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Water Commission Approves Updates to Cost-Share Program Policies and \$31.8 Million in Funding for Water Projects

At the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting chaired by Gov. Doug Burgum today, the SWC approved updates to Cost-Share Program policies and \$31.8 million in cost-share requests.

After a year-long process to update the SWC's cost-share policy, procedure and general requirements; as well as their project prioritization guidance, the SWC voted for final approval today, with implementation of the new policies beginning during the 2023-2025 biennium budget cycle. The modification process included extensive public outreach and input from the water community and general public. This update was meant to modernize the Cost-Share Program in response to more contemporary project development needs.

The SWC also voted to approve funding for several municipal, regional and rural water supply projects, as well as projects related to flood control and general water.

"These critical infrastructure projects will provide essential water supplies and flood protection to our citizens, supporting economic development and making our communities more resilient against droughts and flooding," Burgum said. "The State Water Commission appreciates the public's input on the Cost-Share Program and will continue working with the Department of Water Resources to ensure that our Resources Trust Fund – which is entirely supported by oil tax revenue – is deployed for important projects like these that will benefit current and future generations of North Dakotans."

One of several important project approvals was \$9.8 million for Cass Rural Water District to provide reclaimed water from the City of Fargo's Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Reuse Facility to the North Dakota Soybean Processor's (NDSP) proposed location north of Casselton. This project will include 29 miles of reclaimed water distribution pipeline to the NDSP.

"Today, the Water Commission approved funding to support distribution of reclaimed water to be put to beneficial use," said Andrea Travnicek, DWR Director. "Supporting infrastructure to ensure adequate delivery of water supplies and reusing reclaimed water as an alternative is important for economic development opportunities in the state."

The 10-member SWC consists of Burgum as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and eight members appointed by the governor to serve six-year terms. For additional information, please visit www.dwr.nd.gov.

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