

# Bulletin

**Planning today for tomorrow's water**

LAKE AGASSIZ WATER AUTHORITY  
 P. O. BOX 140, CARRINGTON, ND 58421  
 PHONE: 701-652-3194 ~ FAX: 701-652-3195

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## Lake Agassiz Water Authority Selects Preferred Alternative

With the impending threat of future water supply shortages in the Red River Valley, Lake Agassiz Water Authority (Lake Agassiz) has been searching for a solution that will meet the needs of the population in eastern North Dakota along with the cities of East Grand Forks, Moorhead and Breckenridge, MN. With so much depending on a reliable water supply, Lake Agassiz met in October with an important decision to make.

Lake Agassiz selected their preferred method of supplying the Red River Valley with drinking water, and after much consideration, they unanimously voted to approve an alternative that includes constructing a buried pipeline from the existing McClusky Canal to Lake Ashtabula and transporting Missouri River water eastward. Lake Ashtabula would act as a regulating reservoir, and water would be released from the lake into the Sheyenne River, which flows into the Red River. The cost of implementing this alternative ranges from \$500 to \$660 million.

Lake Agassiz originally had taken seven action alternatives under consideration. The Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) Import to Sheyenne River Alternative proved to Lake Agassiz members to be the

best option as it meets the Valley's water supply needs. It also provides environmental benefits, allows the flexibility to serve all 27 water systems in the Valley, has no significant negative environmental impacts, and is the least cost alternative. This preferred alternative also has the ability to enhance aquatic needs and provide minimum instream flows.

"It is clear that this alternative will provide the most benefits to water users in the Red River Valley while keeping costs in check," says Garrison Diversion General Manager, Dave Koland.

Fargo Mayor and LAWA Chairman Bruce Furness agrees, "A lot of consideration has gone into making this choice. We have been presented with numerous

studies, reports and research on this, so we are confident that we've made an educated and informed decision."

The Garrison Diversion board of directors also met in October and selected the GDU Import to Sheyenne River Alternative as their preferred alternative. Next, the State Water Commission will consider their preferred alternative.

**GDU Import to Sheyenne River Alternative**



## Upcoming Meetings

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Technical Advisory Committee meeting, November 22, 9:00 a.m., Howard Johnson Inn, Fargo.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board meeting, November 22, 1:30 p.m., Howard Johnson Inn, Fargo.

There will not be any Lake Agassiz Water Authority meetings in December, nor will the Bulletin be published. Lake Agassiz will resume meeting in January.

## Red River Valley Water Supply Project Timeline

**November 2005**—Final Needs & Options Report issued

**December 2005**—Draft EIS issued

**February 2006**—Public hearings held

**March 1, 2006**—End of comment period for Draft EIS

**December 2006**—Final EIS due

**2007**— Report to Congress

Record of Decision



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P. O. Box 140 Carrington, ND 58421