



FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION



Budgeting Process & Water Plan Update To Begin

In preparation for the next budgeting process, the State Water Commission will begin developing an update to the 2015 State Water Plan – focusing on the 2017-2019 biennium and beyond. To make this process a success, the Planning and Education Division will be sending letters in February to potential project sponsors from all across the state; asking for their help in identifying the water development projects and programs they're trying to move forward, the timing of their implementation, and estimated costs.

As in the past, the input gained from local project sponsors and water managers will become the foundation of the State Water Commission's budget request to the Governor and Legislature. Therefore, the information provided will ultimately help in the allocation of agency budget resources. Thus, we are interested in collecting information on water-related projects or programs that may require Water Commission cost-share during the 2017-2019 biennium and beyond.

The State Water Commission recognizes that local water managers and their constituents' efforts are at the heart of water development in North Dakota. And for that reason, we start our budgeting process at the local level, with grassroots input, from local individuals who understand the water management challenges and solutions in their respective regions as well as anyone else.

If you're a local water board member, a community leader, or are the manager of a large-scale water project or water supply system, please look for a letter in the mail in the next month requesting your input. With your help, we can develop a quality update to our State Water Plan – providing the most accurate information possible to the water community and our elected officials.

If you have any questions about the upcoming planning process, please contact the Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4989 or email ndswmp@nd.gov.

Water Commission Funding Devils Lake, Northeast Regional, & Langdon Water Supply Regionalization Study

The State of North Dakota and State Water Commission have continued to make water supply regionalization projects a high priority in recent biennia. These types of projects improve efficiency, reduce operational costs through economies of scale, and provide an important mechanism to deliver more reliable and higher quality water supplies to citizens in need.

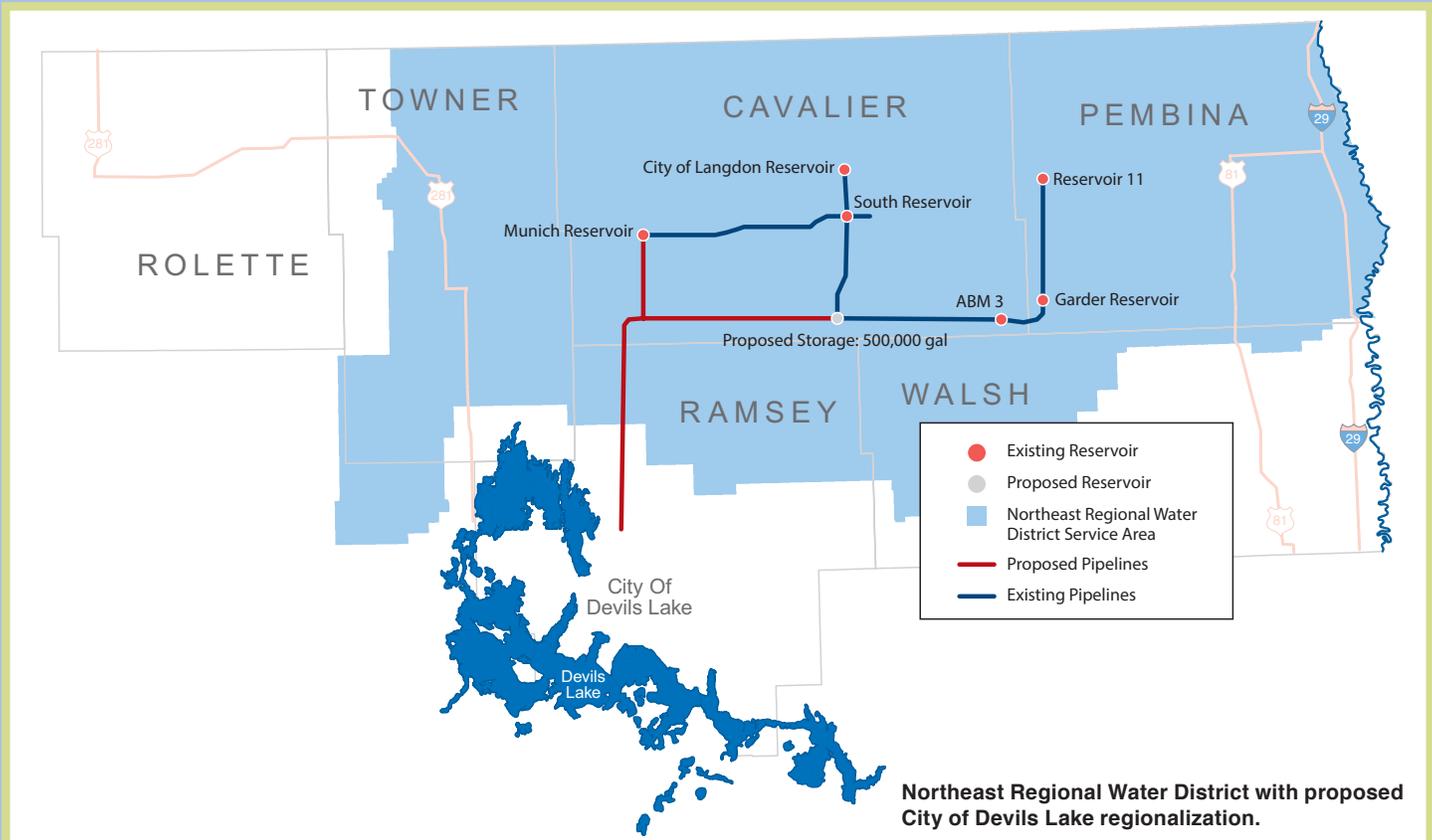
At their December meeting, the State Water Commission approved a 35 percent cost-share request from the Northeast Regional Water District (NRWD), totaling \$533,750 to complete a feasibility study and design efforts on a water supply regionalization project with the City of Devils Lake.

This study and project stem from the issue that North Dakota is a land of extremes, with flooding and drought an ever-present possibility. While over the past 25 years North Dakota has been struggling with serious flooding, the threat of a long-term serious drought is a real concern. In a 1930s type drought, the City of Langdon, the Langdon Rural Water District, and the NRWD would not be able to meet the water supply needs of their customers.

A potential solution is to examine a cooperative approach involving the City of Devils Lake. In response to severe flooding problems in the 1990s and 2000s, the City of Devils Lake was forced to find an alternative water supply. When Devils Lake rose, it covered their water supply pipeline for miles – creating a dangerous situation if the line ever failed or repairs were ever needed. The new water supply and supply line has now been in place for nearly a decade. And, fortunately for the region, their new water treatment plant and existing infrastructure provided them with the potential to expand, and provide regional service beyond just the City of Devils Lake.

As envisioned, this regionalization project would provide drinking water to the citizens of Langdon, the Langdon Rural Water District's NRWD branch, and potentially 150 additional users within the NRWD service area.

It is expected that the overall project will cost approximately \$22.5 million to complete.



Water Commission Provides Funding For Burleigh County Flood Control



In December, the State Water Commission transferred \$2.8 million in funding, to the Burleigh County Water Resource District (BCWRD), for the Fox Island Flood Control Project. And in September 2015, the State Water Commission transferred funds of \$1.2 million to support the Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC) flood control project.

Within Senate Bill 2020, the Legislature directed about \$660 million toward water development projects from funding sources such as the Resources Trust Fund, the Water Development Trust Fund, the Disaster Relief Fund, the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund, and other sources. Senate Bill 2020 included a specific appropriation of \$4 million for permanent flood control projects along the Missouri River in Burleigh County, designated for MRCC and the Fox Island levee projects.

The Fox Island Flood Control Project was first initiated by a petition from flooded residents following the 2009 Missouri River ice jam.

Then after the 2011 flood event, a more extensive evaluation of the area took place, including the Fox Island Flood Control Feasibility Assessment, completed in February 2014. The assessment contained a review of the 2009 ice jam and 2011 flood event, their impacts, and alternative protection measures considered, based upon the known risks and public input from the benefited residents.

Upon completion, the Fox Island project will provide flood protection to 116 rural residential properties, and will provide the necessary corridor and easements for greater emergency flood protection, should that be necessary.

The MRCC levee project has been progressing through the development process since the Missouri River flood of 2011. Following a positive assessment vote, the project design is currently being finalized, with the intent to advertise for bids in early 2016, followed by a spring construction start, and completion in the fall 2016. The project will provide flood protection for an estimated of 200 people.

The next step for the BCWRD and the Fox Island Flood Control Project are a public information meeting, a formal public hearing, and an assessment district vote.



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