

The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

Maple River Dedication Ceremony Held

Dedication. It's a word we use to describe the ceremony that took place most recently at Maple River Dam. And, it's a word that we most certainly would use to describe what it took to see that project to fruition. After decades of planning, cooperation, and good old-fashioned hard work, July 17, marked a date when North Dakota officially celebrated the completion of Maple River Dam with a ceremony on its embankment. Gov. John Hoeven, members of the North Dakota State Water Commission, and several other dignitaries were present for the ceremony.

Construction on Maple River Dam began in the fall of 2004, and it was deemed operational only two years later in the fall of 2006. All elements of construction were officially completed earlier this summer.

The total cost of Maple River Dam was about \$29.75 million, with contributions coming from the State of North Dakota, the Red River Joint Water Resource District, the Cass County Joint Water Resource District, and special assessments.

Maple River Dam is located in southeast North Dakota, approximately eight miles northeast of Enderlin. It is 70-foot high earthen embankment dry dam that is capable of retaining 60,000 acre-feet of floodwater. As a dry dam, Maple River Dam will capture floodwater and hold it until the flood peak

Upper Left: A ribbon-cutting ceremony was part of the Maple River Dam dedication. Upper Right: Wes Beilke, Maple River WRD Chairman, talks to the crowd gathered. Middle: Aerial view of the completed Maple River Dam, after a June 2007 rainstorm. Bottom: Gov. John Hoeven, Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker, and Senator Tom Fischer.



passes – which will then be followed by a slow, controlled release of the floodwater downstream.

Maple River Dam is designed to provide flood protection along the Maple, Sheyenne, and Red rivers. It is the fourth phase of the Sheyenne River Flood Control Project. The other phases are the West Fargo Sheyenne River Diversion, the Horace to West Fargo Sheyenne River Diversion, and the five-foot flood pool raise at Baldhill Dam.



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The North Dakota State Water Commission (Commission) held a meeting in Casselton at the Governor's Inn and Conference Center on July 17. The Commission acted on several items of business and heard reports on various water management happenings across the state. In action items, the Commission:

- Placed a \$250,000 limitation on the total amount of cost-share any one rural flood control project can receive during the 2007-2009 biennium.
- Approved \$100,000 to support the North Dakota Irrigation Association's pursuit of activities outlined in its strategic plan.
- Allocated \$70,000 for the consulting services of Peter Carlson through the firm of Will and Carlson. Since 1991, Will and Carlson has provided consulting services for North Dakota in Washington, D.C., relating to the Dakota Water Resources Act, Missouri River issues, Devils Lake, the Northwest Area Water Supply project, irrigation, and hydropower generation.
- Approved a cost-share request of up to \$200,000 to support Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) efforts during the 2007-2009 biennium. The RRBC is a non-profit organization that works across the political boundaries of Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota to create a shared vision for action with regard to land and water issues.
- Conditionally approved cost-share requests for Cass County Drains 23 and 37 in amounts not to exceed \$35,980 and \$75,150, respectively.

- Conditionally approved a cost-share request in the amount of \$1,148,520 from the Pembina County Water Resource District to rehabilitate Renwick Dam. Renwick Dam was constructed in 1950 and is located on the Tongue River in western Pembina County. The rehabilitation effort will bring the dam into compliance with current state and federal design and safety criteria.

- Conditionally approved a \$19,116 funding request from the Southeast Cass Water Resource District for its farm/rural ring dike program.

- Approved a cost-share request by the Maple River-Rush River Joint Water Resource District in the amount of \$250,000 for the district's Swan Creek Diversion Ditch project.

- Conditionally approved a cost-share request of \$250,000 for the Traill/Roseville Drain 19 outlet improvement and reconstruction project.

- Approved funding in the amount of \$43,056 to construct Walsh County Assessment Drain 10, 10-1, and 10-2.

- Approved \$36,000 to continue with the Commission's support of *North Dakota Water* magazine. The Commission has supported the magazine since 1994 and has contributed monthly articles over that same timeframe.

- Awarded NAWS project Contract 5-2B to Engineering America of Oakdale, Minn. Contract 5-2B includes a 750,000-gallon reservoir and a 500,000-gallon storage reservoir along a portion of NAWS pipeline between Minot and Berthold. One of the tank sites has already been purchased. The Commission is in the process of acquiring the other.

- Approved the signing of necessary paperwork to receive a USDA

funding package for the South Fryburg pocket of Phase III of the Medora-Beach Regional Service Area. The funding package includes one \$883,900 grant, and a \$1,426,000 loan secured by revenue bonds.

- Approved the sale of a parcel of land that was originally purchased south of Dickinson as part of the Southwest Pipeline Project, but is no longer needed. The parcel of land was purchased for \$5,000 by Southwest Grain Company.

- Approved renaming the Dickinson High Service Pump Station to the Ray Christensen Pump Station in honor of Christensen's contributions and service to the Southwest Pipeline and the people of southwest North Dakota.

- Approved several MR&I grants for projects across the state totaling \$8.88 million.

- Lakota Water Supply (Tri-County Water), \$700,000

- McKenzie County Rural Water Phase III (SWPP), \$1,563,750

- South Central Regional Water District Phase I, \$4,870,000

- Tioga Rural Water Feasibility Study, \$65,000

- Upham Water Supply (All Seasons Water Users), \$620,000

- Walsh Rural Water District Water Supply, \$1,000,000

- Wimbledon Water Supply (Barnes Rural Water), \$70,000

- Approved the release of an easement for Korsness Dam in Bottineau County. Soren Korsness originally granted the easement back in 1934, but the dam was never built and never will be.

- Discontinued the North Dakota Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program (see related article on page 18).

Commission Discontinues Drought Livestock Watering Program

The State Water Commission voted to discontinue the North Dakota Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program (Program) at its July 17 meeting in Casselton. The vote to cease the program came in response to spring and summer rains that have eased drought conditions across much of the state. Livestock producers should note that those who were approved for assistance and had work completed prior to June 30, are still eligible for reimbursement.

The Program was originally created in 1991 in response to a severe statewide drought, but it was only administered for a short period of time. Then, in the summer of 2002, the Program was reactivated, with a Commission allocation of \$385,000, following a Drought Emergency Proclamation issued by Gov. John Hoeven. At that time, only select counties throughout the state that were experiencing severe drought conditions were eligible for Program funding. But, as the drought continued to persist in subsequent years, nearly all corners of North Dakota were affected, and a statewide drought proclamation made livestock producers in all of the state's 53 counties eligible for assistance.

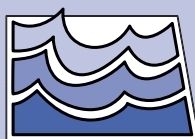
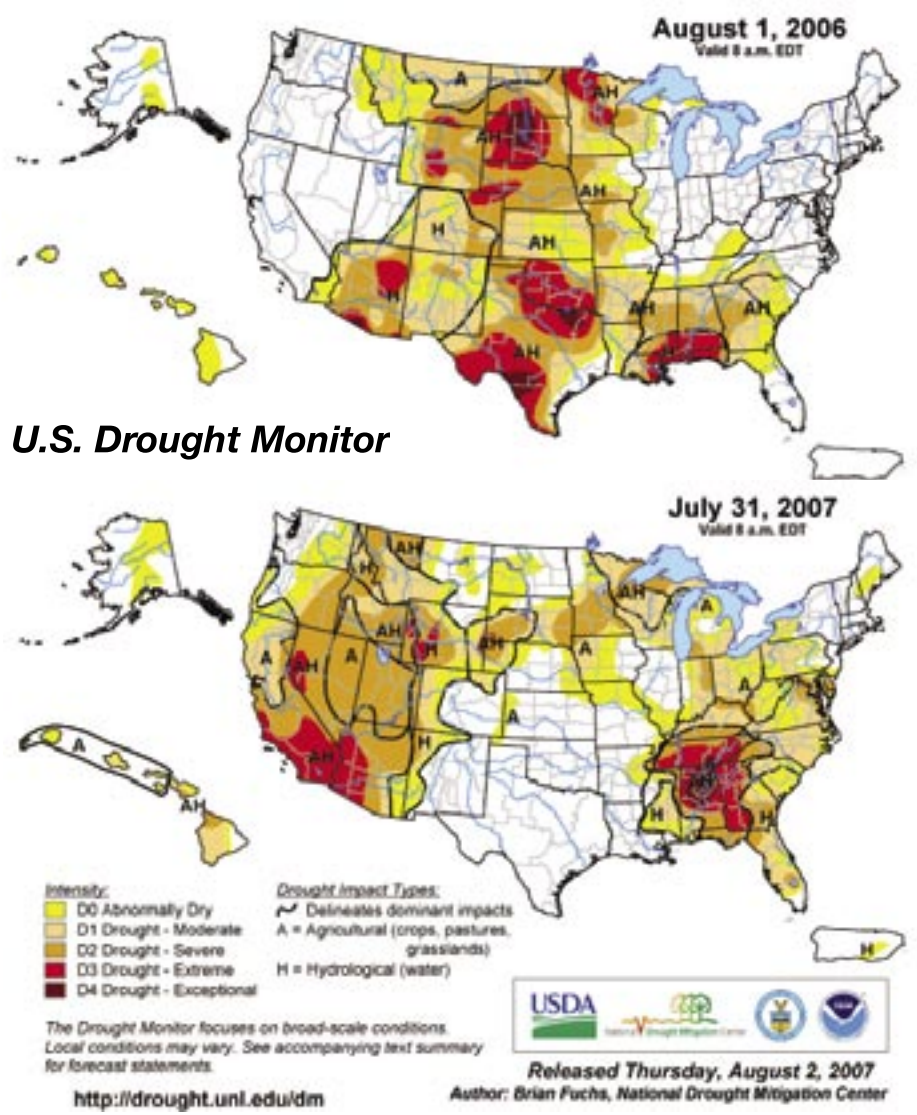
After the Program was reactivated once again in June 2006, the state made its largest single year investment in the Program by far, with Water Commission allocations totaling \$1.2 million by year's end.

In the last year alone, 560 applications have been submitted for assistance, and of those, 460 have

been approved. In actual payments, 341 producers have been reimbursed approximately \$1.13 million, with an average reimbursement of \$3,298 per producer.

If you have questions about the Program, please direct them to the Planning and Education Division of the Water Commission at 701-328-4989, or email lknudtson@nd.gov.

The U.S. Drought Monitor from one year ago depicts the severity of drought conditions throughout the Great Plains, which in turn prompted the Water Commission's \$1.2 million investment in the Program. In stark contrast, the 2007 map depicts how conditions have dramatically improved in North Dakota.



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