



NORTH DAKOTA  
LEAGUE of CITIES  
*Founded in 1912*

*Service, Advocacy, Leadership,  
Education & Support*

FEB - 2 2006

**Bureau of Reclamation Public Hearing on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project  
Testimony in Support of North Dakota's Preferred Alternative  
Connie Sprynczynatyk, Executive Director  
North Dakota League of Cities  
February 2, 2006**

The North Dakota League of Cities was established in 1912 to serve the education and advocacy needs of all of the state's cities. The only known account of that first meeting hosted by the city of Grand Forks is the report of the Fargo delegation back to their city commission. Not surprisingly, water supply was an issue in 1912. This is what the Fargo delegation reported:

*"On account of the fact that your Committee arrived late Wednesday evening and returned home early Thursday morning, they were not able to make an inspection of the Filtration plant. The city is metered, and all who have water and sewer connections in their houses, are billed monthly from the meter system. The charge is 50 cents per thousand gallons for the first thousand; and then for larger consumption the rate is scaled down, according to the consumption; we were informed that the average rate for the small consumer would range from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per month, or from \$18.00 to \$24.00 per year. For consumers who have no modern conveniences in their houses a monthly rate of 75 cents is made. The sprinkling rates are provided for by the smaller rates for the larger consumption."*

The population of Fargo in 1912 was 14,331 and Grand Forks was 12,478. Today Fargo is 90,599 and Grand Forks is 49,321. In fact, over 42% of the state's population lives in the Red River Valley today. Not surprisingly, the need for a dependable water supply has grown along with the population but supply alternatives have not been developed to meet the needs.

The North Dakota League of Cities represents all of the state's incorporated cities and if there is one thing on which we wholeheartedly agree, it's the need to provide a reliable system that meets the municipal, rural and industrial water supply needs across this state. The League supports full implementation of the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 and supports the state's preferred alternative for providing water to the Valley.

**North Dakota League of Cities Standing Resolution**

**Dakota Water Resources Act**

- Whereas**, the citizens of North Dakota need an abundant supply of water for residents and visitors, for business and recreation, for wildlife and aesthetics; and
- Whereas**, the Garrison Diversion Project was designed to carry Missouri River water across the state of North Dakota for the benefit of all the state's citizens; and
- Whereas**, the Dakota Water Resources Act will provide funds to complete rural and community water supply projects such as the Southwest Pipeline Project and the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, as well as water for the Red River Valley; and
- Whereas**, the Dakota Water Resources Act will allow completion of the Garrison Diversion facilities in a manner both economically feasible and environmentally sound; and
- Whereas**, completion of the Garrison project will benefit the future of North Dakota communities;
- Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the North Dakota League of Cities supports full implementation of the Dakota Water Resources Act.

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