



Garland Erbele, P.E.

History was made on April 27, as the State Water Commission announced unanimous support for the appointment of Garland G. Erbele, as North Dakota's 18th State Engineer.

From the establishment of the Office of the State Engineer in 1905, which preceded the creation of the State Water Commission by nearly three decades, the State Engineer has played an integral role in guiding water development and management in North Dakota.

In the early days as North Dakota's first State Engineer, geology professor E.F. Chandler, grappled more frequently with a serious lack of hydrologic data, irrigation development, record droughts, and inadequate municipal water supplies.

Today, Erbele faces challenges as diverse as fighting federal overreach of management of the Missouri River

in North Dakota, incredibly large and complex flood control projects, water development for oil extraction, sovereign lands, and inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

"Garland Erbele's proven leadership and technical expertise involving the management of major water resources will be a tremendous asset to the State Water Commission and to the state as a whole," said Gov. Jack Dalrymple, chairman of the nine-member Water Commission. "The Commission was determined to find someone who has the right experience and the strong skill sets needed to build on the great progress we've made in managing North Dakota's diverse water resources, and we're confident that we found that in Garland Erbele."

Erbele was born in Lehr, North Dakota. He has been married to his wife, Pauline, for 31 years, and has two children, a daughter Nicole who lives in Pittsburgh, but is moving to California, and a son Geryd, who is attending the University of Wyoming. The Erbeles welcomed their first grandson, Henry, last month. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, and cooking.

After earning his undergraduate degree and a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Engineering at North Dakota State University, Erbele moved to Pierre, South Dakota to take a position with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), where he worked for 35 years. Between 2000 and 2013, he served as the agency's Chief Engineer for the Water Rights Program. In that role, Erbele served as the advisor to the State Water Management Board and was responsible for the administration of state water law, including the management of state water rights. He also served as the agency's lead on quantization of tribal water rights. Additionally, Erbele has served as the South Dakota representative on the Western States Water Council and as South Dakota's representative to the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. Prior to becoming Chief Engineer, Erbele served as a DENR natural resource engineer for 21 years. His experience includes the development of state

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water standards and regulations; project planning and development; environmental permitting and compliance; and working with rural water systems, municipalities, local governments, and state and federal agencies in the development of public water supplies. Erbele also served as a Senior Water Resources Engineer for Wenck Associates, Inc. from 2013 until his appointment as North Dakota's newest State Engineer.

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"Water has always been my passion, from my earliest years growing up in North Dakota, through my education at NDSU, and then during my career in South Dakota. I was very excited when the opportunity came to tackle this new challenge, and also move back to my home state," Erbele stated. "North Dakota is going through an interesting and challenging period, and in the short time I have already been here, it has become clear that the Water Commission is staffed by highly professional, talented, and knowledgeable people. The many vital projects that the agency is involved in and the impressive website that we have, all serve to illustrate what an amazing resource this agency is. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the people of North Dakota as their next State Engineer."

Erbele's official start date with the Water Commission was June 1. His predecessor, Todd Sando, will continue working for a transitional period until his retirement in July. Please welcome, Garland Erbele, as North Dakota's new State Engineer!

Past State Engineers

- 1904-1905: E.F. Chandler
- 1905-1907: A.L. Fellows
- 1907-1913: T.R. Atkinson
- 1913-1918: Jay W. Bliss
- 1918-1923: W.H. Robinson
- 1924-1925: W.G. Black
- 1925-1927: H.C. Frahm
- 1927-1935: Robert E. Kennedy
- 1935-1939: E.J. Thomas
- 1939-1940: H.F. McColly
- 1941-1946: John T. Tucker
- 1946-1954: J.J. Walsh
- 1954-1973: Milo W. Hoisveen
- 1973-1989: Vernon Fahy
- 1989-2000: David A. Sprynczynatyk
- 2001-2009: Dale L. Frink
- 2010-2016: Todd Sando

ONLINE TEMPORARY WATER PERMIT STATUS SERVICE

Responding to feedback from the public about the need for a more responsive permit application process, the State Water Commission proudly announces the debut of an online service for tracking the status of temporary water permits.

Temporary water permits have always been available through the Office of the State Engineer. However, increased water demands related to oil development, along with increased available water supplies in swollen sloughs and wetlands due to the wet cycle have led to a five-fold increase in the number of temporary permits being processed by the agency.

One consequence of this significant increase in the demand for permits, and the requisite time it takes to review a request, was there could sometimes be a long delay between submitting the request and hearing back on the results of that request. In some cases, this led to applicants being frustrated with their inability to know where their permits were in the review process.

Responding to this challenge, the State Water Commission Information Technology staff and hydrologists worked to develop an interface that provided greater transparency in the temporary permitting process. Permit applicants are now able to see the status of their permit applications in real time.

The Temporary Water Permit Application Status portal, available on the State Water Commission website, allows quick and accurate assessment of where the application stands in the application process. Also, through the portal, applicants can apply for a permit, pay the filing fees with a credit card, and establish a digital chain of custody for their application.

Once an application is made, the applicant creates a unique account linked with the online application that gives them access to all of the information related to that permit, in real time.

Temporary Water Permit Application Status

Current Status

Status : Under Review
Date Filed : 5/26/16

Application Status History

6/01/16 16:14:14
Status: Assigned to Hydrologist

5/30/16 16:13:58
Status: Pending

5/28/16 16:13:42
Status: Administrative Hold
Description: Landowner Agreement is missing.

5/26/16 16:06:18
Status: New Application
Description: No Action has been taken!

Name and Address

Name of Applicant : John Doe
Mailing Address : 123 Nowhere Lane
City : Bismarck
State / Zip : ND 58503

An example of a permit application, and where it sits in the review process.

For more information about the Temporary Water Permit Application Status Portal, contact the North Dakota State Water Commission's Water Appropriation Division at (701) 328-2754 or email jschacher@nd.gov.



North Dakota State Water Commission
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