A meeting of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held at the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota, on April 26, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Anderson at 10 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Committee Chairman Dave Anderson
Director Rick Anderson (by conference phone)
Director Norman Haak
Director Kelly Klosterman (by conference phone)
Director Jim Pellman
Secretary Kip Kovar

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Board Chairman Ken Royse

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff members of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District were present along with others. 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 Haak to dispense with a reading of the minutes and approve the January 11, 2018, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee minutes as distributed. Second by Director Pellman. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

OAKES IRRIGATION RESEARCH SITE UPDATE

Blaine Schatz, Director, Carrington Research & Extension Center, NDSU, provided an update on activities at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS), including the search for a research specialist and an update on equipment and facilities.

Mr. Schatz reported that two very good candidates for the research specialist position have been interviewed, and the selection committee will be meeting very soon to make a decision on hiring.
Mr. Schatz said work continues in trying to upgrade facilities at the OIRS. Something that has been on the table for a number of years is a rinsate pad and a storage area for chemicals. Projected costs have been coming in significantly higher than anticipated, adding that once the cost estimate reaches $100,000, an architect must be hired which will add to the cost.

Mr. Schatz added that the potential site for the rinsate pad is at the north end of the site on the acreage owned by Garrison Diversion. He has been attempting to get a legal opinion from NDSU as to the process for building a rinsate pad on property that is not owned by NDSU. To date, he has not been able to get a response.

**2019 OIRS Budget** - Mr. Schatz presented and reviewed the proposed 2019 budget for the OIRS. The amount being requested from Garrison Diversion is $267,875, which is similar to what has been requested over the last number of years. A copy of the budget is attached to these minutes as Annex II.

**Motion by Director Klosterman to approve the proposed 2019 Oakes Irrigation Research Site budget in the amount of $267,875.** Second by Director Haak. Upon roll call vote, the following director voted aye: D. Anderson, R. Anderson, Haak, Klosterman and Pellman. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: Royse. Motion carried.

**OAKES TEST AREA TITLE TRANSFER**

**Consulting Contract** - Kip Kovar, Secretary, referred to a copy of the consulting contract between Garrison Diversion and Tom Knutson, stating that the Executive Committee approved Garrison Diversion retaining Mr. Knutson to assist with the title transfer of the Oakes Test Area (OTA) to the Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District (DSID). He added that Mr. Knutson attended the DSID board meeting recently and discussed the next steps in the title transfer process.

Secretary Kovar added that Garrison Diversion is preparing a handout that will provide the history of the OTA and explain the reasoning for title transfer.

**MCCLUSKY CANAL IRRIGATION UPDATE**

Secretary Kovar called attention to the map showing the irrigation projects located along the McClusky Canal. There are a couple individuals who previously contracted with the Bureau of Reclamation and are transitioning over to Garrison Diversion that are not yet included on the map. Details are still being worked out with those projects.

Mile Marker (MM) 42L and 42R Irrigation Projects will be starting construction this spring.

**Irrigation Summary** - Secretary Kovar referred to and reviewed the table listing irrigation projects located along the McClusky Canal as well as the amount of acres irrigated and producer names for each project. There are currently a total of 7,241 irrigated acres from the canal. Another 4,500 acres are being irrigated at the Oakes Test Area (OTA).

**Financing of Irrigation Projects** - Secretary Kovar explained that Garrison Diversion is eligible for State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) on irrigation projects through the State Department of Health. Plans and Specifications have been submitted to them for approval,
and Garrison Diversion has been notified that projects are eligible for funding. He added that MM42L will receive funding through this program.

Secretary Kovar said that Garrison Diversion inquired whether the SRF could be used to refinance irrigation projects, and it appears that it can be done as long as all of the same steps are followed for creating an irrigation improvement district. Irrigators will be contacted regarding this opportunity.

ND IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

Lance Gaebe, North Dakota Irrigation Association, referred to the Activity Update summarizing 2017 and 2018 irrigation association activities and highlighted the 2018 accomplishments to date. A copy of the update is attached to these minutes as Annex III.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

(SEAL)

___________________________________________________________________
Dave Anderson, Chairman                                      Kip Kovar, Secretary
# REGISTRATION

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Carrington, North Dakota  
April 26, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norma Wiele</td>
<td>Dakota, ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Sehrke</td>
<td>GDCD Brook Motor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edwin M. Lefever</td>
<td>GDCD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blaine S. Schultz</td>
<td>NDSU-CREC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Gaebel</td>
<td>ND Foreign Agr. Assn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Rote</td>
<td>GDU - Budweiser, Co.</td>
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<td>Paul Anderson</td>
<td>GDU - Pierce Co.</td>
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<td>D. Kavaney</td>
<td>GDCD</td>
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<td>Laura Schojen</td>
<td>GDCD</td>
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<td>Kimberly Cook</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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SUMMARY OF MAJOR NORTH DAKOTA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

Marketing

1. NDIA representatives attended meetings of the North Dakota Ag Coalition during the year and reported on activities; NDIA is a member of the Ag Coalition.

2. The energy beet project research conducted by the Green Vision Group is complete and is inactive at this time for various reasons. The NDIA will continue to support future work on this activity, as needed.

Funding and Financing

1. The three-year agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NDIA has ended; however NDIA continues to work on programs to promote water and energy conservation and other natural resource programs related to irrigation.

2. Supported efforts by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCD) to obtain cost share financing from the State Water Commission (SWC) and to establish funding authority for the McClusky Canal Projects.

3. Supported efforts for the expansion and modernization of the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS) and for future operation and maintenance of this facility.

Project Activities

1. Attended and participated in meetings regarding operations, management, and studies of the Missouri River. The NDIA continued to oppose, as did most other water organizations in the state, the Corps of Engineers (COE) proposal to charge users fees for “surplus water” in Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe. A 10-year moratorium has been placed on this proposal; the NDIA will continue to follow this issue.

2. Attended and participated in several meetings of the North Dakota Missouri River Advisory Council (NDMRAC) which was established to promote North Dakota’s interests and rights to Missouri River water and use. The NDIA is represented on the executive committee and is a member of this Council.

3. Work with Reclamation, GDCD, SWC, Turtle Lake Irrigation District and area producers to assist in the development of irrigation using water from the McClusky Canal.

4. Attended meetings and worked with the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board in keeping them abreast of irrigation opportunities and other water activities and identifying areas and methods for irrigation development.

5. Met with and provided information and worked with producers on the development of irrigation water supplies using pond, off-stream and in-stream storage, and other innovative methods in northeastern North Dakota and other areas of the state.

6. Kept abreast of the activities relative to the monitoring, development, and construction of horizontal wells for irrigation water supplies.
7. Reviewed results of an economic study conducted by NDSU of the economic impacts of irrigation in the Turtle Lake area. This study was sponsored by GDCD and evaluated the economic impacts primarily from irrigation development using water from the McClusky Canal.

8. NDIA personnel participated in the Upper Missouri Water Association meetings as a Director and proposed and supported Missouri River issues to protect North Dakota’s interests in management and water use needs.

9. Compiled a list of existing irrigation projects in the state along with potential irrigation development in the future on a project and individual basis.

Research

1. Continued efforts with GDCD, NDSU, and others for the expansion, improvement, and funding of the OIRS.

2. Support improved irrigation practices and development programs and new technology improvements.

Energy

1. Continued efforts and implement project pumping power for projects under the Dakota Water Resources Act.

2. Met with Congressional staff to discuss options and ideas on methods to implement project pumping power on non-federal irrigation projects.

Communication

1. Assisted in planning and participated in presentations at irrigation workshops; an irrigation workshop was held on December 7, 2017, in Bismarck during the Water Users Convention

2. Participated in telephone conference calls with personnel involved in irrigation in the state, including representatives from the NDIA, NDSU Extension Service, SWC, and GDCD.

3. Provided irrigation and related information and write-ups and edited articles for the Irrigation Frontier section of the North Dakota WATER magazine.

4. Discussed and provided information to irrigators, potential irrigators, and others on request and as appropriate to initiate and promote irrigation development in the state.

5. Attended meetings and presented activity reports to GDCD’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee.

6. Continued efforts to expand NDIA’s membership and updated the membership map.

7. Updated NDIA website to keep it current.

8. Provided an awareness and discussed as appropriate, the “NDIA Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Irrigation in North Dakota” including a, Look into the Future, and a map and table showing ongoing and potential irrigation in the state with interested groups and individuals to promote irrigation.
9. Identified, monitored, and supported or opposed legislation that would affect irrigation development in North Dakota.

10. Participated in meetings of water groups to provide input and support for optimum irrigation development in the state.

11. Wrote articles and provided irrigation information as requested for various purposes throughout the year.

12. Attended Missouri River semi-annual Operations meetings and provide information to others as appropriate.
During 2018 the NDIA has:

1. Provided letters of support for specialty crop grant applications for NDSU research related to
   a. Seedbed preparation, fertility, and irrigation scheduling options for potatoes
   b. Drip irrigation under mulches for tomato and watermelon production
2. Met with Senator Heitkamp’s office to advocate for project pumping power rates for irrigation
   districts
3. Promoted the Association of Public and Land-grant University request to increase federal
   funding for land grant universities by $200 million for enhanced research, education and
   extension efforts.
4. Participated in two Ag Coalition meetings, one of which included the interview and selection of
   two appointees to represent production agriculture on the State Board of Agriculture Research
   and Education.
5. Participated in two working sessions with the State Engineer and staff to jointly review cost-
   share policy proposals.
6. Successfully modified the proposed State Water Commission cost-share policy to allow for
   irrigation assistance to irrigation districts and political subdivisions.
7. Changed irrigation from low priority to medium priority on the SWC Project Prioritization
   Guidance planning document
8. Attended two Water Coalition funding committee meetings- promoted the allocation of $1
   million of state funding for irrigation in the 2019-2021 biennium.
9. Attended State Water Commission meeting in support of irrigation cost-share
10. Attended the Corps of Engineers Missouri River mainstem reservoir regulation meeting and
    offered comments in support of maintaining lake levels sufficient to support Lake Audubon and
    the McClusky Canal system and intakes on Lakes Oahe and Sakakawea. Reminded the COE
    officials that irrigation is an equal authorized purpose under Pick Sloan
11. Investigating reports that USACE has rejected renewals for easements for power lines and
    irrigation pump locations on Lake Sakakawea
12. Hosted conference calls with NDSU, the Bureau of Reclamation and other irrigation researchers
    and leaders

In conjunction with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District summer meeting Busy arranging the
2018 Summer Irrigation and agriculture Tours on July 11 and 12 near Williston.