

MINUTES

Northwest Area Water Supply Authority Minot, North Dakota July 31, 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 July 31, 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:

Dan Jonasson, City of Minot Representative
David Lakefield, City of Minot Representative (virtual)
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
Teresa Sundsbak, North Prairie Regional Water Representative
Jason Zimmerman, State Water Commission (SWC) Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Reice Haase, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director (virtual)
John Paczkowski, State Engineer, DWR (virtual)
Sindhuja S. Pillai-Grinolds, Director Water Development Division (DWR)
Travis Thyberg, Project Support Assistant, DWR
Clint Cogdill, NAWS Operator, DWR
Mark Jantzer, Acting Minot Mayor (virtual)
Jennifer Verleger, DWR General Counsel (virtual)
Rachel Wald, Assistant Manager, All Seasons Water Users District (virtual)

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 May 29, 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 May 29, 2025. No feedback was presented, and the meeting minutes were approved as presented by voice vote.

Department of Water Resources Director Update

Reice Haase, DWR Director, presented a brief update:

- Governor Armstrong has appointed Steve Hanson as the newest water commissioner, representing the James River Basin.

- DWR has been busy since the end of the legislative session with many initiatives including a round of Full Time Employee (FTE) hirings: Pat Fridgen has been hired as the DWR Deputy Director, Jennifer Verleger as the General Counsel for DWR, and Paul Moen is the new Director of the DWR Data and Atmospheric Resources Division.
- DWR is working on implementing the new cash management strategy. DWR has so far committed just under 50% of the Regional Water bucket this biennium with a majority of that being for the Red River Valley Water Supply project. DWR has also committed 43% of Rural Water Supply bucket and 3% of the Municipal Water Supply bucket.
- Progress is being made on the studies due to the legislature's interim Water Topics Overview Committee by March of 2026. The studies are on the DWR's Cost Share Program and Governance and Finance study of the three large regional systems in the State including NAWS DWR is currently in the process of scheduling interviews with firms that will be hired to complete the Cost Share and the Governance and Finance study.
- Representative Steve Swiontek will be chairing the interim Water Topics Overview Committee that will have its first meeting mid-September. DWR will be working closely with the interim Water Topics Overview Committee.
- Another change this interim is the Agriculture and Water Management Committee that will complete a study of the Water Commission's Economic Analysis tool, inundated lands, and benefits of irrigation.

June 12, 2025 STATE WATER COMMISSION (SWC) MEETING UPDATE

Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, DWR Water Development Division Director, noted that at the June 12, 2025, SWC meeting, DWR requested SWC to authorize the Secretary to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the contract 1-1A Intake and Sanke Creek Pumping Plant Modifications. The award would be contingent on consultant engineers' recommendation and concurrence from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD), as DWR is planning on using federal funding for the project and authorization was approved by SWC.

DWR also requested the SWC to authorize the Secretary to finalize and execute the water supply and treatment agreement with the City of Minot. The request was approved, and the agreement has already been executed by the City of Minot.

The final request was for approval and reimbursement from the Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance Fund for a pump rebuild at the High Service Pump Station for \$27,500. The rebuild and reimbursement were both approved by SWC.

July 24, 2025 PRE-COMMISSION MEETING UPDATE

Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, DWR Water Development Division Director, noted that two agenda items on NAWS were presented at the July Pre-Commission meeting. One agenda item was the request for funding authorization for Contract 1-1A that will be presented at the August SWC meeting.

Opening bids for Contract 1-1A Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant modifications was planned for June 18th but based on request from potential bidders DWR extended the bid opening date twice. DWR received two bids on July 21st with the consulting engineer recommendation being received on July 23rd. The contract includes the coffer dam removal. Letter has been sent to both GDCD and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the concurrence of the award due to federal Municipal Rural & Industrial (MR&I) funding being planned for use on this project. Another letter was sent requesting their cost share portion of the cofferdam removal that will be funded using a different funding source by the GDCD and BOR. Two contracts will be awarded for this project. Contract 1 will use federal MR&I funding while Contract 2 is the installation of the valve that was not locally available and not Buy American Preference compliant so that will not be using federal funding. DWR recommends requesting allocation and authorization for \$19 Million from MR&I funding and another \$2.9 Million from the State Resources Trust Fund.

It was moved by Representative Jonasson, seconded by Representative Sorenson, and approved unanimously, concur with DWR staff to present the allocation of funding and request for funding authorization for NAWS 1-1A Intake and Snake Creek Pumping Plant modification at the August SWC meeting.

Mrs. Pillai-Grinolds noted the second item is the NAWS Authority Representative appointments. DWR had received letters from Upper Souris Water District and North Prairie Regional Water District requesting appointment of Kristine Goettle and Craig Haskins, respectively. DWR recommends the Authority to concur with DWR staff presenting the requests for appointing those Authority representatives at the August SWC meeting.

It was moved by Representative Zimmerman, seconded by Representative Sorenson, and approved unanimously, to concur with DWR staff presenting the request for appointing NAWS Authority representatives at the August SWC meeting.

NAWS BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds, DWR Water Development Division Director, noted Phase I is nearing completion and most of the Biota WTP operations updates have been previously discussed. The City of Minot's reimbursement requests from August 2024 to June 2025 have been fully reimbursed by the DWR, however DWR has not received all the funding from the BOR. BOR staff have noted that additional \$1.9 million in funding for federal fiscal year 2025 has been approved and will be allocated to DWR soon.

A capacity assessment document for the Biota WTP is required by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) due to the supply for the project from Lake Sakakawea is considered a new water system. DWR signed authorization with NAWS consultant Houston Engineering Inc., in March 2025 to complete this document. The consulting engineer provided a draft assessment to DWR in May. This document has been shared with DEQ, and the consulting engineer is currently addressing the DEQ comments.

NAWS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds gave a brief construction update on NAWS projects following the memo included in the packet.

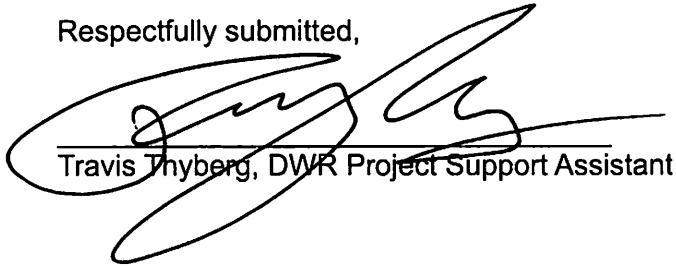
Discussion on the defective filter underdrain at the Biota WTP included, DWR's order to the contractor to remove and replace all the defective filter underdrains and continued discussions on the third-party review and the potential delay in the Biota WTP completion

NAWS OPERATIONS UPDATE

Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds noted DWR's FTE for the NAWS Operator position was advertised, and interviews will be scheduled early August. DWR has made progress on developing a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with NAWS customers for documenting limitations on assistance provided by the different entities. Draft MOU is included in the packet. DWR plans on presenting this MOU for approval at the September NAWS Authority meeting and would welcome and feedback from the NAWS Authority members. DWR will be deciding the path forward for a single on-call phone number. DWR staff is also planning on developing an agreement with the City of Minot that documents roles and responsibilities for the operations of the High Service Pump Station (HSPS).

There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Assistant