



# Water Commission Approves Funding For Valley City and Lisbon Flood Control

At their May meeting, the State Water Commission approved funding for flood control projects in Valley City and Lisbon. With the extended wet cycle that the state has been facing, and significant floods in 2009 and 2011, these two cities have been forced to expend significant financial and personnel resources preparing for, and dealing with, the after effects of the floods.

Valley City and Lisbon, both of which are located on the Sheyenne River downstream of Lake Ashtabula, a tributary of the Red River in eastern North Dakota, have been repeatedly impacted by flood events over the past five years. Past flood fighting efforts have involved the construction and consequent removal of temporary emergency levees, often at considerable expense. Both cities have been working towards the implementation of permanent flood protection.

In Valley City, the flood mitigation process includes a multiphase project. Phase I focuses on the area near Valley City State University, which will provide flood mitigation sufficient for a 1% (100-year) flood event. The project will involve rerouting of utilities that are underneath the future levee, installation of a storm water pumping station for the area behind

the levee, construction of clay levees with three feet of freeboard above the 1% flood level, and flood walls with four feet of freeboard. This phase of the projects is estimated to ultimately cost \$12,540,294.

Devils Lake Outlet operations upstream of Valley City have resulted in some increase in the risk of flooding beyond background levels. Under current Water Commission policy, flood control projects are eligible for 60%. Because of the impact of the outlets, the Water Commission deviated from current policy, approving an 80% grant of \$ 10,032,235, which does not include engineering, legal, and administration expenses. In addition, Valley City is eligible for a 1.5% interest rate loan for the remainder of eligible project costs through the Water Commission, with the loan amount not to exceed \$2,508,058.

In Lisbon, the efforts of building and then removing temporary levees multiple times over the last few years, has represented an enormous expense to the small city. Further, the temporary levees have an unacceptably high risk of failure. A multi-phase project was initiated by Lisbon, with phases one and two involving buyouts of at-risk properties, and design of the flood mitigation project. Phases three and

four were postponed due to costs the city incurred relative to sewer and water infrastructure replacement.

The proposed project in Lisbon will involve the installation of a clay levee on the northwest side of the city of a size sufficient to provide protection from a 1% (100-year) flood event. The location of the project will require Lisbon to relocate a road and several city park-related structures. Total project costs are estimated at \$1,775,000.

The Devils Lake Outlets have also resulted in an increase in the flood risk faced by Lisbon. Because of this, the Water Commission increased cost share eligibility from 60% to 80% of total project costs, not including engineering, legal, and administrative expenses, for a total of \$1,238,698. In addition, Lisbon is eligible for a 1.5% interest rate loan for remaining eligible project expenses through the Water Commission, in an amount not to exceed \$536,302.



Flooding in Valley City in 2011.

# DiscoverWater.org

A FREE Online Water Education Resource For All Ages

Water touches every aspect of our lives, from understanding the resources all around us, to the weather, recreation and keeping us healthy.

The North Dakota State Water Commission is committed to reaching children, parents, teachers, and any other interested North Dakotan's with water education. As a part of that effort, the agency is proud to support a free online tool developed by the Project WET Foundation that teaches youth about water.

The DiscoverWater.org website was launched in September 2011. Discoverwater.org was created to provide a fun and engaging online resource about water and water-related topics including: water on Earth, the water cycle, the ocean, freshwater, watersheds, water conservation and protection, direct and indirect water use, and water and health. Kids love the interactive games and activities, parents and educators love the printable science note booking pages, classroom activities, assessments, and more!

DiscoverWater.org is a self-directed educational resource comprised of eight units about different water topics - ranging from the global to the personal perspective - which together reflect many of the complex and important roles of water in so many aspects of our lives. It is designed for use primarily by youth ages 7-12, and educators both in and outside the classroom.

Each activity also includes a printable science notebook page that can be used to take notes and actively participate during online learning.



The website currently offers eight units:

1. Blue Planet
2. The Water Cycle
3. Discover Our Ocean
4. Investigate Fresh Water
5. Explore Watersheds
6. Use Water Wisely
7. We All Use Water
8. Healthy Water Healthy People

Educator resource files contain grade-level appropriate information and resources for teachers such as

- Vocabulary
- Measurable learning objectives for students
- Additional background information about the topic
- Activities and activity answer keys
- Ideas for students to Take Action in their communities
- Assessments including: pre-and post-tests and critical thinking questions
- Extensions and resources about the topic from Project WET and other sources

Check Out  
DiscoverWater.org  
Today!

# The North Dakota State Water Commission Introduces Jessie Wald



Jessie Wald, PIO for the Water Commission.

## The PIO position includes a host of duties

- Media relations – including news release development
- Preparing presentations and related materials for agency officials
- Editing and developing promotional water education-related publications
- Assisting with agency website content management and implementing the effective use of social media tools
- Review of proposed or new agency programs, rules, regulations, or staff activities and services and foster public awareness as needed

The North Dakota State Water Commission would like to introduce Jessie Wald as their new Public Information Officer (PIO).

Wald's position of Public Information Officer is new to the State Water Commission, after reclassification of an existing position. The PIO position fills a critical need for the agency, reflecting the scope and number of projects the Water Commission is involved in currently, and projects in the future. Because of this, it was essential to have a more effective way to communicate with the media and the public.

Jessie is originally from Mandan, North Dakota and attended Bismarck State College and Dickinson State University. She completed college in 2002 with a

degree in English and Journalism. After college, Jessie completed a marketing specialist internship with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Jessie developed an extensive background working with media organizations, including two local television news stations, FOX and KFYZ gaining knowledge in the TV industry. More recently, Jessie honed her skills at the North Dakota Department of Transportation as a PIO.

Jessie began working for the State Water Commission in April, and started having an immediate impact. She has scheduled various news interviews; such as radio and television appearances for staff concerning everything from flood control and water supply project

development, to sovereign lands, and has issued press releases, and attended outreach events.

Wald is an important and welcome addition to the State Water Commission staff, as the agency has already seen the benefits of having an employee who specializes in working with public outreach and the media.

Jessie can be reached via [jessiewald@nd.gov](mailto:jessiewald@nd.gov) and (701) 328-2782.



Wald has assisted the agency's "Keep Your Beaches Clean" campaign through several media and public awareness efforts.



North Dakota State Water Commission  
Todd Sando, P.E., State Engineer  
900 East Boulevard Ave. • Bismarck, ND 58505  
(701) 328-2750 • <http://swc.nd.gov>

*The State Water Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.*