

**GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Carrington, ND  
July 16, 2026**

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 a.m. I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Brian Orn
- 9:01 a.m. II. Roll Call – Lisa Schafer
- 9:02 a.m. III. Public Comment Period – Brian Orn
- 9:18 a.m. IV. **Consideration of Minutes** – Brian Orn
  - A. **>October 10, 2024**
- 9:19 a.m. V. Nesson Valley Irrigation Research & Dev. Project – Kip Kovar
  - A. **>\*Agricultural Technology Transfer Facility** – Tyler Tjelde
- 9:40 a.m. VI. >McClusky Canal Irrigation Update – Ryan Anderson
  - A. >2026 Irrigation Interest
- 9:45 a.m. VII. NDSU Extension Ag Advisory Board – Brian Orn
- 9:50 a.m. VIII. Adjourn

The following minutes are in draft form subject to review and approval by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at its next meeting.

24-16

**GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Carrington, North Dakota**

**October 10, 2024**

A meeting of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District was held at the Garrison Diversion headquarters in Carrington, North Dakota, on October 10, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Orn at 10:05 a.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Board Chairman Alan Walter  
Committee Chairman Brian Orn  
Director Mark Cook  
Director Kelly Klosterman  
Director Donald Zimbleman  
Secretary Kip Kovar

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Director Brandon Krueger

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Garrison Diversion staff and others were present. 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 Cook to dispense with a reading of the April 18, 2024, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee minutes and approve them as distributed. Second by Director Klosterman. Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

**OAKES IRRIGATION RESEARCH SITE**

**Land Donation Agreement** - - Mike Ostlie, Director, NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center, reported the State Board of Higher Education has accepted the land transfer of the five acres at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site (OIRS) around the headquarter building, along with the building itself. This means all parties have approved the agreement, and it is now ready to be signed.

**Building Update** - - Kip Kovar, Secretary, shared photos of the building constructed at the OIRS.

In July, Mr. Kovar reported Gast Construction (Gast) had completed construction on the new building at the OIRS; however, there was a delamination issue with the concrete floor. As concrete cures, the water has to evaporate, come to the surface and get away. Basically, the water got trapped about a quarter inch under the top layer so the concrete did not cure properly. Gast then decided to grind the top layer of concrete off, grout to fill in the voids, grind it again and finish off with a polish.

Mr. Kovar stated when doing the grinding, Gast discovered the delamination was deeper than anticipated, causing the contractor to stop. An expert with the materials testing firm, AET, was called in to look at the work site. AET prepared a report, which is included with today's meeting materials.

Mr. Kovar reviewed the results of the report, stating air entrained concrete was ordered. It was hard trowled, which closed off any way that bleed water could escape. This causes the water to become trapped under the top layer of concrete and does not bond, resulting in delaminated concrete. The report also states staff at the OIRS had spray painted many spots that had failed. AET found that in a lot of the failed areas, some sprayed three-foot round, were in actuality only the size of a grapefruit. Pieces of the flooring were cut out and brought to the testing lab. Results showed the delamination was caused by water. AET's recommendation to Gast is to saw cut each area out down to a depth of one-half inch, chip it out and then patch it.

Mr. Kovar asked AET when they saw cut these out and patch the area, how long will the floor last.

AET stated if the process is done properly, there should be no difference on the life of the concrete.

Mr. Kovar said AET suggested patching the spots and leaving them. This will look a bit like a checkerboard and not very eye appealing. If anything else is done to the floor, such as staining or putting epoxy on it, it will require continuous maintenance. This may be something NDSU should be asked about.

Mr. Kovar commented AET gave Gast a list of materials to choose from, and AET will approve what Gast selects.

Director Klosterman said Gast is trying to determine what is the best material to patch the floor with and what is available locally out of Fargo. Gast has started the saw cutting.

Director Klosterman added Garrison Diversion has \$150,000 held through retainage before Gast receives its full payment on the building. The floor repair has to be completed before they are paid in full.

Mr. Kovar asked the committee if Garrison Diversion should ask for more of a credit.

Paul Boersma, Black & Veatch, stated AE2S reviewed AET's report, and it was their opinion that even after these fixes, you are not getting a floor that is in new condition. It will either have less life or require maintenance in the future.

Director Klosterman suggested asking for some type of warranty from Gast, such as five or ten years.

Mr. Kovar said he will discuss this with Gast.

### **MCCLUSKY CANAL IRRIGATION UDATE**

**2024 Irrigation Interest** - - Ryan Anderson, Engineer, Garrison Diversion, reported the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) staff is in the process of pulling the irrigation pumps from the McClusky Canal for the season.

Mr. Anderson stated he is still working with an irrigator near Lake Audubon on a potential irrigation project.

Mr. Anderson added there was an individual who asked about the potential to irrigate out of Painted Woods Creek. There is a similar scenario of irrigation water being diverted away from the canal right outside of Turtle Lake where water is dumped into a creek and replenishes the lake downstream. The irrigator has an agreement with the state where they have to replace the volume of water used for irrigation in the lake. The irrigator needs to have a contract with Garrison Diversion for the Bureau of Reclamation to obtain the water.

### **ND IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION REPORT**

**Irrigation Study** - - Mr. Anderson provided a summary of the irrigation feasibility study draft report. The overall objective is to provide a map identifying what acres are most suitable for irrigation in North Dakota and what hurdles need to be overcome to better develop irrigation in the state.

### **OTHER**

**Motion by Director Walter to adjourn the meeting. Second by Director Cook. Upon voice vote, motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

(SEAL)

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Brian Orn, Chairman

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Kip Kovar, Secretary

# REGISTRATION

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Carrington, North Dakota  
October 10, 2024

NAME	ADDRESS
Lisa Schaper	MCCD
Paul Boersma	BL
Mike Estie	ND SU Carrington
Don Zemelmann	Ed. Dickey County
JEFF LeDoux	GDCD - CASS CO.
Mark Cook	GDCD - Renville Co.
Ed Kim	GDCD
Ryan Anderson	GDCD
Kelly Klotterman	GDCD
Steve Metzger	Foster Co. GDCD
Paul Anderson	GDCD
Greg Bischoff	GDCD
Adrian M. Walker	GDCD - WARD CO.
Amberly Cook	GDCD
Brian Orm	GDCD - Sargent Co.
On-Line	
Dave Anderson	Garrison Diversion

Dear Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board Members,

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) and the Nesson Valley Irrigation Research and Development Project (NVIRDP) are constructing an Agricultural Technology Transfer Facility located 31 miles from the main WREC station. This new facility will serve irrigated agricultural producers throughout the MonDak region by providing a central location for research, education, and technology transfer.

The State of North Dakota has committed \$2.1 million toward this project. With an estimated total project cost of \$3.5 million, we are seeking partners to help raise the remaining funds needed to complete this important investment in the future of irrigated agriculture. Williams and McKenzie County have committed \$500,000 and \$300,000 towards this project.

As a longstanding champion of irrigation development and water resource management across North Dakota, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District has played a vital role in supporting projects that strengthen agricultural productivity and rural communities. The NVIRDP is located in Williams County, one of the District's member counties, making this project a direct investment in the future of one of the communities you serve.

We also appreciate the District's previous support of the irrigation research and education facility in Oakes. That investment will help advance irrigated agriculture in eastern North Dakota by providing producers with access to research, education, and technology. We believe this Agricultural Technology Transfer Facility will have a similar impact for western North Dakota and eastern Montana by expanding opportunities for irrigated crop production, value-added agriculture, and economic development.

As irrigation continues to expand across western North Dakota and eastern Montana, producers need access to the latest research, technology, and production practices. This facility will provide education and outreach focused on irrigated production systems, alternative and emerging crops, and opportunities for agricultural processing industries throughout the region. It will also ensure the full utilization of the 160-acre NVIRDP research site as a premier center dedicated to advancing irrigated agriculture. The site features four 40-acre automated variable-rate linear irrigation systems equipped with remote monitoring technology. Each system can utilize two independent water sources—Lake Sakakawea and an on-site groundwater well—through separate pumping and pipeline systems. This unique infrastructure makes the site one of the most advanced irrigated research facilities in the region.

Expanded irrigation research and development will serve as a catalyst for agricultural economic growth throughout western North Dakota. By identifying profitable, high-value crops and supporting the development of value-added agricultural processing industries, the MonDak Irrigation Frontier has the potential to expand to more than 500,000 irrigated acres.

This facility will serve as a regional center of excellence for irrigated crop research, education, and technology transfer. Beyond its research mission, it will provide a gathering place where farmers, agribusiness professionals, community leaders, educators, and residents can come together to learn, collaborate, and address the opportunities and challenges facing agriculture in


the region. It will include an 80-person meeting and educational room, workspace for seed and soil analysis, an office, a break room, and a kitchen. In addition, a heated shop will provide year-round space for equipment maintenance and repair while also serving as flexible meeting and demonstration space during educational programs. Together, these features will meet the current and future needs of a growing irrigated research and extension program in northwestern North Dakota.

The Agricultural Technology Transfer Facility will also strengthen collaboration among the NDSU Williston Research Extension Center, Montana State University's Eastern Agricultural Research Center in Sidney, Montana, and the USDA Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, also located in Sidney. This research partnership allows the three organizations to leverage their collective expertise, land, equipment, and resources while minimizing duplication of effort. Most importantly, it ensures that producers throughout the MonDak region benefit from coordinated, high-quality research and extension programs.

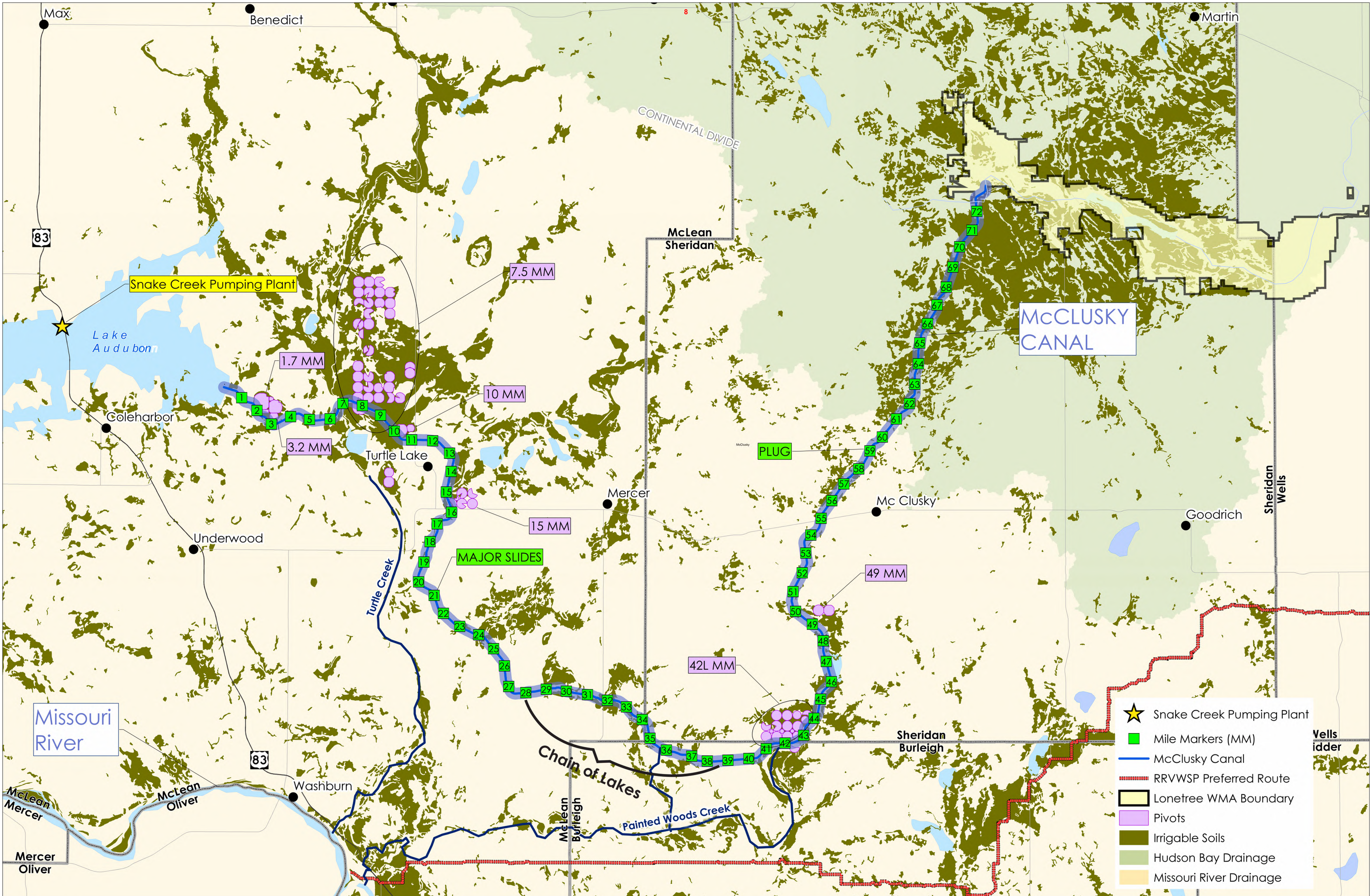
We respectfully ask the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to consider supporting this project with a financial contribution. Your investment would continue the District's tradition of advancing irrigation infrastructure and research across North Dakota while helping establish a premier irrigated agriculture research and education facility in western North Dakota. A contribution to this project would directly benefit producers in a member county and strengthen the long-term success of irrigated agriculture throughout the MonDak region.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in supporting irrigation and agricultural development throughout North Dakota. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this project further and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tyler Tjelde  
Center Director (WREC)



# McCLUSKY CANAL

Date: 2/15/2019



Edited by: hrecords  
Imagery 2015 NAIP

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N

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# McClusky Canal Irrigation

