

MINUTES
North Dakota State Water Commission
Bismarck, North Dakota
June 9, 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 June 9, 2026. Lt. Governor Strinden called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. 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
Thomas Bodine, Deputy Commissioner, ND Agriculture Commissioner
Michael Anderson, Lower Red River Basin
Jeff Frith, Devils Lake Basin
Steve Hansen, James River Basin (online)
James Odermann, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Upper Cannonball River Basins
Gene Veeder, Upper Missouri River Basin
April Walker, Upper Red River Basin
Jason Zimmerman, Mouse River Basin

State Water Commission Members Absent:

Jay Volk, Lower Missouri 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 75 people present online and in person.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the June 9, 2026, meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman and passed by unanimous vote.

DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Walker disclosed a potential conflict of interest with agenda item I1. Dickinson: Manns Dam Final Design.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Frith moved to approve the March 26, 2026, Special State Water Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walker and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Veeder moved to approve the April 8, 2026, State Water Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the April 16, 2026, Special Pre-Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frith and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the May 21, 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, provided a detailed overview of recent and upcoming presentations, legislative committee engagements, water policy developments, funding allocations, and the status of major water projects. Director Haase also summarized Deloitte's recommendations for cost-share caps, bonding strategies, and governance models for the Southwest Water Authority, Northwest Area Water Supply, and Red River Valley Water Supply projects.

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 \$156,312,287 estimated through May 2026 for the 2025-27 biennium, which is \$266,643 below the projected biennium revenue of \$156,578,930 through May 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 Manager, presented the following SWPP items to the Commission:

Contract 7-5C: Rural Service Area Expansion in the Hebron Service Area

Froseth stated Contract 7-5C, Rural Area Expansion in the Hebron Service Area, is a rural water expansion project that will provide new water service to approximately 180 rural users. Bids were opened on May 5, 2026, with four (4) contractors submitting bids. The project was divided into three (3) schedules; Schedule 1A, 1B, and 2. In accordance with the bid documents, schedules 1A and 1B must be awarded together. Bids came in approximately 20% below the engineer's estimate. Based on current signups and the bid cost, Bid Schedule 2 exceeds the maximum allowable cost per ESU (Equivalent Service Unit). The maximum cost per ESU approved for this project is \$75,980. Though Bid Schedule 2 is over the maximum cost/ESU, DWR staff believes it is appropriate to anticipate that with additional signups, the maximum cost/ESU will be met so recommends including it in the funding authorization.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Veeder the Commission authorize the Secretary to award SWPP Contract 7-5C Bid Schedule 1A and Bid Schedule 1B to Carstensen Contracting; and, authorize the Secretary to award SWPP Contract 7-5C Bid Schedule 2 to Abbot, Arne and Schwindt, Inc. contingent on Bid Schedule 2 meeting the maximum cost/Equivalent Service Unit limit. The award of all schedules of SWPP Contract 7-5C will be dependent upon legal review of the contract documents. Also, allocate \$19.56 million (includes 5% for contingency and 15% for construction administration services) to the Southwest Pipeline Project from funds appropriated in the 2025-2027 biennium.

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

Contract 1-1C: Modifications to Existing Intake Pump

Froseth stated Contract 1-1C – Modifications to Existing Intake Pump Stations, is a project to install equipment and complete necessary construction modifications to increase pumping capacity within the existing SWPP's intake by 3,000 gallons per minute. Four (4) bidders submitted bids, one (1) bidder on the general contract, one (1) bidder on the electrical contract, and two (2) bidders on the mechanical contract. The recommendation is to award the contracts to the lowest responsible bidders for all scopes of work. Funding needed for all scopes of work and Bid alternate G-1 is \$2,980,000 when adding 5% for contingency and 15% for construction engineering services.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Veeder the Commission to allocate \$2.98 million to the Southwest Pipeline Project from funds appropriated in the 2025-2027 biennium and authorize the Secretary to award SWPP Contract 1-1C General Construction with Bid Alternate G-1 to CC Steel, LLC in the amount of \$727,750, Contract 1-1C Mechanical Construction to Peterson Sheet Metal in the amount of \$612,500, and Contract 1-1C Electrical Construction to Edling Electric in the amount of \$1,137,000.

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

Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) Fund Reimbursement

Froseth discussed with the Commission reimbursement requests submitted by the Southwest Water Authority from the reserve fund for REM (Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance). Three (3) completed projects were submitted for reimbursement: Cathodic protection improvement, reverse osmosis membrane replacement at the Oliver Mercer North Dunn Water Treatment plant, and replacement of the Coffin Butte variable frequency drive pumps and motor. Total reimbursement requested for the three (3) projects is \$649,315.22. The REM fund balance was \$28,989,217.38 as of February 28, 2026.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman the Commission approve the reimbursement from the Southwest Pipeline Project's reserve fund for Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance in the amount of \$649,315.22.

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

REM PROJECTS REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Froeth stated the REM policy adopted for Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) at the June 13, 2012, SWC meeting noted that items over \$15,000 are eligible for reimbursement from REM funds. DWR staff recommends increasing the REM eligibility criterion for NAWS to \$20,000 or more per project for uniformity between the two (2) state owned projects: NAWS and SWPP.

Froeth briefly outlined the existing REM approval process for the SWPP. The Commission is responsible for determining whether a proposed project qualifies as REM project and authorizes expenditures accordingly. Known REM projects are incorporated into the SWA's annual budget each December. For projects arising outside the budget cycle, SWA consults with DWR staff to confirm REM eligibility. For eligible REM projects, SWA pays construction costs upfront, and later requests reimbursement from the REM fund after the work is completed and approved by both the SWA Board and the Commission. To streamline this process, allowing the Commission Secretary to approve reimbursements for REM projects already in the annual budget following staff review, eliminating the need for additional Commission approval was proposed. Unanticipated and urgent REM projects that qualify for REM funding will continue to be brought to the Commission for eligibility determination.

Froeth briefly outlined the existing REM approval process for the NAWS. The Commission owns and operates the NAWS project, which traditionally presents water rate approvals rather than a full annual budget. Beginning in 2027, DWR staff will begin presenting annual NAWS budgets that include anticipated REM projects. Three REM eligible NAWS project: repair of City high service pump #3, repair or replacement of NAWS high service pump #1, and replacement of Booster Pump Station #4's variable frequency drive have been approved as eligible REM projects but not yet reimbursed. To streamline processing, reimbursement requests for REM projects already approved as eligible be authorized by the Secretary following staff review, eliminating the need for additional Commission approval. Starting in 2027, all REM eligible NAWS projects will be incorporated into an annual budget submitted for Commission approval.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Walker the Commission to approve the eligibility criterion for Northwest Area Water Supply Project's REM funds as being a single project exceeding \$20,000; and, to authorize the Secretary to approve the reimbursement from the Southwest Pipeline and Northwest Area Water

Supply projects' REM funds for Commission approved eligible REM projects.

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

NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY (NAWS)

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

Contract 1-1A: Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant Modification Funding Allocation

Hicks discussed Contract 1-1A, the construction of the new NAWS raw water intake on Lake Sakakawea. The project was originally split into two (2) contracts: Contract 1 covered dredging, pipeline work, and facility construction using federal funding; and Contract 2 covered isolation valve construction funded through the Resource Trust Fund and City of Minot sales tax revenues because those components did not meet Buy America requirements. Project engineers later determined that the intake screen structure included under Contract 1 also failed to meet Buy America compliance standards. Because of this, the intake screen is not eligible for federal funding. The intake screen portion is valued at approximately \$335,000. Change orders 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. To accommodate this change, the previously approved funding allocation must be modified by reducing the federal MR&I funding from \$18.97 million to \$18.64 million and increasing the \$2.79 million in Resources Trust Funds to \$3.13 million.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Bodine the Commission approve the updated funding allocation of \$18.64 million, which is a reduction of \$335,000 from federal Municipal, Rural, and Industrial water supply and \$3.13 million, which is an addition of \$335,000 from the unallocated funds carried over from the 2023-2025 biennium for Northwest Area Water Supply project.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the following cost-share projects with requested funding amounts for approval:

General Water

City of Dickinson	Manns Dam Final Design	\$253,245
DWR	USGS Cooperative Monitoring	\$538,390
Grand Forks WRD	Grand Forks Co Dams EAP Updates	\$204,000

Water Supply (Regional)

WAWSA	Private Cellular Telemetry SCADA	\$74,250
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WAWSA	WTP Intake Phase II	\$386,250
Water Supply (Rural)		
Missouri West Water System	Flasher Elevated Tank	\$89,888
Water Supply (Municipal)		
City of Enderlin	Water Supply Study	\$99,000
City of Mohall	Northwest Water & Sewer Replacements	\$90,000

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

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Odermann the Commission approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Bodine, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. Commissioner Walker abstained. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

WATER SUPPLY BUCKETS AND PRIORITIES

Dr. Duane Pool, DWR Planning and Education Division Director, presented the water supply buckets and a list of projects from sponsors requesting cost-share. The list of projects detailed if the project was in the water development plan and then was ranked by prioritization based upon the SWC cost-share policy.

STATE COST-SHARE REQUESTS

Flood Control

Abigail Franklund, DWR Cost-Share Program Manager, presented the following flood control project.

Maple River WRD: Davenport Flood Project (SWC Project No. 2111) \$1,665,282

Maple River Water Resource District requested additional cost-share for the Davenport Flood Risk Reduction project. Overland flooding from the Sheyenne River has impacted the City of Davenport, most recently in 1997, 2009, 2010, and 2011. A June 2018 feasibility study identified an earthen ring levee around the city as the most cost-effective alternative. The project includes an earthen levee, roadway and railroad closures, culverts, a stormwater detention pond, and a lift station to provide protection from the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood event. The purpose of the project is to obtain FEMA accreditation, potentially eliminating the federal flood insurance requirement for residents. Project costs have increased since the State Water Commission's 2020 approval due to FEMA compliance modeling updates, railroad negotiations, land acquisition increases, rising construction costs, inflation, and other related factors.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy; therefore, Maple River WRD requests additional state cost-share participation for the Davenport Flood Reduction project. The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission fund the request from the Maple River WRD at 60% of eligible

costs, not to exceed \$1,665,282 for a total state cost-share amount not to exceed \$3,748,882. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Frith, Hansen, Veeder, Walker, Zimmerman, Bodine, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. Commissioners Anderson and Odermann voted nay. The motion carried.

Water Supply (Rural)

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

All Seasons Water Users District: Bottineau Co. Expansion Ph I & II \$1,901,250 (SWC Project No. 2050ALL)

All Seasons Water Users District requested preconstruction cost-share for their Bottineau County Expansion Phase 1 and 2 project. Phase 1 of the project is construction of a pump station with a 750,000-gallon reservoir, a pump station with a 100,000-gallon reservoir, and approximately 11.5 miles of new transmission line in the System 1 service area. Phase 2 of the project is construction of 12 miles of distribution lines for the west side of Lake Metigoshe and the addition of approximately 250 new users.

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

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission approve the request from All Seasons Water Users District for state cost-share participation in the Bottineau County Expansion Phase 1 and 2 project at 75 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$1,901,250. This approval is contingent on available funding.

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

Cass Rural Water District: 2026 System Improvements \$1,684,177 (SWC Project No. 2050CAS)

The Cass Rural Water District requested construction cost-share for their 2026 System Improvements project. The project includes the installation of approximately 45,000 feet of new water main in the district's rural service area and approximately 19,000 feet of new water main in the Horace and Fargo extra-territorial area (ETA).

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

Moved by Commissioner Odermann and seconded by Commissioner Walker the Commission approve the request from the Cass Rural Water District for additional state cost-share participation in the 2026 System Improvements project in the amount of \$1,684,177, or 75 percent of eligible rural costs and 60 percent of eligible extra-territorial area costs, with total cost-share not to exceed \$1,989,397. This approval is contingent on available funding.

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

Garrison Rural Water District: Pump Station #5 and Reservoir (SWC Project No. 2050GRW) \$1,002,254

Garrison Rural Water District requested construction cost-share for their Pump Station #5 and Reservoir project. The project is a new pump station and 125,000-gallon reservoir to provide additional capacity for the west service zone in the Douglas Bay area. Existing system storage is 200,000 gallons. With the addition of Reservoir #5, total system storage will be 325,000 gallons. Peak daily demand is 343,000 gallons.

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

Moved by Commissioner Frith and seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman the Commission approve the request from Garrison Rural Water District for additional state cost-share participation in the Pump Station #5 and Reservoir project in the amount of \$1,002,254, or 75 percent of eligible costs, with total cost-share not to exceed \$1,062,254. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Walker, Zimmerman, Bodine, 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.

Williston: 2026 Williston Square Improvements (SWC Project No. 2050WLL) \$602,102

The City of Williston requested construction cost-share for their 2026 Williston Square Improvements project. The project is installation of approximately 7,275 feet of new water main to extend service to Sloulin Drive, 36th Street W, 38th Street W, and 8th Avenue in the Williston Square development area. The project is part of combined street, sanitary and storm sewer, and water supply improvements planned for Williston.

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

Moved by Commissioner Veeder and seconded by Commissioner Frith the Commission approve the request from the City of Williston for state cost-share participation in the Sloulin Drive and 36th Street W portions of the Williston Square Improvements project at 60 percent of eligible costs, not to exceed \$602,102. This approval is contingent on available funding.

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

**Bowman: New Water Storage Reservoir
(SWC Project No. 2050BWM)**

\$1,656,600

The City of Bowman requested construction cost-share for their New Water Storage Reservoir project. The project is removal and replacement of Bowman's existing 300,000-gallon and 500,000-gallon aging underground storage reservoirs with one new 600,000-gallon underground storage reservoir. Peak daily demand is 690,000 gallons.

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

Moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Bodine the Commission approve the request from the City of Bowman for additional state cost-share participation in the New Water Storage Reservoir project in the amount of \$1,656,600, or 60 percent of eligible costs, with total cost-share not to exceed \$1,788,600. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Walker, Zimmerman, Bodine, 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.

Underwood	Water System Improvements	\$555,466
Bismarck	WU152 2026 Water Main Replacement	\$2,440,567
Steele	Water Main Replacement Phase I	\$124,200
Casselton	Downtown Improvements Project	\$525,218
Harwood	North Main Water Loop	\$491,129
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	West Broadway Improvements	\$395,962
Rolla	WTP Improvements	\$15,000
Binford	Water & Wastewater System Improvements	\$300,000
Mandan	Intake Phase III Study	\$135,000
Stanley	Capital Improvements Project IV	\$95,460

COST-SHARE PROGRAM MODIFICATION MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Fridgen, DWR Deputy Director, discussed with the Commissioners options for public comment on the cost-share program, including Deloitte's recommendations, asset inventory requirements, and affordability considerations. The Commission

decided to leave all options on the table for public input and further review after comments are received.

MOUSE RIVER ENHANCED FLOOD PROTECTION (MREFPP) PROJECT UPDATE

Ryan Ackerman reported on the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project on ongoing construction phases, including bridge replacements, levees, flood walls, and restoration efforts in Minot and Velva, with design work focused on the Maple Diversion and coordination with railroads, aiming for completion by 2033.

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY (RRVWS) PROJECT UPDATE

Duane DeKrey presented the Red River Valley Water Supply project update reporting the project received \$205 million in state funding and is anticipated to receive an additional \$150 million in federal funding. Contracts have been awarded for pipeline installation and intake construction, with bids coming in under estimates, and several contracts ahead of schedule.

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 JUNE 9, 2026, meeting at 11:23 AM. The next State Water Commission meeting will be held on August 18, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT at the Biota Water Treatment Plant, 3277 28th Street NW, Max, North Dakota.



Michelle Strinden, Lieutenant Governor
Acting Chairman, State Water Commission



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