

## Attachment 1

### State Water Commission Letterhead

September 17, 2002

RE: Red River Valley Water Supply Project Information Meetings

Dear Red River Valley Water User:

During the week of October 7, 2002, the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will host water user meetings to discuss the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (Red River Project). The Dakotas Water Resources Act (DWRA) of 2000 directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley in North Dakota. The purpose of the meetings is to inform interested Red River Valley water users about the Red River Project studies and how water users can participate in the study process.

DWRA identified two Red River Project related studies which need to be completed; the *Report on Red River Valley Water Needs and Options* (Needs and Options Report) and the *Red River Project Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS). Reclamation will be the sole preparer of the Needs and Options Report, while the State of North Dakota and Reclamation will jointly prepare the EIS. These meetings are to discuss the water users participation in the Needs and Options Report. There will be future meetings in the Red River Valley to discuss the EIS.

The meetings will be located in 8 communities in the Red River Valley to afford interested water users the best possible opportunity to attend. The meeting dates, times and locations are listed below. An overview of the Red River Project will be presented by Reclamation staff. The meeting locations will be open one hour before the scheduled meeting time so participants can view project displays and visit with Reclamation and SWC staff about the project. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

### Water User Meeting Schedule

City	Date and Time	Location and Address
Grafton	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Courthouse – Farmers Room, 600 Cooper Avenue
Langdon	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Courthouse- North Meeting Room, 901 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street
Grand Forks	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Ramada Inn, 1205 N. 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street (Jct. of I-29 and Hwy 2)
Hillsboro	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Courthouse, 114 Caledonia Avenue
Fargo	Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Kelly Inn, 3800 Main Avenue, (Main and I-29)
Valley City	Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Eagle Club, 345 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
Wahpeton	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Hughes Shelter in Chahinkapa Park, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street and 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North
Lisbon	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Eagles Club, 6540 Hwy 32 (one mile north of Lisbon)

Studies already completed by Reclamation indicate that some municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) water systems in the Red River Valley will experience water shortages in the future, particularly during prolonged droughts. This phase of the Red River Project studies will expand past efforts and recommend solutions to address potential water shortage problems. The studies will also address other water needs such as water quality, aquatic environment, recreation, and water conservation.

During the meetings, the roles and opportunities for water user participation in the studies will be described. In the near future, Reclamation will request current water use data from each MR&I system to use in estimating future water needs. Some water system assessments will also be conducted to address any current or future water quality concerns, if needed. Reclamation hopes to enlist the assistance of the MR&I systems or their engineering consultant in this data collection and system assessment process, which will be discussed in more detail at the meetings. A meeting agenda is attached for your information.

If you are interested in learning more about the project prior to the meetings, you can visit Reclamation's official Red River Valley Water Supply Project website at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/rrwvsp.htm>. On the website you will find background information on the project and information on previous and current studies.

If you have any questions about the project or are unclear whether you should attend, you can call John Paczkowski at the North Dakota State Water Commission (701) 328-3446 or Dean Karsky at the Bureau of Reclamation (701)250-4242, extension 3405. We hope you can participate, and look forward to discussing the Red River Valley Water Supply Project with you.

Sincerely,

Dale L. Frink  
State Engineer

Encl.

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