

**GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**RED RIVER VALLEY COMMITTEE**

**Garrison Diversion Conservancy District  
Carrington, North Dakota  
May 31, 2017**

A meeting of the Red River Valley Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held on May 31, 2017, at the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson at 10 a.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Board Chairman Ken Royse  
Committee Chairman Jay Anderson  
Director Greg Bischoff  
Director Roger Fenstad  
Director Geneva Kaiser  
Director Ken Vein  
Secretary Duane DeKrey

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kip Kovar, District Engineer, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota  
Cindy Hewitt, Accounting Specialist, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota  
Kimberly Cook, Communications Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota  
Lisa Schafer, Executive Assistant, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota  
Brett Jochim, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Bismarck, North Dakota

The meeting was recorded to assist with compilation of the minutes.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion by Director Vein to dispense with a reading of the February 10, 2017, committee minutes and approve them as distributed. Second by Director Fenstad. Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

## **RED RIVER VALLEY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chairman Anderson, as the new committee chairman, gave his perspective on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) and the progress being made. He feels this committee is the focal point for the Garrison Diversion staff when it comes to the project. This committee provides direction, helps with outside resources and keeping legislators informed. The committee also assists with formalizing an overall plan to move the project forward.

## **LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

Director Vein reported on the 2017 legislative session and reviewed the water related bills that passed during the session, including SB2269, SB2270, HB1020, HB1374 and HCR3021. He provided a detailed overview of Sections 7 and 8 from HB1020, which is the State Water Commission's appropriations bill and includes funding for the RRVWSP. Section 7 is legislative intent of which the RRVWSP was designated \$30 million. Of that, \$17 million is for the completion of planning and permitting and \$13 million is to initiate construction of Phase 1 prioritized project features. Section 8 refers to a legislative management report and lists the funding requirements that must be met. He also commented on the success of Garrison Diversion's legislative efforts.

## **\$30 MILLION COST SHARE**

Director Vein commented that there is \$150 million in legislative intent from the current session for the next four biennia. Since the state's budget situation has changed considerably, \$30 million was appropriated for the next biennium. In order to move the project forward, work needs to begin on two phases: 1) planning and design and 2) early out construction.

Director Vein referred to and reviewed the requirements listed in HB1020 that must be fulfilled before the construction phase begins.

## **LAKE AUDUBON WATER CONTROL PLAN**

Duane DeKrey, Secretary, reported that he and Kip Kovar, District Engineer, Garrison Diversion, recently attended a meeting with the Corps of Engineers' regarding the Lake Audubon Water Control Plan and their proposal to implement a differential pool restriction of 43 feet between Lake Sakakawea and Lake Audubon.

The proposed restriction would be very harmful to the Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) preventing water deliveries for MR&I and irrigation and affecting mitigation features in a drought. It would also cause significant financial implications on the GDU and economic impacts to the state.

The committee discussed the various negative affects the Corps' proposal could have on the GDU and the state.

Mr. Kovar suggested that Garrison Diversion prepare a letter to the Corps of Engineers addressing the economic impacts relating to their proposed pool restriction.

It was also suggested that legal concerns be addressed in the response.

The committee also discussed having Garrison Diversion's consultants provide technical assistance on the Corps' proposed Lake Audubon restriction. This will be further discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on June 8.

**Motion by Director Vein to recommend that Garrison Diversion prepare a response to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers addressing the financial and legal concerns associated with the Lake Audubon Water Control Plan to the Executive Committee. Second by Director Fenstad. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Anderson, Bischoff, Fenstad, Kaiser, Royse and Vein. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.**

Mr. Kovar informed the committee that the intake application was submitted to the Corps of Engineers in March. That engages certain things and results in the Corps holding a preconstruction notification meeting. That meeting has taken place at which time the project details were provided, and then it was opened up for questions. This is for the agencies to learn more about the project. They can then prepare their comments to the Corps.

A conference call was held with the Corps' Omaha office on May 30 to discuss the intake. They would like the information resubmitted. They will then do a two- to three-week review to see if this will require a full 408 review process. They also requested a letter from the State Water Commission indicating that they are aware of and support the RRVWSP. Garrison Diversion staff will contact the state engineer regarding the letter.

### **CRITICAL PATH MOVING FORWARD**

Director Vein distributed and reviewed a list of items that must be addressed in order to keep the RRVWSP on its current critical path moving forward.

The committee discussed the future of the project in regard to engineering and administration needs, including resources. A program management plan is needed, which will address all of the components that must be completed prior to construction.

**Motion by Director Vein to recommend establishing a comprehensive program management plan, including resources for staff to accomplish planning efforts for the RRVWSP to the Executive Committee. Second by Director Fenstad. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Anderson, Bischoff, Fenstad, Kaiser, Royse and Vein. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.**

### **LARGE COMMITTEE FORMATION**

The committee discussed the possibility of a larger committee formation to keep communications open regarding the RRVWSP, provide updates and gather input from state officials on a more regular basis.

It was the consensus of the committee to hold executive briefings and invite the parties that need to be briefed on the project.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

**(SEAL)**

---

Jay Anderson, Chairman

---

Duane DeKrey, Secretary