

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | February 13, 2025

State Water Commission approves funding for 11 cost-share projects

Bismarck, ND – At its February meeting, chaired by Lt. Gov. Michelle Strinden, the State Water Commission (SWC) approved funding for 11 projects through its cost-share program, totaling approximately \$19.5 million. Among these is a \$63,000 allocation to the City of Medora to support pre-construction costs for a new water storage facility. As construction continues on the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, communities like Medora are planning for future growth and the associated demand for water, especially once the library is completed.

“The Department of Water Resources is committed to ensuring reliable water supplies for communities and rural areas across North Dakota,” said Reice Haase, Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR). “Investments like the one in Medora are part of our broader commitment to strengthening water infrastructure across the entire state. From rural expansion efforts in the southwest to dozens of municipal water supply projects in every region, the SWC and DWR continue to work in partnership with communities to ensure dependable water access for all North Dakotans.”

The SWC also approved \$3.1 million to the City of Beach for water distribution system improvements, \$2.7 million to Fort Berthold Rural Water for components necessary for the planned Four Bears Water Treatment Plant, and \$7.1 million to the Greater Ramsey Water District, which plans to add 130 users to its service.

Lt. Gov. Strinden highlighted the unique opportunities North Dakota has to leverage its water resources for diverse needs, whether residential, recreational, industrial, agricultural, or economic development.

“Our ability to provide clean, reliable and affordable water in North Dakota is key to our high quality of life and strong economy, giving us an advantage as we compete for jobs, businesses and new residents,” Strinden said. “We appreciate the work of the DWR and State Water Commission to help communities and rural areas complete their water projects and meet local demand.”

Since the beginning of the 2023-2025 biennium funding cycle, the SWC has approved approximately \$540 million for water supply, flood protection, and other critical water management projects across North Dakota.

The 10-member SWC consists of Gov. Armstrong 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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