

MINUTES
North Dakota State Water Commission
Bismarck, North Dakota
April 8, 2026

The ND State Water Commission (Commission or SWC) held a meeting at the Bank of North Dakota, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND, and via phone conference on April 8, 2026. Lt. Governor Strinden called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A quorum was present. The board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Water Commission Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Reice Haase, Director, ND Dept. of Water Resources (DWR or Department) and Commission Secretary
John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer
Patrick Fridgen, DWR Deputy Director
DWR Staff
Approximately 99 people present online and in person.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Goehring moved to approve the April 8, 2026, meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed by unanimous vote.

DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no potential conflicts of interest disclosed.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Frith moved to approve the February 12, 2026, State Water Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Veeder and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the March 19, 2026, Pre-Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed by unanimous vote.

COMMISSION SECRETARY UPDATE

Reice Haase, DWR Director, Commission Secretary, explained that oil prices have been volatile, with futures indicating a decline from the \$70 per barrel range to the \$60 range by next year, which directly impacts the funding available for water projects since all funding comes from oil extraction tax revenue. The Commission was informed that 70% of large regional funding and 69% of flood control funding have been obligated for the current biennium, with the municipal water supply bucket facing more requests than available funds. Director Haase described how projects were split into two categories (agenda items K and L) based on prioritization policy, with only the first six (6) projects under item K eligible for funding, and projects under item L deferred until additional funds become available to municipal funding. The Commission was updated on the carryover balance, with \$365.1 million remaining and \$205 million spent, and was advised that any turnback from other projects could provide additional funding later in the biennium.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Glossary of Terms, allocated program expenditures, and financial reports were presented by Chris Kadmas, DWR Administration Division Director.

The oil extraction tax deposits total \$120,834,320 estimated through February 2026 for the 2025-27 biennium, which is \$5,355,934 below the projected biennium revenue of \$126,190,254 through February 2026.

The 69th Legislative Assembly estimated oil extraction tax deposits for the 2025-2027 biennium to total \$354,510,000 through June 2027. It also provided for the transfer of oil extraction tax deposits in excess of the legislative forecast for the 2025-2027 biennium to be transferred quarterly to the Water Projects Stabilization Fund.

SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT (SWPP)

Justin Froseth, SWPP Project Manager, presented the following SWPP items to the Commission:

Contract 1-1B—Equipment Procurement for Existing Intake Improvements Funding Authorization

Froseth stated at the February SWC meeting, the Commission authorized the Secretary to award Contract 1-1B Bid Schedules 1, 2, and 3 for equipment procurement associated with modifications to the existing intake project. Based on the bid results, funding authorization is needed in the amount of \$1.3 million, which is calculated by including five percent (5%) contingency to the lowest responsible bids for the different Bid Schedules.

There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission allocate \$1,300,000 to the Southwest Pipeline Project from funds appropriated in the 2025-2027 biennium for the SWPP Contract 1-1B – Equipment Procurement for Modifications to Existing Intake project.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Contract 3-2H—Southwest WTP Expansion Change Order Authorization

Froseth briefed the Commission on the existing change order authorization limit for the Secretary which is \$1 million, not to exceed 20 percent of the total contract amount. The change order status of Contract 3-2H was discussed. Froseth stated the original contract price for Contract 3-2H for the Southwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion project is \$86,382,500 with a three-year construction period. A change order, currently under development, would add approximately \$540,000 and 43 days to the contract. The contract's funding authorization approved at the December 2024 SWC meeting included a five percent (5%) contingency, totaling approximately \$4.3 million, primarily intended for contract adjustments/change orders.

There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Walker the Commission to authorize the Secretary to approve cumulative change orders up to \$4.3 million on SWPP Contract 3-2H, Southwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Metallic Pipeline Project near Dodge – Replacement and Upgrade

Froseth noted that the SWPP's metallic pipeline replacement due to microbiologically induced corrosion near the City of Dodge is being expanded. The replacement project near the City of Dodge will include upgrading 2,000 ft out of 2,400 ft of 30-inch pipeline replacement with a larger 42-inch ductile iron pipe, based on hydraulic needs and long-term capacity projections. The Commission was briefed on cost allocation determination between the State and the SWPP's Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance fund, and other design considerations such as disposition of the existing pipe, and the plan of not replacing the intermediate pipe segment between the current replacement segments.

NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY (NAWS)

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, presented the following NAWS items to the Commission:

Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) Projects Approval

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, discussed with the Commissioners two (2) Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) projects. The pump replacement quote received for the High Service Pump Station (HSPS) #1 is \$154,857 with a 10 to 15 week lead time. Installation and other incidental costs are estimated at \$35,000, with the total at approximately \$200,000. The DWR team is also exploring other replacement and rebuild options.

Booster Pump Station (BPS) #4 Pump #2, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) experienced a failure. A quote was received for an updated VFD due to obsolescence of the failed VFD, which included a new cabinet due to size requirements. The VFD replacement quote received was \$26,307 with a 30-day lead time.

Since both these replacement projects will be managed by DWR staff, request for reimbursement from REM funds will be presented to the Commission after the repairs are complete and actual expenses are known. The NAWS REM fund balance as of February 28, 2026, is \$4,365,000.

There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Volk the Commission approve that repair or replacement of HSPS NAWS HSP #1 and BPS #4 Pump #2 VFD are eligible Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance projects.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Contract 7-2A/4-1A – Biota Water Treatment Plant Change Order Authorization

Hicks discussed the Commission Secretary's authority limit for executing NAWS Change Orders, which is \$1,000,000, not to exceed 20 percent of the Contract amount. On Contract 7-2A/4-1A – Biota Water Treatment Plant General Contract, the executed and estimated future change orders account to approximately 6% of the contract amount but exceeds the Secretary's authorization. Contract 7-2A/4-1A is funded using federal Municipal, Rural and Industrial (MR&I) funding and prior allocation of the MR&I funding for the Biota Water Treatment Plant contract has sufficient funding to accommodate this approval.

There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission authorize Secretary to approve cumulative change orders up to \$1.6 million on NAWS Contract 7-2A/4-1A Biota Water Treatment Plant general contract.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

FOUR YEAR PROGRESS REPORTS

Abigail Franklund, DWR Cost-Share Program Manager, reported to the Commission the following four (4) project sponsors have opted to give progress reports and have requested an extension:

Stone Creek Lateral B Project – Bottineau County Water Resource District (WRD)

This project is for the construction of 3.6 miles of new drain named Stone Creek Lateral B and Stone Creek West Lateral. Most of the construction is complete; however, 1.25 miles of seeding remains. Cost-share for the project was approved on February 9, 2022, in the amount of \$157,537. The remaining cost-share balance is \$43,093.45. The WRD is asking for the cost-share agreement to be extended to August 31, 2026.

Davenport Flood Risk Reduction Project – Maple River WRD

The cost-share for the project was approved on April 9, 2020, in the amount of \$2,083,600. The remaining cost-share balance is \$1,354,295.85. The project received its first two (2) year extension on April 11, 2024. The WRD is asking for the cost-share agreement to be extended for two (2) additional years to April 28, 2028. The WRD anticipates requesting an additional \$2,000,000 in cost-share funding at the June SWC meeting for increased construction costs. Because of the increase in project costs, the WRD is in the process of updating the SWC economic analysis worksheet. Additionally, the WRD submitted all necessary construction permit application documents to DWR staff on February 23, 2026.

City of Portland – Water System Improvements

The cost-share for the project was approved on February 23, 2022, in the amount of \$97,350. The remaining cost-share balance is \$25,333.05. The city is asking for the cost-share agreement to be extended for 24 months to February 23, 2028. The City of Portland anticipates underwriting by the USDA Rural Development to be completed within the next three (3) to five (5) months. After the project is underwritten by the USDA Rural Development, the city will be able to proceed with preliminary and final design. Construction is expected to be completed in 2027.

City of Garrison – Water Supply Treatment and Transmission Line

The cost-share for the project was approved on February 23, 2022, in the amount of \$924,000. The remaining cost-share balance is \$384,275.05. The city is asking for the cost-share agreement to be extended for one (1) year to February 23, 2027, to allow sufficient time to complete the remaining corrective work, finalize project closeout documentation, and submit final reimbursement requests associated with the remaining eligible costs.

It was moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission approve the following requests:

- **Stone Creek Lateral B Project extension of the cost-share agreement to August 31, 2026;**
- **Davenport Flood Risk Reduction Project extension of the cost-share agreement to April 9, 2028;**
- **Portland Water System Improvements Project extension of the cost-share agreement to February 23, 2028; and**
- **Garrison Water Supply Treatment and Transmission Line Project extension of the cost-share agreement to February 23, 2027.**

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE REQUESTS

General Water

Franklund presented the following general water projects.

Pembina County WRD: Olga Dam Feasibility Study (SWC Project No. 2262)

\$142,200

The Pembina County Water Resource District requested preconstruction cost-share funding for the Olga Dam Feasibility Study project. An inspection conducted by the Department of Water Resources on November 10, 2025, identified a deficiency in the principal spillway

conduit. During the inspection, staff used a remote-controlled pipe inspection camera to examine the interior of the conduit and observed that the slip liner had collapsed and was restricting water flow, approximately 70-feet upstream of the conduit transitions from a 24-inch corrugated metal pipe to an 18-inch concrete pipe fitted with a polyethylene slip liner. Therefore, the purpose of the project is to investigate and evaluate alternatives for repairing the slip liner or replacing the principal spillway, and to develop conceptual plans and cost estimates. Olga Dam's drainage area is 1.85 square miles, and its purpose is recreation, fish and wildlife, and flood control (Water Permit No. 1455). It is a low-hazard dam on an unnamed tributary of the Tongue River.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission approve the request from the Pembina County Water Resource District for state cost-share participation in the Olga Dam Feasibility Study project at 60 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$142,200. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Maple River WRD: Buffalo-Lynchburg Channel Improvements Ph. 3 \$1,617,173
(SWC Project No. 1951)**

Maple River Water Resource District requested construction cost-share funding for the Buffalo-Lynchburg Channel Improvements Phase 3 project. The legal assessment drain has experienced significant channel bottom erosion, as well as sliding and sloughing on the side slopes. The purpose of the project is to reduce the channel side slide, increase channel capacity, and stabilize the channel. The channel will be constructed to meet current design standards which will allow the system to convey the flow of a rainfall 10-year event. Additionally, multiple low water crossings will be reconstructed to improve the safety of each crossing and erosion protection of the channel bottom. No assessment vote was pursued. The WRD will utilize the annual maintenance assessment levy for the local share.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission approve the request from the Maple River Water Resource District for state cost-share participation in the Buffalo-Lynchburg Channel Improvements Phase 3 project, at 60 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$1,617,173. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Water Supply (Rural)

Julie Prescott, DWR Engineer Manager, presented the following rural water supply project.

Northeast Regional Water District: User and Reservoir Expansion (SWC Project No. 2050NOE) \$1,048,260

Northeast Regional Water District requested construction cost-share for their User and Reservoir Expansion project. The current request is for the user expansion portion of the project only, which includes installation of approximately 33 miles of water main to add 48 new users. A future construction cost-share request for the reservoir portion of the project will include pump station upgrades at Reservoirs 11 through 14, Mountain Reservoir, and the Walhalla Meter.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Frith and seconded by Commissioner Volk the Commission approve the request from the Northeast Regional Water District for state cost-share participation in the User and Reservoir Expansion project at 75% of eligible costs, for an additional \$1,048,260, with total cost-share not to exceed \$1,522,249. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Water Supply (Municipal)

Prescott presented the following municipal water supply projects. These projects were considered based on cost-share prioritization framework and available funding.

Minot: 11th Ave NW Water Main Replacement (SWC Project No. 2050MIN) \$2,080,211

The City of Minot requested construction cost-share for their 11th Avenue NW Water Main Replacement project. The project is a replacement of approximately 4,800 feet of aging cast iron water main along 11th Avenue NW and four (4) adjacent blocks in Minot.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. There was no discussion and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission approve the request from the City of Minot for state cost-share participation in the 11th Avenue NW Water Main Replacement project at 60 percent of eligible costs, for an additional \$2,080,211, with total cost-share not to exceed \$2,200,211. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Minot: Dacotah Homes and 2nd Avenue SW Water Main Replacement \$1,928,527
(SWC Project No. 2050MIN)**

The City of Minot requested construction cost-share for their Dacotah Homes and 2nd Avenue SW Water Main Replacement project. The project is replacement of approximately 4,900 feet of aging cast iron water main along 2nd Avenue SW and in the Dacotah Homes Addition in Minot.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Hansen the Commission approve the request from the City of Minot for state cost-share participation in the Dacotah Homes and 2nd Avenue SW Water Main Replacement project at 60 percent of eligible costs, for an additional \$1,928,527, with total cost-share not to exceed \$2,048,527. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Jamestown: Lime Sludge Filter Press and Recycle/Reuse \$2,600,400
(SWC Project No. 2050JAM)**

The City of Jamestown requested construction cost-share for Phase 2 of their Lime Sludge Filter Press and Recycle/Reuse project. The project is construction of a recycle and reuse water depot at the Jamestown Water Treatment Plant that includes settling tanks for reclaimed backwash and lime sludge effluent, a pump station with associated piping, electrical and control equipment, and an overflow pond. Cost-share for Phase I of the project was approved in 2025 for installation of filter presses and automatic filter cloth wash equipment.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission approve the request from the City of Jamestown for state cost-share participation in the Lime Sludge Filter Press and Recycle/Reuse project at 60 percent of eligible costs, for an additional \$2,600,400, with total cost-share not to exceed \$3,924,300. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Cando: Lead Service Line Replacement \$942,066
(SWC Project No. 2050CAN)**

The City of Cando requested construction cost-share for their Lead Service Line Replacement project. The project is replacement of approximately 34 lead service lines between the water main and curb stop and exploratory excavation to identify any additional lead service lines. The project has been approved for the Department of Environmental

Quality Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Loan Forgiveness Program in the amount of \$1,125,001.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. There was no discussion, and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Hansen the Commission approve the request from the City of Cando for state cost-share participation in the Lead Service Line Replacement project at 60 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$942,066. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Dickinson: 2026 Utility and Street Improvements \$2,031,151
(SWC Project No. 2050DIK)**

The City of Dickinson requested construction cost-share for their 2026 Utility and Street Improvement project. The project is replacement of approximately 4,265 feet of aging cast iron and asbestos cement water main along 3rd Avenue E, 2nd Avenue SE, 1st Street SE, 2nd Street SE, and 4th Street E, and is part of combined street, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water supply improvements planned for Dickinson.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission approve the request from the City of Dickinson for state cost-share participation in the 2026 Utility and Street Improvement project at 60 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$2,031,151. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Wahpeton: Well Field and Transmission Line \$9,129,761
(SWC Project No. 2050WAH)**

The City of Wahpeton requested construction cost-share for their Well Field and Transmission Line project. The project is four (4) new production wells, approximately 36,500 feet of new raw water transmission line, a new booster station, and two (2) backup generators. The project will be located approximately three (3) miles northwest of the existing well field.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. There was no discussion and the following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Frith and seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman the Commission approve the request from the City of

Wahpeton for state cost participation in the Well Field and Transmission Line project at 60 percent of eligible costs, for an additional \$9,129,761; however, due to limited funds available, the Commission approved an additional \$8,198,352, not to exceed \$8,421,75. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Water Supply (Municipal)

The following municipal water supply projects were deferred pending available funding.

Casselton	Downtown Improvements Project	\$525,218
Bismarck	WU152 2026 Water Main Replacement	\$2,440,567
Steele	Water Main Replacement Phase I	\$124,200
Grafton	Water System Replacement Phase I	\$2,556,064
Regent	Main Avenue Reconstruction	\$644,705
Watford City	2026 Water Main Replacement	\$2,130,923
West Fargo	1 st Avenue E Reconstruction	\$1,136,346
West Fargo	Meadow Ridge Reconstruction Phase I	\$1,120,118
Williston	2026 Williston Square Improvements	\$1,026,030
Williston	West Broadway Improvements	\$395,962

WESTERN AREA WATER SUPPLY (WAWS) PROJECT UPDATE

Chris Barke presented the Western Area Water Supply project update detailing ongoing and upcoming projects across five counties, including pipeline installations, pump station upgrades, and coordination with the US Forest Service, with construction and funding timelines outlined for each project.

LEGAL UPDATES

Jen Verleger, DWR General Counsel, provided an update on current legal matters involving the SWC and DWR.

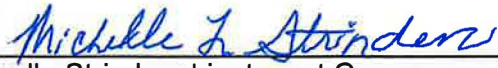
PROJECT UPDATES

DWR staff provided updates on the following projects:

- Devils Lake: Yaping Chi, Water Resources Engineer
- Red River Basin: Yaping Chi, Water Resources Engineer
- Mouse River: Laura Ackerman, Water Resource Engineer
- Missouri River: Clay Carufel, Water Resource Engineer
- NAWS: Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager
 - Ryan David, Houston Engineering – Lake Water Delivery to Minot Update
- SWPP: Justin Froseth, SWPP Manager

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Lt. Governor Strinden adjourned the April 8, 2026, meeting at 2:58 PM. The next State Water Commission meeting

will be held on June 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM 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