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## Operational Plan Work Group to Meet

Completing the Operational Plan for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Project) is the next step in the development of the Project. The Operational Plan will answer questions about the timeliness of releases from the Baldhill Dam, the amount of water released, and how the releases will be accounted for throughout the Project system. For this reason, a Project work group has been established and will be meeting for the first time on March 10 to discuss the development of the Operational Plan.

The objectives of the work group are to help develop an overall plan for delivering water from the Project pipeline to and through the Sheyenne River and Red River systems to the contracted water systems (end users).

An analysis of current data will help to build a better overall picture of how the river systems operate. Included in the data analysis will be historical flows of the river and flood and drought management plans for the Red River, from Fargo to the Canadian border. The aquatic needs recommendations will also be taken into consideration for the Sheyenne River and Red River. Once the data collection has been evaluated and analyzed, the work group can begin to develop an Operational Plan for the Project.

The overall goal of the work group is to develop a water accountability method in order to ensure that environmental requirements are met and existing rights within the Sheyenne and Red Rivers are protected and coordinated with the delivery of project water to end users.

The operational plan will help determine the operation of the pipeline delivery system, account for gains and losses of water in the river systems, and develop a system to determine the amount of contracted water end users intake to their treatment or delivery facilities.

Several agencies are coming together in the work group to discuss various aspects of the Project. Each agency is involved because of their expertise and the effect the project may have on the resource managed by the agency. Representatives from Garrison Diversion, Black & Veatch, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, and Lake Agassiz Water Authority will be involved. Also included are several Federal agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish & Wildlife Services, Corps of Engineers, and United States Geological Survey. The ND State Water Commission, ND Game & Fish Department, ND Department of Health, and MN Department of Natural Resources represent the state agencies involved in the work group.

The work group will meet again later this spring. They are scheduled to meet four times throughout 2009.



**Lake Agassiz  
Water Authority**

P.O. Box 140  
Carrington, ND 58421

Phone: 701-652-3194

Fax: 701-652-3195

[www.lakeagassiz.org](http://www.lakeagassiz.org)

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## Upcoming Meetings

### **Red River Valley Water Supply Project Work Group**

March 10, 2009, 9:00 AM, Doublewood Inn, Fargo

### **Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors**

March 10, 2009, 1:00 PM, Doublewood Inn, Fargo

April 14, 2009, 10:00 AM, Doublewood Inn, Fargo

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