

The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

Water festivals “Make A Splash” this fall

Students and educators get WET through the “Make A Splash” water festivals.

This fall, 2,846 third, fourth, and fifth grade students, 160 teachers from 73 schools, along with 274 volunteers throughout southwestern and

eastern North Dakota, participated in the annual Project WET “Make A Splash” festivals. The festivals were held in Dickinson (September 25-26), Moorhead, Minnesota (September 30 - October 2) and Grand Forks (October 2-3). These “Make A Splash” water festivals were held

in conjunction with National Project WET’s Water Education Day, September 26, during which over 70,000 elementary students and 14,500 volunteers/presenters, in 135 cities from all 50 states, took part in similar events.

The national effort was sponsored by International Project WET, with extensive support from Nestle Waters of North America. This was the fourth annual effort of this kind and is the nations largest single water education event designed to raise awareness of the critical need for water education. The North Dakota water festivals consisted of structured learning stations, demonstrations, and exhibits where students were actively

Project WET facilitators receive awards

Project WET facilitators are formal and nonformal educators who once trained and certified are authorized to plan and conduct a variety of Project WET teacher and youth educational programs and events. The following are award recipients for 2003.

Navigator Level (75-149 hours)

Jackie Henderson (A), US Bureau of Reclamation, Bismarck

Kathleen Rowland (B), US Geological Survey, Bismarck
Jim Jeske (C), Secondary Educator, Killdeer

Captain Level (150-299 hours)

Angie Bartholomay (D), Secondary Educator, Bottineau
Kim Belgarde (E), Elementary Educator, Fargo

Admiral Level (Over 500 hours)

Jim Collins (F), ND Department of Health, Bismarck

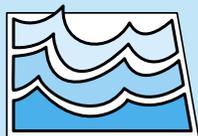
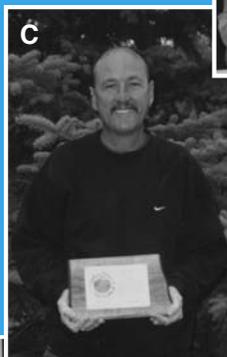
Pat Hintz (F), Secondary Educator, Elgin/
New Leipzig

Project WET 2002-2003

Educator Facilitators of the Year

Angie Bartholomay (G), Secondary Educator, Bottineau

Pam Hintz (G), Secondary Educator, Elgin/
New Leipzig



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Patrick Fridgen, Editor

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engaged in hands-on water activities and investigations. These water festivals exposed students to water resources in a way that both complemented and reinforced their traditional classroom learning in a fun and exciting manner.

Students from all three festivals spent a half-day participating in hands-on water related activities. Presenters included 13 Project WET facilitators, as well as local, state, and federal agency and community organization personnel.

Bill Sharff, the state Project WET director says, "We are passionate about the importance of water education. Only by understanding the importance of water in our daily lives can each of us become a good environmental steward. Project WET and the local water festival sponsors are making important strides to provide our state's youth knowledge and understanding to protect future water resources."

Two of the festivals also included a "Family Program of Exploration" at which children and their parents and the general public were invited to attend. Through many of the same hands-on activities and informational sessions, participants learned about the importance of using and protecting our water resources. Over 1,100 individuals attended the Family Program at Dickinson and Grand Forks.

Major sponsors of the "Make A Splash" water festivals were the Southwest Water Authority; Dakota West Resource, Conservation, and Development Project; Dakota Science Center; Cargill; River Keepers; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Grand Forks, Dickinson and Fargo festivals, respectively); and local water resource and soil conservation districts. Special thanks to all the organizers, sponsors, contributors, volunteers, presenters, school personnel, and of course, the participating students and teachers.



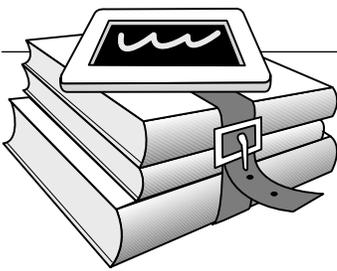
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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 November 3, 2003, meeting in Bismarck. In action items, the Commission approved:

- Funding for the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project (NDCMP) in the amount of \$225,000. The NDCMP is an operational summer-time cloud seeding program designed to decrease hail damage and increase rainfall in the participating counties.
- Additional funding for the Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program in the amount of \$150,000. The Commission originally approved \$200,000 in August 2003, but due to the popularity of the program, additional funding was necessary to meet the needs of producers in drought stricken counties.
- Conditional funding not to exceed \$76,435 for the 32nd Avenue South Dam modification project in Fargo. The proposed modifications to the dam will involve construction of a rock slope fish-way downstream of the dam that will have the appearance and function of natural rock rapids.
- A request for conditional approval of cost-share in the amount of \$92,333 from the Steele County Water Resource District for Steele-Trail Drain No. 17.
- A cost-share request from the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board for Sweetwater/Mor-

ison Lake storage contracts in the amount of \$100 per acre, not to exceed \$27,750.

- Cost share in the amount of \$34,836 for a Walsh County Drain No. 27 improvement and reconstruction project.
- An allocation of \$100,000 to the ND Irrigation Caucus to continue to carry out the activities outlined in their strategic plan for 2004 and 2005.
- Funding in the amount of \$590,600 over the next three years to enhance irrigation development opportunities through coordinated marketing efforts and developing critical infrastructure for malting barley, corn, and vegetables.
- The Fiscal Year 2003 MR&I budget. Under the FY 2003 MR&I budget: the McKenzie County Water Management District is approved for an MR&I grant of up to \$360,000 for adding pipeline capacity to the Fort Berthold Rural Water System; Mountrail Rural Water is approved for a water development and research grant of up to \$37,700 for a feasibility study; the NAWs project is approved for a grant of up to \$1,219,000; the Park River Water System is approved for a \$550,000 water development and research grant for an improvement project; Traill County Rural Water is approved for a research grant of \$42,250 for a feasibility study; and Williams Rural Water is approved for an MR&I grant of \$1,060,000 for an expansion project.
- The point of delivery amendment for Medora's Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) water service contract.
- A capital repayment rate for the SWPP of \$0.89 per thousand gallons for contract users, and \$27.07 per month for rural users for 2004, along with a rate of replacement and extraordinary maintenance of \$0.35 per thousand gallons.



THE WATER PRIMER

SWC's 2003 Construction Season UPDATE

By Brad Benson

The North Dakota State Water Commission had a busy construction season in 2003, completing vital repairs and improvements on many water control structures across the state.

- **Walsh County Drain # 27:**

The concrete chute outlet structure on drain had fill placed in open joints, steel plates were placed over joint gaps, and fill was placed in eroded areas.

- **Drayton Dam:** A weir clogged with tree trunk debris was cleared. One tree was left, due to equipment access problems.

Tree trunk debris at Drayton Dam.



- **McVile Dam:** Inoperable low-level drawdown was replaced with a new system and materials, consisting of a new valve and stop log system.

- **Dead Colt Creek Dam:** Inlet structure's manhole cover was replaced.

- **Lamoure Dam:** Work from the 2002 construction season was continued by installing a concrete cap on the old masonry dam. Finishing work included a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream flow gauge, and a new riparian outlet gate.

- **Fish Creek Dam:** Fill and sealant materials were placed in a gap that had opened between the principal spillway pie and the low-level pipe.

- **Sweetbriar Dam:** The concrete inlet structure, which had been severely damaged by ice, was repaired by a contractor, a new low level drawdown system was installed, and an unsafe pipe in the embankment was filled with concrete, in order to bring the dam inline with dam safety standards.

- **Stream Flow Gauging Stations:** Several USGS gauging stations were repaired or needed routine maintenance across the state.

- **Stream Bank Stabilization:** Several stream bank stabilization projects were completed for the North Dakota Department of Transportation across the state.