

MINUTES

Northwest Area Water Supply Authority Minot, North Dakota March 27, 2025

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 March 27, 2025. Dan Schaefer, Chairman of the NAWS Authority, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was present.

NAWS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Kristine Goettle, Upper Souris Water District Representative (substitute, nominee)
Dan Jonasson, City of Minot (nominee)
David Lakefield, City of Minot Representative
Kenny Rodgers, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Representative
Dan Schaefer, Chairman, All Season Water Users District Representative
Tony Schwalbe, Cities with Direct Service Representative
Jason Sorenson, Vice Chairman, City of Minot Representative
Jason Zimmerman, State Water Commission (SWC) Representative (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Reice Haase, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director (virtual)
Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, DWR Division Director (virtual)
Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager
Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist
Clint Cogdill, NAWS Operator
Perry Weiner, NAWS Water Resources Senior Manager (virtual)
Dustin Offerdahl, Garrison Diversion Snake Creek Pumping Plant (virtual)
Annika Plummer, ND Water/Clearwater Communications
Alan Kemmet, Houston Engineering
Ryan David, Houston Engineering

During roll call it was noted that, Kristine Goettle will be replacing Shawn Raap as Upper Souris Water District Representative on the NAWS Authority. A formal request for the replacement from Upper Souris Water District was requested so the request can be presented to the State Water Commission for appointment to the NAWS Authority.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

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

Consideration of January 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were sent to the Authority for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Schaefer requested for feedback or changes to the meeting minutes from the previous Authority meeting on January 30, 2025. No feedback was presented.

It was moved by Representative Lakefield, seconded by Representative Sorenson, and approved unanimously, to accept the meeting minutes from the January 30, 2025, NAWS Authority meeting as presented.

Department of Water Resources Director Update

Reice Haase, DWR Director, presented a brief update:

- Legislative session is on Day 49, and he noted that using a hockey analogy, the session is about half-way through the second period.
- Director Haase noted that there has been an updated revenue forecast, which resulted in a significant decline in revenues with more Bakken oil wells qualifying for stripper well exemptions. This resulted in a \$93 million reduction to the Resources Trust Fund (RTF) from the January forecast to the March forecast after crossover resulting with the Senate now taking a conservative approach to the DWR's budget bill HB 1020. It was noted that with some significant changes expected on the House and Senate versions of the DWR's budget bill, no changes in the NAWS funding are expected. The House approved version of HB 1020 had \$12.6 million from RTF and additional federal funding and funds from the City of Minot.
- Other policy bills that DWR was concerned about, have been able to reach compromises with the bill's sponsors and working with a variety of legislators.
- DWR's focus for the remainder of the session will be on getting the agency budget thorough conference committee with negotiation and reconciliation between the House and the Senate.
- Rep. Lakefield noted that during the previous update provided to the Authority, there was a \$52 million in funding that was to come from the City of Minot. He sought clarification on how that was calculated and wanted to confirm that the correct appropriation from the State is being sought. In response, Division Director Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, noted that when assembling the budget for the 2025-2027 biennium, authority for receiving funding from the City of Minot for projects that are already under construction must be included as well. The Snake Creek Pumping Plant (SCPP) Intake Modifications project was given as an example, where the Commission has already approved the funding, but the project will be ongoing into the next biennium. Some of the projects for the Commission funding, is in the carryover line, whereas what we need from the City of Minot needs to be included in the new funding authority. Since some concern remained as to how this number was calculated, DWR noted that a meeting to review the details will be setup for a later date with the City of Minot.

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 STATE WATER COMMISSION (SWC) MEETING UPDATE

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that at the February 13, 2025, SWC meeting, DWR gave a project update, but no other agenda items were discussed for NAWS.

MARCH 20, 2025 PRE-COMMISSION MEETING UPDATE

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that one agenda item was presented to the Pre-Commission that described the request for authorization that will be presented at the June SWC meeting. The authorization would be for funding to approve a change order for

recoating the discharge tunnel on the Contract 6-1A Snake Creek Pumping Plant Intake Modifications Project Construction Contract.

It was noted that although final numbers for this change order are not available it was recommended that the NAWS Authority concur with the DWR staff presenting the funding request and authorization for the Secretary to sign change orders on the NAWS 6-1A Construction Contract for the discharge tunnel recoating work and other changes.

It was moved by Representative Lakefield, seconded by Representative Zimmerman, and approved unanimously, for the DWR staff to present the funding request and authorization approval for the Secretary to sign change orders on the NAWS 6-1A Construction Contract for discharge tunnel recoating work and other changes.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that Director Haase already touched on a significant portion of this during the Director's Update.

Johnson noted that the NAWS Authority support bill designed to clean up language for North Prairie's representative appointment and describe the powers and duties for the NAWS Authority which was previously approved at the November 2024 and NAWS Authority meeting and December 2024 SWC meeting was not introduced this legislative session.

NAWS BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that a majority of this update has been covered in previous meetings. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has notified the DWR about the need for a capacity assessment document to be created for the Biota WTP. DWR signed specific authorization with Houston Engineering to assemble this document on March 11, 2025. The capacity assessment document for the Biota WTP is required due to the supply for the project from the Lake Sakakawea being considered a new water system.

NAWS AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF MINOT FOR TREATMENT

Travis Johnson informed the Authority that DWR team members had a meeting with Jason Sorenson on January 14, 2025, to discuss developing an agreement between the SWC and the City of Minot regarding water treatment for NAWS, using both the City's ground water supplies and NAWS project's surface water from Lake Sakakawea.

The current agreement between the SWC and the City of Minot is an interim water supply agreement utilizing City's ground water supplies and will remain in-place until water supply from Lake Sakakawea becomes available.

NAWS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Travis Johnson gave a brief construction update on NAWS projects following the memo included in the packet.

NAWS OPERATIONS UPDATE

Travis Johnson gave a brief update on NAWS operations. He noted that DWR is planning to develop a memorandum of understanding with NAWS customers for documenting limitations on assistance provided by the various entities. DWR is also looking to develop a single on-call phone number for NAWS customers for assistance after hours, if they detect outages or operational issues. DWR will also work on the agreement with the City of Minot documenting roles and responsibilities for operations and such in shared facilities.

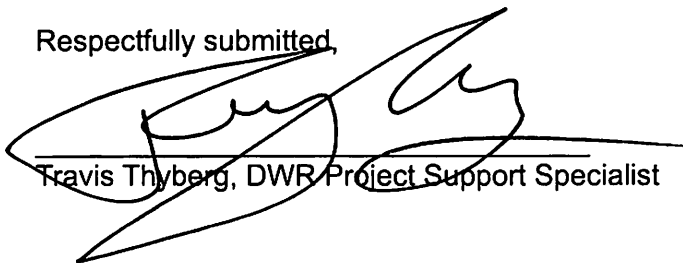
There was a question about the addition of another full-time state employee, whether the state plans on operating NAWS long term, and whether one additional full-time employee is sufficient for the wide vast system of NAWS. It was discussed that at this time state will be operating NAWS and the regional governance and finance study included in HB 1020 that will be completed in the interim could provide some guidelines on future operations of NAWS. Potential assistance for maintenance on NAWS features by other rural water entities was briefly discussed as well.

Vice Chairman Jason Sorenson brought up the consideration of having the next meeting held at the Biota Water Treatment Plant with tours to be offered of that facility and potentially the Snake Creek Pumping Facility. After discussion, the time of the May meeting was changed to 1:30 PM with tours to follow.

It was moved by Representative Sorenson, seconded by Representative Zimmerman, and approved unanimously, the May 29, 2025, NAWS Authority meeting will be held at 1:30 PM at the Max Biota Water Treatment Plant.

There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist