



FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

Appeals Denied: NAWS will move forward

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation denied two appeals of the Bureau's finding that the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project will have no significant environmental impact. Maryanne Bach, Director of the Great Plains Region of the Bureau, released the decision September 10, 2001, that they had denied the appeals. Environment Canada and Manitoba Conservation filed one appeal; the other was filed by Gary Pearson, a Jamestown resident.

The significance of the Bureau's rejection of the appeals is that it completes the National Environmental Policy Act (or NEPA) compliance process began in 1997 and is a significant step towards beginning construction of the long-planned NAWS project. When

completed, NAWS is designed to provide 63,000 people in a 10-county area of northwest and north central North Dakota with clean drinking water.

Historically, objections to the NAWS project have come from Canadian interests. Their primary concern is that when water from one watershed is transported to another, unwanted organisms may be introduced to the receiving watershed.

To combat the potential for unwanted organism transfers, water from Lake Sakakawea or Lake Audubon will be disinfected before leaving the Missouri River Basin, and will undergo additional treatment in Minot, which is located in the Hudson Bay Basin. All water transfers will be conducted via closed pipeline. ■



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

By Patrick Fridgen

The North Dakota State Water Commission (Commission), chaired by Governor John Hoeven, acted on several items of business and was given status reports on continuing water management projects and programs at the August 16, 2001, meeting in Bismarck.

Several projects that were obligated but not completed in the previous biennium were recommended for carryover of funding for the 2001-2003 biennium. Projects listed for a continuation of obligation included Devils Lake, Maple River flood control, Nesson Valley irrigation, Elk/Charbon Irrigation District, hydrologic investigations, and several other general projects. The Commission approved a carryover of obligation for the projects in the amount of \$5.35 million. The Commission also approved carryover for the Grand Forks and Grafton flood control projects in separate actions in the amount of \$4 million and \$167,000 respectively.

In regard to funding rural flood control projects, the Commission approved limiting funding for rural flood control to \$200,000 per project. Additionally, the Commission moved to limit funding of rural flood control projects to only one biennium to achieve a more equitable distribution of the contract fund. This means that if a rural flood control project receives the maximum \$200,000 in one biennium, the project is not eligible to receive additional funding in any subsequent biennium.

With the Baldhill Dam flood pool raise project, the Commission

NOTICE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting public comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual through February 2002. Any final decisions made by the Corps will directly impact flood control, fish and wildlife, hydropower, water supply, water quality, recreation, and irrigation along the Missouri River in North Dakota. For that reason, it is imperative that North Dakotans voice their concerns by providing comments to the Corps. This is an opportunity that may not come again for decades. Please take advantage of it to ensure the Missouri River is managed in a way that is consistent with the interests of North Dakota.

RDEIS information is available at www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/mmanual or by writing to: Project Manager, Master Manual Review and Update, 12565 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144.

Comments can be mailed to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwest Division
Attn: Missouri River Master Manual RDEIS
12565 West Center Road
Omaha, NE 68144-3869

OR, Email comments to: Mastermanual@usace.army.mil

approved 50 percent cost-share of non-federal eligible costs, or half of \$3.2 million. The remaining \$1,250,500, which was the balance of \$1.6 million less \$349,500, was approved for cost-share at the August 16, 2001, meeting.

Several drain construction and reconstruction projects were considered for cost-share:

■ Cass County Drains 13, 14, 21, 29A, and 40 were approved for cost-share in the amounts of \$36,586, \$116,000, \$68,750, \$200,000, and \$98,428 respectively;

■ Richland County Drain 95 was approved for cost-share in the amount of \$200,000; and

■ Steele County Drain 4 was approved for \$23,396.

The Grand Forks County Water Resource District requested cost-share for drain 27A in April. However, as of the August 16, 2001, Commission meeting, the District had not provided information to the Commission regarding the change in total runoff volume and the incremental change to the hydrograph for 10-, 25-, and 50-year events. These measurements are required at both the project outlet and immediately downstream on the receiving waterway to receive cost-share. Without the aforementioned measurements, the Commission was not able to provide cost-share as requested.

The Commission received a request from North Valley Water District and approved cost-share to fund a portion of a water supply system for Carlisle Dairy Partnership

near Cavalier, North Dakota. Cost-share in the amount of \$225,000 was approved for Phase I of the project, which includes connecting four miles of pipeline from the dairy to an existing North Valley pipeline. Eventually, a second phase will be implemented involving the installation of eighteen miles of pipeline to provide a dedicated water supply to the dairy. Phase I and II would each serve one barn of 3,200 lactating and 400 dry cows. The dairy is expected to provide an excellent economic development opportunity for Pembina County, as it will provide estimated annual sales of \$11 million and 45 new jobs to the area.

The Red River Basin Board was approved for cost-share in the amount of \$100,000 to conduct an "Overview Analysis" project. The Overview Analysis project will identify philosophical and professional differences in natural resource management between jurisdictions in the Red River Basin that have historically impeded water management efforts. The expected outcome of the Overview Analysis is to provide insight as to how these differences can be overcome so they no longer serve as obstacles to water management efforts in the Basin.

For the *North Dakota Water* magazine, the Commission approved \$18,000 to publish its "Oxbow" and "Primer" sections. A portion of the Commission's contribution is used to mail copies of the magazine to more than 300 people on the Commission's mailing list.

The next cost-share request presented to the Commission was for a revision of the "Handbook for

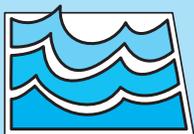
North Dakota Water Managers." An update to the handbook is necessary to include recent statutory changes. Then, to disseminate this new information added to the handbook, the North Dakota Water Resources Districts Association would like to hold 16 regional workshops in eight locations for water managers in the next two years. The total estimated cost of the revision, printing, and workshops will be \$55,000. The Association proposed covering \$6,000 of administrative costs. Thus, the Commission approved cost-share for the remaining balance of \$49,000.

With the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), the Commission awarded the construction of Contract 5-8, Twin Buttes Reservoir, to Maguire Iron of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The contract is for a 250,000 gallon potable water reservoir, 42 feet in diameter and 25 feet high, located about one mile north of Bowman.

Contract 5-3A for a second New England reservoir was awarded to Engineering America Inc. of White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Engineering America submitted the lowest bid of \$549,093. The reservoir will have a capacity of 1.24 million gallons and will be located about four miles north of New England.

Abbot, Arne, & Schwindt of Moorhead, Minnesota, was awarded SWPP Contract 7-7A for a rural water distribution system in the Twin Buttes Service Area. This will be the first rural water contract for the Bowman-Scranton regional service area. The low bid submitted by Abbot, Arne, & Schwindt was in the amount of \$1,558,058.

And finally, the Commission expressed their appreciation toward Pinkie Evans-Curry for her service at the Southwest Water Authority and to Judith DeWitz for serving on the State Water Commission from July, 1993 through June, 2001. ■



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Patrick Fridgen, Editor

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THE WATER PRIMER

Project WET Facilitators: Teaching for a Better Tomorrow

Water is arguably one of North Dakota's most precious resources. But oftentimes, it is taken for granted by young and old because it is almost always available at the turn of a tap. In reality, there is no guarantee that North Dakota's future generations will have a clean, reliable source of water for their everyday uses, whether for drinking, recreation, power, or whatever. For that reason, it is imperative that the children of today, or tomorrow's leaders, understand the importance of water and its critical role in our everyday lives.

To provide water education to millions of today's youth, it is necessary to maintain a network of educators to fulfill that need. Fortunately, that network exists throughout the United States under the Project WET program. They are known as Project WET facilitators.

Here in North Dakota (which coincidentally is the originator of the now international Project WET program) facilitator training is alive and well. This year alone, 14 new people received facilitator training, and since 1994, more than 90 people have been certified as Project WET facilitators. Once trained and certified, Project WET facilitators are authorized to schedule, plan, conduct, teach, and evaluate a variety of Project WET teacher and youth educational programs and events.

What Are the General Responsibilities of WET Facilitators?

Once certified, Project WET facilitators are required to:

- Promote and provide Project

WET *Explore Your Watershed* programs in their area to schools, youth organizations, environmental/conservation organizations, camps, nature centers, news media, universities, etc.

- Cooperate with other *Explore Your Watershed* project participants to optimize the use of program materials and resources.

- Update WET participants with new developments as necessary or as requested.

- Forward information on local events or developments in the *Explore Your Watershed* program to the Project WET director for inclusion in Project WET *Explore Your Watershed* program updates and leadership training workshops.

- Plan and complete at least one of the following annually: a 15-hour graduate credit workshop; a six-hour non-credit workshop for K-12 formal or non-formal educators; a six-hour pre-service teacher workshop; or a six-hour youth camp or youth event.

Who Can Become A Project WET Facilitator?

Facilitators can be K-12 educators, post-secondary educators, natural resource specialists and managers, scout or campfire leaders, corporate educators, science center or zoo educators, and other individuals interested in delivering the message of wise water management, protection, and stewardship to K-12 formal and non-formal educators and youth.

Ideally, Project WET *Explore Your Watershed* facilitators should possess a demonstrated knowledge, understanding, and interest in

environmental education methods and techniques, natural or water resources education, or adult and youth leadership. Additionally, anyone interested in becoming a facilitator should have strong leadership skills, genuine interest in hands-on experiential learning and environmental/water resources education, and the ability to be well-organized, but flexible when necessary.

How Do You Become A Project WET Facilitator?

Every two years, a facilitator leadership training workshop for new facilitators seeking certification is held, along with the refresher leadership training for current certified facilitators. Individuals must submit a formal application explaining their qualifications and interests in becoming a facilitator to the WET director. If selected to attend the facilitator training workshop, each candidate is then asked to complete a Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide activity with their classroom students or peer groups, bring the activity materials to the workshop, and present a summary of the activity during the workshop. Finally, all training workshop attendees sign a "Certificate of Commitment" to promote and provide Project WET *Explore Your Watershed* opportunities.

In the next Primer, we will talk about various levels or awards that can be achieved by facilitators. We will also recognize several individuals who have excelled as facilitators through their continued involvement and hard work. ■