

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 27, 2021

Water Commission Announces Agency Name Change to the Department of Water Resources, Governor Appoints Travnicek to Director Role

BISMARCK, N.D. – Effective Aug. 1, 2021, the State Water Commission will officially become the Department of Water Resources as a result of the successful passage of House Bill 1353 during the 2021 legislative session.

This new legislation:

- Renames the agency to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- Reorganizes the Office of the State Engineer and associated regulatory roles into a division within the restructured department.
- Provides for an agency director who will be appointed by the governor. The director of water resources will be a member of the governor's Cabinet.

On July 26, 2021, Governor Burgum appointed North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Travnicek, to lead the state's Department of Water Resources, subject to approval by a majority of the members of the State Water Commission on Friday, July 30.

"It's an honor to continue serving the citizens of North Dakota in this new role," Travnicek said. "I have enjoyed managing our state's public lands and enhancing recreational offerings across the state and am looking forward to managing the diverse, important water resources for North Dakota and working with the dedicated team at the Department of Water Resources to improve our state's quality of life and strengthen the economy."

The department will introduce various new branding elements throughout the restructuring process, including a redesigned logo, updated social media platforms, and a newly branded website, www.dwr.nd.gov. These elements will be available in the near future.