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ND Department of Water Resources Receives \$892 Million Biennial Appropriation

BISMARCK - Senate Bill (SB) 2020 was signed by ND Governor Doug Burgum providing the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) with a 2023-2025 biennial appropriation of \$892 million. DWR's budget is almost entirely supported by North Dakota's Resources Trust Fund, which is funded from 20.5 percent of the state's oil extraction tax.

Included in this budget are dollars for regional, rural and municipal water supply projects, flood control efforts and general water management, among others.

"This historic investment in water supplies, flood control and water management will support community growth and resiliency, enable economic expansion and provide tangible benefits to North Dakotans across our state for generations to come," Burgum said. "We're deeply grateful for the work by the Legislature, DWR, State Water Commission, regional and local water managers and other stakeholders who highlighted the needs and helped to move this critical infrastructure funding across the finish line."

SB 2020 provides:

- \$316 million for water supply grants. That includes \$180 million for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, \$50 million for the Bismarck Water Treatment Plant and funding for other regional and municipal projects.
- \$52 million for rural water supplies.
- \$116 million for flood control projects. That includes \$76.1 million for the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project, as well as additional flood protection and water conveyance projects around the state.
- \$12 million for general water management, including various studies, dam repairs and irrigation.
- \$80 million plus an additional \$50 million line of credit for SWPP.
- \$36 million plus an additional \$50 million line of credit for NAWS.
- \$2 million for the Devils Lake outlets and other state-owned capital assets.

"The passage of Senate Bill 2020 will provide local water managers and the agency with tremendous opportunities to develop and manage North Dakota's water resources," DWR Director

Andrea Travnicek said. "This budget will help improve North Dakota's resiliency to floods and droughts. It supports beneficial use of our most abundant water supply, the Missouri River. And, it allows us to work smarter and more efficiently in support of our team. As a result, North Dakotans will experience the benefits of this legislation for decades."

In terms of staffing and professional development, SB 2020 provides \$773,062 for three additional full-time team members. Additional staff will reduce delays so constituents receive permits and water appropriations in a timelier manner. There was also \$80,000 included for professional development to support mentoring and training of water appropriation staff.

With regard to technology and innovation, Information Technology (IT) standardization applications and security were addressed with \$5.6 million. These dollars will help to consolidate and standardize IT services under one umbrella and to support ongoing costs for services and management. The budget also includes \$750,000 to expand airborne electromagnetic surveys and \$95,000 for groundwater modeling and hydrologic software to identify additional opportunities for water appropriation – particularly ground water.

DWR will receive \$1.6 million to expand the use of PRESENS (Pushing REmote SENSors). PRESENS delivers real-time environmental data from sensors located in remote locations to publicly accessible databases at DWR. These units improve forecasting, modeling and overall water management at a fraction of the cost of traditional data collection methods.

The original radar system in Bowman that was using 1970s technology will be replaced for \$1.8 million and DWR will replace a 15-year-old drilling rig, also for \$1.8 million.

The complete bill can be found [here](#). For more information about DWR, please visit www.dwr.nd.gov.

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