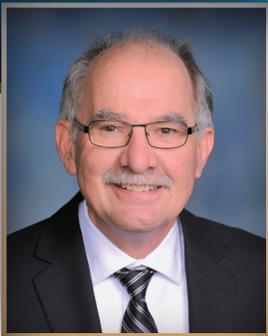


Photo Courtesy: ND Parks & Rec  
Rainbow Arch Bridge In Valley City  
Shyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway



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

2016 Issue III

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

On June 1, 2016, I became North Dakota's 18th State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary to the State Water Commission. In the short period of time that I have been with the Commission, the one thing that has been readily apparent, is that water matters. Water truly is our most precious resource.

As I have traveled around the state meeting with different groups, and listening to individuals tell their personal stories, it is evident just how much water matters and how important it is in North Dakota. I have witnessed how passionate and devoted the citizens, organizations, and government officials are, that make up this great water community.

I have also been struck by the immense talent, experience, and dedication that the entire staff of the State Water Commission exhibits. Their devotion is a valiant reminder of how much water is valued in our state.

It is evident that the citizens of North Dakota have been very well served by the leadership and vision shown by our elected officials. Governor Dalrymple, Todd Sando, the Water Commissioners, our federal representatives, and the North Dakota Legislature have consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the support and development of vital water projects. Without their leadership, we would not be in the enviable position we are today, facing serious challenges, but with the tools and resources we need to face these challenges.

In the coming months, I intend to continue traveling throughout the state, meeting as many new people and stakeholders as possible. I am really looking forward to the opportunity to serve the great people of North Dakota. And if there's one thing I know, it is that in North Dakota the road to the future will follow water.

Garland Erbele  
State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary

### Can You Find The Water Drop?



This water drop is hidden  
somewhere in this issue.

# WATER COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT AT AWSE SPRING WORKSHOP



AWSE Workshop Attendees at Portage Glacier in Alaska.

On May 9 and 10, Water Commission staff members Jennifer Weier and Mitch Weier gave several presentations on a variety of topics at the Spring Workshop of the Association of Western State Engineers (AWSE), in Anchorage, Alaska.

The AWSE was formed in 1928. Membership includes state engineers and other officials charged with administration of laws governing appropriation, and distribution or control of the water resources of each state.

At the May meeting, Jennifer, who serves as the Co-Lead Hydrologist of the Ground Water Management Section of the Appropriations Division, gave presentations on water use standards in appropriations, North Dakota's computer-based application processing system for temporary water permits, and issues facing our state in water management. Investigations Section Water Resource Engineer, Mitch Weier, presented on Water Commission data collection and remote sensing efforts.

"Attending the AWSE conference gave us the chance to inform professionals in our field about the important and useful activities the Office of the State Engineer and State Water Commission are involved in," said Jennifer Weier. "We also had the opportunity to learn about water appropriations and management in other states and new technologies they are

employing in the field and online. From traditional and remote water level data collection, to radar and tracking technologies for cloud seeding, and real-time collection of metering data from water users, North Dakota is a leader in data collection efforts."

Congratulations to Jennifer, Mitch, and the Water Commission's IT staff on their great work!

## Water Day - ND State Fair

Join us for Water Day at the North Dakota State Fair on Thursday, July 28.

Water, water everywhere! Come visit the State Water Commission booth along with many other great exhibitors under the Festival Tent in the State Fair Park. Participate in trivia games, prize drawings, and enjoy Frost Fest snow cones!



# AWARD RECIPIENTS

## CONGRATS ROD BASSLER MAGIC Symposium GIS Service Award



Congratulations to Rod Bassler on receiving the 2016 MAGIC Symposium GIS Service Award. Rod has more than 22 years of dedicated service assisting and supporting others working in the geospatial industry in North

Dakota. Rod demonstrates tremendous knowledge of how to build and maintain a clean dataset, exhibits a passion for great cartography, and provides exceptional service to the state.

## CONGRATS TODD SANDO Coveted Commanders Award



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently presented former State Engineer Todd Sando with the coveted Commanders Award for Public Service. Todd received this meritorious achievement for

his dedicated, steadfast, and distinguished service he has exhibited throughout his career. Todd has administered remarkable support and monumental leadership to the state of North Dakota for nearly 31 years.



## 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 and Office of the State Engineer proudly announce the debut of an online service for tracking the status of temporary water permits.

The Temporary Water Permit Application Status portal, available on the State Water Commission website, allows quick and accurate assessment of where an application is 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 status linked with the online application that provides access to all of the information related to that permit, in real time.

Questions about this new portal can be directed to the Water Appropriations Division at (701) 328-2754.

# North Dakota Water Forums

The next ND Water Forum webinar will take place on Wednesday, August 3. We invite you to log in and listen in to experts who will address some of North Dakota's contemporary water-related issues.

**Wednesday, August 3  
2:00-3:30pm (Central)**

Jessica Howell, ND Game & Fish  
**Aquatic Nuisance Species**

Jerry Heiser and Ashley Persinger, SWC  
**Sovereign Lands Program**

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

# TODD SANDO'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



Brad Sando (Brother), Karen Sando (Mother), Ron Sando (Father), Lunette Sando (Wife), Todd Sando



Sharon Locken (Administrative Support Officer) with Todd Sando

Family, staff, and officials from across the state, joined together to wish North Dakota's 17th State Engineer Todd Sando a happy and healthy retirement on Wednesday, June 22 at the Heritage Center in Bismarck.

"After a three decade career, the thing that I will miss most about the Water Commission, are the people I work with. Their hard work, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond every single time they have been asked, has made working in this agency, and being the State Engineer, a rare privilege," said Todd Sando.

Best wishes to Todd and his wife Lunette in their future retirement years together.



Governor Jack Dalrymple and Todd Sando



Brad Sando, Todd Sando, Bruce Engelhardt



Todd Sando

# NEW HIRES

## ASHLEY PERSINGER

Water Resource Program Administrator I



Ashley Persinger started in June in the Regulatory Division at the State Water Commission as a Water Resource Program Administrator I – Sovereign Lands Specialist. Ashley was born and raised in

Bismarck, ND and graduated from Bismarck High School. She attended North Dakota State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Zoology and Wildlife Management. Ashley has worked with the United States Forest Service, USGS, and state Game and Fish departments in many western states until moving back to North Dakota in 2011. She specializes in wetland delineation, avian biology, and vegetation identification. Ashley enjoys gardening, hunting, fishing, and trail riding and camping with her three horses.

## JEREMY BERRETH

Construction Crew



Jeremy Berreth recently became employed with the State Water Commission as an Engineer Tech III with the SWC Construction Crew.

Jeremy grew up and graduated high school in

Goodrich, ND in Sheridan county. He later attended Bismarck State College and earned a degree in Power Plant Process. Jeremy was previously employed in Gwinner, ND with the Bobcat Company and is highly skilled in mechanical work. He currently resides in Lincoln with his wife Treana, his daughter Ashley who is 17, and his 14 year old son, Kolby. Jeremy has a passion for the great outdoors and loves hunting, fishing, and spending time on the family farm. He also enjoys camping and off-roading on his four wheeler.

## 2016 COMMISSIONER HOSTED MEETING DATES ANNOUNCED

The State Water Commission will once again be conducting a series of meetings throughout the state from July 25-28. The purpose of the meetings is to facilitate local participation in the water planning and budget development process, and to provide a forum of communication between North Dakota's Water Commission members, the general public, and potential water project sponsors.

North Dakota's new State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary to the State Water Commission, Garland Erbele, will also be attending the meetings to meet stakeholders in the water community.

Per NDCC § 61-02-01.3, the meetings will be located within the state's six major drainage basins, including the Red River, James River, Mouse River, upper and lower Missouri River, and Devils Lake. The intent of the varied meeting locations is to give stakeholders from different regions of the state the opportunity to interact with Commissioners and agency staff about their interests and project needs.

Check the Water Commission's website at [www.swc.nd.gov](http://www.swc.nd.gov) for additional meeting specifics, including a draft agenda.

We hope that you will be able to join us for a Commissioner-hosted meeting in your drainage basin!

**Monday, July 25 – 3:00pm**

Baymont Inn, 2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan

**Tuesday, July 26 – 9:00am**

Civic Center, 212 3rd Ave NE, Jamestown

**Tuesday, July 26 – 3:00pm**

City Office Building, 800 4th Ave E, West Fargo

**Wednesday, July 27 – 10:00am**

Ramsey County Courthouse, 524 4th Ave NE, Devils Lake

**Wednesday, July 27 – 5:00pm**

County Administration Building, 225 3rd St. SE, Minot

**Thursday, July 28 – 10:00am**

Four Bears Casino, 202 Frontage Road, New Town



**NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION**

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BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850

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

*The Current*