

# 2025 Legislative Wrap-Up



Submitted by  
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

With North Dakota’s 2025 legislative session now in the rearview mirror, the co-sponsors of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) are adjusting the work plan for the 2025-2027 biennium to match the budget approved by the legislature. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) and Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) requested \$221 million from the Department of Water Resources Budget through House Bill 1020.

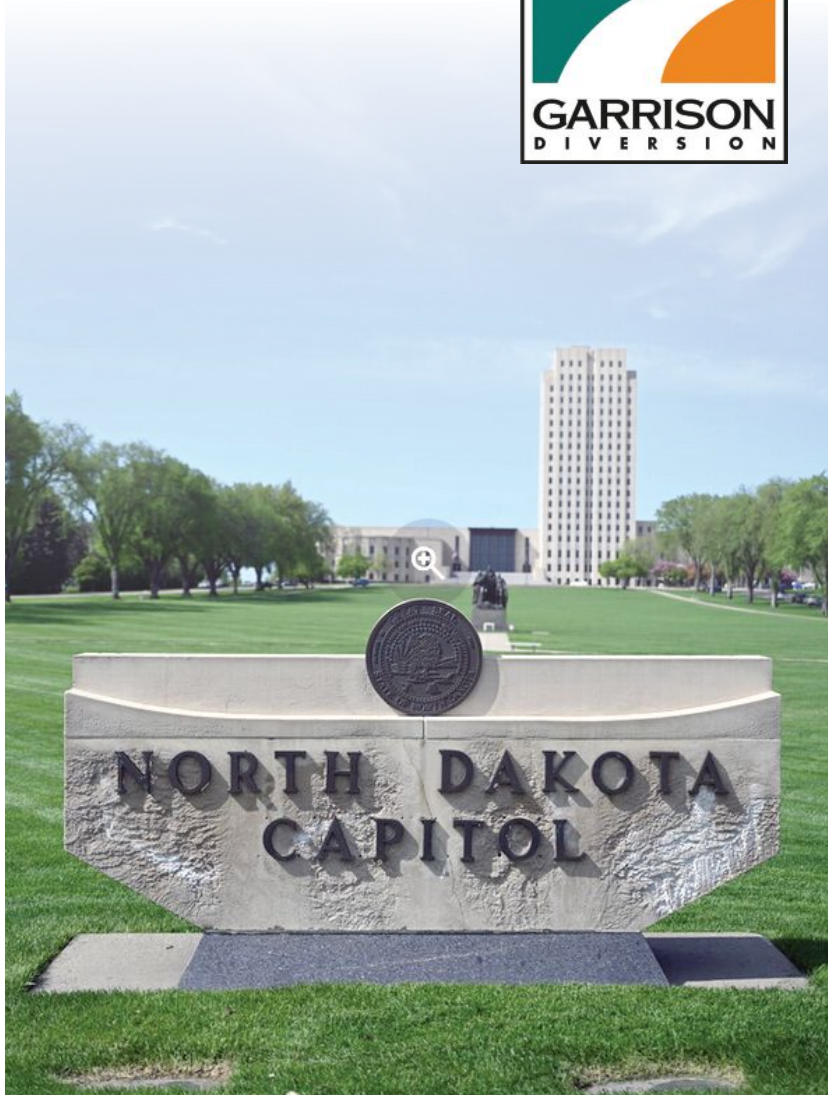
Ultimately, the legislature appropriated \$205 million for the RRVWSP. Gov. Kelly Armstrong signed House Bill 1020 on May 17. “We are grateful for the amount approved by legislators, which allows us to continue moving this historic project forward,” says Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager.

The \$205 million represents the State’s 75% cost share for the upcoming biennium. End users of the emergency and supplemental water supply are responsible for the remaining 25% cost share.

“We appreciate the legislature’s support to move the project forward in a timely manner,” says LAWA Chair and Fargo Mayor Dr. Tim Mahoney.

On June 13, the State Water Commission approved 26 water infrastructure funding requests for the 2025-2027 biennium, including \$150 million for the RRVWSP. One goal of the 2025-2027 work plan is to continue progress on the installation of the transmission pipeline. Currently there are more than 40 miles of shovel-ready pipeline. The upcoming biennium will also see the final designs of the biota water treatment plant, McClusky Canal Pump Station, main pump station, and ground storage reservoirs.

During the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers approved legislative intent for the RRVWSP totaling \$953 million in future funding. With the \$205 million approved this year, that leaves \$568 million for RRVWSP in future biennia.



**The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District distributes a quarterly newsletter to provide updates on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Are you subscribed? Visit [www.RRVWSP.com](http://www.RRVWSP.com) to sign up to receive the newsletter in your inbox each quarter.**

# Earliest RRVWSP Construction Start to Date



North Dakota’s relatively mild and dry winter allowed construction crews to begin pipe installation on the RRVWSP earlier than previous years. The early start comes on the heels of the 2024 construction season which saw the most pipe installed to date.

Carstensen Contracting Inc. was back in the field by mid-April to continue construction of Contract 5D, which includes 10 miles of pipeline and a trenchless crossing of Pipestem Creek in western Foster County and eastern Wells County. Carstensen will also begin Contract 6A this year. That contract includes the installation of a 7.1-mile transmission pipeline from the James River to Eastman Township in Foster County.

Garney Construction will work on land restoration, structure build out, hydrostatic testing, and soil haul off for Contract 5B, east of Carrington. Oscar Renda Contracting will continue working on Contract 5C this year, which includes approximately eight miles of pipeline and two major trenchless crossings east of Carrington, in Foster County.

When the RRVWSP transmission pipeline is complete, it will span from the McClusky Canal to the discharge structure, which empties into the Sheyenne River, located about six miles south of Cooperstown. The RRVWSP is projected to serve nearly half of North Dakota’s population, from the central part of the state to the eastern side of the state.

To date, 19 miles of the 125-mile buried pipeline are installed.





*Alan Idso*

## Introducing Alan Idso, LAWA Board Member

There is a new face on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) board of directors. Alan Idso has served on the Cass Rural Water Users District board of directors for the past four years. When Mark Johnson retired from the Cass Rural Water Users and LAWA boards earlier this year, Alan stepped into the LAWA Director role to represent Cass Rural Water Users.

“As a rural water user, I have always had some interest in how the water system delivers water to all of Cass County and beyond. I knew several of the board members before I joined the Cass Rural Water Users board and I thought this is a good group of people to work with. It was the right time for me to serve on the board,” Alan says.

Rural water plays a role in multiple facets of Alan’s life. A few years after he graduated from NDSU with a degree in crop and weed science, he went to work for The Arthur Companies. Twenty-five years later, he’s still with the organization and works in Ayr, North Dakota. In addition to his career and water board responsibilities, Alan has been the treasurer/clerk of Erie Township for more than 20 years. He lives on a farm site outside of Erie with his wife, Kari, and sons, Isaac and Ian. The Idso family tries to go on a few camping trips each year and Alan and the boys like to ride snowmobiles in the winter.

The impact the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) will have on Cass County and beyond is not lost on Alan. The emergency and supplemental water supply is co-sponsored by LAWA and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. Alan says the additional water supply will be of critical importance.

“With the continued population growth around the Fargo area, not to mention the entire Red River Valley, the demand for clean, quality water will continue to increase,” he explains. “Being highly dependent on precipitation to supply surface water for a growing population is a risk if the region enters a prolonged dry period. Having another source of water is critical to our state’s population and economy.

“In my area of the state, I don’t think a lot of people realize that this project is being built and has pipe in the ground. Around Fargo, people see all the construction associated with the FM Diversion project to redirect excess water around the city. But as people who work with water know, the Red River can run low just as easily as it can flood, and the Red River Valley Water Supply is an equal project to manage flow in our critical waterway,” Alan added.

In his short time thus far on the LAWA Board, Alan says he has already learned a lot about the RRVWSP. “I look forward to continuing to learn more and being part of such an important project for North Dakota,” he says.



**Lake Agassiz  
Water Authority**