



Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
Director, Department of Water Resources

DR. ANDREA TRAVNICEK APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

In July, Governor Burgum announced his appointment of Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D. to lead the state's Department of Water Resources (DWR). Additionally, the State Water Commission (SWC) approved Travnicek's appointment at a special Commission meeting on July 30, 2021.

Effective as of August 1, 2021, because of House Bill 1353 passed during the 2021 legislative session, the Department of Water Resources became the primary state water agency, formerly known as the State Water Commission. The legislation restructured the Office of the State Engineer and associated regulatory roles. The 129-page bill also stated that the appointed director will hire and oversee the State Engineer and Department of Water Resources staff.

Travnicek holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management/Communication from North Dakota State University (NDSU). At NDSU, her research focused on social networks and stakeholders associated with lake management in Minnesota. Travnicek also earned her master's and undergraduate degrees from NDSU in Natural Resources Management. In 2016, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award for NDSU's College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources and is also a member of the NDSU Foundation Board.

Prior to the appointment, Travnicek was appointed as the Director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation since April 2020. Prior to her work in cabinet leadership positions at the state level, Travnicek worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, DC in various leadership roles. She served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management where she aided the Assistant Secretary in overseeing the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Travnicek also served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (2018-2019); and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science (2017-2018). In both capacities, she operated as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and provided oversight for the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, the Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Before joining the Department of the Interior in D.C., Travnicek served as the Senior Policy Advisor of Natural Resources for North Dakota Governors Hoeven and



Department of Water Resources *New Name, Same Vision*

Divisions within the DWR will remain the same including:

Administration

Atmospheric Resources

Planning & Education

Regulatory

Water Appropriation

Water Development

Dalrymple. For over six years, she advised on issues related to water, disaster response, energy, recreation, unmanned aerial systems, trade, and game and fish. She was deeply involved professionally and personally impacted during the North Dakota flooding events of 2011. Andrea has long-standing roots in the state in Minot where her dad served as a B-52 pilot for three tours at the Minot Air Force Base.

“Andrea’s deep background in natural resources and broad experience as an agency leader at the state, federal, and international levels will serve the water stakeholders and citizens of North Dakota well,” said Governor Burgum. “We appreciate her leadership in Parks and Recreation and look forward to her bringing that same passion and forward-looking leadership to the Department of Water Resources for the benefit of all North Dakotans and our communities.”

Dr. Travnicsek’s career spans more than 15 years of experience in natural resources, conservation, energy, agriculture, national security, disaster response and recovery, communication, aviation, recreation, and public policy fields. She has negotiated on water issues at the state, federal, international, and tribal level. Travnicsek’s extensive background also includes diverse international experience working on trade-related matters. Additionally, at the U.S. Department of the Interior, she had oversight of bureaus with up to 17,000 staff members and budgets up to \$3.2 billion.

“It’s an honor to continue serving the citizens of North Dakota in this new role,” Travnicsek said. “I am looking forward to managing the diverse, important water resources for North Dakota and working with the dedicated team at the Department of Water Resources to improve our state’s quality of life and strengthen the economy.”

For more information about the Department of Water Resources, please visit the agency’s website at www.dwr.nd.gov.