



# The Current

2016 Issue I



Todd Sando, P.E.  
State Engineer &  
Chief Engineer-Secretary

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

Greetings, and welcome to the North Dakota State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer's new newsletter – The Current!

In consideration of how much more is going on today in the “water world” concerning water development through the State Water Commission, or regulatory and appropriation efforts under the Office of the State Engineer, we've been working harder than ever to keep folks up-to-speed in today's information age. This has meant the use of a variety of tools such as ND Water magazine, Facebook, more frequent media advisories and news releases, educational fact sheets and publications, the launching of a new website, and ND Water Forums (see inside). As an added means of providing agency-specific information, we are also going to produce this, The Current newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Many of you will prefer to receive The Current in paper form through the mail. However, for those of you who prefer electronic options, The Current will also be available for download via our website and Facebook page, or via email. Just send a message to [TheCurrent@nd.gov](mailto:TheCurrent@nd.gov) to let us know if you would rather receive it via email.

With this being the very first issue of The Current, we are hopeful that you find the concept to be a good idea, and the content to be helpful. So if you like what you see, we'd love to hear from you. And if you don't, we'd like to hear how we could make it better.

With that, I hope you enjoy The Current, and I appreciate your interest in North Dakota's water resources.



Todd Sando  
State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary

### Can You Find The Water Drop?



This water drop is hidden  
somewhere in this issue.



## TROUBLE FINDING SOMETHING?

Since our website is completely new, you will need to update old bookmarks to your favorite SWC website locations. If you have trouble finding something on our new website, please feel free to give us a call at (701) 328-4968 for assistance, or email [mnoone@nd.gov](mailto:mnoone@nd.gov).

## WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

It is with great pride, that the Office of the State Engineer and State Water Commission announce the unveiling of their new and improved website. The previous iteration of the website was created in the early 2000s, and dramatic changes in the breadth and depth of water issues facing North Dakota, coupled with improvements in technology, led the agency to develop a website that provides a clean, efficient, and effective venue for communicating about North Dakota's water resource issues, and agency activities.

Visitors to the new site will find that the functionality of the previous site has been enhanced, with useful information and resources being maintained and organized in a more logical fashion, while new, emerging issues are addressed as well. The site is organized into broad areas of agency function: The SWC; Information & Education; Regulation & Appropriation; Atmospheric Resources; Project Development; and Basins.

North Dakota has faced a dizzying array of water-related issues in recent years; including increased

water demands all across the state; immense flooding challenges; aging infrastructure; the emergence of serious confrontations with other jurisdictions over use of North Dakota's water; and a 100-fold increase in the agency's project budget.

This new website provides a platform for professionals within the water resource field, educators, and the public to access the tremendous amount of water resource data the agency has spent almost 80 years meticulously assembling. Tens of thousands of records on well drilling, permits and structures, terabytes of water resource data, educational resources, pictures, laws, policies, and guides, along with contact information to direct you to the appropriate Water Commission professional, are all now housed in one, easily accessible location.

Enjoy the State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer's new website!

[www.swc.nd.gov](http://www.swc.nd.gov)

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Get Up To-Date Information On:



[www.facebook.com/NDStateWater](http://www.facebook.com/NDStateWater)

- Up Coming Meetings
- Current Agency Efforts & Activities
- News Releases
- Policy & Program Updates
- And Much More!

# ATTENTION

Water Project Sponsors....

## Budgeting Process & Water Plan Update To Begin

In preparation for the next budgeting process, the State Water Commission will begin developing an update to the 2015 State Water Plan – focusing on the 2017-2019 biennium and beyond. To make this process a success, the Planning and Education Division sent out letters in January to potential project sponsors from all across the state; asking for their help in identifying the water development projects and programs they're trying to move forward, the timing of their implementation, and estimated costs.

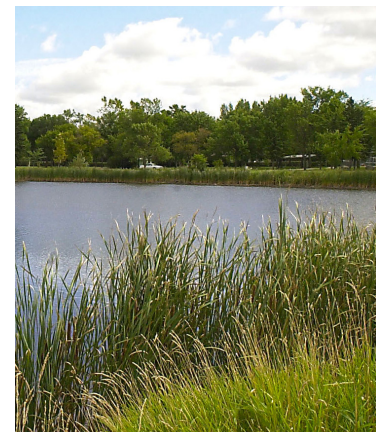
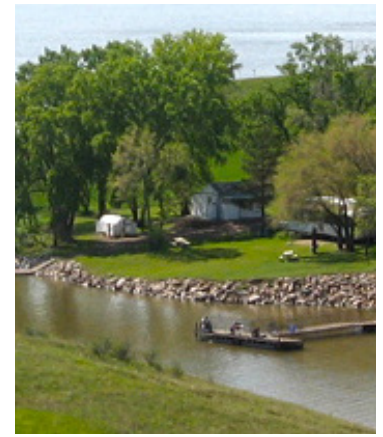
The State Water Commission will begin developing an update to the 2015 State Water Plan.

As in the past, the input gained from local project sponsors and water managers will become the foundation of the State Water Commission's budget request to the Governor and Legislature. Therefore, the information provided will ultimately help in the allocation of agency budget resources. Thus, we are interested in collecting information on water-related projects or programs that may require Water Commission cost-share during the 2017-2019 biennium and beyond.

The State Water Commission recognizes that local water managers and their constituents' efforts are at the heart of water development in North Dakota. And for that reason, we start our budgeting process at the local level, with grassroots input, from local individuals who understand the water management challenges and solutions in their respective regions as well as anyone else.

If you're a local water board member, a community leader, or are the manager of a large-scale water project or water supply system, please respond to our request for project information if your project may require Water Commission cost-share. With your help, we can develop a quality update to our State Water Plan – providing the most accurate information possible to the water community and our elected officials.

If you have any questions about the planning process, please contact the Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4967 or email [ndswmp@nd.gov](mailto:ndswmp@nd.gov).



## COST-SHARE POLICY UPDATE

At their October 6 meeting in Bismarck, the North Dakota State Water Commission approved amendments to the agency's cost-share policy. The most significant changes were related to crop damages and water supply project eligibility. Key changes include:

- Crop damages are now eligible for cost-share as part of construction costs.
- The Water Commission can now provide up to 75% in grant funding for water supply projects that address "improvements to meet primary drinking water standards or expansion into new rural water service areas."
- The Water Commission can now provide up to 60% in grant funding for improvements and connection of new customers in all cities. Before the policy was amended, only those communities with a three-year average population increase of 3% or greater were eligible for grant funding.
- As required by legislation (Senate Bill 2020) passed during the 2015 session, the Water Commission can no longer consider a local sponsor's ability to afford a project as a factor for cost-share eligibility.

Information regarding the Water Commission's cost-share program is available at [www.swc.nd.gov/project\\_development/cost\\_share](http://www.swc.nd.gov/project_development/cost_share).

# ASSISTANT STATE ENGINEER TAKES ON NEW CAREER



After ten years of dedicated service, **Michelle Klose** resigned from the State Water Commission in January 2016, and accepted a position as the city of Bismarck's new Public Works Director of Utilities.

which has been determined to be Missouri River water. A pipeline from Minot to Berthold started supplying water in August 2008. "This was without a doubt one of my greatest accomplishments as the NAWS Project Manager," said Klose. "I was extremely passionate about the project and was elated to get an adequate interim water supply for the residents of Berthold."

Klose began her career with the State Water Commission in 2005, as the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project manager. As manager of NAWS, Klose directed project construction and operations, while addressing international issues and litigation associated with the project.

The NAWS project was first authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 under the Municipal, Rural, and Industrial (MR&I) Grant Program. Construction of NAWS began in April 2002, with a main line and associated features being built between the City of Minot and Lake Sakakawea. Since the beginning of construction, the project has faced legal challenges and international attention.

Prior to the NAWS project, communities and rural water systems within the NAWS project area were supplied by ground water, that was poor in both quality and quantity. The City of Berthold's ground water in particular was found to be unsuitable for drinking water. Klose made it her mission to find an interim solution for a water supply source for Berthold and surrounding areas. She recruited the help of former mayor of Minot, Curt Zimelman, the NAWS Advisory Council, and former Minot's Public Works Director, Alan Walter.

During this arduous time, Klose, the cities, and rural water systems worked together to finalize an agreement stating that Minot would begin selling water to the State Water Commission, for resale to the City of Berthold through the NAWS pipeline. The deal provided Berthold with drinking water until NAWS can provide the long term solution

In 2011, Klose was promoted to Assistant State Engineer at the State Water Commission. The new position required her to be involved with various water issues across the state, including appropriation, regulation, and development; the NAWS project; Western Area Water Supply Project; and federal policy responses.

Klose was also tasked with chairing the Policy Subcommittee of the State Water Commission to address cost-share issues on water projects ranging from flood protection to drinking water supply. She also represented North Dakota on the congressionally authorized Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) to address local interests in the recovery of endangered species on the Missouri River, and represented the state's interests as a member of the Western States Water Council. "While serving as the Assistant State Engineer, Michelle filled an immense and fundamental role in various projects," said State Engineer Todd Sando. "She created beneficial and valuable relationships throughout the state and also advised and represented North Dakota on a national level throughout her years of service."

"I am so thankful for my time at the State Water Commission," said Klose. "It has been challenging and rewarding in so many ways. I know that my business relationships, resources, and insight on water issues will carry over in my new career. But I will deeply miss the people at the Water Commission. The amount of knowledge and understanding of water resources in the agency is fantastic."




Ceremony commemorating Berthold's new interim water supply in August 2008.



**NEW**

# North Dakota Water Forums



As another means of providing updates about North Dakota's contemporary water issues, challenges, and successes, the State Water Commission will begin hosting "North Dakota Water Forums" on a quarterly basis. These forums will consist of two to four presentations about a wide variety of water-related topics. People can attend the Water Forums in person in the basement conference room of the State Office Building, or they can login online and watch via a webinar format online.

Because water management issues are so intertwined and go beyond just the Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer's typical areas of focus, the Water Forums will strive to also include different presenters from other agencies or organizations involved in a broad spectrum of water issues. Examples might include local sponsors of water projects (big and small), fish and wildlife water issues, legal challenges, and water quality concerns, to name a few.

## Upcoming North Dakota Water Forum Presenters and Topics

**Thursday, February 25, 2:00-3:30 P.M. (Central)**

**State Water Commission - Online MapService**

**Attorney General's Office - Waters of the US (WOTUS) Update**

Look for more information at [www.swc.nd.gov](http://www.swc.nd.gov) including registration and login information.

## SWC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the Commission meeting held on December 11, 2015, the State Water Commission approved multiple cost-share requests.

**City of Dickinson State Avenue  
South Water Main**  
\$965,000

**Dakota Rural Water District Reservoir  
C Expansion**  
\$901,500

**Missouri West Water System Crown Butte  
Service Area Expansion Phase II**  
\$308,000

**North Prairie Rural Water Storage and  
Water Mains**  
\$239,475

**Northeast Regional Water District and City  
of Devils Lake Water Supply**  
\$533,750

**Walsh Rural Water District System Expansion  
Phases I & II**  
\$2,093,350

**All Seasons Water Users District System IV**  
\$4,900,000

**Sheyenne River Snag and Clear Reaches  
I, II, and III**  
\$294,000

**Canadian Border Dike Lawsuit**  
\$125,000

**Yorktown-Maple Drainage Improvement  
District #3 Dickey County**  
\$444,062

**City of Oakes River Bank Stabilization**  
\$262,500

**Swan Buffalo Detention Dam #5 (Garsteig Dam)**  
\$125,473

**Swan Buffalo Detention Dam #8 (Embden Dam)**  
\$113,500

**Swan Buffalo Detention Dam #12 (Absaraka Dam)**  
\$109,032

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION**  
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