

MINUTES

Northwest Area Water Supply Authority Minot, North Dakota July 30, 2026

The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Authority held a meeting in Conference Room 3 of the Minot Public Works Building, 1025 31st St SE, Minot, ND, and via Microsoft Teams on July 30, 2026. Jason Sorenson, Vice Chairman of the NAWS Authority, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was present.

NAWS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Jason Sorenson, Vice Chairman, City of Minot Representative
Craig Haskins, North Prairie Regional Water Representative
Jason Zimmerman, State Water Commission (SWC) Representative
Kristine Goettle, Upper Souris Water Users District Representative
Mark Jantzer, Mayor and City of Minot Representative
Tony Schwalbe, Cities with Direct Service Representative
Ann Vallie, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Representative
Kenny Rogers, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Representative
Dan Schaefer, Chairman, All Season Water Users District Representative (virtual)

NAWS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:

Dan Jonasson, City of Minot Representative
David Lakefield, City of Minot Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sindhuja S. Pillai-Grinolds, Director, Water Development Division, Department of Water Resources (DWR) (virtual)
John Paczkowski, State Engineer, DWR (virtual)
Chris Kadrmas, Director, Administration Division, DWR (virtual)
Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, DWR
Erin Stieg, Water Resource Project Specialist, DWR
Cody Lockyer, NAWS Operator, DWR
Rachel Wald, All Season Water Users District (virtual)
Ryan David, Houston Engineering (virtual)
Travis Johnson, Houston Engineering (virtual)
Dustin Offerdahl, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (virtual)
Drew Carlson, PKG, Inc. (virtual)

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Sorenson requested for any corrections or additions to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda was approved as presented by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MAY 28, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were sent to the Authority for review prior to the meeting. Vice Chair Sorenson requested for feedback or changes to the meeting minutes from the previous

Authority meeting on May 28, 2026. No feedback was presented, and the meeting minutes were approved as presented by voice vote.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES DIRECTOR UPDATE

John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer, provided an update on the completion of the cost share study by Deloitte. It was noted that commissioner-hosted basin meetings were held to seek feedback and the next steps involve developing an implementation plan for the cost share program, with policy changes to be presented to the interim water topics committee in September and final approval by the Water Commission in December. He also discussed ongoing delays in the biota water treatment plant construction, primarily due to faulty filter underdrains, with multiple failed attempts at fixes and difficulties working with the manufacturer, leading to consideration of alternative suppliers. He noted that a deadline for resolution from the contractor has been set for July 31st.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE STUDY- NEXT STEPS

John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer, outlined the finalized governance and finance study, presenting three options for NAWS project. Option one included in the study which continues state ownership and Operations & Maintenance (O&M) responsibilities with strengthened NAWS authority consultation, strategic planning, staffing, and performance tracking was identified as the preferred option.

It was moved by Representative Zimmerman, seconded by Representative Schwalbe, and approved unanimously to support DWR in pursuing Option 1 for NAWS as outlined in the Regional Water Systems Governance and Finance Study: maintaining State ownership and O&M while formalizing and strengthening NAWS Authority consultation, strategic planning, staffing, and performance tracking.

JUNE 9, 2026 SWC MEETING UPDATE

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, noted that two NAWS related items were discussed for approval at the June SWC meeting. A funding allocation update for the Snake Creek Pumping Plant modifications was presented. Since the intake screen structure does not meet the Bureau of Reclamation's Buy American specifications and is not eligible for federal funding, a Change Order will be issued to move the scope of work that covers the furnishing and installation of the intake screen structure from Contract 1-1A, Contract 1, to Contract 1-1A, Contract 2. This will reduce the federal MR&I funding allocation from \$18.97 million to \$18.64 million and increase the \$2.79 million Resources Trust Fund allocation to \$3.13 million. The funding allocation update was approved by the SWC.

Additionally, Justin Froseth, Southwest Pipeline Project Manager, presented recommended changes to the process of reimbursement from the Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) fund for state owned projects. It was proposed that beginning in 2027, the annual NAWS water rate approval presentation to the SWC will include anticipated REM eligible projects for the following year. To streamline the process for reimbursement from the REM fund, it was recommended that the Secretary be authorized to approve reimbursements for SWC approved REM eligible projects following staff review, eliminating the need for additional SWC approval. It was also recommended to establish \$20,000 as the minimum cost threshold for an individual NAWS project to qualify for REM funding. This aligns with the Southwest Pipeline Project. The recommendations were approved by the SWC.

JULY 23, 2026 PRE-COMMISSION MEETING UPDATE

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, informed the Commission that a recommendation will be presented at the August State Water Commission meeting to authorize the Secretary to finalize and execute the High Service Pump Station (HSPS) Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Minot. The NAWS Authority previously approved Department of Water Resources and City of Minot staff to finalize the same agreement at its May 2026 meeting.

2027 NAWS AUTHORITY MEETING SCHEDULE

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager sought feedback from the Authority for the 2027 NAWS Authority Meeting Schedule. The Pre-Commission and SWC meetings were previously scheduled every other month. For 2027, the Pre-Commission and SWC meeting schedule is changing and does not follow the every other month schedule previously maintained. If NAWS Authority meetings are scheduled a week after Pre-Commission meeting dates, there would be five NAWS Authority meetings in 2027. The Authority had no concerns with holding 5 meetings in 2027.

NAWS BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, noted that the City of Minot has submitted twelve reimbursement requests to DWR for operations and maintenance expenses related to the NAWS Biota WTP, covering the period from August 2024 through May 2026. The requests totaling \$1,082,069, have been fully reimbursed to the City by DWR. Reclamation has awarded \$1,477,000 to cover federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026 expenses, following prior awards of \$1,932,225 for FFY 2025 expenditures and \$463,700 for FFY 2024 expenditures, for a total of \$3,872,925.

A few WCDs that incorporate revisions required by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have been issued to the Contractors constructing the Biota WTP. One of the revisions required from DEQ is the installation of a sewer drain field and a holding tank for the shop floor drain discharge. DWR will manage this revision requested by DEQ outside the construction contract. A request for informal bids was sent to sewer installation contractors in Ward and McLean counties. Dig It Up Backhoe Service, Inc has been awarded the contract to complete this work and is expected to begin work this summer.

DEQ notified DWR staff about the need for them to approve a Capacity Assessment document for the Biota WTP. DWR signed a specific authorization with the consulting engineer on March 11, 2025, to develop the document for submission to DEQ. The consulting engineer provided a first draft of the Capacity Assessment document to DWR on May 22, 2025. Reviews by DEQ staff and addressing comments are ongoing. The document also requires operations and maintenance manuals for equipment at the facility and those will not be available until the Biota WTP nears substantial completion.

Construction at the Biota WTP continues to experience delays in completion due to failed tests of the newly replaced underdrains. Details of the construction issue is discussed under the construction update agenda item. The ribbon cutting event for the Biota WTP with leadership from the the US Department of Interior has been delayed until further notice.

NAWS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, gave a brief construction update on NAWS projects following the memo included in the packet.

NAWS OPERATIONS UPDATE

City of Minot Cybersecurity Breach

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager noted on March 14, 2026, the City of Minot experienced a cybersecurity breach which resulted in a ransomware virus downloaded onto their system. City of Minot's and NAWS project's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) had limited connectivity to share critical operational data. As a precaution, the connectivity was immediately terminated when the breach occurred. DWR is coordinating with its SCADA subconsultant to establish a secure backup process for the NAWS SCADA data. The SCADA subconsultant is also evaluating options to restore the shared data between the City of Minot and NAWS servers without directly connecting the servers.

High Service Pump Station Pump Repair

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, noted that a 250 hp pump (City HSP#1) that became inoperable in March 2025 was rebuilt in August 2025, and another 250 hp pump (City HSP#3) that failed in August 2025 is currently at a shop facility in South Dakota for rebuild, with repairs expected to be completed soon. Reimbursement from the REM fund was approved to cover the repair expenses for these two pumps.

In mid-December, a 350 hp pump (NAWS HSP#1) also became inoperable. The pump and motor have been removed from the HSPS; the motor has been rebuilt and returned to the HSPS, and the pump was transported to a South Dakota shop for repairs. Due to extensive repairs needed and cost for rebuilding the pump, a quote was also received for a replacement pump. The replacement pump lead time is estimated at 10 - 15 weeks. A second quote was requested from an alternate supplier, as well as a different shop to rebuild the pump.

A machine shop in Billings specializes in vertical turbine pump repairs and subsequently provided favorable pricing and lead times for pump refurbishment services. Based on this evaluation, NAWS HSP #3 was transported to Billings for inspection and rebuild activities. Following disassembly and inspection, the shop has determined that the upper bowl assembly, lower bowl assembly, and head shaft were beyond repair and require replacement. During procurement efforts for the replacement components, it was identified that the pump model is obsolete. After analysis, pump replacement was determined to be the most cost effective solution and offered a shorter lead time than repairing the existing pump. The replacement pump was ordered on July 1 and is expected to be delivered within 12 to 14 weeks following approval of the equipment submittals which is underway.

Booster Pump Station #4, Pump #2 Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Replacement

Booster Pump Station #4, Pump #2 VFD has been replaced and commissioned. The pump is back in operation.

All Seasons Water Users District (ASWUD) Capacity Request

DWR received a request for confirmation of 1,250 gpm capacity from ASWUD. HEI noted to DWR that the existing NAWS distribution system and the current design for the Souris Reservoir and Pump Station does not have the capacity to deliver a total flow rate of 1,250

gallons per minute to ASWUD. DWR requested an analysis and Class V cost estimate from HEI for providing ASWUD with 1,250 gpm. HEI has determined that improvements to HSPS, Lansford Pump Station, and Bottineau Pump Station, an additional inline booster pump station east of Renville Corner, and revised Souris Reservoir and Pump station configuration are necessary to provide ASWUD with 1,250 gpm. The Class V cost estimate from HEI for these changes is approximately \$7 million. ASWUD has been issued a formal response to the capacity request detailing the analysis.

Potential agreement with Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD)

DWR staff is reviewing the emergency sequence of operations at the Snake Creek Pumping Plant to determine if assistance from GDCCD staff is necessary for the operations of the intake pumps and an agreement will be drafted accordingly. DWR and GDCCD staff met at the SCPP on July 9 to discuss operations and an agreement will be developed soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Erin E. Stieg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin Stieg, DWR Water Resource Project Specialist