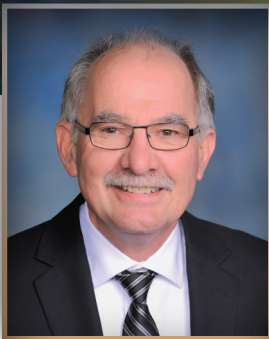




The Current

2019 Issue II



Garland Erbele, P.E.
State Engineer &
Chief Engineer-Secretary

A NEWSLETTER FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER & STATE WATER COMMISSION

In past newsletters, I have highlighted the exceptional amount of progress the State Water Commission has facilitated for water supply, rural water supply, flood control, and general water management projects across North Dakota. As the 2019 Legislative Session nears its end, I wanted to provide some updates regarding agency-sponsored legislation, and our budget bill, which directly impacts project development into the upcoming biennium.

A number of bills were introduced as part of the agency's continuing efforts to support sustainable water management and development in North Dakota. The State Water Commission introduced House Bills (HB) 1085 and 1087, as well as Senate Bill (SB) 2090 to address agriculture and irrigation issues, all of which have passed on to the next chamber in the Legislature. HB 1085 raises the cost-share limit of our Drought Disaster Livestock Assistance program from \$3,500 per project to \$4,500, while HB 1087 eases regulations on agricultural dikes two feet in height or less. SB 2090 clarifies a number of aspects regarding water permits for irrigation, and increases fees for new water permits, industrial permits, and related amendments.

In addition, the State Water Commission introduced SB 2091, which passed through the Senate, and House, and was signed by the Governor. This bill will allow structures within a flood fringe to be constructed on piers, columns, or other methods of construction allowed by FEMA, rather than only allowing construction on fill. Finally, HB 1086 failed on the House floor due to unclear intent. This bill was related to waters of the state.

SB 2020, the State Water Commission's Appropriations Bill, contains the Legislature's water development priorities for the 2019-2021 biennium. In the Senate's version of SB 2020, financial resources were appropriated to four specific purposes totaling \$350 million – with most of the supporting revenue coming from the Resources Trust Fund. The anticipated revenue for grants
(continued)

Can You Find The Water Drop?



This water drop is hidden
somewhere in this issue.



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Commissioner Mike Anderson
Lower Red River Basin

It has been an honor this last year and a half to serve on the State Water Commission and represent the Lower Red River Basin. What a rewarding opportunity to serve alongside a very committed and talented commission. Although we can no longer say we are the new commissioners, I know we still have a lot of work to do to embrace the needs of our state. Our mandate from day one was very simple “serve the people of North Dakota.” I am extremely grateful to Governor Burgum for that opportunity.

Growing up in the Red River Valley, I was exposed at a very early age to some of the water-related challenges that still face our state today. It seemed like a very frequent occurrence that my friends and I would get to hone our sandbagging skills. As kids often do, we would come up with creative ways to fill sandbags and stack them. The gratification of helping and successfully saving a home or business outweighed the hard work and long hours. It was striking to see the determination and resolve on the part of people faced with dire circumstances. My parents’ home flooded in 1979, just three years after it was built. It is so devastating to go through the event, but equally stressful to be faced with the clean-up and lasting effects.

When Grand Forks and the northern valley flooded in 1997, the effects and cleanup were on a scale seldom before seen. The massive efforts in Fargo to save that city were remarkable, as well as the efforts of many other smaller towns up and down the Valley. I think my favorite picture from that event that is so moving is one of a military flatbed trailer hauling a fire truck to battle fires in downtown Grand Forks. Firefighters are standing in waist to chest deep water battling to save their city. That flood changed the dynamics of flood control in the northern valley. The kindness and generosity of my fellow North Dakotans as well as people from all over the country were remarkable. We were on a national stage and people responded. Who can forget Joan Kroc’s benevolence to the people of Grand Forks to aid in recovery as well as the help and generosity of so many others. Grand Forks now benefits from a comprehensive flood control system. The channel widening and flood walls ensure that an event like this should not happen again.

There are many other areas of our state that have seen massive flooding in recent years. From Minot to Valley City and Lisbon, many have suffered lifestyle and economic harm from natural events. It is very gratifying as a member of the State Water Commission to work with these affected areas, wherever they may be, and be part of a solution. The largest and fastest growing municipality in the state is now in the midst of developing and implementing a comprehensive flood control plan. Fargo narrowly averted disaster in 2009 and has battled massive flooding several times since then. The easy answer is to say this city lies at the bottom of a glacial lake and the outlet flows north to frozen tundra. The location and dynamics of the city were set over a century ago. It is now our responsibility to facilitate a plan to protect this asset of our state.

The plan itself is a cooperation between the federal government, state governments, state agencies, local municipalities, and private citizens. The good of the whole plan has to be tempered with the concerns of those affected. My feeling is that everyone’s concerns need to be heard and addressed. This is a very difficult dynamic to address. The State Water Commission has been involved in the project in many ways. With legislative direction for funding, the commission has dedicated millions of dollars to this effort. And since we deal with limited resources provided by the Resources Trust Fund, it is incumbent on us to make sure that this precious resource is used efficiently and effectively.

There is no doubt that in the short term, this massive plan will take up a large percentage of the state’s resources. We have to ensure that other worthy projects throughout the state do not suffer because of shortfall. The success of Fargo implementing a flood control plan may be costly up front but has to show financial and lifestyle benefits for generations to come. This is where the real value will be.

I have been so pleased to be able to talk with people from all over the state regarding water projects. The passion and hard work of people involved in project sponsorship is very impressive. To these project sponsors, their local project is the most important in the state - and rightly so. We have to look at all of these proposals and determine the impact and benefits they bring. So many of these worthy projects would not be possible without state cost-share. I look forward to seeing these projects completed and the benefits they bring to those affected.

As our participation and involvement in the Commission has evolved, a few things really stand out. First, the commitment and work by the State Engineer and his staff cannot be overstated. It has been very interesting to see the process at work and what goes into managing our state’s water resources. There is a great deal of coordination and detail that goes into every facet of operation. One priority going forward has been longer term projections of the state’s needs.

The State Water Development Plan is a template to see what needs our state will have in the future. Another area that the Commission has recently addressed is the updating of the Cost-Share Policy. I believe this was important to give project sponsors and potential sponsors a consistent policy to model their plans around. I am so hopeful that my colleagues and I will be effective in serving as a bridge between project sponsors and the State Water Commission.

The future of our state looks bright, and as one of my favorite quotes states, “The road to success is always under construction.”

NEW HIRE

DUANE POOL Natural Resource Economist



Duane Pool was hired in March and joined the State Water Commission (SWC) as a Natural Resource Economist. His job duties include implementing economic based analyse for water conveyance and flood control projects, and life cycle cost analyses for water supply projects. He will work with constituents to complete analyses and provide feed-

back and results back to the State Engineer, SWC, and the respective program sponsors.

Duane was born in Ruislip England while his father was stationed in England with the US Air Force. As a military dependent he lived in several US States and other countries. His family homesteaded in Colorado and Duane graduated from Fort Collins High School before attending Mesa State College and Colorado State University (CSU). He received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics (1991) and Master's Degrees in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (1994) from the College of Liberal Arts at CSU. Duane completed his Ph.D. with fields in Spatial Analysis and Statistics from the College of Natural Resources at CSU in 2004. He was recruited to North Dakota by Ducks Unlimited in 1996 and has taught economics and GIS for CSU, and as an Adjunct Professor for Rasmussen (Environmental Science and Economics), the University of Mary (Graduate Economics) and Bismarck State College (GIS and Remote Sensing). He comes to the SWC after serving as the Administrator for Bottineau County Water Resources District.

He and his wife Mary, a native of Bismarck, spend their weekends at their Lake Sakakawea home with their children, grandchildren, and friends.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

The following meetings are scheduled in the 2017-2019 biennia.

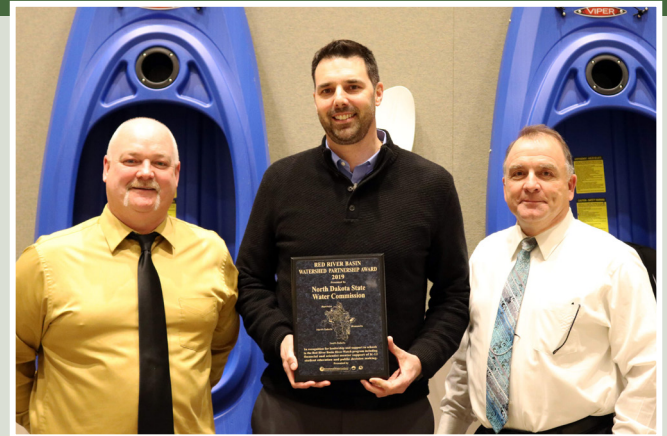
April 9, 2019 / 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Basement Conference Room, State Water Commission,
900 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck

June 13, 2019 / 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Brynild Haugland Room, Capitol Building,
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck

SWC RECEIVES PARTNERSHIP AWARD

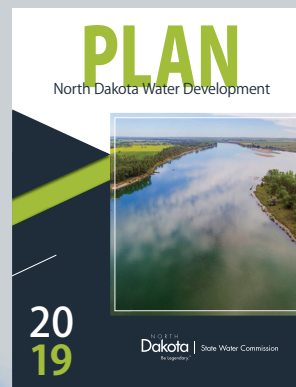


Danni Halvorson (IWI), Pat Fridgen, and Chuck Fritz (IWI)

The State Water Commission is the proud recipient of the Red River Basin Partnership Award!

The award was given by the International Water Institute at the River Watch Forum in Grand Forks on Wednesday, February 27. The award is in recognition for leadership and support to schools in the Red River Basin River Watch program including financial and scientist mentor support of K-12 student education and public decision making. Pat Fridgen, Director of Planning and Education, (and IWI board member) attended the ceremony and accepted the award on the SWC's behalf.

Water Development Plan 2019



The State Water Commission is pleased to announce the completion of the 2019 North Dakota Water Development Plan (WDP).

The 2019 WDP includes updates of large-scale projects, an inventory of 2019-2021 project financial needs, long-term 10- and 20-year project funding need forecasts, explanations of anticipated revenues, and 2019-2021 agency funding recommendations.

We encourage you to review and download the 2019 WDP at www.swc.nd.gov, or email damartin@nd.gov for a paper copy.



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were proposed by the Senate to be distributed as follows:

- Water Supply / \$115 million
- Rural Water / \$30 million
- Flood Control / \$145 million
- General Water Management / \$35.255 million

The Senate's version of SB 2020 also included a \$75 million line of credit to support advancement of the Northwest Area Water Supply project. In addition, the bill reduces the Water Commission's authorized Full-Time Employees from 93 to 90.

As SB 2020 makes its way through the Legislature's House of Representatives this spring, we anticipate that additional changes will be made. Look for an update related to the final outcome of SB 2020 in the next issue of The Current.

We look forward to implementing the Legislature's final policy and financial decisions, and we welcome the challenge of funding North Dakota's water projects by using state dollars in a smart and efficient manner. In the same way that funding in previous biennia has supported unprecedented growth, we hope to make even more headway toward achieving our water development goals.




DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
APRIL		
4	Prairie Waters Water Festival	Kathryn
16	Morton County Water Festival	Mandan
25	Student Earth Day Festival	McCabe Church, Bismarck
25	Community Earth Day Festival	Bismarck Career Academy
24-25	Bottineau Water Festival	Bottineau
26	Keep North Dakota Clean	Bismarck
30	Grand Forks Water Festival	E. Grand Heritage Farm
MAY		
1	Grand Forks Water Festival	E. Grand Heritage Farm
8 - 10	ND Envirothon	Crystal Springs
10	Red River Water Festival	Wahpeton
14-15	Bismarck Water Festival	Bismarck State College
14	Drake Water Festival	Drake
16	Fort Totten Water Festival	Fort Totten
31	Kick Off to Reading	Capital Grounds
JULY		
8-13	Watershed Institute	Dickinson
25	Water Day at the State Fair	Minot

ATTENTION PROJECT SPONSORS

The requirement to conduct economic analysis and life cycle cost analysis for certain types of projects begins July 1, 2019.

Legislation passed by the North Dakota Legislature in 2017 created NDCC 61-03-21.4 - requiring the State Engineer to: "develop an economic analysis process for water conveyance projects and flood-related projects expected to cost more than one million dollars, and a life cycle analysis process for municipal water supply projects. When the State Water Commission is considering whether to fund a water conveyance project, flood-related project, or water supply project, the State Engineer shall review the economic analysis or life cycle analysis, and inform the State Water Commission of the findings from the analysis and review."

To comply with the 2017 legislation, the Water Commission contracted with HDR Inc. to assist the agency in drafting Economic Analysis (EA) and Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) processes. In addition, the agency and HDR completed fillable electronic platforms that project sponsors and the agency will be able to access to assist with more efficient assessments of projects.

As noted in the statutory language above, project sponsors with the aforementioned types of projects who are coming to the Water Commission for cost-share assistance during the next budget cycle (beginning July 1, 2019), will be required to provide the results of those analyses to the State Engineer and Commission for their review and consideration.

For additional information related to the Water Commission's new EA and LCCA Guidelines and fillable models, please go to www.swc.nd.gov.

Commission Meeting Approvals

At the Commission meeting held on February 14, 2019, the State Water Commission approved multiple cost-share requests.

Northeast Regional Water District, Phase II Expansion	\$705,000 (Federal MR&I)
Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS)	\$14,785,000 (Federal MR&I)
City of Lisbon Sheyenne River Flood Protection (Reallocation of Funds for Levee C and E)	\$1,036,877
Souris River Joint Board, Four-Year Extension Request for Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project	\$31,500
Metro Flood Diversion Authority, FM Area Diversion Project	\$66,500,000

RETIREMENTS



35 YEARS

DAVE LASCHKEWITSCH - DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - It was really nice to see the Water Commission get a new shop. For those who were around to see the old shop... well let's just say it was definitely past its prime, and we were due for an upgrade.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT - Nothing immediately comes to mind, but since I work in administration, that is a good thing. My job has been to keep things non-memorable, and allow everyone else to do their jobs.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS THE MOST - The people who work at the Water Commission, most definitely.

FUTURE PLANS - People keep asking me this question, and I keep saying I don't have any future plans, and for now that feels pretty good. I suppose the real answer is that I'm going to see how long it takes me to get bored before I figure out something else to do.



17 YEARS

DAN FARRELL - HYDROLOGIST MANAGER, SURFACE WATER

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - The highlight in my work with Appropriations was the completion of the industrial permit audit, and then the permitting process required by the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee. One committee member was reportedly upset when the auditor answered the question of, what grade would you give, and the auditor responded with a confident answer of B+.

MEMORABLE MOMENT(S) - So many of them! But I'll narrow them down to three. My most memorable moment was when my peers nominated me for the State Engineer's Professionalism Award in 2013. A second moment occurred while doing inspections on the Southwest Pipeline Project south of Medora when a small herd of bighorn sheep came within 100 yards of the equipment. And finally, internal joint inspections on one of the mainline contracts for the NAWs project.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS THE MOST - The people! I have enjoyed the interactions and bouncing ideas off one-another. The amount of brain power we have in this building is truly awesome.

FUTURE PLANS - I plan to travel, spend some time with the grandkids, and maybe do a little consulting. I also plan to do some gold mining near Lewistown and Three Forks, Montana. I'll keep a presence in Bismarck, but my new headquarters will be in Billings.

SWC Employment Opportunities



The State Water Commission recently hosted a booth at the Bismarck State College Job and Internship Fair in February. The event was held at BSC's National Energy Center of Excellence with more than 70 employers on hand to showcase their organization's employment opportunities.

College students and others looking for work met with area employers, discussed hiring options, and networked with community businesses regarding career options.

The State Water Commission met with future applicants about several employment possibilities and educated potential candidates about the agency. Dan McDonald, Survey Crew Chief, and Chris Colby, Water Appropriations Division, represented the SWC's booth.

For a list of current SWC openings, please go to www.swc.nd.gov.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

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