

The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

Project WET Explore Your Watershed leadership workshop trains facilitators

By Bill Sharff

The Project WET Explore Your Watershed Facilitator Leadership Training Workshop was held at the Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center in Mandan, February 3-4, 2001. Twenty one individuals from across North Dakota were trained and certified to promote and deliver credit and non-credit programs to K-12 educators and students.

Fourteen people were seeking Project WET facilitator certification for the first time. The new facilitators came from a diversity of backgrounds including eight K-12 formal educators, five non-formal educators and one university faculty member. In order to attend the training, the new facilitator candidates were required to submit a formal application explaining their qualifications and interests in becoming a facilitator. Each candidate was also asked to complete a Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide activity with their classroom students or peer groups, and present the materials and a summary of the activity during the workshop. Finally, all attendees signed a "Certificate of Commitment" to promote and provide Project WET Explore Your Watershed opportunities. Each candidate met the necessary requirements and following the training, all individuals received a "Certificate of Completion" acknowledging their certification and commitment to Project WET as facilitators.

Workshop training, using small and whole group methods, included:

- planning and teaching activities from the Project WET Guide;
- reviewing components of the Project WET Facilitator Handbook;
- learning methods for planning, promoting, facilitating and conducting Project WET educational opportunities;
- developing programs for specified Project WET scenario options;

- explanation of the national and North Dakota Project WET K-12 curriculum and educational materials and resources; and

- exposure to Project WET K-12 Activity Guide Correlation Document to the North Dakota Content Standards in mathematics, science, social studies and language arts.

Facilitators also received training using the groundwater flow model and watershed pollution educational trunks. In addition, participants received the Project WET curriculum, reference and resource materials, many water education posters and teacher/student water action guides.

If you would like a Project WET educational program in your community, contact Bill Sharff, ND State Water Commission, (701) 328-4833. Bill can help you contact a facilitator near you. ■



Facilitator training attendees included: First row (L to R) - Rod Stroh, Bismarck; Melisa Toepke, Fargo; Jenn Soule, Bottineau; Kayleen Marmon, Belfield. Second row (L to R) - Robert Schneeckloth, Grenora; Kim Belgarde, Fargo; Pam Hintz, Elgin; Rebecca Spawn-Stroup, Raleigh; Michelle Bechtold, Belfield. Third row (L to R) - Andrew Hennessey, Jamestown; Amy Grack, Grand Forks; Linda Hugelen, Fort Yates; Velma Baisch, Washburn; Shery Heilmann, Minot; Kristie Anderson, Ashley; Sharleen Stigen, Billings County. Attendees not pictured: Angie Bartholomay, Bottineau; Jim Collins, Bismarck; CaraLee Heiser, Richardton; Rita Kainz, Hope; Ila LaChapelle, Barnesville, MN.



North Dakota State Water Commission
Dale L. Frink, Interim State Engineer
900 East Boulevard • Bismarck, ND 58505 • (701)328-2750
<http://www.swc.state.nd.us/>

Patrick Fridgen, Editor

The State Water Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

The year 2000 was a WET year

Project WET's *Explore Your Watershed* Program continued to diversify its educational opportunities to K-12 formal and nonformal educators and to K-12 students in 2000. During the year 2000, Project WET was involved in over 70 water and environmental education programs, meetings and conferences. These ranged from two-hour meetings to a five-day institute. Overall there were 142 K-12 educators involved in eight programs, 6,067 K-12 students involved in 36 programs, 551 children and adults involved in three family programs, and 24 meetings, conferences and education association programs. Total people directly served during 2000 was 6,760.

Educator programs included preservice and inservice credit workshops and institutes. Student programs included eco-ed tours and camps, water festivals, conservation, environmental and natural resources education programs and programs for 4-H, scout and bible camp students. Family programs are centered around water festivals or community-wide events. ■

Make a splash with Project WET

The September 21-22, 2000 Make a Splash with Project WET Water Festival in Dickinson involved 580 fifth graders from southwestern North Dakota. The Festival was held in conjunction with National Project WET Water Education Day, September 22, during which over 50,000 elementary students across the country took part in similar events. National Project WET has announced that this event will take place again next year, September 21, 2001. North Dakota Project WET Coordinator, Bill Sharff says the

Southwest Water Authority in Dickinson, the Dakota Science Center in Grand Forks and River Keepers in Fargo have given the go-ahead to be a part of the September 20-21, 2001 Make a Splash With Project WET Water Festival. If all goes as scheduled, the three events could educate nearly 3,000 fourth or fifth grade students on our state's water resources. ■

Project WET Summer Institutes are changing

Project WET's two *Explore Your Watershed* Summer Institutes have been enlarged or changed to reflect educator needs and educational goals.

The Lewis and Clark's Big Muddy Missouri River Cultural History Institute has grown from a two graduate credit, 40 contact hour program, to a four graduate credit, 65 contact hour program.

New to the 2001 Lewis and Clark's Institute is an extension of the North Dakota cultural history rope mapping activity to include: a North Dakota Lewis and Clark Curriculum Guide and Storybook, Mrs. Alderson's Early Lessons in Water Conservation, a visit to the Lewis and Clark Monument, expanded fur trapper/trader activities at the Bird Woman Tepee site and an expanded Euro-American cultural traditions program.

The Summer Water Quality Institute is still three graduate credits. However, several technology-based components have been added, including Computer Based Labs for testing water quality and Internet use to access water quality education materials and resources.

The Lewis and Clark's Big Muddy Institute runs from June 24-

29, while the Summer Water Quality Institute is July 16-20, 2001. Interested individuals should contact Bill Sharff, Project WET Coordinator at 701-328-4833 or bsharff@swc.state.nd.us. ■



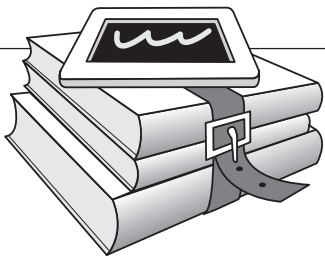
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

By Patrick Fridgen

The North Dakota State Water Commission held a telephone conference call meeting in the Governor's conference room, January 17, 2001 at the State Capitol in Bismarck.

Effective December 31, 2000, David Sprynczynatyk resigned as the North Dakota State Engineer and Chief Engineer-Secretary to the State Water Commission. In response, it was recommended by Chairman Hoeven and unanimously approved by Commission members that Assistant State Engineer, Dale L. Frink be designated as North Dakota's Interim State Engineer.

Chairman Hoeven then outlined the process for the selection of a State Engineer and recommended the Commission appoint a search committee. Members of the North Dakota State Engineer search committee include: Jack Olin, Commission member from Dickinson; Harley Swenson, Commission member from Bismarck; Robert Harms, Governor's Office; Warren Jamison, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District; Michael Dwyer, North Dakota Water Users Association; Dave Koland, ND Rural Water Systems Association; and Dennis Hill, ND Rural Electric Cooperatives. Chairman Hoeven asked that the search committee recommend three candidates for the State Engineer position by June 1, 2001. ■



THE WATER PRIMER

Water: A Tour Through Time (Part 4)

This is Part 4 and the last of a series that features a timeline giving a brief glimpse of the past 110 years in water development.

1992 - The Sheyenne River Diversion was completed in 1992. The main purpose of this project is to divert floodwater from the Sheyenne River around West Fargo and Horace. In the spring of 1997, the Sheyenne River Diversion proved to be extremely effective, saving the city of West Fargo by diverting excessive flows.

1993 - The North Dakota Water Coalition formed to bring together groups and entities with water interests in the state. The Coalition has been successful in securing funds for water development.

1993 - The North Dakota Water Education Foundation was created to promote water education. One product of the Water Education Foundation is the *North Dakota Water* magazine.

1993 - The Atmospheric Resource Board (ARB) conducted the North Dakota Storm Tracer Experiment. The analyses have helped clarify the physical processes involved in the transport and dispersion of cloud seeding agents. The results have also validated the conceptual model the ARB employs in the operational cloud seeding program. The findings are applied around the globe.

1995 - The Cargill wet corn milling plant near Wahpeton was issued a permit for 6,000 acre feet of water to begin its processing efforts.

1996 - The Atmospheric Resources Board obtained three National Weather

Service radars and has since deployed two at Bowman and Stanley.

1997 - The Red River Basin Board was created primarily to develop a comprehensive basin-wide water and land management plan for the Red River Basin. Board members include representatives from North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Manitoba, U.S. and Canadian federal governments, and tribal interests.

1998 - In the wake of the 1997 floods, Governor Schafer, in his 1998 State of the State Address, identified the need to refine the state's floodplain management policies and consider possible statutory changes for the 1999 legislative session. In response, House Bill 1167 was drafted at the request of the State Engineer and included many floodplain policy changes.

1998 - The North Dakota Irrigation Caucus was formed to implement an irrigation strategic plan. The plan will further promote agricultural and economic development throughout the state.

1998 - The Souris River Flood Control Project was completed. The project, an international effort begun in the 1980s, is located in southern Saskatchewan and northern North Dakota. Project features include: construction of Rafferty and Alameda Dams in Saskatchewan, building downstream levees and channel improvements, floodproofing of rural homes, and improvements to Lake Darling Dam and National Wildlife Refuge.

1998 - The city of Devils Lake levee system reached its highest level of 1457 feet msl in 1998. At this level, the 7.2-mile levee protects the city of Devils Lake up to 1450 feet msl.

1999 - The North Dakota State Water Management Plan (SWMP) was updated and published. Now codified into law, it is the first SWMP ever adopted by the State Legislature. The SWMP illustrates how the state's water resources are currently managed; outlines the responsibilities associated with that management; and identifies changes that should be implemented to improve water management.

1999 - Senate Bill 2188 was passed by the State Legislature and became a landmark for water development in North Dakota's legislation. SB 2188 provided \$84.8 million in bonding for water projects.

1999 - The Legislature created the Water Development Trust Fund (WDTF) with HB 1475. The WDTF was established to facilitate financing of water project costs authorized in SB 2188. HB 1475 allocates 45 percent of the monies received by the state from the 1998 tobacco settlement to the WDTF. These funds will be used in paying for bonds issued as provided in SB 2188 and other water projects.

2000 - The Dakota Water Resources Act (DWRA) passed Congress. The DWRA provides immediate funding authority for Native American and rural water supply projects through the existing MR&I program. The bill also authorizes developing a plan to identify measures to meet future water needs in the Red River Valley. ■

CORRECTION FROM JAN. 2001 WATER PRIMER: From the year 1955—The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District currently consists of 26 counties, not 25.