



SWC Supports Water Supply Projects in Williston, Watford City and Dickinson

At their February 27 conference call meeting, the State Water Commission agreed to provide an additional \$32 million in state grant funds to support critical water supply projects in three western North Dakota cities. The grants were provided to address current and future demands in Dickinson, Watford City, and Williston from growing populations related to oil production.

The commission will tap available funding from the Resources Trust Fund, which provides the lion's share of the agency's resources for water development efforts across the state.

The grants approved by the Water Commission included:

- Dickinson - \$18.4 million for new water transmission lines, a pumping station, water storage facilities and other water supply infrastructure.

- Williston - \$6.95 million for new water transmission lines and engineering services.
- Watford City - \$6.7 million for two new water towers, new water transmission lines and other improvements.

The North Dakota State Water Commission's budget is funded primarily through the state's Resources Trust Fund, which is in turn financed through a portion of the state's oil extraction tax revenues.

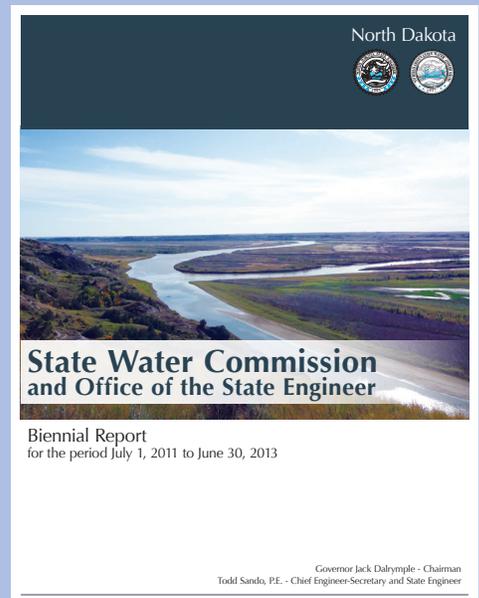
The funding provided for these projects aligns with the Commission's mission to improve the quality of life and strengthen the economy of North Dakota by managing the water resources of the state for the benefit of its citizens.

Biennial Report Available

2011-2013

The North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) and the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) recently released their Biennial Report for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

The SWC and the OSE have been publishing agency biennial reports since 1904. The report highlights key events, accomplishments, and other pertinent activities of the SWC and the OSE. A copy of the current report, as well as historic reports can be found on the State Water Commission's website at: <http://www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/GetContentPDF/PB-2425/2011-2013.pdf>



HIGHLIGHTS:

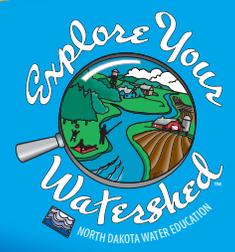
- The SWC faced challenges associated with monitoring withdrawals from both ground and surface water in western North Dakota throughout the biennium, due to increased demand related to oil activity. To meet these challenges, the SWC began a pilot study to analyze the most effective ways to monitor water withdrawals. Through this study, telemetry was set up in a series of water depots. Now it is possible to obtain real-time water usage data.
- The Atmospheric Resource Board (ARB) continued its Cloud Modification Program during the biennium. Counties that participated included Bowman, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, Williams, and part of Slope. The project target area covered 6.7 million acres in western North Dakota. Recent evaluations of the program indicate a 45% reduction in crop-hail reduction.
- The SWC had a record budget during the 2011-2013 biennium, and over \$266 million was awarded in grants and contracts for water projects around the state.
- Throughout the biennium, the SWC continued to operate the West Devils Lake Outlet within the constraints of required permits. Construction of the East Devils Lake Outlet was completed and operation began in June, 2012.

Please visit the State Water Commission website to download the report and learn more about the many projects the agency was involved in during the 2011-2013 biennium.



North Dakota State Water Commission
Todd Sando, P.E., State Engineer
900 East Boulevard Ave. • Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 328-2750 • <http://swc.nd.gov>

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Red River Watershed Institute To Be Held In Grand Forks

On July 20-25, the Water Commission's Water Education Program will host their annual Discover Today's Watershed Institute in Grand Forks.

The Institute provides participants with real world experiences from specially trained Water Education Program facilitators, resource professionals, and scientists, through user friendly and classroom ready instruction. Participants can transfer the institute's field studies to practical classroom applications including hands-on presentations, discussions, activities, field tours and environmental investigations.

Although participants can receive four semester graduate credits through Minot State, UND, or NDSU, people often attend the sessions simply for the joy of learning more about the water resource issues of North Dakota.

Many attendees are able to receive grants from their local water boards, cities, and other supporting organizations.

Objectives of the Institute Include:

- Gaining understanding and experience in teaching water-related curriculum materials in a variety of learning situations.
- Enhancing knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment in order to teach about contemporary Red River watershed issues and concerns.
- Understanding the foundation of water, science, social, and economic impacts of today's Red River watershed.
- Understanding why the Red River watershed is important

to North Dakota's well-being.

- Providing informative and educational resource materials.
- Enhancing critical thinking and information processing skills, while developing a personal perspective.
- Meeting participant expectations and having FUN LEARNING.

For more information on the Institute, go to: (<http://www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/GetSubCategoryRecord/Water%20Education/Watershed%20Institute>)

Project WET was created by the Water Commission in the late 1980s, and in almost a quarter century of time, has refined and innovated its core mission of educating the public on a wide variety of water resource issues throughout the state. The Institutes are held in different locations throughout the state, highlighting current water resource issues, as well as spotlighting topics relevant to the Institute's location.