The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

NAWS Provides Water Service to Berthold

Ribbon-cutting for the NAWS celebration at Berthold.

In August, a celebration was held in Berthold to recognize the completion of four construction projects that enable the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) to provide water service to Berthold, Minot's south hill region, and North Prairie Rural Water District, with water purchased from Minot's water treatment plant.

The residents of Berthold are indeed thrilled with their new water supply. However, the use of Minot water is only temporary, as the longer-range plan is to provide all future NAWS customers with water from Lake Sakakawea. The pipeline that will deliver Lake Sakakwea water to Minot has already been completed. But, before water can be moved, water treatment facilities will have to be constructed as required by an Environmental Impact Statement – that the Bureau of Reclamation is expected to complete by the end of the year.

It is estimated that Berthold will use approximately 34,000 gallons per day for the rest of the year, with a maximum peak demand of up to 85,000 gallons per day. So Berthold's expected water use will account for a very small fraction of Minot's daily water use, which is about 7 million gallons per day.

When NAWS is completed, it will provide up to 26 million gallons of Missouri River water per day to at least 63,000 citizens in northwest North Dakota. With addition rural development, NAWS could serve as many as 81,000.

The 2008 Project WET Summer Water Institute Heads West

The Project WET watershed education program moved the 2008 institute to the Dickinson area this past summer to provide an opportunity for K-12 educators to learn about southwest North Dakota's Missouri River watershed.

By moving the institute around the state, and by providing more localized watershed issues and concerns, educators are given a greater opportunity to learn about watershed issues that are important in their own "backyard."

The 2008 institute gave 22 educators, from all grade levels and areas of the state, insight into southwestern North Dakota's watershed issues and concerns. Some of the timely topics covered included:

- Hail suppression/rain enhancement
- National park management
- Water treatment
- Industrial water use
- Watershed health
- Biofuel development
- Energy development
- Water quality
- Best management practices
- Manure management
- Flood control

Kim Belgarde, Project WET facilitator, helps participants make thier own "String of Missouri River Pearls" game board.

2008 southwestern ND Missouri River watershed institute participants.

2008 SUMMER INSTITUTE FIELD TOURS

- Dickinson Water Treatment Plant
- Southwest Pipeline - Dickinson Pumping Plant
- Southwest Pipeline Project O&M Center
- Logging Camp Ranch
- Sand Creek
- Little Missouri River
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Visitor Center
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Heart Butte Dam/Lake Tschida
- Antelope Valley Power Plant
- Coteau Freedom Mine
- Dakota Gasification Plant
- Red Trail Energy Ethanol Plant
- Upper Cannonball River Manure Waste Management Project
- Deep Creek Watershed Project

2008 SUMMER INSTITUTE GUEST PRESENTERS

- ND State Water Commission
- US Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Southwest Water Authority
- US National Park Service
- Dickinson Public Works
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Bowman/Slope/Hettinger SCDs
- Deep Creek Watershed Project
- Upper Cannonball River Manure Waste Management Project
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Antelope Valley Power Plant
- Dakota Gasification
- Coteau Freedom Mine

- Recreation
- Mining
- Geology
- Golf course water management
- Environmental investigations
- GPS/compass modeling

The institute included two environmental investigation segments on Sand Creek and the Little Missouri River. Participants learned how to complete a watershed survey and visual stream habitat assessment; looked at watershed conditions adjacent to and in the water; collected and analyzed macroinvertebrates to complete a bioassessment; analyzed chemical and physical parameters of the river; learned about stream dynamics; conducted a stream habitat assessment; and measured stream flow and estimated discharge. In addition, the institute instructors went through seven hands-on activities from four major Project WET curriculum guides that correlated to the field tours, environmental investigations, and presentations. Participants

were also provided with a comprehensive stream investigations field guide and dozens of other North Dakota water resource and Project WET water education materials.

Educators had an opportunity to provide comments on their experience at the institute.

Leah Ritland, a fourth grade teacher from Grand Forks said, "Before the institute, I had almost no understanding and appreciation of southwest North Dakota watershed issues. I now have both. Plus, I have satisfied my biology and geography requirements for my North Dakota license."

Patty Skarphol, a 7-12 grade teacher from Tioga, commented, "This institute has been an eye opener for me… probably the best continuing education class I have ever taken."

And, Charysee Everson, a sixth grade teacher from Williston said, "I can't believe how much meaningful teacher resources, tours, and presenters we packed into six days that will positively impact my teaching and my life in general."

The institute was funded in part by an EPA Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant, the Water Commission, local water resource districts, and soil conservation districts. The institute could be taken for four graduate credits through Minot State, the University of North Dakota, or North Dakota State University.

Vosper Appointed to Water Commission

Douglas Vosper, of Neche, was appointed by Gov. John Hoeven in August to serve on the North Dakota State Water Commission – replacing Elmer Hillesland of Grand Forks. Vosper's term on the Commission began Aug. 15, and will run through June 30, 2013.

Hillesland was first appointed by Gov. Ed Shafer in 1993, and was reappointed by Hoeven in 2001.

The Commission consists of the governor as chairman, the Commissioner of Agriculture as an ex-officio member, and seven other members who are appointed by the governor. Other members on the Commission include: Arne Berg, Devils Lake; Maurice Foley, Minot; Larry Hanson, Williston; Jack Olin, Dickinson; and Harley Swenson, Bismarck.

Welcome Commissioner Vosper!

Gary Calheim Receives Governor's Award for Excellence

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Gary Calheim, fifth from the left, received the Governor's Award for Excellence on Sept. 8.

On Sept. 8, Gov. John Hoeven presented the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service to five state employees, including recently retired Water Commission employee, Gary Calheim. All five recipients were recognized for their dedication and contributions to the people of North Dakota. The awards were presented during a luncheon at the Capitol in Bismarck.

Calheim was employed at the Commission for 34 years, with two years as a driller's helper, and 32 years as a rotary drill operator. During that time, Gary developed methodologies to enhance the efficiency of the Commission's drilling processes, and mentored geology students in the field as part of the Student Voluntary Drill Rig Internship Program.

The award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of judges who reviewed and scored the nominations. Nominees were rated on their overall job performance, contributions to their department, commitment to customer service, working relationship with fellow workers, and involvement in their community.

Congratulations Gary!

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