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State Water Commission Approves \$16.6 Million in Cost-Share Funding For Water Projects

Today, the virtually-held North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting chaired by Lt. Governor Sanford, resulted in the approval of \$16.6 million in cost-share requests for several municipal, regional, and rural water supply projects, as well as projects related to flood control, and general water efforts from across the state.

The SWC supports local sponsors in development of sustainable water-related projects in North Dakota through the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Cost-Share Program. The primary purpose of the DWR Cost-Share Program is to assist local project sponsors with financial support of water development projects – making them more affordable to local constituents.

The largest cost-share approved today is \$7.1 million for Western Area Water Supply (WAWS) in support of their Phase 6 rural water distribution project near Stanley. Owned and operated by the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA), the WAWS project utilizes a combination of Missouri River water treated at the Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant and groundwater treated at the Ray and Tioga (R&T) Water Supply Commerce Authority's Water Treatment Plant in Ray to serve over 60,000 water users. To date, the state has invested approximately \$235 million in the WAWS project.

"The Western Area Water Supply is crucial to meeting the municipal, rural, and industrial water needs of northwestern North Dakota, and the State Water Commission is pleased today to be able to provide support for this and other critical infrastructure projects across our state," Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford said.

Additionally, the SWC approved cost-share assistance for the Missouri River Joint Water Resource Board for outreach and coordination efforts in the amount of \$73,835, and allocated \$165,000 for a DWR and University of North Dakota cooperative Cold Region Hydrological Modeling Project that will identify beneficial water appropriation and aquifer data.

“With the Commission’s approval of cost-share funding for sixteen projects today, totaling approximately \$16.6 million, we continue to see successful cooperation between the state and local project sponsors to move critical water development projects forward in all areas of the state,” said DWR Director Andrea Travnicek. “The DWR is also excited to move forward with the collaborative Cold Region Hydrological Modeling effort with UND. This valuable study and many of the projects approved today will improve North Dakota’s overall long-term resiliency to flooding and drought through the advancement of sustainable solutions.”

The 10-member Water Commission consists of Burgum as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and eight members appointed by the governor to serve six-year terms. For additional information, please visit the Department of Water Resources’ website at www.dwr.nd.gov.

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