



Dickinson Water Festival

On September 22 and 23, the Southwest Water Authority and North Dakota State Water Commission cooperatively sponsored the 17th annual “Make a Splash” Water Festival at the West River Ice Center in Dickinson.

Over the course of the two-day event, more than 540 5th grade students from elementary schools in the Southwest Water Authority’s twelve county region participated in the event. Three half-day blocks were available for students to take in ten different presentations and activities. In addition, 250 people attended the ever-popular Family Night on the first night of the program.

The festival consisted of structured learning stations, demonstrations, and exhibits where student were actively engaged in hands-on water activities and investigations. And, what makes this event and others like it around the state so popular is that the festivals provide students with an opportunity to learn about water resources in a way that both compliments and reinforces their traditional classroom learning in a fun and informative manner.

Southwest Water Authority staff and Tina Harding, Director of the State Water Commission’s Water Education Program organized the event. Harding coordinates water education programs and services for North Dakota K-12 teachers, pre-service teachers, natural resource educators, K-12 youth, and youth leaders throughout the state.

The program’s purpose is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of North Dakota’s water resources.

FESTIVAL STATIONS

STATION 1: THE LONG HAUL

Water use and conservation in the late 1800s. Sharleen Stigen, Project WET facilitator

STATION 2: 8-4-1, ONE FOR ALL

Who uses water, for what reasons, and where it comes from. Bailey Elkins, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association

STATION 3: WATER SHED MODEL/ GROUNDWATER MODEL

What watershed (ground and surface water) pollution is and how to prevent it. Bonnie Twogood, Jolyn Wasem and Kaylee Stein, Dunn County Soil Conservation District

STATION 4: H2OLYMPICS

Investigating the physical properties of water. Michael Noone, ND State Water Commission

STATION 5: REACHING YOUR LIMITS

The relationship between water quality and water treatment. Jim Jeske, Project WET facilitator

STATION 6: BLUE BEADS

Movement of water in a river system, through the seasons. Hank LaBore, Project WET facilitator

STATION 7: PUCKER EFFECT (DAY ONE)

Ground water contamination. CaraLee Heiser, Dickinson High School

STATION 7: HIDDEN WATER (DAY TWO)

How much water it takes to create products we use. Treva Slaughter, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

STATION 8: THUNDER & LIGHTNING & HAIL, OH MY!

Understanding thunderstorms and cloud seeding. Mark Schneider, ND State Water Commission

STATION 9: PETE BOGG & THE AMAZING WATER MACHINE

“Pete Bogg” shares some ways that we all can conserve water. Tom Gibson

STATION 10: THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

The movement of water through earth’s systems within the water cycle. Tina Harding, ND State Water Commission

CHANGES TO WATER COMMISSION COST-SHARE POLICY APPROVED

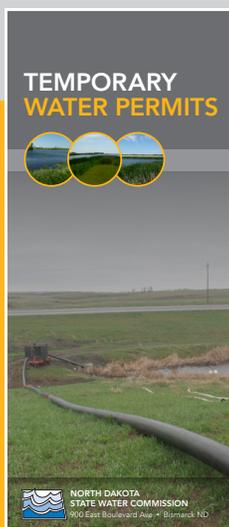
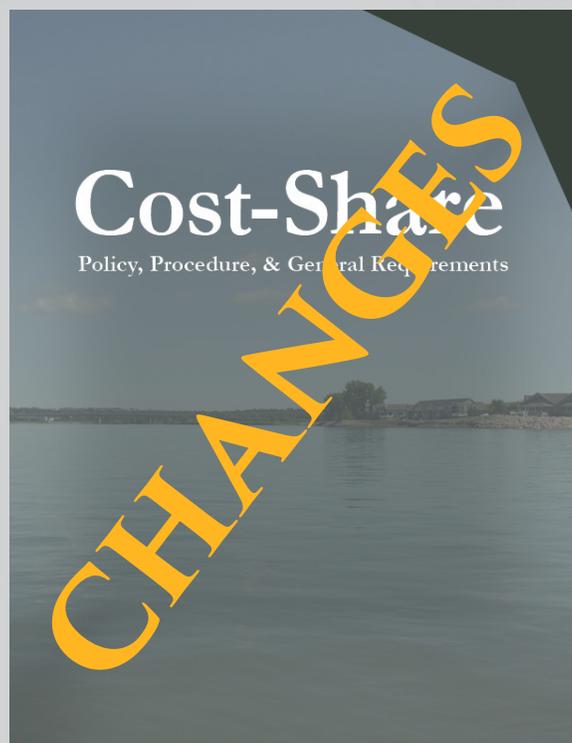
At their October 12 meeting, the State Water Commission modified their cost-share policy. The two main changes relate to flood protection project grants.

Specifically, for projects with a total cost of more than \$100 million, the State Water Commission may consider a greater level of cost-share beyond the standard 60% of eligible costs for projects without federal participation, and 50% of eligible costs for those with federal participation.

In order to qualify for a higher cost-share percentage, projects under the flood protection program must be of basin-wide or regional benefit.

Additionally, costs for property acquired by easement or fee title to preserve the existing conveyance of a breakout corridor recognized as essential to FEMA system accreditation, may be eligible for State Water Commission cost-share participation under the flood protection program.

For questions about the recent cost-share policy changes, or the program in general, please contact the cost-share program administrator at (701) 328-4862 or email bnangare@nd.gov.



TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMIT BROCHURE AVAILABLE

In some cases, a water user only needs access to water for a limited period of time. In those instances, that person should consider a Temporary Water Permit. One benefit of a Temporary Water Permit, is that the application process does not take as long as what is required for Conditional Water Permits.

A brochure explaining when a Temporary Water Use Permit is required, and how to obtain one, is now available.

The brochure can be accessed via the State Water Commission website at http://www.swc.nd.gov/pdfs/temp_water_permit.pdf.

Survey helicopter takes off near Jamestown, ND.



A Geotech helicopter collected aquifer data.

STATE WATER COMMISSION CONDUCTS AERIAL SURVEY OVER THE SPIRITWOOD AQUIFER

The State Water Commission recently conducted an airborne electromagnetic survey (AEM) over the Spiritwood Aquifer, east of Jamestown, ND. The survey, performed in October, will provide a high resolution map of the Spiritwood Aquifer and will help water managers identify and optimize local sources of available groundwater.

The Spiritwood Aquifer is an underground water supply. The top of the aquifer is generally between 110 feet and 120 feet below the surface of the ground, and the deepest parts are over 300 feet below the surface.

The airborne survey implemented a helicopter towing an antenna about 100 feet above the ground, which sends and receives electromagnetic signals to characterize the geology beneath the surface. "It's like getting an MRI of the earth," explained Jon Patch, Water Appropriations Division Director for the State Water Commission. "The data will allow us to see the deepest and most transmissive part of the aquifer, and really identify the geometry of the glacial environment."

The geophysical data was collected by the helicopter flying in a grid pattern in an area about five miles wide, extending from Wallum in the north to Montpelier in

the south. The helicopter traversed the area at intervals of about a quarter mile. "The company hired to collect the data, Geotech, is an industry leader worldwide. AEM has proven to be a safe, dependable, and cost-effective way to collect a tremendous amount of data, and may revolutionize the way we do data collection in the future. It's truly amazing and leading edge," said Patch.

The estimated cost of the project is between \$250,000 and \$300,000 and will be paid for by the North Dakota State Water Commission. Flights for the study began on October 6 and were completed on October 24.

"The project has considerable promise and it's also a very cost-effective method to gather great amounts of input," noted Patch. "Preliminary data is starting to materialize and so far it's generated exceptional information, which is very exciting."



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

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