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Governor Burgum and Lt. Governor Miller Receive Resolutions of Appreciation at State Water Commission Meeting

Bismarck, ND – At its December meeting today, the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) presented Governor Doug Burgum and Lt. Governor Tammy Miller with resolutions of appreciation in recognition of their significant contributions to water development in the state.

"I'm not done working on water issues in North Dakota," Governor Burgum said in his last remarks to the SWC. "Keep believing in the fact that right here in this state we are doing things and making things happen that are better and smarter than anywhere else in the country, and don't let anyone tell you anything different. Thank you. It's been an honor to serve next to Lt. Governor Miller and Andrea Travnicek and the State Water Commission for the last eight years."

The resolutions highlight the Burgum administration's eight years of unwavering support for water development, ensuring that North Dakota communities, rural areas, and Tribal Nations have access to clean, reliable water supplies, and resilience to impacts from flooding. Since Governor Burgum's election in 2016, more than \$2.1 billion in state funding has been committed to vital water infrastructure projects, including \$1.1 billion for water supply, \$1 billion for flood protection, and \$84 million for general water management across the state.

Funding for water supply projects benefitted 64 communities and 23 rural water systems with populations totaling more than 460,000. In addition, 27 communities with populations totaling 463,000 received cost-share assistance to develop flood protection or general water management projects that improve public safety and resilience to devastating flood events.

"Governor Burgum and Lt. Governor Miller have demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing North Dakota's water infrastructure initiatives," said Andrea Travnicek, Director of the Department of Water Resources. "Under their leadership, North Dakotans have seen tremendous progress with water development projects across the entire state."

At today's meeting, the SWC approved 10 projects for cost-share funding, totaling \$9.2 million. Among these, \$2.6 million was approved for the City of Mandan's Memorial Highway water main project, and more than \$2 million in funding was directed toward East Central Rural Water District's efforts to complete pre-construction engineering related to wellfield and treatment plant expansions.

Another key initiative highlighted during the meeting was a \$3.1 million approval for a water supply improvement project, sponsored by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Public Utilities Commission. Governor Burgum and Lt. Governor Miller were strong supporters of House Bill 1385 during the 2023 Legislative Assembly, which enabled the SWC to enter into cost-share agreements with Tribal Nations, helping to advance water supply infrastructure in communities that previously lacked access to such funding.

“The passage of HB 1385 represented a significant achievement for both the Burgum administration and the future of water development and resource management for Tribal Nations,” Travnicek said. “Today’s approval to partner with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is another opportunity to advance critical water infrastructure in Tribal communities.”

The SWC also approved \$90.6 million in funding for construction of the 12 million gallons per day Southwest Water Treatment Plant expansion project in Dickinson for the state-owned Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). The treatment plant expansion is designed to serve the growing needs of the SWPP, which serves tens of thousands of water users in southwest North Dakota.

Since the beginning of the 2023-2025 biennium funding cycle, the SWC has approved approximately \$520 million for water supply, flood protection, and other critical water management projects across North Dakota.

ND State Water Convention

The December SWC meeting followed the 61st Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop held in Bismarck earlier this week, where several Department of Water Resources team members provided updates on state-owned water projects, budget recommendations, new initiatives, and ongoing legislative priorities as the North Dakota Legislature prepares for the 2025 session.

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