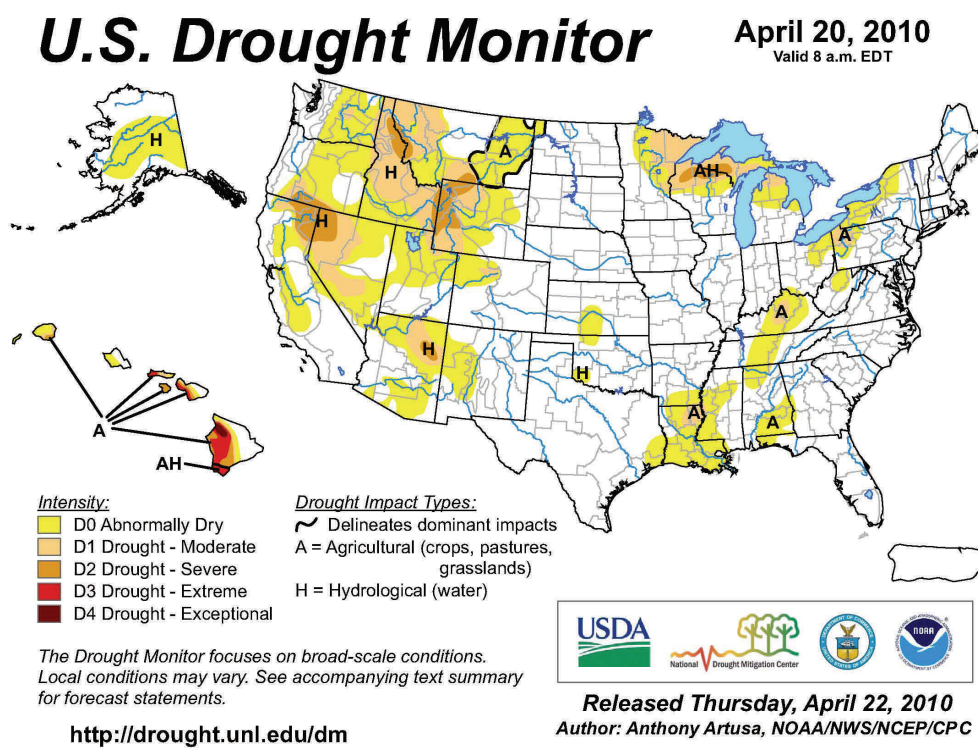
Water Quality—Water quality sampling on the Sheyenne and Red Rivers will continue.

Next Steps—Once the Value Engineering Review has been completed and a Record of Decision issued, the next step to prepare for Project construction is to complete the final design, including plans and specifications. The final design will take approximately one year to complete. Finally, agreements will be developed with Reclamation, including an agreement to construct the Project and a repayment contract.



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

Regional Drought Conditions



Winter snowfall amounts around North Dakota kept the state free from drought and abnormally dry conditions.

According to the North Dakota State Climate Office's January Climate Summary, a large portion of the state received precipitation between 100 and 300 percent of normal. This included central, southeast, northeast and a small portion of northwest North Dakota. The remaining areas had less than 100% of normal precipitation.

The first part of February was wet, with snowfall around most of the state. Precipitation levels in the snow were higher than average. Snowfall on Feb. 6 in Grand Forks set a record with .11 inches of precipitation, and Jamestown tied the record precipitation of .16 on Feb. 13. The second half of February remained dry.

During the second half of March, moderate to major flooding from snowmelt occurred in the central and eastern part of the state.

Draft Operational Plan

The Draft Operational Plan for the Project was recently completed. As an extension of the Project's Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Draft Operational Plan clarifies the Project operations and addresses operational concerns.

Several main objectives are outlined in the Draft Operational Plan. They are as follows:

- Maintain Lake Ashtabula target levels
- Fulfill end users' water supply needs
- Preserve aquatic flows
- Deliver water of sufficient quality to the end users
- Operate the Project infrastructure consistent with preliminary design to maintain pipeline integrity
- Account for Project water
- Develop a recommended Project operation management protocol

The Draft Operational Plan also addresses the Project's description; proposed operational strategies for canal freshening, Project infrastructure, and Baldhill Dam; the proposed accounting system; the proposed management protocol; and the approval process.



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Water Authority**

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Upcoming Meeting

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors

June 8, 2010, 1:00 PM, Doublewood Inn— Fargo, ND
