

GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**Missouri River Committee****Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Carrington, North Dakota
January 12, 2017**

A meeting of the Missouri River Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held at the Garrison Diversion headquarters, Carrington, North Dakota, on January 12, 2017. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ongstad at 9:40 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board Chairman Ken Vein
Committee Chairman Bill Ongstad
Director Ken Royse
Secretary Duane DeKrey

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Rick Anderson
Director Mark Cook

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.

MISSOURI RIVER UPDATE

Director Royse, who is Garrison Diversion's designee on the ND Missouri River Advisory Council, reported that the formation of this organization has become somewhat stalled, and the State Water Commission would like to see a third person become the chairman and take this process over.

Director Royse added that two years ago the State Water Commission was asked for the cost to hire an executive director for the organization. This obviously is not going to happen so there is a lot of uncertainty as to how to go forward.

Director Royse then gave an update on federal issues regarding the Missouri River.

Surplus Water Rule - - Director Royse referred to and summarized the Corp of Engineer's proposed Surplus Water Rule. The Corps is trying to define the differences between the Flood Control Act of 1944 and what came later in the 1958 Federal Water Supply Act. In the Corps' proposed Surplus Water Rule, the document attempts to administer the different reservoirs in the country to add clarity and simplicity to the process.

Director Royse said the Corps is asking for comments on several areas in the document, such as charging for water, how to account for the water, return flows, etc. They make a big point in the document of saying that the Corps builds reservoirs for non-consumptive use. Surplus water is defined as water not being used to fulfill any of the authorized purposes. If the authorized purposes are being fulfilled and the use being proposed is lawful, then that is surplus water or if the authorized purpose has diminished or gone away or is not needed, it is considered surplus water.

Garrison Diversion will generate comments to be submitted to the Corps.

Habitat Recovery Plan - - Director Royse explained the endangered habitat recovery plan that is part of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee's (MRRIC) program. In order to try and protect the Least Tern, Piping Plover and Pallid Sturgeon, one of their efforts is called mechanical habitat, which are manmade sandbars on the river. Sediment will be hauled in, dredged up and islands will be created that are off limits to the public. They are only for the wildlife habitat and not for recreational purposes.

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Duane DeKrey, Secretary, provided an update on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

(SEAL)

Bill Ongstad, Chairman

Duane DeKrey, Secretary

