



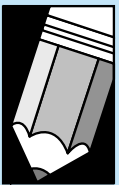
SWC approves \$19 M for Devils Lake outlet

On December 5, 2003, the North Dakota State Water Commission, chaired by Governor John Hoeven, approved funding of up to \$19 million to construct the final phases of

North Dakota's Devils Lake Emergency Outlet project. The unanimous vote clears the way to begin bidding the remaining portions of the State's Devils Lake Emergency Outlet.

Governor Hoeven said "This is a critically important project for the people of the Devils Lake region and the State of North Dakota, we must move forward with our plans to provide flood relief that is so urgently needed."

Joe Belford, a spokesperson for the basin area, said "despite the relatively dry weather of late, another major storm could result in an additional \$100 million dollars in damages on top of the \$400 million that has already occurred around Devils Lake. Devils Lake is in a vulnerable situation and we desperately need this help."



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 December 5, 2003, meeting in Bismarck. The Commission meeting was held at the Ramkota Hotel in conjunction with the 40th annual North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Expo. In action items, the Commission:

- Conditionally approved a request from the Rush River Water Resource District for cost-share in the amount of \$66,850 to proceed with an outlet improvement project on Cass County Drain Number 30. This approval is subject to the availability of funds, issuance of the required permit(s), and approval of the project's final design.
- Granted conditional approval of state cost-share in the amount of \$245,385 to the Richland County Water Resource District for a reconstruction and extension project in the District's Richland County Drain Number 2.

- Approved an allocation of \$16,289 to the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust (Trust). The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District also contribute equal amounts to the Trust annually.

- Approved a cost-share request from the Red River Joint Water Resource District in the amount of \$18,000 to help pay salary and expenses associated with the Red River Basin Coordinator position. The Red River basin is subject to severe and repeated flooding which has a dramatic impact on the lives of people living in that area. The Red River Basin Coordinator will be involved in developing plans and strategies to help alleviate flood-related impacts in that region. The Coordinator's total annual salary for these efforts will be \$50,000.

- Approved funding in the amount of \$70,000 for Will and Carlson Consulting. Since 1991, Will and Carlson Consulting have provided services for the state in Washington DC for Garrison Diversion, Devils Lake, and the Dakota Water Resources Act.

- Approved the funding necessary to bid and construct the final phases of the state's Devils Lake outlet project in the amount of \$19 million. (See related *Oxbow* article)

- Approved funding in the amount of \$15,000 for a Devils Lake Out-

let Awareness Project Manager. In addition to the \$15,000 provided by the Commission, contributions are also provided by the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, the Devils Lake Joint Board, and the Forward Devils Lake Corporation in the amounts of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively.

- Extended the contract for the Devils Lake Basin Manager position. The Commission's contribution will be in the amount of \$26,000.

- Approved and adopted the 2003 Series A Resolution for the North Dakota State Water Commission Water Development Revenue Bond, Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), Medora-Beach Regional Service Area. This resolution will authorize the sale of \$1.54 million in bonds with an interest rate not to exceed 4.5 percent for the SWPP.

- Approved funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Red River Basin Commission to: complete the drainage and flood damage reduction portions of their Natural Resource Framework Plan; assist with the Red River Valley Water Supply Study; and contribute to the Fargo-Moorhead Feasibility Study planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Red River Basin Commission was formed in 2001 as a grass roots effort to address land and water issues in a Red River basin-wide context.

State Engineer Dale Frink said “There is always the chance that the project may be stopped due to permitting issues or legal complications but we must move forward with construction this summer if we are to meet our goal of moving flood water in 2005.” Frink added that the permits are based on technically sound information and he is confident they will stand up to challenges.

Construction expected in 2004 includes site grading, channel construction, pipelines, purchase and installation of pumps, and various control systems. Land acquisitions for right of way are ongoing. Total cost for the project is currently estimated at about \$28 million. When completed, the project will move up to four inches of water off Devils Lake each year to the Sheyenne River. Devils

Lake is currently at about 1446.3 feet above mean sea level.

Hoeven said “It is important that we recognize the potential impacts of Devils Lake water downstream in the Sheyenne and Red Rivers. We have taken every precaution to address downstream issues in the design of this project and will continually monitor its operations to head off any unforeseen problems.”

“On behalf of the residents of the Devils Lake basin, we are very appreciative of the support provided by the State Water Commission,” Belford said. “I have said many times that the people of my region have no desire to pass our flooding problem on to our friends and neighbors downstream. We still have some folks that are unhappy about the project, but it must be built for the benefit of the whole region.”

A portion of the open channel construction completed by Park Construction during the Fall of 2003.



Final SWPP Medora-Beach phase ends 2003 construction season

The 2003 construction season marked the beginning of the final phase of the Southwest Pipeline Project—the Medora-Beach Phase. The first contract of this final phase, the Medora Beach Main Transmission Pipeline (Contract 2-5B), is for 46.4 miles of 12-inch through 6-inch diameter PVC pipe. This contract also includes two booster pump stations and several pressure reducing valve vaults. Contract 2-5B was awarded to Northern Improvement of Bismarck, June 4, 2003.

Toward the end of November, Northern Improvement had installed about 21.5 miles of pipe before they opted to shut down for the winter. This left them a couple miles short of their intermediate completion goal of 22.1 miles, which was to be met by December 31, 2003.

The reason the Water Commission set an intermediate completion

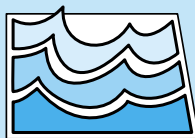
date was to get through the National Grasslands in one construction season to minimize impacts and reclamation costs. This was an important consideration for the Commission as there is no construction activity allowed in some grasslands areas during specified periods of time because of sensitive animal species such as eagles, burrowing owls, falcons, and other raptors; and big horn sheep.

Construction on the Belfield Reservoir (Contract 5-9) also began during the 2003 construction season. Advanced Tank of Wellington, Colorado, was awarded the contract, and the anticipated completion date

is August 1, 2004.

The Belfield Reservoir, which is also part of the final phase of the Southwest Pipeline Project, will be a welded and painted steel potable water reservoir, 52 feet in diameter, 48 feet high, and have a capacity of approximately 750,000 gallons. It will be located just east of Belfield.

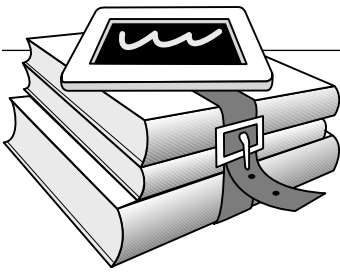
The remaining facilities to be contracted as part of the Medora-Beach Phase of the Southwest Pipeline during the 2003-2005 biennium include: the Beach reservoir, the First Phase Fryburg Rural Distribution, and Telemetry Phase 1.



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THE WATER PRIMER

NAWS: Moving Forward in 2003

Construction on the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project has wrapped up for another year, bringing the promise of clean water to northwestern North Dakota a little closer to reality.

The NAWS project will be of sufficient size to deliver a maximum daily flow of 26 million gallons per day to the Minot Water Treatment Plant. The 45-mile pipeline will pump pretreated water from Lake Sakakawea to the treatment plant in Minot. This pipeline will include a 3 million gallon water storage reservoir and a booster pump station with pretreatment facilities.

In the summer of 2002, construction for contract 2-1A was completed, when 7.5 miles of 36-inch and 30-inch pipeline was put into place.

The NAWS project was started at the Minot Water Treatment Plant, and proceeded south and east, until reaching U.S. Highway 83 at Ward County Road 16. Two additional miles of pipeline, including the highway crossing, were added to this contract with a change order. Construction on this addition was completed in July.

In 2003, construction began on contract 2-1B of the NAWS project. Phase II included approximately 9.5 miles of 30-inch and 36-inch ductile iron pipe running from the south end of the pipeline completed under contract 2-1A on the east side of U.S. Highway 83, to just south of State Highway 23. As of freeze up, approximately 64 percent of the pipe for Contract 2-1B had been placed. The remaining construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2004.

In the coming years, construction on contracts 2-1C and 2-1D of the NAWS project will begin, placing the remaining 28 miles of pipeline all the way to the intake.

A lawsuit filed by the Canadian Province of Manitoba in 2002, challenging the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the NAWS project, and seeking an injunction requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, has been progressing. A hearing at the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., followed by a ruling on Manitoba's challenge, is expected sometime in early 2004.

NAWS will eventually bring water from Lake Sakakawea to Minot, and to as far away as Sherwood in the north, Bottineau in the east, and Noonan in the west. Along the way, successive phases of construction will also connect the communities of Berthold, Mohall, Kenmare, Bowbells, Columbus, Westhope, and Souris. Smaller regional systems may also be considered as alternatives to the central supply from the Missouri River. These alternatives will be evaluated as they develop, and as the NAWS project progresses. Separate supplies will be developed for Grenora and Wildrose.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the NAWS project, please contact the NAWS Project Manager, Jim Lenington of the NDSWC, at (701) 328-2750, or you can find more information on the NDSWC website at www/swc/state/nd/us/projects/nwwatsup.html.



Construction on the Northwest Area Water Supply project in 2003.