The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) provides water service to Berthold, Minot’s south hill region, and North Prairie Rural Water District, with water purchased from Minot’s water treatment plant. The residents of Berthold are indeed thrilled with their new water supply. However, the use of Minot water is only temporary, as the longer-range plan is to provide all future NAWS customers with water from Lake Sakakawea. The pipeline that will deliver Lake Sakakawea water to Minot has already been completed. But, before water can be moved, water treatment facilities will have to be constructed as required by very small fraction of Minot’s daily water use, which is about 7 million gallons per day.

When NAWS is completed, it will provide up to 26 million gallons of Missouri River water per day to at least 63,000 citizens in northwest North Dakota. With addition rural development, NAWS could serve as many as 81,000.

Kim Belgarde, Project WET facilitator, helps participants make their own “String of Missouri River Pearls” game board.

The Project WET watershed education program moved the 2008 institute to the Dickinson area this past summer to provide an opportunity for K-12 educators to learn about southwest North Dakota’s Missouri River watershed. By moving the institute around the state, and by providing more localized watershed issues and concerns, educators are given a greater opportunity to learn about watershed issues that are important in their own “backyard.”

The 2008 institute gave 22 educators, from all grade levels and areas of the state, insight into southwestern North Dakota’s Missouri River watershed and concerns. Some of the timely topics covered included:

- Hail suppression/rain enhancement
- National park management
- Water treatment
- Industrial water use
- Watershed health
- Biofuel development
- Energy development
- Water quality
- Best management practices
- Manure management
- Flood control
- Recreation
- Mining
- Geology
- Golf course water management
- Environmental investigations
- GIS/compass modeling

The institute included two environmental investigation segments on Sand Creek and the Little Missouri River. Participants learned how to complete a watershed survey and visual stream habitat assessment; looked at watershed conditions adjacent to and in the water; collected and analyzed macroinvertebrates to complete a bioassessment; analyzed chemical and physical parameters of the river; learned about stream dynamics; conducted a stream habitat assessment; and measured stream flow and estimated discharge. In addition, the institute instructors went through seven hands-on activities from four major Project WET curriculum guides that correlated to the field tours, environmental investigations, and presentations. Participants
In August, a celebration was held in Berthold to recognize the completion of four construction projects that enable the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) to provide water service to Berthold, Minot’s south hill region, and North Prairie Rural Water District, with water purchased from Minot’s water treatment plant.

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It is estimated that Berthold will use approximately 34,000 gallons per day for the rest of the year, with a maximum peak demand of up to 85,000 gallons per day. So Berthold’s expected water use will account for a very small fraction of Minot’s daily water use, which is about 7 million gallons per day.

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2008 southwestern ND Missouri River watershed institute participants.

The 2008 Project WET Summer Water Institute Heads West

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- Geology
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- Environmental investigations
- GPS/compass modeling
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2008 SUMMER INSTITUTE FIELD TOURS

Dickinson Water Treatment Plant
Southwest Pipeline - Dickinson Pumping Plant
Southwest Pipeline Project O&M Center
Logging Camp-Ranch
Sand Creek
Little Missouri River
Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Visitor Center
Bully Pulpit Golf Course
Heart Butte Dam/Lake Taschida
Antelope Valley Power Plant
Coteau Freedom Mine
Dakota Gasification Plant
Red Trail Energy Ethanol Plant
Upper Cannonball River Manure Waste Management Project
Deep Creek Watershed Project

2008 SUMMER INSTITUTE GUEST PRESENTERS

ND State Water Commission
US Natural Resource Conservation Service
Southwest Water Authority
US National Park Service
Dickinson Public Works
US Bureau of Reclamation
Bowman/Slope/Hettinger SCDs
Deep Creek Watershed Project
Upper Cannonball River Manure Waste Management Project
Bully Pulpit Golf Course
Antelope Valley Power Plant
Dakota Gasification
Coteau Freedom Mine
Gary Calheim Receives Governor’s Award for Excellence

On Sept. 8, Gov. John Hoeven presented the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Public Service to five state employees, including recently retired Water Commission employee, Gary Calheim. All five recipients were recognized for their dedication and contributions to the people of North Dakota. The awards were presented during a luncheon at the Capitol in Bismarck.

Gary Calheim Receives Governor’s Award for Excellence

Calheim was employed at the Commission for 34 years, with two years as a driller’s helper, and 32 years as a rotary drill operator. During that time, Gary developed methodologies to enhance the efficiency of the Commission’s drilling processes, and mentored geology students in the field as part of the Student Voluntary Drill Rig Internship Program.

The award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of judges who reviewed and scored the nominations. Nominees were rated on their overall job performance, contributions to their department, commitment to customer service, working relationship with fellow workers, and involvement in their community.

Congratulations Gary!

Douglas Vosper Appointed to Water Commission

The Commission consists of the governor as chairman, the Commissioner of Agriculture as an ex-officio member, and seven other members who are appointed by the governor. Other members on the Commission include: Arne Berg; Devils Lake; Maurice Foley, Minot; Larry Hanson, Williston; Jack Olin, Dickinson; and Harley Swenson, Bismarck.

Welcome Commissioner Vosper!

North Dakota Water Resource Institute Hosts Water Education Materials In-service Institute

Educators had an opportunity to provide comments on their experience at the institute.

Leah Ritland, a fourth grade teacher from Grand Forks said, “Before the institute, I had almost no understanding and appreciation of southwest North Dakota watershed issues. I now have both. Plus, I have satisfied my biology and geography requirements for my North Dakota license.”

Patty Skarphol, a 7-12 grade teacher from Tioga, commented, “This institute has been an eye opener for me... probably the best continuing education class I have ever taken.”

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The institute was funded in part by an EPA Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant, the Water Commission, local water resource districts, and soil conservation districts. The institute could be taken for four graduate credits through Minot State, the University of North Dakota, or North Dakota State University.

Gary Calheim, fifth from the left, received the Governor’s Award for Excellence on Sept. 8.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE

And, Charysee Eversen, a sixth grade teacher from Williston said, “I can’t believe how much meaningful teacher resources, tours, and presenters we packed into six days that will positively impact my teaching and my life in general.”

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Congratulations Gary!