

# History in the Making

By Kimberly Cook

Construction progress continues on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP), a drought mitigation project that will deliver emergency and supplemental water from the Missouri River in central North Dakota to the Red River Valley in the east.

Three major features of the RRVWSP are under construction and include the Missouri River intake wet well four miles south of Washburn; the transmission pipeline one mile south of Carrington; and the Sheyenne River discharge, six miles south of Cooperstown. ICS Inc. began construction on the Missouri River intake wet well in December 2020. The construction contract for the discharge structure was awarded to Industrial Builders Inc. Construction began in early May and is substantially completed.

The initial pipeline construction involves 1.2 miles of 72-inch pipe about one mile south of Carrington on the east side of U.S. Highway 52/281 and the Red River Valley and Western Railroad. The contract was awarded to Garney Construction.

Garrison Diversion staff and board members have been fortunate to visit each job site to observe the construction of this historic project.

“It’s important for our staff and directors to get out and see the project under construction. A large part of their work efforts have gone



*Garrison Diversion staff took the opportunity to walk through the tunnel under U.S. Hwy 52/281 and the RRV/Western Railroad, where the 72" pipe will be placed. The excavation pit is approximately 20 feet deep. Staff is pictured in the jacking pit at the entrance of the pipe.*

towards making this project a reality, and they deserve to be witness to each step of this historical project,” says Garrison Diversion General Manager Duane DeKrey.



*Garrison Diversion board members and staff learning about the construction of the discharge structure, located six miles south of Cooperstown near the Sheyenne River.*



*As construction was just getting underway, Garrison Diversion staff and directors visited the Missouri River intake site, located 4 miles south of Washburn.*

# Garrison Diversion Awards Recreation Grants



The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's Recreation Committee recently awarded \$293,994 in matching recreation grants to 14 projects throughout the district.

Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths of its mill levy to the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Funds from this program have been awarded to install new playground equipment at parks, develop campground facilities and walking paths, among other facilities.

Grants may be requested for new recreation facilities or enhancement, ADA renovations or expansion of existing facilities. Political subdivisions located within Garrison Diversion may apply for the program.

Applications are reviewed twice a year by Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee. The spring deadline, March 1, is the next chance to apply for grant funds, with a second application period closing Sept. 1.

The fourteen projects receiving Matching Recreation Program grants this fall are:

- **Bottineau County** - \$6,625 to replace the public boat ramp in the "Narrows" at Lake Metigoshe
- **Bismarck Parks and Recreation** - \$31,291 for the 4H Arena Play Area and \$36,746 for electrical upgrades at the Sibley Campground
- **City of Casselton** - \$50,000 for the construction of a shared use recreation path
- **Cass County** - \$50,000 for the construction of a shared use path in the city of Mapleton

*The Binford Rodeo Bleacher Project received a matching grant through Garrison Diversion's Matching Recreation Grant Program. A sign is provided by Garrison Diversion to be placed at the project site. The group pictured is the Binford Rodeo Club. In the center holding the sign is Nikki Boote, Griggs County director. To her right is Binford Rodeo Club President Ron Eggermont and left, Vice President Steve Fors.*

- **Foster County Fair Board** - \$5,191 to construct a picnic shelter at the Foster County Fairgrounds
- **City of Towner** - \$19,838 to construct a splash pad at the Towner City Park
- **City of Coleharbor** - \$23,460 to purchase and install playground equipment at the city park
- **Grand Forks Park District** - \$10,000 to install a water station at the Bringewatt Park sand volleyball pits
- **Spring Creek Recreational Service District** - \$50,000 for a boat ramp extension in Douglas Bay on Lake Sakakawea
- **Pierce County Park Board** - \$1,250 to purchase picnic tables and a play gym for Barton Park
- **Renville County Commission** - \$3,750 for the installation of 10 electrical pedestals for new campsites at Mouse River Park
- **Sheridan County Park Board** - \$4,093 to create a designated swimming area at the Hoffer Lake beach
- **City of Streeter** - \$1,750 for electrical upgrades for campers at Streeter City Park

The committee genuinely enjoys being able to help all communities with their recreation projects. “There is nothing more fun than giving money to communities that are working to improve their amenities,” says Bruce Klein, Recreation Committee chairman. “We have seen an increased demand in the last year or two and hope that trend continues, because it means communities are recognizing recreational needs and are putting forth effort to meet those needs for their people.”

Garrison Diversion has modified application guidelines

and eligible projects. Swimming pools, ballparks, courts and fields are now eligible projects under the Matching Recreation Grant Program guidelines, whereas before were excluded from receiving funds. Projects of any type, however, are eligible to receive a maximum of \$75,000 per grant award.

For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org), or contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.

## WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANTS Awarded to 11 Projects

Garrison Diversion also administers a Water Supply Assistance Grant Program that was new to the district in 2021. The program was designed to provide funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district. The grant program will also aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects that will impact the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

Garrison Diversion’s MR&I Committee manages the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program. The committee recently met and awarded \$96,917 in water supply assistance grants to 11 water users within the district.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- Central Plains Water District - \$6,250 for one customer hookup
- Greater Ramsey Water District - \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- Southeast Water Users District - \$16,442 for two customer hookups
- Stutsman Rural Water District - \$4,500 for one customer hookup
- Tri-County Rural Water District - \$19,725 for two customer hookups

- Upper Souris Water District - \$40,000 for four customer hookups
- City of Turtle Lake - \$6,154 for an emergency water hookup within the city

“Getting this program off the ground and assisting a number of individuals with their water supply projects has been very rewarding,” says Geneva Kaiser, Chairperson of the MR&I Committee.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion’s 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is either a municipality or rural water district, and a municipality must have a population of 5,000 people or less.

The next deadline to apply for funding to assist with new customer hookups is March 1, 2022. There is no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis. Grant guidelines and applications can be found on Garrison Diversion’s website, [www.garrisondiversion.org/programs/municipal\\_rural\\_and\\_industrial\\_grants](http://www.garrisondiversion.org/programs/municipal_rural_and_industrial_grants).

For additional information or questions related to the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program, please contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.