NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY

Owned by the State of North Dakota and overseen by a 9-member advisory committee, Northwest Area Water Supply's (NAWS) purpose is to deliver Missouri River water to residents in north central North Dakota. Under the preferred alternative identified through the NEPA process, NAWS will be of sufficient size to deliver a maximum daily flow of 27 million gallons per day to approximately 81,000 people.

NAWS was authorized by the federal government through the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000. In 1991, the North Dakota Legislature created the NAWS Advisory Committee and authorized the State Water Commission to pursue the project. Since 2002, lawsuits and funding uncertainty have slowed construction of NAWS, creating the need for an interim water supply from the city of Minot. However, court approval has allowed 45 miles of transmission line to be built from Lake Sakakawea to Minot, along with 185 miles of bulk distribution pipeline for the surrounding service area.

Quick Facts

- 9 Communities
- 3 Rural Water Systems
- Minot Air Force Base
- 230 Miles Of Pipe
- 2 Ground Storage Reservoirs
- 4 Booster Pump Stations

LEGAL CHALLENGES

After more than a decade of legal proceedings filed by the Canadian Province of Manitoba and the State of Missouri against the US Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and State of North Dakota, NAWS received a favorable ruling in August 2017. The District of Columbia District Court ruled in favor of NAWS, allowing the State of North Dakota to move forward with construction of the project. Additionally, in June of 2018, the Bureau and State of North Dakota reached a settlement with Manitoba, ending its appeal of the US District Court's August 2017 ruling. The settlement has resolved Manitoba's appeal, and summary judgement has been granted in favor of NAWS.

2017-2019 FUNDING & PROGRESS

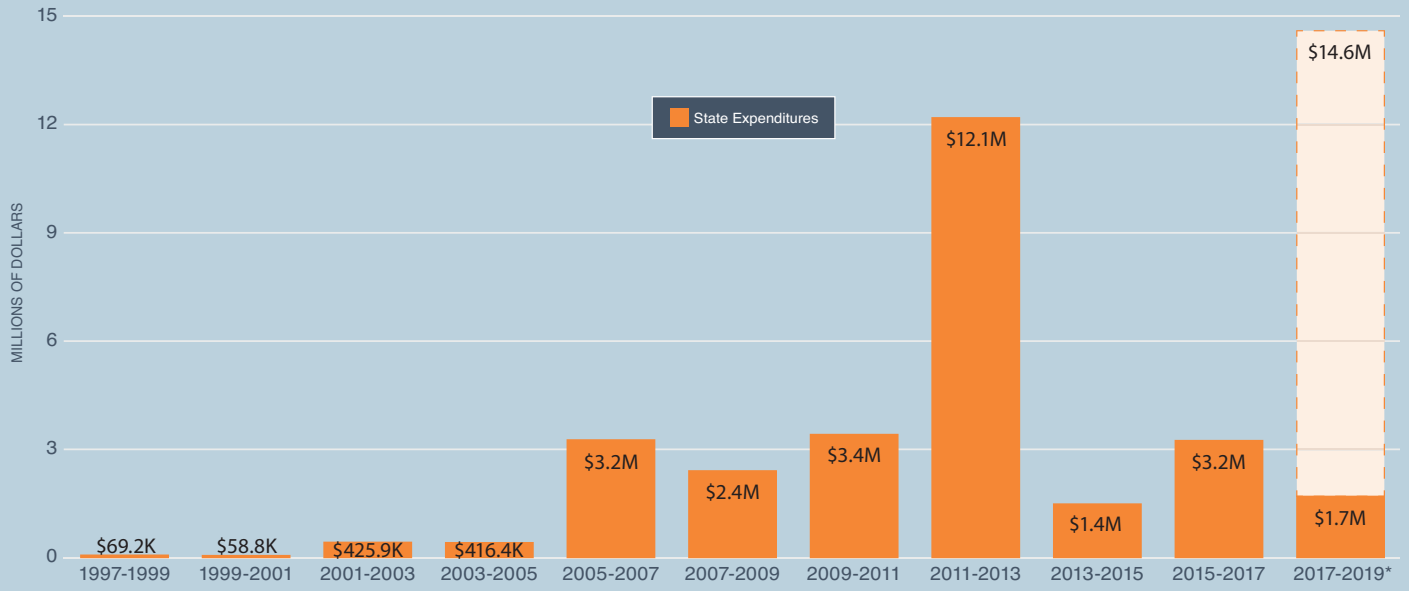
NAWS requested $55 million for the 2017-2019 biennium. While NAWS is a high priority of the state, it was understood that during the 2017-2019 biennium, progress would remain primarily dependent on court decisions. As of October 2018, $14.6 million had been committed to the project.

While a settlement was reached with Manitoba, an appeal remains from the State of Missouri based on their standing in the case.

Construction has begun on the Phase II improvements to the Minot Water Treatment Plant, which is expected to be completed in early 2020. Design work has been initiated for the biota water treatment plant, to be constructed near Max, ND. Design of the intake modifications at Snake Creek Pumping Station to supply a raw water intake for NAWS will be initiated in late 2018 or early 2019. Construction of two of the last four finished water distribution pipelines, starting at Glenburn and extending toward Bottineau, is expected to begin in 2019.

NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FUNDING DATA

HISTORIC STATE EXPENDITURES FOR NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY



*During the 2017-2019 biennium, the Water Commission approved $14.6 million for NAWS.

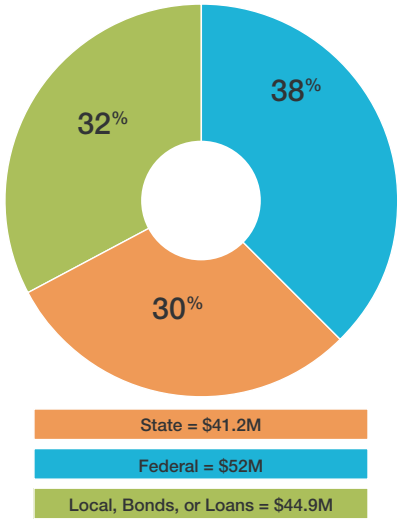
PURPOSE AND NEED

Prior to the NAWS project, communities within the project area were supplied by groundwater, were constrained by water quality and quantity issues, and did not meet secondary drinking water standards. Since 2008, the city of Minot has been providing water from the city's groundwater wells to the communities of Berthold, Burlington, Kenmare, Sherwood, and Mohall, and to rural water systems including West River, All Seasons, Upper Souris, and North Prairie to temporarily alleviate some of the area's most severe problems. However, this water supply plan is not sustainable long-term, further reinforcing the need for the NAWS Project.

HISTORIC NAWS FUNDING SOURCES

Total Funding as of October 2018

$138.1 Million

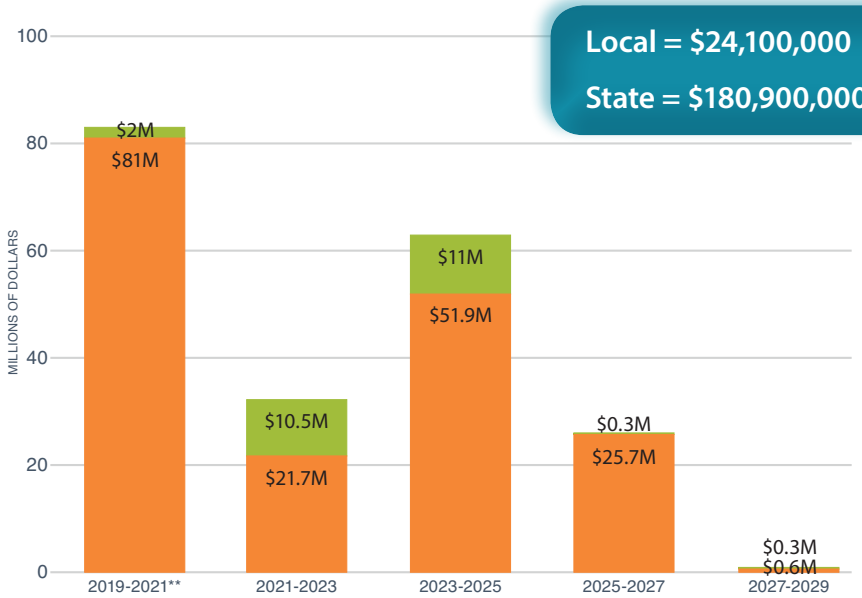


LOOKING AHEAD

NAWS FORECASTED FUNDING NEEDS

Local = $24,100,000

State = $180,900,000*



* It is anticipated that a portion of the state's funding share will be reimbursed by the federal government.

** The State share during the 2019-2021 biennium is larger than normal to match local contributions from previous biennia.