

GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
Carrington, North Dakota
January 9, 2020

A meeting of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held at the Garrison Diversion headquarters, Carrington, North Dakota, on January 9, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Anderson at 11:05 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board Chairman Ken Royse
Committee Chairman Dave Anderson
Director Norman Haak
Director Kelly Klosterman
Director Jim Pellman
Secretary Kip Kovar

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Rick Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff members of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District were present along with others. A copy of the registration sheet is attached to these minutes as Annex I.

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

READING OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Director Haak to approve the June 6, 2019, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee minutes as distributed. Second by Director Klosterman. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

OAKES IRRIGATION RESEARCH SITE UPDATE

2019 Research Summary - - Kelly Cooper, Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS), provided a PowerPoint presentation as a summary of the 2019 crop season and studies at the OIRS.

Future Strategy - - Blaine Schatz, Director, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC), reported that he shared various priorities of the CREC with the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) at the listening sessions in November.

Through SBARE's prioritization and legislative support, \$200,000 per biennium was appropriated for the OIRS via the CREC's state budget. He asked for further consideration of additional funds to go toward the OIRS in light of the OIRS being number one in the previous prioritization session when no enhancements were allowed due to budget cuts.

Mr. Schatz commented on the previous discussions with the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee concerning the need for a pesticide rinsate facility and associated storage facility. Bids were let out in early summer with no bids received for the project. The initial bids were again sent out in early November, and three bids were received.

Mr. Schatz stated the facility is a 24 x 44-foot building with a 16 x 68-foot rinsate pad and collection basin. He was hoping to get the facility built for \$100,000 to \$125,000. This would come from internal resources accumulated through grant dollars and so forth over a number of years.

Mr. Schatz reported the bids came in at \$151,000, \$227,000 and \$230,000, which were higher than anticipated. In a conversation with NDSU's facility director, given the bids were up to \$151,000, the facility director was under the impression the plans would have to be redone. Mr. Schatz felt differently, and he received confirmation this morning that he is able to act on the bids that have been submitted.

Mr. Schatz said he would like to make a decision very soon on the facility. When the bids were let, the completion date was listed as June 30, 2020. There is still a window of time to either accept or reject the bids. His plan is to accept the low bid unless any red flags come up.

Mr. Schatz informed the committee that he needs some form of documentation from Garrison Diversion relative to permission or an easement in order for NDSU to build a facility on Garrison Diversion property.

Duane DeKrey, General Manager, Garrison Diversion, replied that Garrison Diversion's legal counsel will prepare the needed documentation.

Mr. Schatz stated that amazing progress has been made with equipment for the OIRS in the last few years, however, there is still a need for a tractor.

Mr. DeKrey told the committee that prior to the OIRS receiving the appropriation from SBARE, Garrison Diversion had already budgeted \$100,000 for the site in 2019. He visited with Chairman Royse, and it was decided as long as that budget had already been approved, the funding could still be used for the OIRS.

Mr. Schatz replied the amount remaining is \$50,000 since half their fiscal year has gone by. They appreciate being allowed to keep these funds in order to address the shortfall on the tractor.

Motion by Director Klosterman to authorize the remaining \$50,000 in funding from the 2019 NDSU Oakes Irrigation Research Site budget be used toward the purchase of equipment at the site. Second by Director Haak. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: D. Anderson, Haak, Klosterman, Pellman and Royse. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: R. Anderson. Motion carried.

Mr. DeKrey said the goal has been to have the state completely fund the operations at the OIRS, and he testified before SBARE in an attempt to get the OIRS on their priority list. Director Klosterman is planning to meet with a member of SBARE to determine what their intentions are for the OIRS. If SBARE takes over this funding, one of the ideas is for Garrison Diversion to use the funding that had been going to the OIRS to possibly develop a new grant program similar to the Recreation Committee's grant program. The Agriculture Committee will need to decide what it would like to do and make a recommendation to the full board for approval.

Director Klosterman commented that the money could perhaps go toward supporting the cost of a new building at the OIRS, including a shop, break area and restrooms. He suggested \$100,000 per year for four to five years. Garrison Diversion would then be done funding the OIRS except for the rent. That is the obligation of Garrison Diversion until the passing of Bob and Elsie Titus.

Motion by Director Klosterman authorizing the general manager to enter into an easement between Garrison Diversion and NDSU regarding the construction of a pesticide rinsate facility and associated storage facility at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site and to enter into a new cooperative agreement with NDSU supporting irrigation research activities at the site. Second by Director Haak. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: D. Anderson, Haak, Klosterman, Pellman and Roysse. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: R. Anderson. Motion carried.

OAKES TEST AREA TITLE TRANSFER

Mr. DeKrey reported the Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District (DSID) made an offer to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the purchase of the Oakes Test Area (OTA) in the amount of \$38,000. Reclamation analyzed the offer and were not in agreement with some of the numbers used to arrive at that price and came back with a \$44,000 counteroffer. DSID has accepted Reclamation's counteroffer. The next step is to enter into negotiations to determine what facilities are included and agree on a water service contract.

MCCLUSKY CANAL IRRIGATION UPDATE

Irrigation Map - - Ryan Anderson, Engineer, Garrison Diversion, referred to the most recent irrigation map showing the location of the projects along the McClusky Canal. These are all of the 2019 water service contracts.

Irrigation Summary - - Mr. Anderson also referred to the table providing a breakdown, including project name, acres involved per project and landowner names. A total of 7,247.6 acres were irrigated in 2019. As of now, these are the acres that are signed up for the 2020 irrigation season.

Mile Marker 0

Mr. Anderson explained the committee and the full board approved the irrigation improvement district for MM 0, along with the plans and specs. The notice of project went out, and landowners submitted their ballots. The board then approved the order to establish the project and certified the assessment list. The next step in the special assessment was to have the landowners sign water service contracts in order to begin construction. At that

point, one of the landowners backed out. This has caused the project to take some steps backwards. There is optimism the project will move forward, and this scenario has been laid out. The other landowners are still on board so the next step will now be to try and get the project moving forward again.

Mile Marker 0.4

Mr. Anderson said MM 0.4 has been bid out. The intent was to get MM 0 up and running first so this project got put on hold. The plan is to move ahead with the project.

ND IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION REPORT

Summary of 2019 Activities - - Lance Gaebe, North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA), referred to the 2019 NDIA Activity Update, highlighting the organization's efforts in 2019 to assist with and advance irrigation opportunities in the state. A copy of the activity update is attached to these minutes as Annex II.

2020 AG & NATURAL RESOURCES WORK PLAN & BUDGET

Secretary Kovar referred to and reviewed the Agriculture and Natural Resources portion of the 2020 Garrison Diversion Work Plan, stating the items appearing in purple are the additions to this year's work plan. The amount budgeted for the General Fund to cover irrigation development and expenses is \$319,900 and \$1,236,000 for the Irrigation Fund. A copy of the work plan is attached to these minutes as Annex III.

Motion by Director Haak to approve the 2020 Agriculture and Natural Resources Work Plan and Budget. Second by Director Klosterman. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: D. Anderson, Haak, Klosterman, Pellman and Royse. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: R. Anderson. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

(SEAL)

Dave Anderson, Chairman

Kip Kovar, Secretary