

MINUTES

North Dakota State Water Commission Special Meeting Bismarck, North Dakota March 26, 2026

The ND State Water Commission (Commission or SWC) held a special meeting jointly with the Legislature's Interim Water Topics Overview Committee in the Pioneer Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, ND, on March 26, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Representative Swiontek, Water Topics Overview Committee Chairman, and Lt. Governor Strinden, SWC Chairman. A quorum of both boards was present.

State Water Commission Members Present:

Lt. Governor Strinden, Acting Chairman
Doug Goehring, Commissioner, ND Agriculture Commissioner
Michael Anderson, Lower Red River Basin
Jeff Frith, Devils Lake Basin
James Odermann, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Upper Cannonball River Basins
Gene Veeder, Upper Missouri River Basin
Jay Volk, Lower Missouri River Basin
April Walker, Upper Red River Basin (online)
Jason Zimmerman, Mouse River Basin

State Water Commission Members Absent:

Steve Hansen, James River Basin

Others Present:

Reice Haase, Director ND Department of Water Resources (DWR), Commission Secretary
John Paczkowski, ND State Engineer (DWR)
Patrick Fridgen, Deputy Director (DWR)
Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, Water Development Division Director (DWR)
Duane Pool, Planning and Education Division Director (DWR)
Chris Kadrmaz, Administration Division Director (DWR)
Jen Verleger, DWR General Counsel
Abby Ebach, DWR Policy Director
Shana Brost, DWR Executive Assistant
Cory Drevecky, DWR Water Resource Planner
Jonny McGrath, DWR Communications Manager
Justin Froseth, DWR SWPP Project Manager
Valeriy Dokshukin, Deloitte Consulting
Matt Austin, Deloitte Consulting
Neal Wood, Deloitte Consulting

Reice Haase, DWR Director, gave a presentation to the Commission and the Water Topics Overview Committee (WTOC) with updates within DWR. The updates included: Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) and Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project, cash management, carryover, project planning, agency initiatives, and the Legislative studies relating to the state's cost-share policies and governance and finance of regional water systems.

Valeriy Dokshukin, Deloitte Consulting, presented a report with results and recommendations on the Commission's cost-share policy study, along with results and recommendations on the regional water systems governance and finance study.

There being no further items of discussion, the Water Topics Overview Committee Chairman Representative Swiontek recessed to dissolve the joint meeting with the State Water Commission at 11:06 AM. The next State Water Commission meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT at the Bank of North Dakota, Lewis & Clark Room #238, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, North Dakota.



Michelle Strinden, Lieutenant Governor
Acting Chairman, State Water Commission



Reice Haase, Director, DWR
Secretary to the State Water Commission