



Wrapping Up 2025, Looking Ahead to 2026

The crews working on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) enjoyed a longer than typical construction season thanks to mild spring and fall weather in 2025. Construction activities continued into December with a total of 12 miles of transmission pipe installed to date this year. That brings the total amount of pipe in the ground to 29.75 miles of the 125-mile pipeline.

Carstensen Contracting, Inc. worked on installing 72-inch transmission pipeline for Contracts 5D and 6A this year. Contract 5D includes 10 miles of pipeline

and a trenchless crossing of Pipestem Creek in western Foster County and eastern Wells County. All 10 miles are installed on Contract 5D. There are 7.1 miles of pipeline in Contract 6A, of which 2.65 miles are in the ground. This portion of the project runs from the James River to Eastman Township in Foster County. Carstensen Contracting crews will return in 2026 to finish restoration on 5D and continue pipeline installation on 6A.

Oscar Renda Contracting will return in 2026 to install the one mile remaining on the eight-



mile 5C contract and initiate the land restoration process. Garney Construction finished the restoration on Contract 5B this year.

“We were blessed with weather that cooperated this year, which allowed us to make a lot of progress on the transmission pipeline,” says Kip Kovar, Deputy Program Manager for RRVWSP Engineering and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Engineer. “Now we’re looking ahead to awarding Contracts 6B, 6C, and 7A.”

The three projects will extend the buried transmission pipeline east. Contract 6B includes a 9.2-mile stretch of pipe from McKinnon Township to Sutton Township in Foster and Griggs Counties. It involves one 96-inch diameter trenchless crossing of a jurisdictional wetland. Contract 6C runs 8.4 miles from Sutton Township to Revere Township in Griggs County. 6C also incorporates two 96-inch diameter trenchless crossings of jurisdictional wetlands and one 96-inch diameter trenchless crossing of a BNSF railroad. Contract 7A is 6.5 miles of pipeline from



Revere Township to Cooperstown in Griggs County, including three 96-inch diameter trenchless crossings of jurisdictional wetlands. The results of the bid process will be announced in the first quarter of 2026 RRVWSP newsletter.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority Election: Lisbon Secures Seat on Board of Directors



Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) held elections in September during the North Dakota League of Cities conference. Under state law, the LAWA board of directors includes one seat for a city located east of Highway 1 with a population of less than 5,000. The city of Lisbon won the seat previously held by the city of Mayville. Mayor Tim Meyer was officially appointed to represent Lisbon on the LAWA Board in October. City Council member Benjamin Gemar was named Lisbon’s alternate on the LAWA board.

Also during the LAWA election at the League of Cities conference, the board of directors seats held by the cities of Fargo, Grand Forks, West Fargo, Valley City, and Carrington were reelected. In February 2026, LAWA will hold elections for the board’s water system members at the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association’s 40th Annual Water Expo in Fargo. The following water systems currently hold seats on the LAWA Board: Southeast Water Users District, Northeast Regional Water District, East Central Regional Water District, Cass Rural Water Users District, Walsh Rural Water District, Moorhead Public Service, and McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District. The cities of Wahpeton, Devils Lake, and Hunter are associate members of LAWA.

INTRODUCING Tim Meyer, LAWA Board Member



There is a new face on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) board of directors. Lisbon’s mayor, Tim Meyer, knows his city’s needs very well. He spent the past 20 years serving on the Lisbon City Council – eight as a councilman and the past 12 as mayor. Tim’s involvement in LAWA is a natural progression in his regional water initiatives involvement.

“The city of Lisbon and Southeast Water Users have a partnership with the water treatment plant in Lisbon. The raw water currently is supplied to the treatment plant by three rural wells and three wells within the city of Lisbon. The city serves as the operator of the water plant. I serve on this joint board as mayor of Lisbon,” he explains. Tim also previously served on the Devils Lake Outlet Advisory Board.

“As a LAWA director I look forward to being a voice for the smaller communities: finding solutions for financial challenges smaller users face to remain part of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, learning more about the long-range plans for operating the project once it’s complete and finding solutions for these issues by working with all entities involved,” says Tim.

The Lisbon mayor says once the RRVWSP is completed, the supplemental and emergency water supply will provide domestic and industrial opportunities for current and future generations. “I have seen the Sheyenne River here down to a trickle, to a level you could walk across. I have also been involved in the farming industry for years, and I have seen the effects of drought. The RRVWSP is a very wise investment for the State of North Dakota with the State Legislature taking the initiative to fund the project,” he says before adding, “This project gives the State of North Dakota the rights to the Missouri River water before downstream entities claim this water.”

Outside of his LAWA and mayoral duties, Tim has worked for Titan Machinery for 42 years as a service manager. He and his wife of 38 years, Elise, have twins named Justin and Abbey who turned 30 this year. Abbey and her husband, John, have provided Tim and Elise with two wonderful grandchildren named Vernalee and Nolan. Aside from spending time with his family, Tim enjoys woodworking, house projects, and being outdoors in his yard.