

# The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA  
STATE WATER COMMISSION



Posted signage at recreational areas denotes fines for violations.

## STATE ENGINEER ENCOURAGES THE PUBLIC TO KEEP YOUR BEACHES CLEAN

With summer fast approaching, the State Water Commission (SWC) and Office of the State Engineer (OSE) would like to remind citizens to please Keep Your Beaches Clean. These efforts are meant to help reduce littering and glass container violations on sovereign lands throughout the state, particularly along the Missouri River.

Keep Your Beaches Clean is an on-going public awareness campaign that was first introduced by the OSE in 2013 and aims to educate recreational users regarding the rules and regulations on sovereign lands. Sovereign lands are publicly owned lands that are managed for the benefit of the citizens of the state. North Dakota Century Code § 61-33-05 affirms that the State Engineer shall, “manage, operate, and supervise” sovereign lands.

The OSE helps to ensure public safety on North Dakota’s sovereign lands, including the beds and islands, lying within the ordinary high watermarks of navigable lakes and streams, by alleviating harmful littering and the illegal use of glass bottles on the state’s public beach areas and sandbars. Signs are posted at numerous access points along the Missouri River, making the public aware of possible consequences for these violations, including a \$100 fine for glass containers and a \$250 fine for littering. Illegal motorized vehicle use on sovereign lands is also prohibited with a potential fine of \$100.

“North Dakota has an abundance of scenic locations and recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. Many of these activities take place on sovereign lands and it is extremely important to keep these cherished destinations clean and safe,” noted John Paczkowski, Interim State Engineer. “Broken glass on beaches creates a potentially dangerous and serious health hazard, which is why glass containers are prohibited on sovereign land beaches throughout the state.”

To safeguard the community and enforce these regulations, the Office of the State Engineer developed an agreement with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to have their existing game wardens assist with sovereign land-related law enforcement. Collaborative efforts with local law enforcement have also been discussed.

Paczowski stressed, “It is important to remember that these are public lands and successful management of these lands is made possible through cooperation and accountability. By continuing to Keep Your Beaches Clean, it will allow present and future generations the opportunity to enjoy North Dakota’s sovereign lands for generations to come.”



# WATER COMMISSION INTRODUCES 2021 WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ONLINE DASHBOARD

The Water Commission is pleased to announce the completion of the 2021 North Dakota Water Development Plan (WDP). The water community has long understood that existing projects evolve, and new projects are continuously being considered by local sponsors. The 2021 WDP provides elected officials and other stakeholders with the most up-to-date project information, and focuses on North Dakota's water development needs during the 2021-2023 biennium and beyond.

To compliment the 2021 WDP, agency staff have developed an interactive dashboard to help the water community quickly navigate the most popular portions of the plan. The dashboard serves as a living version of the plan and will be updated regularly to reflect the most recent changes related to water development across the state. The dashboard is also connected to the plan via "Quick Response" (QR) codes, which allow stakeholders to easily access updated water development and financial information via a smart device.

"The Water Development Dashboard provides an innovative approach that allows constituents to easily access and evaluate real-time data and information," said Interim State Engineer John Paczkowski. "The new online-format is exceptionally valuable and insightful."

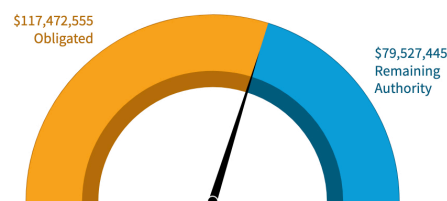
The 2019-2021 biennium demonstrated how the unpredictable nature of oil revenues can cause delay and uncertainty for water managers. Moreover, the 2021 WDP planning process demonstrated that substantial funding shortfalls are likely under the Water Commission's current cost-share policy for the next two years, and through 2031 - under multiple revenue scenarios.

The 2021 WDP continues to demonstrate the agency's focus on long-term funding sustainability by providing five recommendations for water development in the

## 2019-2021 PURPOSE FUNDING

Select a dial to view a detailed summary of each Funding Purpose.

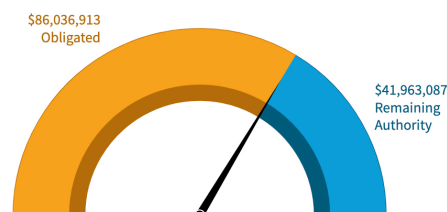
### Flood Control Purpose Funding



**\$197,000,000 Authority**

Click the above chart to see the data.

### Water Supply Purpose Funding



**\$128,000,000 Authority**

Click the above chart to see the data.

Examples of Purpose Funding data in the new online dashboard.

future. Specifically, the first recommendation addresses the need for more reliable, cost-effective sources of revenue, with an emphasis on bonding.

Moving forward, the Water Commission will continue to work toward keeping the WDP a living document, with features that are able to more accurately reflect North Dakota's rapidly changing economic and water development landscapes. If you have questions or would like more information about the WDP or planning process, please visit the Water Commission's website at [swc.nd.gov](http://swc.nd.gov) or contact Jared Huibregtse at 701-328-4967 or [jjhuibregtse@nd.gov](mailto:jjhuibregtse@nd.gov).