

## *Sando To Retire*

### **From State Engineer Position in June**

By Jessie Wald

Todd Sando, North Dakota's 17th State Engineer, announced his retirement at the March 9 State Water Commission meeting in Bismarck with Commission members, Governor Jack Dalrymple, agency staff members, and numerous water professionals in attendance. "It's hard for me to do this because water has been my entire life," said Sando. "It was an emotional decision that my wife, Lunette and I carefully considered together, and now the time just seems right for my retirement."

Sando spent his entire career working for the State Water Commission and gave 31 years of dedicated service to the people of North Dakota. In 1984, he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of North Dakota and became a registered Professional Engineer - following in his father Ron's footsteps, and along with his brother Brad, who are also both engineers. "My entire childhood was centered around water and I knew that my career would also be embodied with water," stated Sando. "I've always understood the value, importance, power, and necessity of water and I wanted to utilize that knowledge."

Following an internship with the State Water Commission survey crew, Sando began his employment in 1985 as a Water Resource Engineer with the agency. In 1997, after leading the Investigations Section for nine years, Sando was hired as Director of the Water Development Division. In addition to his duties as Division Director, he also added the role of Assistant State Engineer in 2001.

After beginning his career with the Water Commission, Sando dreamed of one-day serving as North Dakota's State Engineer. That dream became a reality in 2010,



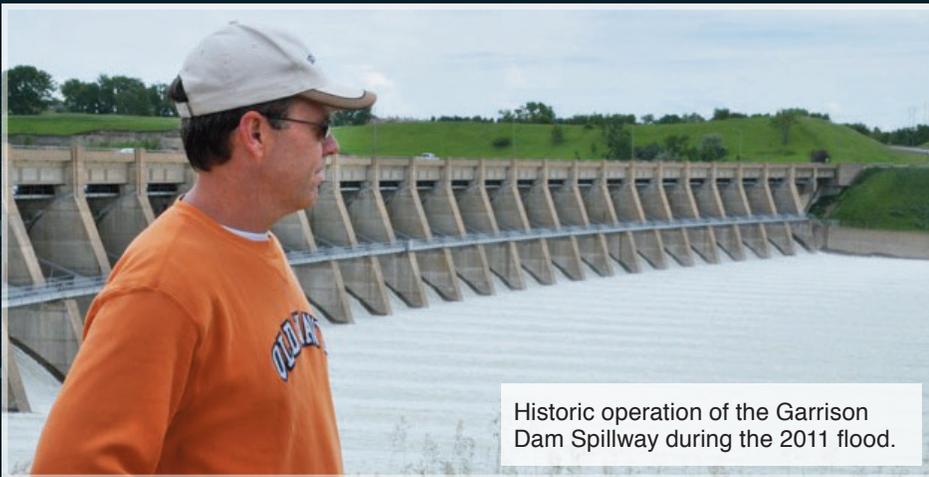
when he assumed the role of State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary to the State Water Commission.

Flood response efforts consumed much of Sando's career. Just a few of the crises he faced on his watch included: Grand Forks devastated by flood waters in 1997; an ice jam on the Missouri River in 2009; unparalleled flooding on the Red River that spring; devastating flooding engulfing much of the state in 2011; and Devils Lake's quarter century long flood.

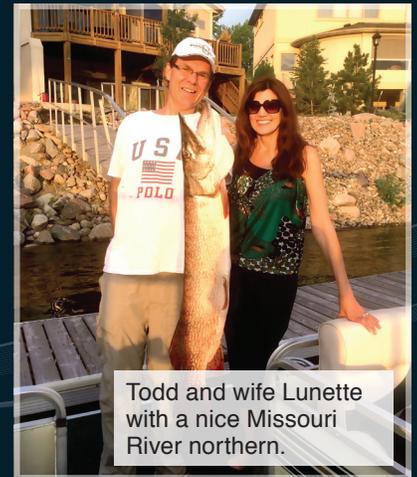
Sando's pivotal leadership helped guide the state in flood response efforts and extraordinary progress in flood fighting accomplishments across the state. Today, all of North Dakota's major population centers have permanent flood protection in place, or have projects in the works.

There have been many other notable and memorable accomplishments along the way, including the completion and ongoing operation of the West and East Devils Lake outlets, the modification and revision of the Missouri River Master Manual, and the vast improvements and expansion of dozens of rural, regional, and municipal water supply systems across the state that provide our citizens with clean, reliable water supplies.

His hard-earned insight and momentous guidance in water management, water supply, flood control, and involvement in interstate and international water resources have been invaluable to the state and citizens of North Dakota. "Todd Sando has done an outstanding job managing North Dakota's tremendous water



Historic operation of the Garrison Dam Spillway during the 2011 flood.



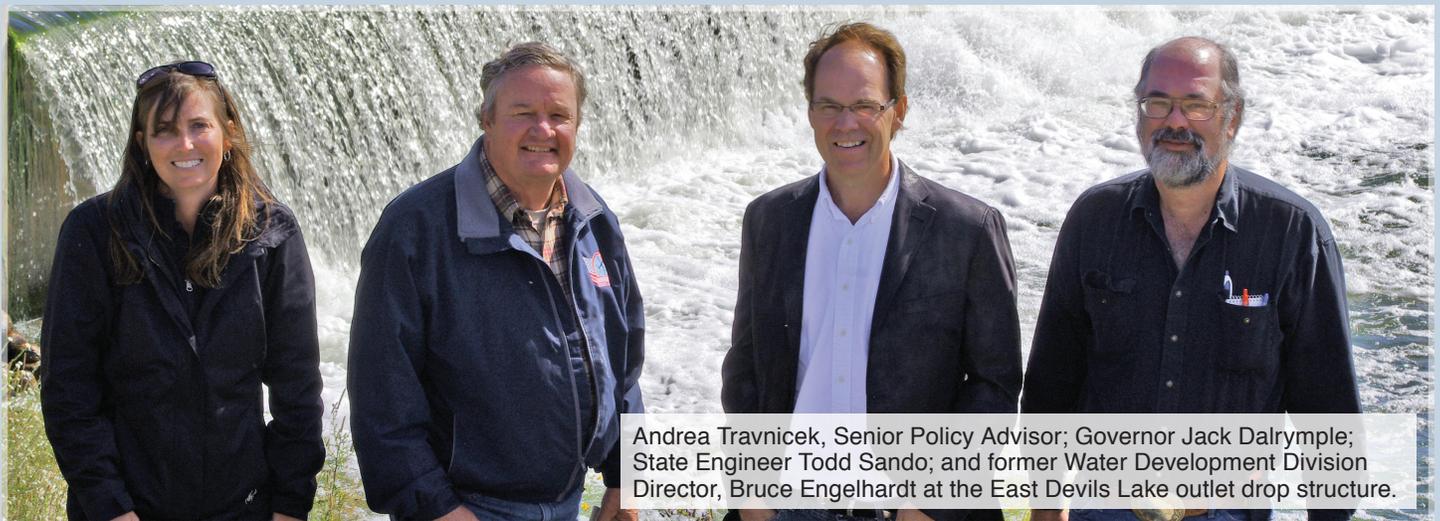
Todd and wife Lunette with a nice Missouri River northern.

resources at a time of unprecedented growth across our state,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple, chairman of the nine-member State Water Commission. “His commitment to the responsible management of our water will have a lasting impact on future generations. We thank him for his many years of dedicated public service and we wish him well in his retirement.”

Sando has also served on several state-wide, national, and international water resource organizations throughout the years. He acted as the United States Co-Chair of the International Souris River Board, served on the board of directors for the Red River Basin Commission, the Red River Retention Authority, the Upper Missouri Water Users Association, the Western States Water Council, the Association of Western States Engineers, and was chairman of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

Sando feels incredibly lucky and grateful that he was able to spend his entire career at the State Water Commission. “I am immensely indebted to the State Water Commission for the incredible opportunity to serve our state and the citizens of North Dakota for 31 cherished years. I want to thank the Water Commission members and all of the agency’s staff for your dedication and commitment throughout the years,” said Sando. “It’s hard to say goodbye, but I am looking forward to retirement and being able to spend more time with my family and friends. Water will continue to be a big part of my life as I hope to spend my days boating and fishing on the rivers and lakes in North Dakota.”

Sando is set to retire by the end of June and the State Water Commission is currently conducting a national search to fill the position of State Engineer.



Andrea Travnicek, Senior Policy Advisor; Governor Jack Dalrymple; State Engineer Todd Sando; and former Water Development Division Director, Bruce Engelhardt at the East Devils Lake outlet drop structure.

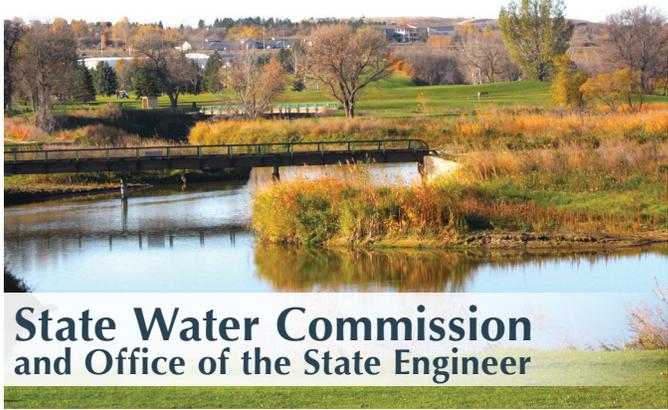


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North Dakota

**State Water Commission  
and Office of the State Engineer**

Biennial Report  
for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015

Governor Jack Dalrymple - Chairman  
Todd Sando, P.E. - Chief Engineer-Secretary and State Engineer

## Biennial Report Available: 2013-2015

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, 2013 to June 30, 2015. 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.nd.gov/info\\_edu/reports\\_and\\_publications/biennial\\_reports/pdfs/2013-15](http://www.swc.nd.gov/info_edu/reports_and_publications/biennial_reports/pdfs/2013-15).

## Water Commission Website Goes Mobile

Fresh on the heels of the release of the new and improved State Water Commission website (<http://www.swc.nd.gov>), we are proud to announce that the website is also now mobile-friendly.

“The agency webpage is an outstanding resource that puts terabytes of water resource information at the fingertips of North Dakotans,” said Todd Sando, State Engineer. “From our extensive permit and water monitoring network, to aerial photography and LiDAR, to real-time radar and budgeting information, the Water Commission is committed to providing these valuable resources to the public. Many people use mobile devices as their primary computer, and we wanted to ensure that those users would have the same level of access.”

If you have questions or comments about the content of the agency's website, please contact the Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4989 or email [mnoone@nd.gov](mailto:mnoone@nd.gov).

