



REICE HAASE

NORTH DAKOTA'S NEW DWR DIRECTOR

In January 2025, Governor Kelly Armstrong appointed Reice Haase as Director of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR). With a career that bridges both public service and private-sector expertise, Haase brings a balanced, thoughtful approach to managing and developing North Dakota's water resources.

Originally from Williston, ND, Haase earned his degree from the University of Iowa in 2011 before launching his career as a regulatory consultant and environmental scientist in the oil and gas industry. He supported environmental and energy projects across the Upper Midwest and Canada, developing technical expertise in areas such as site assessments, injection well permitting, radioactive materials licensing, and NEPA compliance.

Haase's commitment to public service began in 2018 when former Governor Doug Burgum appointed him as Senior Policy Advisor, where he oversaw portfolios in water, energy, agriculture, tribal affairs, and natural resources. He later served as Deputy Director of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, leading energy research projects and advocating for the state's natural resources. These roles prepared him well for his current leadership at DWR.

Haase views water management as a complex but essential task—one that demands sound science, strong partnerships, and public trust. Under his direction, DWR is focused on modernizing infrastructure, improving permitting processes,



and aligning funding systems with the long-term nature of water projects. Recent changes to cash management and funding disbursements have already unlocked hundreds of millions of dollars to support communities and rural areas across the state.

While his professional resume is impressive, Haase's story is also defined by his strong sense of family and community. He lives in Mandan with his wife, Kylie, and their two children, John and Fiona. The Haase family enjoys homeschooling, music, dance, scouting, and outdoor adventures—often joined by their Chocolate Labrador, Colt. From fishing and hiking to a memorable 2023 camping trip along the Arctic Ocean in Alaska, Reice's connection to nature runs deep.

Whether he's leading water strategy at the state level or volunteering as a Cub Scout den leader, Reice Haase exemplifies balance, commitment, and vision. As North Dakota enters a new chapter in water resource management, the Department is in good hands.



2025–2027

A NEW BIENNIUM FOR DWR

PROJECT FUNDING & CASH MANAGEMENT

The 2025–2027 biennium brings \$615.2 million of new state investment into North Dakota’s water infrastructure through House Bill 1020, DWR’s budget bill. Of that, \$358.6 million supports large regional water supply systems, including \$205 million for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, \$101 million for the Southwest Pipeline, \$40 million for the Western Area Water Supply, and \$12.6 million for the Northwest Area Water Supply. HB 1020 also included \$118.6 million for flood protection, \$110 million for municipal and rural water supplies, and \$28 million for other general water and discretionary projects. To support project schedules, a \$260 million line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota gives DWR added financial flexibility.



INVESTING IN PEOPLE & INTERNAL CAPACITY

DWR will also strengthen internal operations, adding five new full-time positions, including a deputy director, general counsel, staff accountant, NAWS system operator, and a Silver Jackets flood risk coordinator. These additions enhance DWR’s ability to manage complex projects and partner with local governments.



EXPANDING ROLES IN ENERGY & CONSERVATION

This biennium marks an expanded role for DWR beyond traditional water management. The department now serves on the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority, the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board, and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. DWR is also participating in the Interim Nuclear Energy Study, ensuring that water resources are considered in future energy development strategies.