

Upcoming Meetings

Lake Agassiz Water Authority meeting, May 8, 2007 at 1:00 pm. **CHANGE OF LOCATION:** Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave. S, Woodland South Room, Fargo.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority meeting, June 12, 2007

Environmental Impact Statement Schedule

January 2007—Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) released.

April 25, 2007—SDEIS extended public comment period ended.

Summer 2007—Final EIS released (anticipated).



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Key Funding Bill Signed for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project

The North Dakota State Legislature and Gov. John Hoeven secured the state's commitment to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project through the passage of Senate Bill 2345. The bill designates \$200 million in general funds and bonds from the State Water Commission for the project to divert treated Missouri River water to the Red River Valley as a supplemental water supply.

Many of those in attendance on Friday, March 30, 2007, when Governor Hoeven signed the bill, remarked that they weren't sure they'd ever see the day that the Red River Valley Water Supply Project would come so far. They also recognized the Legislature's ability to see the benefits that this

project will bring to the entire state.

The rest of the funding for the project will come from the federal government and local water districts and cities. Several funding package scenarios are currently being analyzed.

The project still has several important tasks to complete before ground can be broken on the pipeline. The comment period for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ended on Wednesday, April 25. Now the comments will be reviewed and considered before publishing the Final EIS. This document will contain written responses to all of the comments received on both the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS.

The Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS release. Comments on the Final EIS may be offered to Reclamation and Garrison Diversion for consideration. The

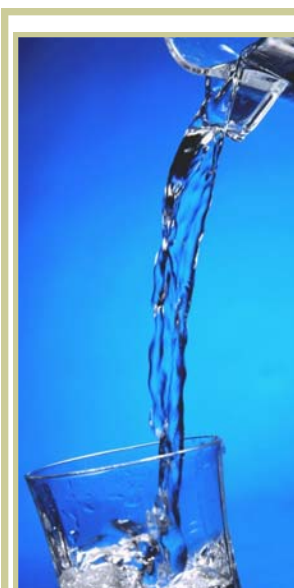
Funding bill continued on page 3

Special points of interest:

- Key Funding Bill Signed
- Red River Valley Water Supply Project & Lake Agassiz Water Authority Update
- Regional Drought Conditions
- Upcoming Meetings/EIS Schedule

Red River Valley Water Supply Project Updates

- Due to various requests for a comment period extension on the Supplemental Draft EIS, the comment period was extended from the original March 26 deadline to April 25.
- Garrison Diversion continues to coordinate with the state agencies as issues arise.
- The EIS Interdisciplinary Team, which consists of Reclamation and Garrison Diversion staff, is evaluating the comments received to determine if additional study is required.



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



Lake Agassiz Water Authority Updates

- On April 10, the Ad Hoc Cost Allocation Committee reviewed the modeling results for two funding scenarios combined with two payment options for a total of four options. No decisions were made on the funding options.
- It was decided that the Ad Hoc Cost Allocation Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Lake Agassiz Board, starting in May, will meet as a joint committee to further evaluate the funding options.
- At their meeting on April 10, the Lake Agassiz Board discussed how to move forward on agreements and funding options.
- Currently, Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz are drafting a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Funding Bill continued

Secretary of the Interior, in consultation and coordination with the state of North Dakota and the affected local communities, will then select an alternative for implementation.

If the Secretary of the Interior selects an alternative that utilizes Missouri River water (as the federal, state and LAWA preferred alternative does), the project would require Congressional approval. A comprehensive report identifying the proposed alternative, environmental issues, effects on Minnesota and Missouri River states, and compliance with the Boundary Waters Treaty will be sent to Congress.

A Record of Decision is anticipated this summer. If the Congressional authorization is complete by the end of 2007, ground could be broken on the pipeline as early as May 2009.

Regional Drought Conditions

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a regular feature of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority Bulletin. We are offering this as a means to monitor the current drought conditions of the region.

It appears that the early spring snowstorms have, at least temporarily, relieved the drought conditions up and down the Red River Valley.

But Northern Minnesota, including a large area of the Otter Tail River basin, is still experiencing a moderate drought. The Otter Tail River contributes a majority of the inflows of the Red River.

