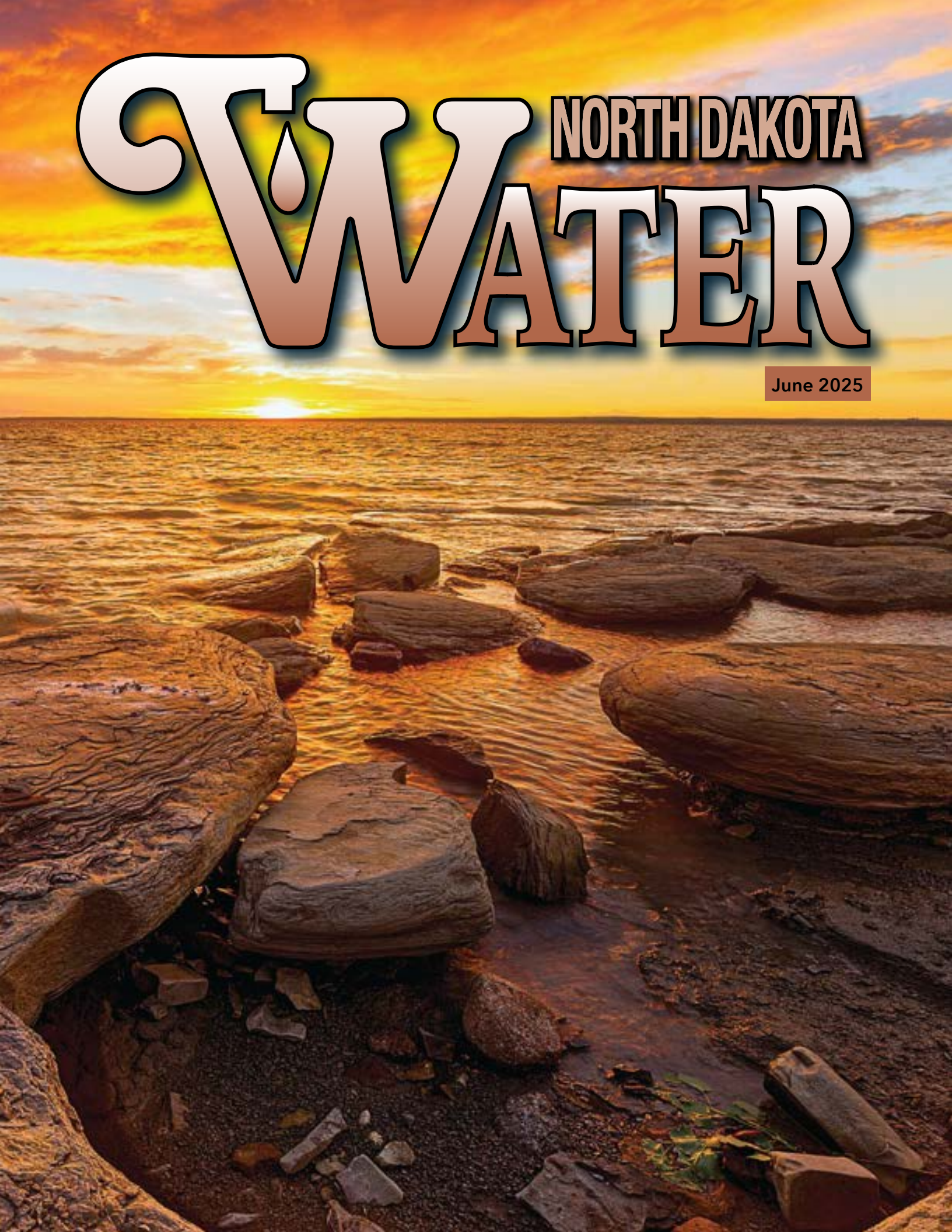




WATER

NORTH DAKOTA

June 2025

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY: SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT NORTH DAKOTA WATERS



By Ben Holen
Guest Editorial

As temperatures warm up, most people are itching to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine, which feels like it has been absent for six months. Fishing poles get pulled out of the shed, docks get put in the water and boat motors come alive after their long winter hibernation.

For many North Dakotans, time on the water is what makes summer so enjoyable. Whether it be a pleasure ride on the pontoon, wakeboarding with friends or fishing with dad, it is important to remember that you play a vital role in protecting and preserving our water resources from Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS).

ANS are nonnative plants and animals that threaten our aquatic resources. Where prolific, they

are known to disturb the food web, alter habitats, degrade water quality, and clog vital water infrastructure. In North Dakota, we are incredibly fortunate to have documented only eight ANS in the state and most waters remain uninfested.

To protect our water resources, North Dakota Game and Fish works cooperatively with many state, federal and private partners on a wide variety of ANS activities every summer. Education of water users is the number one priority for the state, so the Game and Fish Department utilizes digital marketing, radio, television, signage, and press releases to educate water users about three simple steps they can take to avoid incidentally spreading ANS: Clean, Drain and Dry!

To further drill down on that point, the department hires around 20 watercraft inspectors annually to check watercraft at ramps with the highest risk of ANS introduction. In 2024,

employees conducted more than 10,000 watercraft inspections, which led to the finding of several different ANS on recreational watercraft, including zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil.

Often, the sooner ANS can be detected in a waterbody, the more effective management efforts can be to protect ecological, economic and recreational resources. Many ANS, including zebra mussels, actively grow and reproduce starting in early summer making them easier to detect. Therefore, in the months of June, July and August, Game and Fish surveys waters to look for invertebrates and plants utilizing a variety of different techniques. One of these techniques is plankton tow netting, which is a specialized sampling method using a fine mesh net to capture zebra mussel veligers. In the summer, zebra mussels broadcast spawn and produce microscopic larvae (veligers) that free float in the water column for about two weeks before they attach to a hard substrate and become sessile. The department collects and analyzes nearly 2,000 plankton tow net samples every summer to detect new zebra mussel populations.

While the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has greatly increased its ANS efforts over the past 10 years, ultimately the future of our water resources is largely in the hands of our water users. A few moments at a cabin, construction site, or boat ramp could forever change our water resources. So, this summer, take the time to clean, drain, and dry every surface, every time!

Ben Holen is the ANS Coordinator at the ND Game and Fish Department

NORTH DAKOTA WATER

Volume 33 Issue 4

June 2025

North Dakota Water (ISSN 1085-8466) is published monthly except for February, May, August, and September by the North Dakota Water Education Foundation, 1605 E. Capitol Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501.

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SUBMISSIONS: *North Dakota Water* welcomes manuscript, photography and art submissions. However, the right to edit or deny publishing submissions is reserved. Submissions are returned only upon request. Letters to the Editor with name, address and phone number of the author are welcome. All letters are subject to editing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Yearly subscription rate is \$25 for one year. POSTMASTER: send address changes to *North Dakota Water* magazine, ATTN: Circulation, P.O. Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502, or contact at staff@ndwater.net, (701) 223-8332, or FAX to (701) 223-4645. Periodicals postage paid at Bismarck, ND and at additional mailing offices.

ADVERTISING: *North Dakota Water* accepts quarter-, half- and full-page ads. Contact our office for advertising rates.

The purpose of the North Dakota Water Education Foundation is to develop and implement water information and education programs to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge about water resource issues in North Dakota. The Foundation publishes the North Dakota Water magazine, sponsors summer water tours, and supports the Water Education Today (WET) for teachers and students. North Dakota Water is supported by several private, federal, state and local organizations and agencies.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and sponsoring entities in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the North Dakota Water Education Foundation board and staff or other sponsoring entities.

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On the Cover

"Pebble Beach Golden Hour" by Casey Helling, Golden Valley. This photo was an Honorable Mention in the 2024 North Dakota Waterways Photo Contest, sponsored by the North Dakota Water Education Foundation.



ND Rural Water Systems Association 39th Annual

Water EXPO and Conference

By Lisa Schatz

What a fabulous way to begin 2025! This year's venue for the 39th Annual Water EXPO and Conference allowed for a larger exhibit area while the spacious and comfortable training rooms were well received.

In January, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) hosted the conference at the Bismarck Event Center. More than 200 associate members from the Upper Midwest Region attended to display their new and innovative products that adhere to the ever-changing water industry. Nearly 500 attendees from throughout North Dakota took advantage of this prime opportunity to view new products, partake in training sessions and reunite with their peers.

NDRWSA President Matt Oderman kicked off the event during opening session and expressed his thanks for everyone's hard work, dedication and attendance. Jeff Breker, election chairman, conducted the election of

officers for the executive board. The results were: Bruce Henschel, president; Jeff Breker, vice president; Matthew Zelenski, director-at-large; John Eaton, managers' representative; Doug Anderson, secretary, Michele Schommer; national representative; and Joe LaFave, treasurer.

Celebrating NDRWSA's 50th anniversary, Dan Schaefer of All Seasons Water Users District recalled what rural utilities were like 30 years ago when few rural water systems existed, and a limited number of people received water service. In addition to service, changes in equipment and technology have greatly improved over the years making water utilities more efficient and reliable. The history of rural water is "a long-ago vision accomplished through determination, enthusiasm, and a passion to provide quality water to rural areas, big or small," Dan said.

The opening session ended at 3 p.m., and the doors to the Exhibit Hall were opened.



Our Exhibitors – An Integral Part

Associate members from throughout the Upper Midwest showcased their innovative products. Selected associate members had an opportunity to present training demonstrations at their exhibitor booths to help attendees become familiar with products available in today's market. "Exhibitors are an integral part of the overall success of our EXPO and we truly appreciate the time and effort they put forth to make it such a success," NDRWSA Executive Director Eric Volk said. "The valuable information provided by our exhibitors helps water and wastewater operators better perform their job."



A special thank you goes to our 2025 EXPO sponsors:

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Something for Everyone

After a hearty breakfast Wednesday morning, attendees gathered at the Exhibit Hall demonstrations for more specific training. Roundtable sessions were held for the board of directors, rural water managers and office managers. After two days of sessions and numerous other topics relating to water and wastewater systems, conference attendees felt confident returning home with beneficial and valuable information. Operators in attendance earned up to 10 continuing educational credits towards maintaining their certifications.



Patrick Denne Scholarship Raises nearly \$23,000

Items donated for this year's live auction raised \$7,123 and an additional \$15,315 was received in cash donations. The auction is to help raise money for students wanting financial assistance to pursue a college education. Students interested in applying for the scholarship can visit us at www.ndrw.org for more information. This year's scholarship recipients will be announced and published in October.

Meter Assembly Competition (Operators' Favorite Event)

Operators displayed their skills by participating in the meter assembly competition. Participants put their expertise to work while being judged for speed and accuracy. The top three advanced into the final round, in which they had one more opportunity to be crowned as the year's champ! First place went to Marvin Lopez from North Prairie Rural Water District; second place was awarded to Trent Hofer from Maple River Colony; and third place was given to Kale Miller of Greater Ramsey Water District. This year's prizes were donated by Ferguson Waterworks.

Honoring the Best in the Business

During the awards luncheon, we honor those that have dedicated themselves to the water and wastewater industry. Four awards are given to deserving individuals. This year's winners were recognized and awarded to:

Outstanding Water Works

Employee: Tom Herman, Upper Souris Water District.

This award is given to a water operator or rural water system manager with outstanding leadership abilities and extraordinary accomplishments in water operations beyond the normal requirements of their job. This individual has demonstrated superior performance, dedication and leadership in their endeavor to provide quality water to North Dakotans. Congratulations Tom!

Outstanding Office Employee: Kim Gaugler, of the City of Beach. This award is given to those unsung heroes working quietly in the background; office managers, secretaries, clerks, city auditors, whatever their title may be – they are the backbone of every organization. This individual has gone that extra mile promoting water issues to their boards, councils, management and communities. Congratulations Kim!



Tom Herman



Kim Gaugler



Steve "Tuna" Hansen



Darrell Hournbuckle

Clark Cronquist Waterline Award: Steve "Tuna" Hansen, Southeast Water Users District. The highly prized award is given to someone who through their distinctive leadership and perseverance has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the promotion, development, and enhancement of rural water on a state or national level. Congratulations Steve!

Friend of Rural Water: Darrell Hournbuckle, Interstate Engineering. This award is given each year to those individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to providing quality water to North Dakotans through the promotion, development or enhancement of the state association or a local city or rural water system. Congratulations Darrell!



And the Winner Is...

Fourteen water samples were submitted from rural water and city systems for in the Best Tasting Water Competition held during EXPO. More than 100 attendees took part in sampling and voting in the preliminary taste testing phase. Water samples were rated on clarity, odor, color and, of course, taste. After completing two rounds of taste testing, ballots were counted and narrowed down to three finalists – Southeast Water Users District, city of Lisbon and Greater Ramsey Water District. The finalist panel, which consisted of six judges, crowned Southeast Water Users District as the winner. In February, a representative from Southeast Water Users District will represent North Dakota at Washington D.C. and have a chance to be named the "Best Tasting Drinking Water" in the nation!

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for next year's

Rural Water EXPO • February 10-12, 2026

Delta Hotels by Marriott - Fargo

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Building a Sustainable Legacy in the Badlands



By Scooter Pursley

The designers and builders of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (TRPL) and Museum in Medora are walking in the footsteps, literally and figuratively, of the nation's first true conservation president as they prepare for the library's opener on July 4, 2026.

To those like TRPL Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Matt Briney, that means carrying a big stick but walking softly to limit the impact the history-making facility will have on the surrounding Badlands, the national park that bears his name and the town of Medora.

"We hope we can be an inspiration to show people you can have a world-class facility in a unique place that provides a great experience and do it in a way that lives in harmony with the environment," Briney said. "We see our conservation as being one of the key pillars of Theodore Roosevelt and he would be very proud of what we are doing here and what it is doing for the future. If you can do this here, you can do it anywhere."

The library and museum being built in North Dakota honors the nation's 26th president, who is considered the "conservation president." Roosevelt first came to the Badlands to hunt in 1883 and wrote of the loss of habitat and species. He returned after his mother and wife both died on Valentine's Day 1884 and made several trips back, eventually establishing a ranch in the North Dakota Badlands. He wrote that he never would have been

president were it not for his time in North Dakota.

Roosevelt later established 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves and five national parks. He is the only person to have their name attached to a national park.

Thus it is no coincidence that conservation of resources, including that which is most precious to southwest North Dakota – water – is one of three pillars designers are leaning on to achieve Living Building Challenge certification for the library. Briney said only 26 other buildings in the world have been certified, none as large or in as remote a location as the \$400 million TRPL.

"It costs more (here)," Briney said. "If we were on a college campus or a major city, this building might cost a lot less because you have infrastructure of a city to rely on. But where we're building it is important, not only for conservation and access, but to get people out there to figure out how to live and enjoy the outdoors."

Ken Vein of Grand Forks is a North Dakota Water Users Association board member, a city councilman for the city of Grand Forks and a member of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District board. He has been involved in the library project from the start.

Vein, project executive for construction and Medora area planning, was also initially responsible for planning and design said the Living Building Challenge is a monumental undertaking no matter the location. "The interesting thing about the Living Building Challenge is that it's a step up from any other regulatory, because not only do

we have to design to it, but we have to operate to it. You have to have a year's worth of operation before you can attempt certification," he explained. "In the early stages of developing the project, the library board committed to going beyond LEAD certification and fully integrate sustainability as a core part of the project," Vein noted. "We did an extensive search to find appropriate guiding principles and settled on Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification. We felt very strongly that achieving LBC certification was something that Theodore Roosevelt would have done and that we should, too."

Vein pointed to four features that will set the library and museum apart: the building itself, the landscaping, the exhibits inside and the sustainability of all three components combined.

The library and museum will produce four zeroes, Briney noted: zero energy, zero water, zero emissions and zero waste. Water conservation systems are of particular interest.

"We have a lot of interesting systems, but the largest is the 'green' roof," Briney explained. "It's not only an ecosystem supplying a thermal blanket to the building, but it also has a tremendous amount of rainwater collection."

Briney explained that the facility will have a 25,000-gallon tank of potable water. It will also have systems to allow wastewater polishing without the use of chemicals and will harvest all the water (toilets excluded) used in the building for a 40,000-gallon gray water storage tank. Wastewater produced through sinks and fountains is considered gray water and will be used for fire suppression, watering grasses and plants on the roof and other sprinkler systems on the site.

"We will use that to water the plants on the roof, and we have a tremendous amount of systems to make sure that we are not overwatering or creating any waste in what we do," Briney said. "The water systems in the café will use less flow than a household.

The roof will stand out for its aesthetic and its functionality as it will play a key role in every aspect of the building. It includes a high-performance thermal envelope to seal out cold and heat at the right times. It is designed to harvest water for use in the building and with landscaping outdoors. And it helps with carbon sequestration equal to its carbon footprint. Briney said it will produce 105% of energy needed.

The ability to capture rainfall is one of its primary duties. "The building has a great capacity to capture rainfall. When we do get rain, we can refill and restore," Briney said.

Sensors will be able to detect abundance of, or more likely a lack of, rainfall and adjust usage. "That's where the smart sensors are really coming into play," Briney noted. "They will disperse water with the right pH levels in the soil and take into account the weather in the area. If we're in a drought, the system will go into drought mode."

Southwest North Dakota is familiar with drought mode. Medora averages 14 inches of rain a year. Whereas it's 19.4 inches in Fargo. That makes every drop of precipitation important. Water collected from the roof and other sources, such as gray water, will be stored in the tank and retention ponds and used in irrigation systems.

"You will see these systems in different places. Some tech companies in California do aspects of them," Briney pointed out. "But you won't see so many sustainability systems put into one place as you will here. This is the largest building in the world that will achieve this certification and will have the largest number of people going through it on a daily basis. It's a huge challenge."

With daily use comes daily emissions, which the library will collect through the use of materials that capture and reuse. It also is working with North Dakota State University on a native plant project.

"The land we acquired was a monocrop used for cattle grazing," Briney said. "The ecosystem was a bit of a dying ecosystem and we have been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture."



The Native Plant Project is a collaboration between the TRPL, Resource Environmental Solutions and North Dakota State University to restore indigenous plants to the outdoor spaces. “We collected over 200 different species of grasses and forbs and flowers and fauna and are developing with NDSU a proprietary seed mix of 86 different seeds that we will plant on the site this summer,” Briney explained. “It will help us bring back the ecosystem that will have a better opportunity to capture water and promote wildlife to return to the area. It will have a long-term effect on the landscape.”

Briney said oil companies and others have inquired about using the seed mix in reclamation projects.

As the library works toward its opening on July 4, 2026, every step will be taken to assure the building meets Living Building Challenge certification requirements. Briney said it has been that way since day one, and everything is on track so far.

“We have a partnership with Microsoft on sustainability and conservation and a large part of that is knowing how to use artificial intelligence (AI) systems to streamline these operations so they are even better (like) where are we getting enough water, and where are we not,” Briney said. “That extends even into food systems, what do we order and what are people taking to reduce food waste. These are new things artificial intelligence will allow us to do.

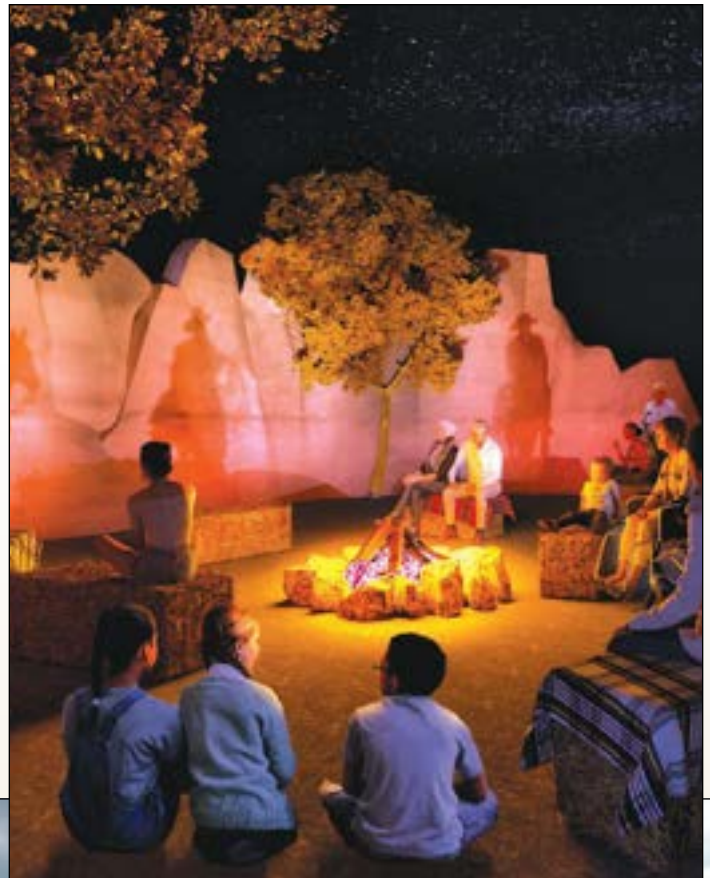
“Microsoft has done it in other capacities, but on a smaller scale to manage water or optimize energy uses. But a holistic system that is trying to achieve these net zero requirements, this is a fairly new task for them, too. (But) they are really some of the smartest people in the world.”

In the end, Briney said he believes Roosevelt would be proud of what’s happening on a hilltop at Medora.

“You’re talking about a president that saved 250,000 acres of wetlands and forests and national parks and monuments. Go anywhere in the world and ask people

what they want to see when they come to America and our national parks are the most sought after,” Briney said. “The location where we’re doing this, in the place where he retreated to after death of his wife and mother to seek solace and learn how to work with the land meant a lot to his life.

“To fully tell the story, we need to demonstrate to the ideal he would have today. The sustainability practices within the building will be a unique draw. We anticipate having symposiums at the site to see systems operational and share it with the public. It’s a huge opportunity to expose this area to the world and tell the story about TR to the world.”



2025 Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Hofmann, Hofmann, Landenberger and Wyant

The North Dakota Water Education Foundation (NDWEF) has named the recipients of the 2025 Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship. This year's \$1,500 scholarship awards go to **Kylee Hofmann** and **Madison Hofmann** of Medina, **Ryan Landenberger** of Bismarck, and **Carson Wyant** of South Heart.

Each recipient submitted an essay exploring the theme, "Your most vivid memory concerning water."

Established by NDWEF through the North Dakota Community Foundation, the Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship Endowment honors the memory of Russ Dushinske and Warren Jamison for their exceptional service, leadership, and lifelong commitment to advancing water development across the state. Thanks to their vision, we continue to support the next generation of water resource leaders.

The scholarship recipients will be recognized at the North Dakota Water Convention awards program on December 11, 2025.



Kylee Hofmann, a graduate of Medina High School, will attend Bismarck State College to pursue a degree in Agricultural Industries and Technology with a focus on Agronomy. Passionate about sustainable farming, Kylee is especially interested in how innovations such as precision agriculture and improved irrigation systems can increase productivity while conserving resources. She is the daughter of Bonnie and Jacob Hofmann.



Madison Hofmann, a graduate of Medina High School, will attend Bismarck State College to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Currently working at an assisted living facility, Madison aims to continue her education with the goal of earning a master's degree in nursing. She is the daughter of Bonnie and Jacob Hofmann.

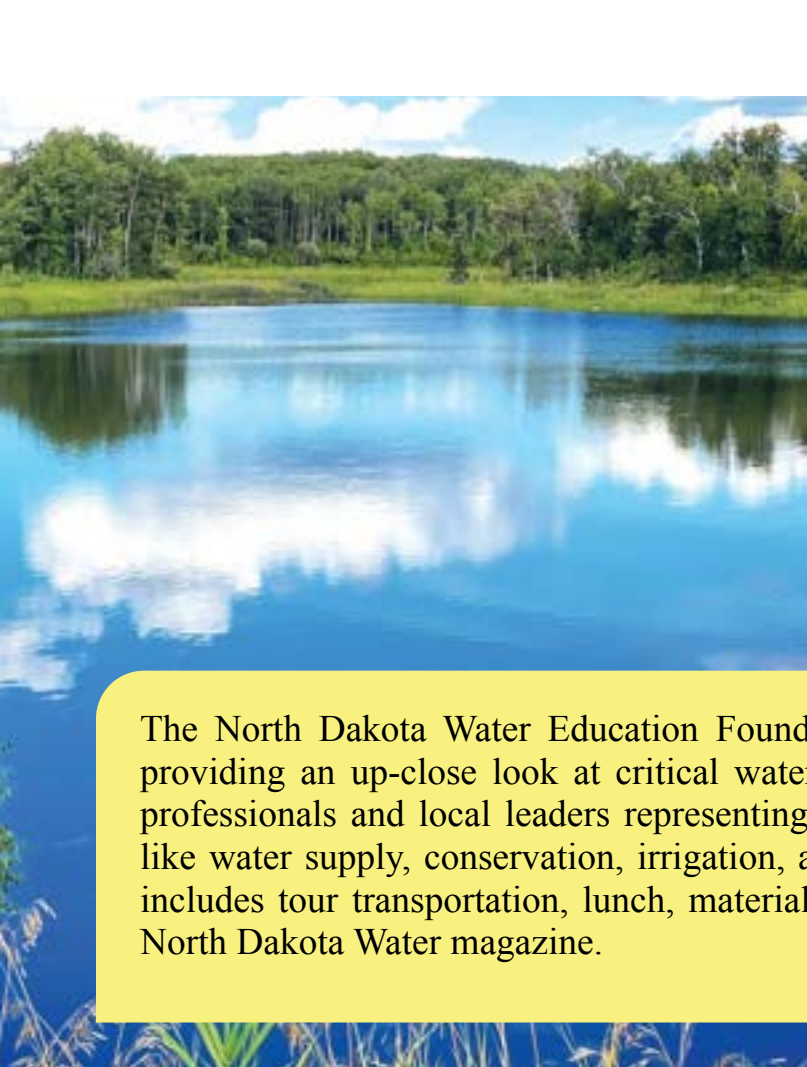


Ryan Landenberger, a graduate of Century High School in Bismarck, will attend North Dakota State University to major in Civil Engineering. With aspirations of becoming a civil engineer, Ryan is committed to improving infrastructure and enhancing quality of life in his home community. He is the son of Beth and James Landenberger.



Carson Wyant, a graduate of South Heart Public School, will attend Bismarck State College to study in the Electrical Lineman Program. Carson looks forward to a hands-on career as a lineman — an essential role through which he can support and serve his community. He is the son of Amy and Jamie Wyant.

**THE WINNING ESSAYS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE NORTH DAKOTA WATER WEBSITE
AT WWW.NDWATER.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS/**



2025 North Dakota Water Education Foundation

WATER TOURS

The North Dakota Water Education Foundation offers one-day tours across the state, providing an up-close look at critical water issues and initiatives. Led by a variety of professionals and local leaders representing different viewpoints, the tours cover topics like water supply, conservation, irrigation, and flood protection. Registration is \$30 and includes tour transportation, lunch, materials, and a one-year digital subscription to the North Dakota Water magazine.



1. The Future of Flood Protection Wednesday, June 18

Spring snow melts result in the recurring threat of major flooding along the Red River, creating anxiety in the Fargo-Moorhead metro and rural Cass County communities. The construction of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Flood Diversion will help protect 260,000+ residents in this area. Tour participants will visit existing flood control facilities and flood protection sites and structures under construction. They will learn about the overall operation of the Diversion and how it will bring permanent, reliable flood protection to the area. The tour begins and ends in Fargo.

2. Rising Impacts of Water - Thursday, July 10

Devils Lake has experienced flooding since 1993 and continues to see near record levels of water. Join us for the Devils Lake area tour to see the ongoing effects of the high water, mitigation efforts that have been implemented to reduce the impacts of flooding and some of the many recreational opportunities the additional waters have created. The tour begins and ends in Devils Lake.

3. Oakes Innovative Irrigation - Tuesday, July 15

Irrigation plays an important role in the success of crops near Oakes in southeastern North Dakota. Onions and potatoes, along with other commodity crops, are irrigated using a variety of different methods, including drip irrigation, drain tile, and 360 RAIN. Several irrigators in the region are testing a novel satellite sensor and advanced modeling to measure moisture in the soil profile with the goal of saving water and conserving this valuable natural resource (backed by the National Science Foundation ag engine FARMS). Animal agriculture is also significant in this area, and hog manure works in tandem with irrigation to help the crops succeed. Learn how irrigation, conveyance ditches, hogs, and innovations in technology contribute to the economy in the southeast region of the state. The tour begins and ends in Oakes.



4. Water, Wind and Weather Modification Wednesday, July 30

Southwestern North Dakota is not known for an abundance of water. However, the Bowman-Haley Lake and Dam, located southeast of Bowman, has 17 miles of scenic shoreline offering year-round recreational opportunities and a haven for a wide variety of wildlife. Weather modification is a tool used to benefit the semi-arid climate in the region; learn how it works and why it is a useful tool. Tour participants will also learn about Bowman Wind, a wind energy project that will generate 200 megawatts of energy, powering up to 72,000 U.S. homes. The tour begins and ends in Bowman.



RESCHEDULED

5. Up for the Challenge - Thursday, August 7

In the last 15 years, the population in northwest North Dakota has increased by more than 57%, and meeting the needs of a growing population is paramount. The tour will highlight how the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWS) is tapped to meet critical municipal, rural, and industrial water needs. Additionally, tour participants will learn how Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative seeks to improve the quality of life in its service area. The Links of North Dakota and Little Egypt park are tasked with meeting recreational needs. Tour participants will learn how irrigation impacts agriculture in the region at the Nesson Valley Irrigation Project. The tour begins and ends in Williston.

THANK YOU

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Our Missouri River... *An Audit of Promises Made*

Over the past year, the Missouri River Joint Water Board (MRJWB) consisting of county water boards located along or within the Missouri River Basin of North Dakota, continued examining the economic impacts, both positive and negative, of the management of the river system within the state. Financial support and encouragement from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District made the study possible.

In particular, MRJWB is interested in the impact of an event that occurred more than 75 years ago when the United States enacted the 1944 Flood Act, commonly referred to as the Pick Sloan Program. The act made a promise to North Dakota to forever change the Missouri River System, arguably, for the better.

The MRJWB believed it to be an appropriate time to take another look at the program and ask some probing questions:

- What was required of North Dakota to be involved?
- How was North Dakota enticed to participate?
- What has been the return on the state's investment with the program?
- If North Dakota is not receiving the promised benefits, what can it do about it?

Let's start with what drove the Pick Sloan Program. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, lower basin states were reeling from back-to-back and unprecedented flooding. Significant damage was continuously inflicted on farmlands, property, highways and other public and private facilities. Omaha, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Jefferson City and St. Louis, Missouri, were particularly impacted. In response, lower basin states' congressional delegations started a concerted effort for investigations and implementation of an ambitious flood control project to mitigate future flooding. It was obvious such flood control could only be accomplished with a buy-in and significant sacrifice of land for water retention by upper basin states.

Trapping and storing the volume of water needed for downstream flood protection would require significant land area, ultimately more than 1.7 million surface acres. All but 15,000 acres of that was obtained from the upper basin areas with favorable terrain for dams, low-affected population centers and even lower political ability to resist the intrusion of the facilities.

No upper basin state contributed more than North Dakota, which ultimately provided more than 584,000 acres

mostly good, fertile and productive land for permanent water storage. South Dakota and Montana also contributed collectively approximately 1.1 million acres to the project. Lower basin states contributed no land for inundation, except for a few small tributary impoundments.

Additionally, Native American tribal sacrifices to the program are overlooked. It is worth noting that of the land taken in North Dakota, the vast majority was located within reservation boundaries, again demonstrating the federal strategy of placing reservoirs in low-populated areas with little political ability to resist the program.

Given its sacrifices, the question is why North Dakota would agree to participate. Flood control in the Bismarck-Mandan area was certainly a benefit. But while enticing, that same benefit could have been largely achieved by river levees, targeted channelization and proper flood plain management. At the time, very little of the south Bismarck flood plain was developed as people simply knew better than to locate in a flood hazard area.

To sell the project to the state, the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation offered additional benefits: a large, federally-funded irrigation development (promised for 1.3 million acres); a program of municipal, industrial and rural water supply; recreational opportunities; fish and wildlife enhancements; and low-cost power from the new facilities. It was a package of benefits specifically tailored to allow North Dakota citizens to better utilize the greatest natural resource they have. It was the same promise made to all the basin states, both upper and lower basin, regardless of what any state contributed to the project.

Let's look at what has and has not been delivered in the nearly eight decades since the Pick Sloan Program was enacted.

The promise of flood protection for Bismarck and Mandan? Yes, largely received, but with some yet



Wade Bachmeier, Chairman
Missouri River Joint Water Board

“

‘In the distribution of benefits and costs of the Pick Sloan Plan ... North Dakota is a ... big loser ...’

Page 81, *River of Promise, River of Peril. The Politics of Managing the Missouri River.*

John Thorson

”

lingering exposure due largely to the federal operating policy of the dams. That policy is strongly influenced by downstream interests and their desires to have North Dakota hold as much flood water, for as long as possible, so their damages are mitigated.

The promise of a large irrigation project? This did not happen and will not happen. It was abandoned quickly by the federal government in response to environmental challenges and in recognition that the initial engineering analysis over-estimated irrigation feasibility of selected lands. So, what was promised as a 1.3-million-acre project has now become an approximately 30,000-acre project.

The promise of low cost and abundant hydroelectric power? Yes, but not for North Dakota. That low-cost and abundant power had largely been exported to our neighbors to the east and south for their benefit, not ours.

The promise of recreational development? A mixed bag, considering the dams are operated mostly for downstream benefits. In wet years, water is stored at high levels thereby swamping our boat ramps. In dry years, the water is at low levels, thereby putting those same ramps out of the water. This ongoing damage to the recreational sector is real and measurable but is of little consequence to the federal operators.

The promise of a robust federal water supply system for municipal, rural, and industrial development? This has been a mixed bag. Certainly, the federal government has supplied significant grant funds over the years for this effort, but those funds have been woefully inadequate. Today there are still families and communities along the Missouri River system, primarily on tribal lands, who must haul household water – 75 years after the federal government made a promise of water supply to our citizens!

The promise of fish and wildlife enhancements? That promise has been delivered, but at the expense of an erratic and unpredictable river management policy. To

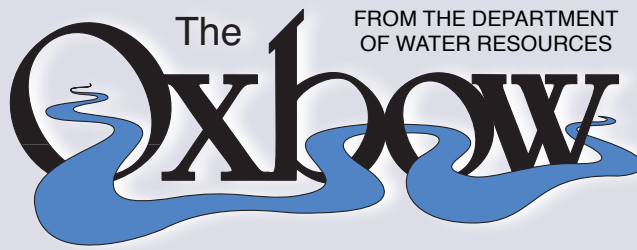
protect endangered species such as the least tern and the piping plover, the Corps has implemented widely varying flows on the river. This has greatly exasperated bank erosion and contributed to increased river sedimentation. That bank erosion and sedimentation threaten both public and private lands and property, and the cost to repair or avoid the damage is left on the shoulders of those neighboring property owners.

It is aggravating that all these federal promises have not been met. But it is also aggravating that in many instances the same responsible federal agencies have implemented operational and management policies and procedures which tie their own hands in fulfilling their own promises. Until very recently, the Corps of Engineers aggressively pursued a program which sought to charge North Dakota water users a fee to use North Dakota water out of the North Dakota Missouri River system. And now, more recently, there are federal efforts to make accessibility to Lake Sakakawea water, via Lake Audubon, more difficult and riskier to use due to operational issues.

Perhaps even more aggravating are the efforts of some of our downstream neighbors to limit and control North Dakota’s ability to use and enjoy the Missouri River and the benefits of the Pick Sloan Act. Although numerous examples exist, the most current instance is the lawsuit now filed by the state of Missouri against the state of North Dakota that seeks to prohibit us from withdrawing 20 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) from the river – out of a flow that routinely carries over 20,000 cfs in our state. Their logic: our withdrawals from the river may impact adversely their ability to conduct navigation on the river in their state. And, they threaten future lawsuits if we try future withdrawal attempts.

The Missouri River Joint Water Board believes North Dakota is still owed a debt from the federal government for both initial adverse impacts imposed on our state and for the ongoing adverse impacts of the project in our state. We believe the downstream interests have for too long been favored in the river system management. And we believe it is time for our citizenry to become more aware of these issues and to support and encourage our state leadership to continue to aggressively protect our rights to the water of the Missouri.

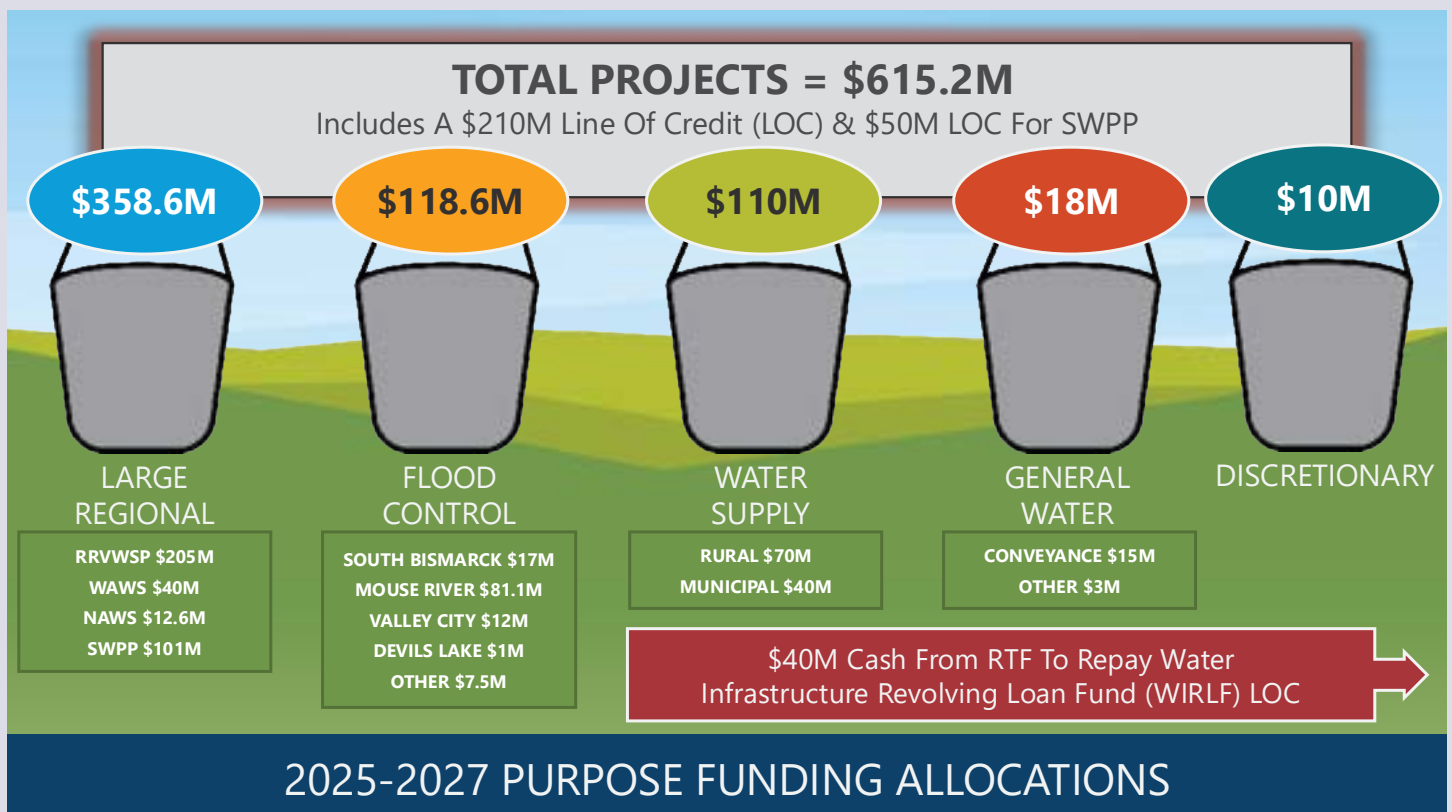
It is our goal and intention to draw attention to the inequities of the Pick Sloan Program to our state and to initiate, participate and assist in developing state and federal policies which provide us with the greatest benefit possible from our greatest natural resource – the Missouri River.



SECURING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER FUTURE: INSIDE HOUSE BILL 1020

North Dakotans understand the importance of reliable, well-managed water systems. Whether it's providing consistent service to rural homes or preparing for the next flood event, water infrastructure is essential to daily life and long-term growth. With the passage of House Bill 1020, the state is taking major steps to strengthen that infrastructure through targeted investment, smarter planning, and new tools to face future challenges.

Signed into law by Gov. Kelly Armstrong, HB 1020 establishes a \$769 million appropriation for the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the 2025-2027 biennium, including \$615.2 million for new projects. The bulk of this funding comes from the Resources Trust Fund (RTF), which is supported by 20.5% of the state's oil extraction tax. These dollars will go toward major water supply projects, flood protection systems, drought preparedness, smaller general water management projects, and key studies to guide future efforts.



STRATEGIC FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Of the total budget, \$358.6 million is allocated to large regional water supply systems. These include:

- Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP): \$205 million
- Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP): \$101 million
- Western Area Water Supply (WAWS): \$40 million
- Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS): \$12.6 million

THE BILL ALSO FUNDS

- Flood control (\$118.6 million): Including efforts in South Bismarck, Mouse River, Valley City, Devils Lake, and smaller local projects.
- Water supply (\$110 million): Split between rural systems (\$70 million) and municipal systems (\$40 million).
- General water projects (\$18 million): Mostly for water conveyance and infrastructure needs not tied to a specific region.
- Discretionary funding (\$10 million): Reserved for unforeseen or emerging needs.

To help manage cash flow for these projects, a \$260 million line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota is also included, giving DWR added flexibility to move projects forward on schedule, especially during construction-heavy periods.

“The passage of House Bill 1020 will provide local water managers and the agency with tremendous opportunities to develop and manage North Dakota’s water resources,” DWR Director Reice Haase said. “Because of Oil Extraction Tax revenues into the Resources Trust Fund, North Dakota will be able to continue its strong support of water development in all areas of the state – protecting our citizens from flood-related impacts; delivering clean, reliable sources of water for people, industry, and agriculture; and advancing smaller general water management projects that make positive impacts in urban and rural areas alike.”



LOOKING AHEAD: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

House Bill 1020 doesn’t just fund immediate projects, it also lays the groundwork for long-term water planning through a series of legislative studies and oversight directives. The Legislative Water Topics Overview Committee will take on expanded responsibilities, receiving updates and monitoring progress on issues like project funding, regional systems, and statewide water development.

Several studies are assigned to Legislative Management. One would evaluate how designated appropriations for water projects are allocated and managed. Another will examine the role, funding and future of storm water projects across the state.

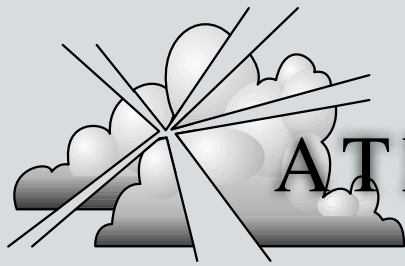
A second-phase study of Missouri River intake sites will involve on-the-ground fieldwork to assess the feasibility of various locations. Findings will help guide future decisions on sourcing and delivering water to central and western regions.

The State Water Commission (SWC) will also review long-term governance and finance models for select regional systems, assessing their sustainability and potential for improvement. The SWC also will study its cost-share policy and financial planning process to ensure funding strategies are sustainable and aligned with statewide needs.

BUILDING CAPACITY AT DWR

In addition to project funding and planning efforts, HB 1020 invests in the agency itself. The bill supports five new full-time positions at DWR, including a deputy director, general counsel, staff accountant, a Silver Jackets flood risk program coordinator, and a NAWS system operator. These roles will improve DWR’s internal capacity to manage complex systems, partner with local governments, and carry out large-scale projects more efficiently.

For more information on DWR and its current initiatives, visit www.dwr.nd.gov.



THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management

SUMMER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS



By Mark D. Schneider

As the spring season transitions into summer, the likelihood of hearing the familiar rumble of thunder rises along with the temperature. Summer's longer and warmer days help provide the energy the atmosphere needs to produce some of Mother Nature's most impressive displays. While thunderstorms are awesome to watch, they are a double-edged sword, producing the majority of growing season precipitation in North Dakota, but also bringing severe weather, which may include lightning, hail, floods, high winds, or even tornadoes. There are several things you can do to protect yourself and your property from severe summer weather. The first, and probably most important, boils down to one thing: awareness.

Be aware of watches and warnings issued this summer around the state. A *Watch* means conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather in the affected area. The Storm Prediction Center (www.spc.noaa.gov) in Norman, Oklahoma, is responsible for forecasting severe weather nationwide and issuing watches when necessary. Severe thunderstorm and tornado watches are typically issued prior to the onset of severe weather and prescribe the geographic area where the storms are expected to occur. A *Warning* means that severe weather is occurring or imminent and those in its path should take appropriate precautions immediately. Warnings are issued by your local National Weather Service office and are typically issued for specific portions of counties and locales, rather than for an entire county.

"Most deaths and injuries related to natural weather disasters are preventable," said Zachary Hargrove, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Bismarck. "Be sure to have a reliable way to receive warnings, such as a NOAA Weather Radio, and create/ implement a severe weather plan for you and your family. Know that at the National Weather Service, we are here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, monitoring the weather and working hard to keep you safe."

Severe weather safety is mostly just common sense. Simple things like parking your car in the garage and taking shelter inside a sturdy building will protect you and your property from most severe weather situations. When strong winds or hail are involved, stay away from windows, as broken glass can cause significant injuries. The most effective protection from lightning is inside a building or vehicle. If caught outside, squat down on your feet, to make yourself as small as possible. You don't want to be the tallest object in the area, but on the other hand, don't take shelter under a tall tree; if it is struck, you may be as well. Never drive through flooded areas, especially fast-moving water, as your vehicle could be swept away. A flooded road may also hide the fact that it's structurally unsafe or washed out entirely.

The most spectacular phenomenon spawned by thunderstorms is the tornado. If faced with a tornado, take shelter in a small interior room on the lowest level of a sturdy building. Abandon mobile homes and automobiles for more substantial shelter as they provide very little, if any protection. If you are caught outside, lie down in a ditch or depression and cover your head.

Being aware of potentially hazardous weather conditions and taking appropriate action will help keep you safe from the storm. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Atmospheric Resource Board | North Dakota Department of Water Resources | 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 328-2788 | dwr.nd.gov

ND Weather Modification Association | PO Box 2599 | Bismarck, ND 58502 | (701) 223-4232

SAVE THE DATE

North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association
North Dakota Water Users Association

2025 Joint Summer Water Meeting

July 9-10, 2025

Spirit Lake Casino & Resort
Devils Lake, North Dakota

For more information visit www.ndwater.org/events



Registration and
Sack Lunch
11 a.m.

Shotgun Start
Noon

Dinner and Awards
5 p.m.



Dushinske & Jamison Water Resources Scholarship

GOLF SCRAMBLE

21st Annual **Top 0' the Day**

TEE-OFF

Monday, August 11

CrossRoads Golf Course

Highway 281 N, Carrington, ND

\$100/Person Entry Fee

18-hole four person scramble.

Groups formed prior to registration or by tournament officials.

To Register, contact Stacey at Garrison Diversion
Conservancy District at 701-652-3194 or staceyg@gdcd.org.



New Staff Join North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association

Elizabeth Heinz

Elizabeth Heinz joined the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association in January 2025 as the Apprenticeship Program coordinator. In this role, she works to develop and support a skilled pipeline of future water and wastewater professionals, helping to ensure the sustainability of vital services in North Dakota's communities and rural water systems.

Elizabeth began her career in Human Resources, where she successfully built programs to improve workforce retention, strengthen organizational culture and ensure compliance with employment standards. Her ability to support employees and foster professional development made her a natural fit for the apprenticeship program, which depends on strong relationships between mentors, apprentices and utility systems.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Arizona State University and is a certified professional through the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM-CP). These credentials reflect her dedication to effective communication and workforce development.

Outside of her professional role, Elizabeth is actively involved in community service. She volunteers with her local animal shelter and various other community groups. Her commitment to service and professional growth makes her a valuable part of the North Dakota Rural Water team and a strong advocate for communities and rural water systems across the state.



Brian Nelson

A dedicated combat veteran with 14 years of service in the 1st Infantry Division, Brian Nelson joined the NDRWSA team as a disaster recovery circuit rider in April 2025. He brings a wealth of practical water management experience to this role.

Prior to joining NDRWSA, Brian served as the water and wastewater operator for the city of Tolna, beginning in 2018. He credits NDRWSA with providing crucial training during this time and is eager to contribute to the organization. His decade of service on the Tolna City Council has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of municipal operations and fund allocation, valuable assets in the water industry.

Brian and his wife, Rhonda, have called Tolna home for 18 years. They enjoy the fruits of small-town living. A loyal UND hockey fan, Brian enjoys attending home games with his granddaughter. In his free time, he enjoys antique hunting, a passion that led to an appearance on the television show "American Pickers."

The disaster recovery circuit rider is currently traveling across the state to educate communities on emergency response plans and presidentially declared disaster grant funding. We are proud to be a part of this effort and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on the communities we serve.

Our disaster recovery circuit rider will meet with the system operators and/or city auditors/administrators and an initial assessment will be conducted to identify any potential gaps in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. Following this assessment, dedicated assistance is provided to update and enhance your community's emergency preparedness plan.



North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) is a non-profit, independent corporation governed by an elected board of directors. The association was formed in 1974, to coordinate rural water systems on a statewide basis. NDRWSA exists to enhance the quality of life in small communities by providing training, technical, managerial & financial assistance, and representation to public water and wastewater utilities, while maintaining environmental integrity.

LEGISLATIVE RECAP:

NDRWSA Advances Key Rural Water Priorities During 69th Session

The 69th Legislative Session marked a period of significant advocacy and progress for the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) and its members. Throughout the session, the association advanced legislative goals that aligned with its vision: ensuring all North Dakotans have access to safe, reliable, and affordable water.

The following is a summary of key legislation that NDRWSA advocated for on behalf of its member systems and the communities/rural residents they serve:

House Bill 1020: Water Budget Overview

Under House Bill 1020, 20.5% of North Dakota's Oil Extraction Tax continues to be allocated to the Resources Trust Fund, a vital source of funding for statewide water projects. This dedicated revenue stream is crucial in supporting infrastructure that benefits all corners of the state. The NDRWSA has consistently supported a Department of Water Resources (DWR) budget that ensures sufficient funding to meet the essential water needs of rural North Dakota. Grant funding made possible through this budget helps residents in smaller communities and rural areas receive a basic necessity of life for a reasonable price. While the legislative process included its share of challenges, the final outcome was a significant success: \$70 million was secured for rural water initiatives over the next two years. NDRWSA sincerely appreciates the legislators who were champions for rural water infrastructure and helped make this funding possible.

House Bill 1537: Protection of Water Service

In July 2024, the North Dakota Supreme Court ruled that water service agreements lacking the signature of the Public Finance Authority (PFA) are legally invalid from the outset, under N.D.C.C. § 6-09.4-22(2). House Bill 1537 was introduced and passed during the 69th Legislative Session to address this issue. Subsection 3 of the bill clarifies that such agreements remain valid and enforceable unless the PFA determines they lack adequate financial safeguards. This change ensures continuity for existing and future agreements while preserving the PFA's oversight role. The bill received strong support from the North Dakota League of Cities, the NDRWSA, and the PFA, all recognizing the need to prevent future legal uncertainty and to protect essential water infrastructure projects.

Senate Bill 2299: Strengthening Water District Governance

Senate Bill 2299 introduces several important updates to improve transparency, accountability, and governance within North Dakota's water districts:

Section 1 mandates financial audits every two years. While most districts already conduct annual audits, this requirement ensures a consistent minimum standard aligned with industry best practices.

Section 2 allows members to petition for additional audits or financial reviews if at least 10% or 300 members sign on. This provision strikes a balance between empowering individual members and protecting districts from unnecessary or repetitive audit costs. The State Auditor's Office retains discretion to approve or deny such requests based on merit.

Section 3 updates the election and nomination process, aiming to standardize procedures while allowing flexibility to accommodate the unique needs of individual districts.

Section 4 clarifies procedures for filling director vacancies and ensures fair access to elections. It also promotes transparency by allowing observer participation during the election process.

Together, these updates enhance the integrity and responsiveness of water district governance across the state.

Our Water

Keeping it Clean

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Project Spotlight

Morton County Soil Conservation District

*Meridith Miller, Environmental Scientist
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality*

The Watershed Management Program (WMP) at the North Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) manages multiple projects addressing water quality for North Dakota lakes, reservoirs, streams and rivers by analyzing physical, chemical and biological data.



Environmental scientist Mickey Schick collects a water sample through the ice on the Little Missouri River at Medora, North Dakota.

Ambient River and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program

The NDDEQ's Ambient River and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program was established in the 1960s. Its primary goal is to provide long-term data for trend analysis, general water quality characterization and estimates of pollutant loading. The current Ambient River and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program consists of 37 sites on major rivers throughout the state. The WMP is responsible for 17 sites. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Science Center Grand Forks field office is responsible for 12 sites and the USGS Water Science Center Bismarck field office is responsible for eight sites. A wide suite of analytes is sampled at each site, including general chemistry, nutrients, trace metals, total suspended solids, *E. coli* bacteria, total organic carbon and dissolved organic carbon. In-field measurements are also taken at each site including, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and specific conductivity.

TMDL Development

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is required when a water body is impaired due to an excess of pollutants such as nutrients or *E. coli* bacteria. TMDL reports provide information on how much of a pollutant is present, where it's coming from and what best-management practices need to be implemented to improve water quality. WMP staff collect water samples and stream flow measurements from waterbodies within the watershed to support development of the TMDL report.



Jaxsyn Olson collects a stream sample using a Van Dorn (top). Julia McGee uses a FlowTracker for a streamflow measurement (bottom).

Lake Water Quality Assessments

NDDEQ WMP staff visit lakes four times during the sampling season to capture spring runoff, and early summer, summer and fall water quality conditions. Staff sample lakes within major watershed basins on a rotating schedule. Staff will monitor and assess lakes in the Red River Basin in 2025. A wide suite of analytes is sampled at each site including general chemistry, nutrients, trace metals, total suspended solids and chlorophyll. Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and specific conductivity field measurements are taken throughout the water column.



For more information about any of the projects mentioned here, please visit the NDDEQ website. The website contains Ambient Stream Monitoring Network factsheets and LWQA fact sheets for sampled lakes.

https://deq.nd.gov/WQ/3_Watershed_Mgmt/5_WQMonit/WQMonit.aspx or contact Watershed Management Program manager Josh Wert at 701-328-5014 or jewert@nd.gov.



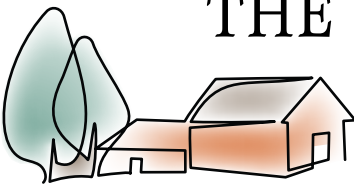
Environmental scientist Brian Houle collects a lake sample using a column sampler (pictured above). Seasonal WMP staff running lake water quality samples (top left). Joshua Wert, Emily Brazil and Becca May enumerate fish by species (bottom left).

Reference River and Stream Monitoring Program

The Reference River and Streams Site Monitoring Program uses biological, physical and chemical data to assess the current biological condition of perennial rivers and streams. Organisms such as fish and benthic macroinvertebrates can be used as indicators of water quality. Tolerant species are an indicator of poor water quality, whereas intolerant species are an indicator of better water quality. Staff use an electro-shocker to sample fish in rivers and streams. The fish are separated by species and enumerated. Macroinvertebrates are collected using nets, preserved and later identified by the Valley City State University Macroinvertebrate Lab. Physical habitat assessments are also conducted to assess erosion, sedimentation, fish cover and human impacts.

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THE Timmer Chronicles

By Scott Nelson

My dad was the youngest child of nine kids. I'm the youngest of five. In fact, I'm nine years younger than my next oldest sibling. Being the youngest of the youngest meant I grew up surrounded by mostly adults. All my cousins were much older than me. Growing up with adults to converse with meant I was always more comfortable visiting with older folks.

This came in handy when years ago, in my 40s, I interviewed World War II veterans who were in their 80s. Even now, in my 60s, I enjoy visiting with folks much older than I am.

I remember years ago I happened to be in Medora, I think for the Cowboy Poetry Gathering. It was in the evening and I was outside my motel room, leaning up against a retaining wall, enjoying a cigar and watching a thunderstorm passing to the west and south of town. As I was propped against the wall and enjoying nature's fireworks, this older feller came walking over and took up a spot next to me. After introductions, we started visiting and two hours later I was much more knowledgeable about Medora than I was before.

The man's name was Fred Smith and I found out his life story. Fred came into this world in February of 1918 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was a Boy Scout in his youth and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He got his start in show business by the age of 12, ushering at three local theaters. He graduated from high school in 1935 and came out of the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in fine arts in 1941. After a stint with the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II, Fred became an associate of Al Sheehan's Entertainment, producing all types of stage shows.

In 1965, North Dakota businessman Harold Schafer, (Mr. Bubble) hired Smith to help create what would eventually become the Medora Musical. The musical struggled at first, with many early shows failing to attract enough customers to cover costs. Fred watched

as funds dwindled, and just when things seemed bleak, Schafer would step in with his checkbook to keep the production alive. Over time, the Medora Musical gained popularity, and attendance grew, eventually turning a profit. Every winter, Smith would cast the singers and dancers for the next summer's musical and sign various specialty acts like gymnasts, jugglers, ventriloquists, and comedians.

One year, Smith booked comedian Sammy Shore, the father of actor and comedian Pauly Shore. Fred explained that the Medora Musical was family entertainment and that no off-color jokes were allowed. The first few shows went fine, but Sammy soon grew bored with the routine. He began introducing questionable material into his act to spice things up. Fred had to warn him, saying he would be fired if the act wasn't cleaned up.

Sammy's material only got worse, so Fred decided he had to can him. When Fred went to the Medora cottage where Sammy was staying to deliver the news, Sammy answered the door with a pistol! Fred quickly turned and made a hasty escape, trying to walk in a zig-zag pattern to throw off Sammy's aim if he started shooting!

Fred was in a pickle, he needed an act to fill in that evening, so he called local cowboy poet, Bill Lowman. Could he get in to do that evening's show? Bill could and was able to fill in for the rest of the remaining shows to the delight of all who attended.

I heard many other stories about the Medora Musical, enough to put in a book. I treasure those few hours I spent with the man who, along with Harold Schafer, helped create this important part of North Dakota. Smith continued his work with the Musical until its 50th anniversary in 2014. Frederick Wollesen Smith passed away in 2017 at the age of 99 and the Medora Musical is still going after 60 years.

See yuh next time, Scott.



Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Committed to NORTH DAKOTA Through Grant Programs

By Kimberly Cook

The enhancement of one of North Dakota's most treasured resources – its recreational opportunities – is a key initiative for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), and this spring, the Recreation Committee awarded matching recreation grants to 22 projects, totaling \$622,894.

Garrison Diversion staff and directors are proud to invest in the promotion, development and enhancement of recreation facilities and opportunities within the district.

Garrison Diversion established a Matching Recreation Grant Program dedicated to returning mill-levy funds within the 28-county member district in 1990, enabling communities of all sizes to enhance their recreation facilities or develop new opportunities through this beneficial program.

The Matching Recreation Grant Program distributes 20 percent of Garrison Diversion's one-mill levy to eligible projects within the district. Projects are eligible to receive up to 25 percent of the non-federal share of the project. Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee meets twice a year, in the spring and fall, to award money to applicants.

Over the life of the program, over \$9.0 million has been awarded in matching recreation grants, enabling the completion of valuable recreation projects around the state. Through the years, projects have included boat ramps and docks, picnic facilities, restrooms, campgrounds, bathhouses, playground areas, and recreational trails.



New Application Guidelines Going Forward

With the growing popularity of the program, the Garrison Diversion Recreation Committee examined application guidelines at the spring meeting. The committee determined in order to better accommodate the larger number of requests, the maximum individual project award was reduced to \$50,000. This is a change from the maximum \$75,000 grant award previously allowed. Additionally, multiple county-sponsored projects are now only eligible for up to 25 percent of the nonfederal share of the project, rather than the 50 percent previously permissible.

“It’s exciting that Garrison Diversion can help beautify and improve recreation amenities across the state through the Matching Recreation Grant Program,” says committee chairman Bruce Klein. “We’re proud to support the needs of our member counties and give back to them through this program.”



The following counties received Matching Recreation Grant funds in spring 2025:

- **Barnes County:** \$34,700 to Barnes and Ransom counties to continue developing the Sheyenne River Water Trail
- **Bottineau County:** \$5,571 to Bottineau County to install a vault toilet at the Carbury Dam Recreation Area; \$50,000 to Bottineau County to purchase a snow system for Bottineau Winter Park; \$1,195 to the city of Souris to purchase park benches for the city park
- **Burleigh County:** \$16,000 to Bismarck Parks & Recreation to install a playground at General Sibley Park; \$28,699 to the Burleigh County Water Resource District to create an accessible playground area at McDowell Dam
- **Cass County:** \$50,000 to Mapleton Park Board to create the new Ashmoor Glen Park; \$50,000 to the city of Reile’s Acres for the Reile’s Park Revitalization project; \$50,000 to the Fargo Park District to develop the SW Regional Pond Recreation Area
- **Dickey County:** \$460 to the Dickey County Park Board to purchase a picnic table for Wilson Dam
- **Eddy County:** \$25,000 to construct new restrooms at the Eddy County Fairgrounds; \$2,473 for the Jim Johnson Park bathroom renovation
- **Grand Forks County:** \$39,560 to the Grand Forks Park District to construct a new playground at Elks Park
- **McLean County:** \$50,000 to the city of Mercer for the Mercer Community Center building project
- **Ramsey County:** \$43,977 to the Devils Lake Park District for the Merle Baisch Memorial Wheelchair Ramp project; \$50,000 to the Ramsey County Fair Board for retractable bleachers at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds multi-purpose building
- **Ransom County:** \$25,688 to the Lisbon Park District for multiple improvements at Sandager Park
- **Sargent County:** \$19,097 to the Sargent County Park Board to construct a new bathhouse on the south side of the Silver Lake Recreation Area
- **Stutsman County:** \$6,209 to Jamestown Parks & Recreation for the lighting project at Jack Brown Stadium; \$4,000 to the Medina City Park to install water hookups at the campsites
- **Traill County:** \$20,265 to the Mayville Park District to create a skate park in Mayville
- **Ward County:** \$50,000 to the Kenmare Park District to assist with the construction of a splash pad

The fall deadline of **September 2** is the next chance to apply for grant funds. For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit www.garrisondiversion.org or contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.

Water Supply Assistance Grant Program Awards \$302,076

Garrison Diversion's MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program was developed in 2021 to help fulfill the mission to provide a reliable, high-quality and affordable water supply to the people of North Dakota. The relatively new program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"Rural water provides a better quality of life for North Dakota citizens, and strengthens our rural communities," says MR&I Committee Chair Larry Kassian. "Garrison Diversion is proud to support rural water in North Dakota, and this program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."

Assistance for new customer hookups comes with a 50 percent cost-share for projects exceeding \$2,500, with a maximum reimbursement of \$10,000 per customer hookup. If it becomes necessary to prioritize grant requests, they will be evaluated as such: residential use; livestock use; commercial/business use.

In May, the MR&I Committee awarded a program high \$302,076 to 49 rural water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- **All Seasons Water Users District:** \$46,407 for five customer hookups
- **Barnes Rural Water District:** \$45,988 for seven customer hookups
- **Cass Rural Water:** \$32,761 for four customer hookups
- **Central Plains Water District:** \$20,753 for five customer hookups
- **Dakota Rural Water District:** \$9,558 for two customer hookups
- **East Central Regional Water District:** \$19,011 for two customer hookups
- **Greater Ramsey Water District:** \$7,016 for one customer hookup
- **McKenzie County Rural Water:** \$5,696 for three customer hookups
- **McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District:** \$1,911 for one customer hookup
- **North Prairie Regional Water District:** \$4,750 for one customer hookup
- **South Central Regional Water District:** \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **Southeast Water Users District:** \$42,225 for five customer hookups
- **Stutsman Rural Water District:** \$56,000 for 12 customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **August 1, although emergency requests are considered as needed**. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects for municipalities, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at www.garrisondiversion.org.



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Door Prizes

Frost Fest

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REFLECTIONS



is a chance for readers to share experiences and views that relate to water. Share your **REFLECTIONS** in a future issue of *North Dakota Water*!

Limit them to about 400 words and email to editor@ndwater.net or mail to the North Dakota Water Education Foundation, PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Include your name, address, phone number and a high-resolution digital photo of yourself or the event about which you are writing. Also include a short description about yourself and your water "connection."



Sponsored by:



***2025* CALENDAR**

- | | |
|------------|--|
| July 7 | Southwest Water Authority's Board of Directors Meeting, Dickinson |
| July 8 | North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's Water System Training |
| July 9 | North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's Water System Training |
| July 9-10 | North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association and North Dakota Water Users Association Joint Summer Water Meeting, Spirit Lake Casino, Devils Lake |
| July 10 | Joint Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board and North Dakota Water Education Foundation's The Rising Impacts of Water, Devils Lake |
| July 10 | North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's Water System Training |
| July 15 | North Dakota Water Education Foundation's Innovative Irrigation in Oakes, Oakes |
| July 16 | Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board Meeting, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake |
| July 16-17 | North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's Leadership Retreat, Roughrider Hotel, Medora |
| July 17-18 | Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's Board of Directors Meeting, Carrington |
| July 24 | North Dakota State Water Commission's Pre-Commission Meeting |
| July 24 | Water Day at the North Dakota State Fair, Minot |
| July 24 | Metro Flood Diversion Authority's Board Meeting |
| July 29-31 | National Water Resources Association's Western, Park City, Utah |
| July 30 | North Dakota Water Education Foundation's Water, Wind and Weather Modification, Bowman |
| July 31 | NAWS Authority Meeting virtually or at the Minot Public Works |
| Aug. 4 | Southwest Water Authority's Board of Directors Meeting, Dickinson |
| Aug. 7 | North Dakota Water Education Foundation's Up for the Challenge, Williston |
| Aug. 11 | 21st Annual Top O' the Day Tee-off, CrossRoads Golf Course, Carrington |
| Aug. 13 | Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board Meeting, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake |
| Aug. 14 | North Dakota State Water Commission Meeting |

For more information or if you would like a water event listed here, call 701-223-8332 or email jellingson@ndwater.net.

Submissions are due the first Monday of each month preceding the next issue.

North Dakota Water Education Foundation • P.O. Box 2254 • Bismarck, ND 58502