

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | October 12, 2023

## Water Commission Approves \$8 Million in Cost-Share for Water Projects & Tours Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant

GRAND FORKS, ND – At the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller today, the SWC approved \$8 million in cost-share requests, with the largest including \$4 million for water supply capacity improvements for Greater Ramsey Water District and \$2.3 million for water supply distribution improvements in New Town. The SWC also approved other water supply, flood control and general water management project cost-share requests.

Before the meeting, the SWC attended the Grand Forks Water Treatment Plant's ceremonial ribbon cutting and toured the facility. The state cost-shared approximately half of the \$150 million facility.

"Being able to provide clean, reliable water to Grand Forks residents and businesses with this new Grand Forks Water Treatment Plant will support both domestic water needs and economic development for decades to come," Miller said. "Congratulations to the City of Grand Forks, and thank you to city leaders and the State Water Commission for supporting the critical infrastructure that is essential to creating healthy, vibrant communities that can attract and retain a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

"The Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant is a vital investment for future long-term resiliency and economic development in the region," said Andrea Travnicek, ND Department of Water Resources Director. "We also know it will ultimately become a strategically important element of the greater Red River Valley Water Supply Project, which will one day serve about half of North Dakota's population with water."

"My fellow Commissioners and I really appreciated the opportunity to tour the Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant, and to host one of our meetings in this area," said Michael Anderson, SWC lower Red River Basin representative. "This water treatment plant is an important part to the quality of life in the greater Grand Forks area. One of the most gratifying things about serving on the State Water Commission is seeing projects like this completed to benefit North Dakotans."

The Greater Ramsey Water District approval will support construction costs associated with their North System Capacity Improvements. This project involves water treatment plant improvements, a new well, a pump station, a 500,000-gallon underground storage reservoir and 11.9 miles of transmission pipeline. The project is located in Ramsey and Benson Counties.

The New Town approval will support their Water Supply Improvements - Phase 1 effort. This project will include replacing approximately 20 blocks of aging water main, hydrants, gate valves, water services and curb stops.

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

The 10-member SWC consists of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring, and eight members appointed by the governor to serve six-year terms. For additional information, please visit [www.dwr.nd.gov](http://www.dwr.nd.gov).

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**Doug Burgum, *Governor***

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