

**NAWS Authority Meeting**  
**Minot Public Works Conference Room**  
**1025 31<sup>st</sup> St SE, Minot, ND 58701**  
**March 27, 2025 – 3:00 P.M. C.T**

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**Meeting Agenda**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Introductions
- C. Consideration of Agenda
- D. Consideration of January 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- E. Department of Water Resources Director Update
- F. February 13, 2025 State Water Commission Meeting Update
- G. March 20, 2025 State Water Pre-Commission Meeting Update
- H. Legislative Session Update
  - a. DWR Budget Bill - HB 1020
  - b. NAWS Authority Support Bill
- I. NAWS Biota Water Treatment Plant Operations Update
- J. Agreement with City of Minot for Treatment
- K. NAWS Construction Update
- L. NAWS Operations Update
- M. Other Business
- N. Adjourn

**MINUTES****Northwest Area Water Supply Authority  
Minot, North Dakota  
January 30, 2025**

The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Authority held a meeting in Conference Room 3 of the Minot Public Works Building, 1025 31<sup>st</sup> St SE, Minot, ND, and via Microsoft Teams on January 30, 2025. Dan Schaefer, Chairman of the NAWS Authority, called the meeting to order at 3:21 PM. A quorum was present.

**NAWS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

David Lakefield, City of Minot Representative  
Tom Ross, City of Minot Representative (virtual)  
Dan Schaefer, Chairman, All Season Water Users District Representative  
Tony Schwalbe, Cities with Direct Service Representative  
Jason Sorenson, Vice Chairman, City of Minot Representative  
Joddy Meidinger, North Prairie Regional Water District Representative (substitute)  
Jason Zimmerman, State Water Commission (SWC) Representative (virtual)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Reice Haase, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director (virtual)  
Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, DWR Division Director (virtual)  
Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager  
Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist  
Clint Cogdill, NAWS Operator  
Dustin Offerdahl, Garrison Diversion Snake Creek Pumping Plant (virtual)  
Rachel Wald, All Seasons Water District Assistant Manager (virtual)  
April Walker, State Water Commissioner, Upper Red River Basin (virtual)

**Condolences**

Chairman Schaefer informed everyone present about NAWS Authority representative Bob Schempp's passing. He thanked Representative Sorenson for sending out an email notifying the Authority of the loss. It was noted that for all those involved in NAWS, Representative Schempp will be greatly missed.

**CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Schaefer requested for any corrections or additions to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda was approved as presented by voice vote.

**Consideration of November 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were sent to the Authority for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Schaefer requested for feedback or changes to the meeting minutes from the previous Authority meeting on November 21, 2024. No feedback was presented.

**It was moved by Representative Lakefield, seconded by Representative Sorenson, and approved unanimously, to accept the meeting minutes from the November 21, 2024, NAWS Authority meeting as presented.**

### **Department of Water Resources Director Update**

Reice Haase, DWR Director, introduced himself to the Authority as the new Director appointed by Governor Armstrong on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Director Haase stated his background was mainly in the oil and gas industry, with the first half of his career spent consulting in the private sector for oil and gas clients and the second half of his career in public service. His public service included working as a policy advisor to the Burgum administration where he oversaw water portfolio among others. The last two years he served as the deputy director at the North Dakota Industrial Commission before being appointed to DWR. Director Haase thanked Andrea Travnicek, the first director appointed after the reorganization of the agency during the 2021 session, for her hard work and creating a great foundation for the agency. Director Haase is excited to serve in this new role to help further the water policy in North Dakota.

Director Haase informed the Authority that the DWR team is very busy with the current legislative session, advocating for the agency budget request, as well as, tracking several policy bills. DWR staff are tracking these bills across multiple committees. DWR's budget bill is House Bill 1020, which includes the NAWS funding.

### **December 13, 2024 State Water Commission (SWC) Meeting Update**

#### **NAWS Water Rate 2025**

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that the SWC approved the 2025 NAWS water rates as presented at the November 2024 NAWS Authority meeting which are noted below:

- City of Minot at \$0.72 per 1,000-gallons,
- NAWS contract customers at \$5.48 per 1,000-gallons, and
- City of Rugby Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) rate at \$0.45 per 1,000-gallons.

#### **Reimbursement from REM Funds for Pipe Repair**

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that a REM reimbursement of \$35,058.77 for the repair of the 30" ductile iron water supply line feeding the treatment plant for the City of Minot was approved.

#### **Proposed Legislative Changes**

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that the SWC approved the draft conceptual century code language for the NAWS Authority as presented at the November 2024 NAWS Authority meeting. In addition, DWR staff was authorized to identify a bill sponsor to introduce the bill during the legislative session. DWR staff met with Representative Nelson regarding this bill for clarification on some item.

### **Legislative Session Update**

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that as of January 22, 2025, 976 bills have been introduced at the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. DWR staff are actively tracking 104 and as of January 22, the bill intended to provide support, clean-up language regarding North Prairie's representative, and describe the powers and duties for the NAWS Authority has not been introduced.

House Bill 1020 is the budget bill for the DWR and the executive budget recommendations includes the new funding authority request of \$107 Million for the NAWS project. The request includes \$12.7 million from Resources Trust Fund, \$52.1 million from City of Minot's sales tax fund, and \$42.2 million from federal funding. These funds would be utilized for the permanent intake, Minot water treatment plant Phase III expansion, Souris reservoir and pump station, inline booster pump stations, and generators. In addition, in HB 1020 the funding authority to receive \$6.9 million in federal funds for the operations and maintenance of the Biota Water Treatment plant is also included.

### **NAWS OPERATIONS – RESOURCES UPDATE**

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that DWR investigated staffing levels for the system, and after consideration of the information provided by rural water systems, growth analysis, and the raw water supply from Lake Sakakawea with additional facilities becoming operational, the DWR requested a full time NAWS Operator. This position was included in the executive budget recommendation from the governor's office for the agency to provide the required 24/7 service to the NAWS customers. DWR staff is advocating for this position during the legislative session. DWR will continue to review and identify further resource needs through continued collaboration with NAWS Authority members.

### **NAWS BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS**

Travis Johnson updated the Authority on the agreements related to the NAWS Biota Water Treatment Plant (WTP). As previously discussed, the purpose of the facility is boundary waters treatment compliance, making it a federal responsibility per Section 1(h) of the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 and therefore will be funded with federal funding for construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement. DWR submitted a request for financial assistance with supporting documentation to the Dakota Area's Office in the amount of \$6.6 million. DWR received the Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$5.46 million from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Reclamation notes that the reduction in the approved federal funding is due to the federal government's estimation of the number of employees required for the operation of the Biota WTP being lower than what was included in the request from the City of Minot.

During the meeting, concerns were voiced about the discrepancy between funding requested and what was approved. DWR noted that in previous discussions with the City of Minot, it is noted that the WTP will be operated initially as a batch plant, with two 8-hour shifts. Running the plant for 16 hours a day rather than 24 hours would allow the facility to be operated with the funding that has been approved. The federal government has noted that they will consider the additional funding request with data and justification. DWR staff and City of Minot will compile the necessary information with future funding requests.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently notified DWR staff about the need to provide a capacity assessment document for the biota water treatment plant, as the Biota WTP is being considered a new system when it becomes operational. DWR staff in consultation with DEQ and City of Minot, will be determining the appropriate entity to contract with the consulting engineer to develop the assessment document for submission to DEQ.

### **NAWS Agreement with City of Minot for Treatment**

Travis Johnson informed the Authority that DWR team members had a meeting with Jason Sorenson on January 14, 2025, to discuss developing an agreement between the State Water Commission and the City of Minot regarding water treatment for NAWS, using both the City's ground water supplies and NAWS project's surface water from Lake Sakakawea. The parties involved are hopeful the agreement will be ready for approval at the May NAWS Authority meeting and the June State Water Commission meeting.

DWR is also working on establishing the payment process for simplifying billing between both the City and DWR.

### **NAWS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Travis Johnson gave a brief construction update on NAWS projects.

The Demolition contract for the 6-1A intake modifications of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant (SCPP) is substantially complete as of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Change Order 2 for the pipe penetration has been processed. Change Order 3 which moves minor work from the Demolition contract to the Construction contract, adds exterior duct bank electrical work, and extends the Substantial Completion date to December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, is under process. The most recent contractor update from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, shows start-up and commissioning of all equipment, except for the generator on the Construction contract to be occurring from mid-June to mid-July 2025. The final installation of the backup generator will be completed by September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In response to a question from Vice Chairman Sorenson regarding potential delay into 2026 for completing this project, Travis Johnson noted that the permanent intake project is expected to be under construction in 2026 while the current projects are expected to be completed in 2025.

On Contract 2-1E, Discharge Pipeline from SCPP to the NAWS Raw Water Transmission Pipeline, Change Order 1 extending the substantial completion and final completion dates to November 2024 and June 2025 respectively, has been executed. This change order was due to changes required by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the work in the embankment. Change Orders 2 and 3 for additional work to be incorporated into the contract that includes sanitary sewer repair, culvert replacement, and disposal of excess material has been executed by SWC and the Contractor. The total cost increase to the project is \$538,000 with the Substantial Completion and Final Completion dates extended to May 15 and June 15, 2025, respectively. The extended dates are due to winter shut down of some of the remaining work that requires favorable conditions for completion.

Contract 1-1A Permanent Intake Project is still under technical review for permitting and final design. DWR received the USACE technical review comments on December 17, 2024, and the design team is currently working on addressing those comments.

Contract 7-2A/4-1A Biota Water Treatment Plant, General Contract's Substantial completion date was extended to December 2, 2024, via Change Order 6. The contractor is still addressing a manufacturer's defect on the filter underdrain system. The defective roofing issue will be addressed once weather conditions are favorable for installation in spring.

Contract 5-1A South Prairie Reservoir and Hydraulic Control Structure has achieved final completion. DWR is managing those facilities for winter conditions and is currently not moving water through for commissioning and startup of the Biota Water Treatment plant, due to the delays from the defective filter underdrain system delaying plant operation. As this reservoir is complete but non-operational, DWR is following manufacturer's recommendations to maintain water level in the reservoir to minimize the chances of freezing within and below the structure.

Contract 7-1B Minot WTP Phase II Improvements, the change order to reroute the remaining conduits and the work to route those conduits has been completed. Additionally, two warranty items were identified: a leak in a roof drain and water line pipe break that flooded a sludge pump, both items have been repaired. The final warranty walk-through that was conducted in late December 2024, identified two additional items and both have been fixed: insulation around the previously fixed roof drain and an undersized propane regulator for the roof HVAC unit. A total of 11 change orders for this project were processed for approximately \$3.3 million, \$2.98 million of that total were signed before the change order policy was adopted for NAWS in December 2022. This contract is now complete.

Contract 4-4B/5-4B Bottineau Reservoir and Booster Pump Station. The reservoir contract achieved Substantial Completion on November 8, 2024. Change Order 2 on the pump station contract has been processed to add a propane sensor, tank level sensor and telemetry so the propane tank can be monitored remotely through SCADA. This brings the total of the two change orders to \$15,261 added to the Booster Pump Station contract.

SA 98 Construction of NAWS Pressure Reducing Station and Isolation Vault Improvements has been awarded, notice to proceed was delivered, and the contractor has begun utility coordination. Power service has been scheduled for the spring, once ground conditions are adequate to trench in the lines to feed power service to the facilities. The contractor is currently in the process of assembling schedules and submittals.

There were no updates for the NAWS Interim Water Supply and City of Minot Reimbursement discussions from prior meetings.


There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist


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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director   
**SUBJECT:** February 13, 2025 State Water Commission Update  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025

At the February 13, 2025 State Water Commission (SWC) meeting, other than the project update no other agenda item was discussed for NAWS.

RH:TGJ/237-4-AUTH

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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director   
**SUBJECT:** March 20, 2025 Pre-Commission Meeting Agenda Items  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025

At the March 20, 2025 Pre-Commission meeting of the State Water Commission (SWC), one agenda item was presented pertaining to the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project. The memo included in the March 20, 2025 Pre-Commission meeting packet is attached.

In addition to the discharge tunnel coating change order on the Contract 6-1A, Intake & Snake Creek Pumping Plant Modifications Construction Contract, included in the attached memo, the NAWS Project Manager also discussed one other potential change order on the contract. The change order included the construction of the transformer and switchgear pad as well as other incidental construction changes.

**I recommend the NAWS Authority concur with Department of Water Resources staff presenting the funding request and authorization for the Secretary to sign change orders on the NAWS 6-1A Constuction Contract for the discharge tunnel recoating work and other changes.**

RH:TGJ/237-4-AUTH  
Attachment



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**TO:** Lt. Governor Strinden  
Members of the State Water Commission

**FROM:** Reice Haase, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** NAWS – Contract 6-1A Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant Modifications  
– Construction Contract Change Order

**DATE:** March 12, 2025

The discharge tunnel for the Snake Creek Pumping Plant (SCPP) is an 11 foot diameter, 370 foot long steel lined conduit. With the SCPP modifications for the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) intake, the discharge pipeline from the NAWS intake pumps is planned to be installed inside the SCPP Pump Unit 1's discharge tunnel under the NAWS – Contract 6-1A Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant Modifications Construction Contract. The NAWS 6-1A Construction Contract's scope of work included repair of coatings on the discharge tunnel where the NAWS intake pipe supports were planned to be installed.

When an inspection was conducted of the Pump Unit 1 discharge tunnel, it was found that the coating system on the steel lining was failing and needs to be completely removed and replaced prior to the installation of the pipe supports and the NAWS discharge pipe. Photos of the failed coating system are shown below.



The prime contractor for the NAWS Contract 6-1A Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant modifications Construction Contract was requested to provide a quote to perform the coating removal and recoat of the discharge tunnel. The contractor's coating subcontractor Hartman Walsh Industrial Services has provided a quote to perform the full coating removal and recoat work. The work consists of an abrasive blast to remove the existing coating system, completing primer, intermediate coat, and finish coat on the entire 370 foot steel lined tunnel, which is approximately 13,000 square feet of surface area. The quote for the work, including the prime contractor's allowed fees and markup is approximately \$1.3 million. The quote of \$1.3 million does not include the prime's contractor's support needed for the work such as supplying power, dewatering and drying, loading and unloading materials, crane support, and confined space support. The prime contractor has noted that their cost for the support work will be charged based on actual time and materials expended to assist the subcontractor.

DWR staff considered the option of soliciting bids for this work outside the contract, but was not pursued due to the following reasons:

- This work is very specialized and not many contractors exist who would be capable of accomplishing it.
- There would be significant additional cost to develop bid ready plans and specifications for this work.
- The time required to create the bid documents and conduct the bidding process would add significant delays to the current construction contract.
- Since the work is within a federal facility owned by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the potential new contractor hired, would need BOR approval and clearances to work at the site. This coordination effort would also likely incur significant delays to the existing work as the pipe supports and discharge piping cannot be installed until this coating work is accomplished. The subcontractor Hartman Walsh is already working on this site and has secured the necessary clearances.
- The price quoted is comparable on a cost per square foot basis to similar work conducted at other BOR facilities such as Grand Coulee Dam/Keys Pumping Plant and Green Mountain Dam.

A recommendation to authorize funding and Secretary to sign the Change Order is planned to be presented at the April Commission meeting.

DWR staff is also reviewing potential change orders in other current construction contracts and change orders on other contracts may be bought forward at the April Commission meeting.

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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Session Update  
**DATE:** March 21, 2025



**Department of Water Resources Budget Bill HB 1020:**

The executive budget recommendation for HB 1020 included a new funding authority request of \$107 Million for the NAWS project. The authority request included \$12.7 million from the Resources Trust Fund, \$52.1 million from the City of Minot's sales tax fund, and \$42.2 million from federal funding. The planned projects include the permanent intake, Minot water treatment plant Phase III expansion, Souris reservoir and pump station, inline booster pump stations, and generators. Additionally, authority to spend \$6.9 million in federal funds for the operations and maintenance of the Biota Water Treatment plant was included. The executive budget recommendation also added 1 Full Time Employee for the NAWS operator position with the DWR.


The house chamber passed the HB 1020 with all executive budget recommendations for NAWS. On the senate side, committee work is ongoing. We anticipate some reductions in funding for all projects due to an anticipated \$93 million reduction in Resources Trust Fund revenues, the funding source for DWR's agency budget.

**NAWS Authority Support Bill:**

The bill that was intended to provide support, clean up the language regarding North Prairie's representative on the NAWS Authority, and describe the powers and duties for the NAWS Authority that was discussed and approved at the November 2024 NAWS Authority meeting and December 2024 State Water Commission meeting was not introduced by the legislature this session.

RH:TGJ/237-4-AUTH

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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director   
**SUBJECT:** NAWS Biota Water Treatment Plant Operations Update  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025

Phase I of the Northwest Area Water Supply Project (NAWS) Biota Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is nearing completion. The purpose of the facility is Boundary Waters Treaty Compliance making it a Federal responsibility per Section 1(h) of the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 and therefore will be funded with federal funding for construction and operations, maintenance, and replacement. The City of Minot (City) will operate the Biota WTP to ensure coordination of the Biota WTP, Minot WTP, and Sundre and Minot wellfields. Multiple agreements are in place for the operation of the Biota WTP. The Biota WTP Operations and Maintenance agreement between the State and the City has been executed by all parties.

A three-party Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed by the City, State and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to define roles and responsibilities in the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Biota WTP in December 2023. A Cooperative Agreement from Reclamation is necessary for the federal government to transfer funds for the operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Biota WTP. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted a request for financial assistance along with supporting documentation to the Dakota Areas Office in the amount of \$6,611,962.56. DWR received the Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$5,463,144 from Reclamation on September 19, 2024. DWR staff and City staff have had multiple meetings with Reclamation's Dakota Areas staff to understand the requirements of the Cooperative Agreement and the reduction in the awarded federal funding. Reclamation notes the reduction in the federal funding is due to the federal government's estimation of number of employees needed for the operation of the Biota WTP being lower than the request included from the City. DWR staff and City staff will continue to discuss the staffing requirements at the Biota WTP with Reclamation. The City of Minot has submitted their first reimbursement request for the Operations and Maintenance of the NAWS Biota WTP to DWR. The request was reviewed by DWR staff and additional details have been requested.

DWR staff and City of Minot staff continue to meet with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to understand the requirements to be met by the Biota WTP and the Minot WTP. A meeting which included the consulting engineer, DEQ, DWR, and MWTP staff was held onsite at the Biota WTP on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to discuss DEQ comments on the facility design and to review constructed facilities and features referenced in those comments. The site visit and tour resolved several of the comments that DEQ had for the facility and gave more clarity to address the

NAWS – Biota Water Treatment Plant Operations Update

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March 18, 2025

remaining comments. The consulting engineer is working with DEQ and the Contractor to finalize revisions to the Work which will resolve those comments.

DEQ notified DWR staff about the need for them to approve a Capacity Assessment document for the Biota WTP. DWR has signed a specific authorization with the consulting engineer on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to develop the document for submission to DEQ.

RH:TGJ/237-4-AUTH

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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director   
**SUBJECT:** NAWS Agreement with City of Minot for Treatment  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Department of Water Resources (DWR) team members Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds and Travis Johnson had a meeting with Jason Sorenson from the City of Minot (City) to discuss developing an agreement between the State Water Commission and the City regarding water treatment for NAWS using both ground water from City's ground water supplies and surface water supplies from Lake Sakakwea. The current agreement between the State Water Commission and the City is an interim water supply agreement utilizing City's ground water supplies. The interim water supply agreement is valid until water supply from the Lake Sakakwea becomes available.

The draft agreement was shared with the City on January 22, 2025 and discussions between DWR and the City are ongoing. The DWR and the City are both hopeful that the agreement under development will be ready for approval at the May NAWS Authority and the June State Water Commission meetings, respectively.

RH:TGJ/237-4-AUTH



TO: NAWS Authority Representatives  
 FROM: Travis G. Johnson, P.E., NAWS Project Manager *Travis G. Johnson*  
 SUBJECT: NAWS – Construction Update  
 DATE: March 18, 2025

*Updates from the last meeting memo are shown in bold italics.*

### **NAWS Contract 6-1A Intake Modifications to Snake Creek Pumping Plant**

Contract 6-1A Intake Modifications to Snake Creek Pumping Plant includes three equipment procurement contracts, Demolition Contract, and Construction Contract.

The equipment procurement contracts included a delivery date of March 1, 2024 for all equipment excluding the backup generator which had a delivery date of March 1, 2025. **The March 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025 delivery dates were not met by any of the equipment procurement contractors.** All equipment except the variable frequency drives, switchgear, and generator have been delivered to the site. The switchgear and the variable frequency drives are expected on site soon and the generator is expected to be delivered by end of May.

Contract 6-1A Demolition Contract is substantially complete as of December 20, 2024. ***Change Order 3 that removed minor work from the Demolition contract to the Construction contract, added exterior duct bank electrical work, and extended Substantial Completion date on the Demolition contract to December 23, 2024 has been processed. To date, three change orders totalling \$513,829 has been processed on this contract. Final change order to incorporate time and materials cost for the duct bank work for the switchgear and transformer pad will be finalized soon.***

Work on Contract 6-1A Demolition and Construction Contracts was delayed due to the extensive coordination needed with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the owner of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant. ***The Milestone 1 completion date on the Construction Contract which is for construction of all work excluding installation of the generator when awarded was on June 30, 2024. The substantial completion date for all Work is July 30, 2025 and the Final Completion date is August 31, 2025.*** Because of the delays due to the submittal review process and the equipment delivery, the completion date of June 30, 2024 was not met by the contractor.

***Change Order #1 on the Construction contract has been executed which adds the small amount of remaining demolition work to the Construction contract, changes pipe coatings to a 2-part fusion bonded epoxy coating, and addresses coating removal on the formed suction intake. Change order #1 also extended the completion dates, increased the liquidated damages if those dates are not met. Through Change Order #1, the Milestone 1 completion date which is for all work except the installation of the generator was extended to July 11,***

*2025. Substantial Completion was extended to September 5, 2025, and Final Completion was extended to October 5, 2025. The most recent updated schedule from the Contractor which was provided on February 19, 2025 shows the startup and commissioning of all equipment except the generator on the Construction Contract to be August 7<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 and final installation of the backup generator extending through October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which is beyond the dates agreed upon through Change Order #1.*

*Discharge tunnel recoating change order, transformer and switchgear pad, and other incidental change order on the contract is discussed in the Pre-commission agenda item memo.*

### **NAWS Snake Creek Pumping Plant Discharge Pipeline Contract 2-1E**

Contract 2-1E includes the discharge pipeline that connects the Snake Creek Pumping Plant to the NAWS raw water transmission pipeline. The scope of work involves construction of approximately 2,100 feet of 36" ductile iron pipe. An easement and construction license required for work covered under Contract 2-1E were received in May 2023 from US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Contract 2-1E was awarded at the June 2023 State Water Commission meeting. The contractor on Contract 2-1E mobilized to the site in early September 2023. The Contract had a Milestone Completion date of January 30, 2024 for underground pipeline work. Contractor submitted a Change Order request for additional time and cost to the Engineer due to the delay in approvals from the USACE for work start date and due to design changes. Their request was reviewed and rejected by the Engineer due to reference to the incorrect articles of the contract documents. The contractor submitted a revised request which was reviewed and approved. Change Order #1, which incorporates the request in the amount of \$414,872.77, and extends the Substantial Completion and Final Completion date on the contract to November 30, 2024, and June 1, 2025 respectively, was executed. Installation of all pipeline and backfill is complete. The Contractor has demobilized from the site until delivery of the flowmeter, associated components, and fittings needed for installation in the isolation vault. Change Orders 2 and 3 for additional work incorporated into the contract that includes sewer repair, culvert replacement, and disposal of excess material has been executed by SWC and the Contractor. Through Change Order 3, the total cost increase on the contract is \$538,259.46 and the Substantial Completion date and Final Completion date on the contract is extended to May 15, 2025 and June 15, 2025 respectively. Contractor is expected to mobilize back to the site on April 7<sup>th</sup> to resume work.

### **NAWS Permanent Intake and Screen Structure Contract 1-1A**

Because of the potential challenges associated with the construction of horizontally directionally drilled intake pipe, the potential for installing the permanent intake pipe on the lake bed with the partial removal of existing cofferdam near the Snake Creek Pumping Plant was discussed with the federal agencies and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD) and was accepted. DWR directed the consulting engineer to proceed with the design that includes complete width removal of the cofferdam and cleaning out the forebay of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant to an elevation of 1780. The design for the lake bed installation is 95% complete and the 408 permit application



was originally submitted on July 12, 2024 to the USACE. USACE deemed the original application incomplete and revised submittal was completed on October 1, 2024. The completeness review of the second submittal was completed by the USACE and it was determined that the application is complete on November 7, 2024. *The Agency Technical Review comments from USACE were received on December 17, 2024. The design team provided response back to all USACE comments on February 24, 2025 and is under review by USACE. USACE started the 30-day public review for the permanent intake project on February 18<sup>th</sup> and the review was shortened to 21 days, which closed on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. In response to the public comments, one tribal stakeholder requested project updates, the State of Missouri's Department of Natural Resources and Coalition to Protect the Missouri River have requested USACE not issue a Section 408 permit for the permanent intake project. USACE will work with DWR and Reclamation, the lead federal agency for the project and respond to the public comments received.*

USACE had requested \$89,000 in additional funds towards the previously executed 1156 agreement (agreement between DWR and USACE for the Section 408 review) for the review of the modified plans. DWR has made the payment and requested funding breakdown for the requested funds and the timeline for receiving the permit and the real estate instruments from the USACE. A response was received from USACE on September 19, 2024. The response indicated that the permit processing would take 6 months pending the application is complete and there is no additional request for information. *Based on that timeline, with responses to the ATR comments completed by February 24, 2025, the permit and the real estate instruments could be issued by mid May 2025. However, the impact of the public comments received to the permit timeline is unknown.*

The overall operations of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant will improve with this design. Reclamation and GDCD has expressed interest in this project. DWR met with Reclamation and GDCD staff to determine the path forward for getting concurrence on their participation towards the cost of the removal of the cofferdam and cleaning out the forebay. Reclamation has noted that they have some funding availability to provide towards the cost of the removal of the cofferdam, however that is not enough to meet their full responsibility, based on estimated costs. Further discussions will be held to determine the path forward. The modified design addresses some USACE's embankment seepage concerns associated with the sand lens identified in the Geotechnical report. So discussions were held regarding potential cost share participation from the USACE. Current discussions indicate USACE does not have funding to provide cost share participation for this project.

#### **NAWS Contract 7-2A/4-1A Biota Water Treatment Plant (BWTP)**

NAWS Contract 7-2A/4-1A generally includes construction of new concrete, steel, and precast BWTP, for which contracts were awarded in February 2021 and the Notices to Proceed for the general and electrical construction were issued in March 2021. Site work including excavation and grading began in April 2021. Work Change Directive to deliver Sundre aquifer water to the BWTP

was issued to the BWTP’s general contractor. Discussion is ongoing with the General Contractor regarding defective roof notices and the plan for correction. In addition, a preliminary flow distribution test uncovered a manufacturing defect in the air chamber for the filter underdrain system. A Defective Work Notice was sent to the contractor regarding this issue. The Contractor’s proposed fix for remedying the defect was reviewed and accepted, and the Contractor was directed to proceed with the repair. *After multiple attempts to correct the defective underdrains, a final deadline of January 31, 2025 was set to complete the repair. When the final test of the system on January 31<sup>st</sup> was deemed a failure, the underdrains were declared defective and the Contractor was directed to remove and replace the defective work. Contractor requested a change order for Contract Price and Contract Time for removal and replacement of the defective filter underdrains, which has been rejected.*

*The General Contract’s Substantial Completion Date was extended to December 2, 2024 via Change Order 6. Change Order #7 has been processed to purchase Builder’s Risk insurance, but did not change the completion dates. The issues with the defective roof and the filter underdrain system has resulted in the delay in the Substantial Completion of the contract. Total estimated project cost is \$64 million.*

*The table below shows the change orders signed to date on the Biota WTP Contracts.*

Contract	Change Orders (CO)	Value of COs	Total Contract Cost	CO Percent of Contract
General	7	\$ 1,233,300.92	\$ 39,060,500.92	3.3%
Electrical	5	\$ 671,921.71	\$ 7,260,302.71	9.3%
Mechanical	5	\$ 151,143.84	\$ 5,065,350.84	3.0%
UV	1	\$ -	\$ 707,125.00	0.0%
DAF	3	\$ (40,709.50)	\$ 1,803,160.50	-2.3%

**NAWS Contract 5-1A South Prairie Reservoir and Hydraulic Control Structure**

*Project has achieved Final Completion and will be removed from future updates.*

**NAWS Contract 7-1B Minot WTP Phase II Improvements**

*Project is beyond the 2 year warranty period and closed out. This contract will be removed from future updates .*

**NAWS Contract 4-4B/5-4B Bottineau Reservoir and Booster Pump Station**

The Bottineau and Souris Reservoir and Pump Stations contracts consist of a one million-gallon ground storage reservoir and pump station at the intersection of State Highways 5 and 14 south of Souris and a three million-gallon ground storage reservoir and pump station roughly four miles west of the connection to Bottineau. The final pipeline contract climbs roughly 300 feet in

elevation from the location of the Souris Reservoir and Pump Station to the connection to Bottineau. The final design flows for both the City of Bottineau and All Seasons Water Users District northwest of Bottineau will require both storage and pumping to meet water demands. Bids were opened February 7, 2023, for the Bottineau reservoir and pump station. At the February 13, 2023, SWC meeting, the Commission authorized the Secretary to award the contracts.

Change order 1 was executed with the pump station contractor and the reservoir contractor to accommodate changes to the overflow and reservoir drain piping requested by the Department of Environmental Quality. The change order added less than \$1000 dollars to the pump station contract and no change to the reservoir contract price. The completion date on the reservoir contract and the pump station contract was changed to November 8, 2024 and November 26, 2024 respectively.

The reservoir contract achieved Substantial Completion on November 8, 2024. ***Three change orders totalling \$11,744.00 were added to the contract.***

Change Order 2 on the Pump Station Contract has been processed to add a propane leak sensor, a tank level sensor, and telemetry so tank levels can be monitored remotely by SCADA. ***Through Change Order 2, the Substantial Completion date on the contract was extended to February 17, 2025. Change Order 3 on the Pump Station Contract has been processed to deduct the cost of the manufacturer representative's additional site visit due to wiring issue in the mixer control panel that was added on the reservoir contract, add bollards to protect the propane supply line, issue a deduct for contractor's power usage that the Owner paid, and to extend the substantial completion date by 8 days to February 25, 2025. To date, three Change Orders totalling \$11,469.66 have been added to the Bottineau Pump Station Contract.***

**Photo: Bottineau Reservoir in November, 2024**



***SA 98 Construction of NAWS Pressure Reducing Station and Isolation Vault Improvements:***

The contract has been awarded, Notice to Proceed delivered, and the contractor has begun utility coordination. ***Contractor is currently processing submittals and has begun work consisting of installing electrical conduits and fittings in the Pressure Reducing Station, and installing conduits and lights in Isolation Vault #1 and #3. Power will be trenched in to the Isolation Vaults when ground conditions allow.***

**NAWS Interim Water Supply:**

Well C in the City of Minot has been rehabilitated and has been online since the summer of 2022. Well F has been drilled, developed, plumbed into the Sundre well field supply system and has been put into service. Sixty five percent of total costs associated with the well construction were credited towards City of Minot's cost share on the NAWS project. ***This project will be removed in the future updates.***

**City of Minot Reimbursement:**

The City of Minot sent a letter requesting reimbursement for repair of the wells in the Minot

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aquifer completed in 2016, construction of the reservoir, pumpstation near the Sundre well field and construction of the new raw water pipeline designed and constructed between 2016 and 2020. The reimbursement request is because these projects are eligible Northwest Area Water Supply projects and due to circumstances that existed at that time these projects were funded by City of Minot upfront and the requested reimbursement is for the State's share of 65% of the total costs. The reimbursement request for \$10.7 million was approved at the February 2024 State Water Commission meeting. DWR has started including the credit in the monthly reimbursement request to City of Minot from the **July 2024** reimbursement *request and has credited approximately \$5.9 million for expenditures through January 2025 by DWR*

TGJ/237-4-AUTH

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**TO:** NAWS Authority Representatives  
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Director  
**SUBJECT:** NAWS Operations Update  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025



As discussed in prior NAWS Authority meetings, after consideration of the information provided by the rural water systems, the growth of the NAWS system, the raw water supply from Lake Sakakwea, and additional facilities becoming operational, DWR requested the addition of a full-time employee for a NAWS operator position in the agency's 2025-2027 budget. The purpose of the new employee is to ensure that the required 24/7 service can continue to be provided to NAWS customers. The Executive Budget recommendation for DWR included the requested full-time employee for the NAWS operator position, which was also included in the house approved version of HB 1020. The existing long-term temporary employee position will be re-evaluated and assigned where resources are needed if the full time employee position is approved during the legislative session. In addition, DWR will continue to review and identify further resource needs through continued collaboration with the NAWS Authority members.

DWR is planning to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NAWS customers for documenting limitations on the assistance provided by the different entities. DWR is also looking to develop a single on-call phone number for NAWS customers to call for assistance with outages or operational issues in the system during non-working hours. DWR staff will also be working on developing an agreement with the City of Minot that documents roles and responsibilities for the operations of the high service pump station.

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