



CHRIS BADER TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF WATER APPROPRIATION

In April, Chris Bader began serving the people of North Dakota as the Water Commission's new Director of the Water Appropriation Division.

Bader is a long-standing employee with the State Water Commission (SWC), having served an astounding 36 years with the agency. "Chris Bader's dedication and commitment to the state is remarkable," noted John Paczkowski, Interim State Engineer. "He is an invaluable resource to the agency and is exceedingly relied upon by his peers. Chris will continue to demonstrate leadership and provide extensive technical expertise in his new role as Water Appropriation Division Director."

In 1985, Bader began his career with the SWC as a Hydrologist and was hired by Milt Lindvig. Milt served as the Director of the Water Appropriation Division from 1974 - 2003.

Bader's work ethic propelled him into leadership roles, and he was promoted to Hydrologist III in 1992. Chris continued to thrive within the agency and wanted to advance his education. With support and encouragement from Lindvig, Chris pursued his goals and earned his Master's Degree in



Chris Bader, Director of Water Appropriation

Geography from the University of Kansas in 1994. Previously, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Fort Hays State University.

In 2001, Bader was named the team lead for the Information Technology (IT) staff at the Water Commission. Chris and his staff have developed, implemented, and supported a wide-variety of innovative technology services including, general data management and related GIS services supporting agency water resource management efforts, the North Dakota Risk Assessment Map Service (NDRAM), Pushing Remote SENSors (PRESENS), an extensive cost-share database, and numerous tools through MapServices that are provided to the public free of charge. These are just a few notable examples of how the IT staff have helped enhance the agency utilizing state-of-the art technological infrastructure.

In his spare time, Chris enjoys fishing and boating with family and his wife, Allison. The couple also spends a considerable amount of time watching their youngest son participate in traveling basketball tournaments.



Chris has three children, Samantha, Dylan, and Garrett. He is also a proud grandpa to Logan, Ethan, and Zoey. Recently, the family added a new member to their family, a German Shepard puppy named Ember.

“There have been many challenges throughout my career at the Water Commission and looking back, I am thankful for the diverse experiences and opportunities I was afforded,” said Bader. “I am very appreciative of all the wonderful people that I have worked with and the guidance that they have provided to help shape my career. This is an exciting new chapter and I look forward to serving the people and state of North Dakota in this new capacity.”

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WATER APPROPRIATION DIVISION

Appropriation plays a crucial role in the management of water resources in North Dakota. The Water Appropriation Division within the Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer follows strict guidelines to protect established water rights of applicants and help maintain the continued prosperity and welfare of the state’s citizens. The division rigorously adheres to previously implemented water laws, rules, and policies to assure the sustainability of the water resources in the state.

The state’s water resources are managed and appropriated in accordance with Article XI of the North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 61 of North Dakota Century Code (NDCC). The laws are based on the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation. NDCC states, “All waters within the limits of the state from the following sources of water supply belong to the public and are subject to appropriation for beneficial use and the right to the use of these waters for such use must be acquired pursuant to chapter 61-04.”

For more information, please visit www.swc.nd.gov or contact the Water Appropriation Division at (701) 328.2754.



Responsibilities of the Water Appropriation Division

- Identify the availability and chemical quality of the state’s water resources;
- Assist municipalities and other public entities in developing solutions to particular water supply problems;
- Assess the impacts of existing water use on ground water levels, stream flow, and chemical quality of water for the purposes of future allocation and management;
- Collect, store, and disseminate data on stream flow, spring flow, ground water, lake levels, water quality, and water use;
- Carry out the administrative procedures required for water permit applications, water permits, and water rights;
- Conduct analyses and provide recommended decisions to the State Engineer on water permit applications;
- Develop and maintain a system for the storage and retrieval of water permit records;
- Monitor the utilization of each conditional and perfected water permit through annual water use reports, and maintain a permanent record; and
- Participate in committees and task forces pertaining to water quantity and/or quality issues as required.

