

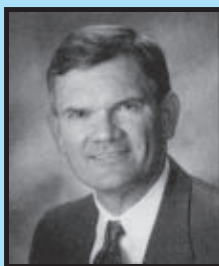
Sprynczynatyk moves on to new challenges

By Patrick Fridgen

After more than 28 years of dedicated service to the North Dakota State Water Commission, State Engineer, David Sprynczynatyk moved on to new challenges by accepting the position of Director of Transportation for the State of North Dakota. In a letter to Commission staff, Sprynczynatyk wrote, "I have been privileged to serve the State of North Dakota and its State Water Commission. With mixed emotions, I have submitted my resignation..." Sprynczynatyk's resignation became effective December 31, 2000, and at the request of Governor Hoeven, took over the duties of the Director of Transportation January 1.

Sprynczynatyk's career with the State Water Commission began in 1972, following his graduation from North Dakota State University with a degree in civil engineering. Before becoming the State Engineer, Sprynczynatyk was employed at the Commission as a planning engineer, a surface water hydrologist, and as director of the engineering division. Then in 1989, he was appointed by the State Water Commission as North Dakota's fifteenth State Engineer and Secretary to the State Water Commission.

In addition to his duties as State Engineer, Sprynczynatyk served as Co-Chairman of the International Souris River Board of Control, Vice President of the National Water Resources Association, North Dakota's representative to the Missouri River Basin Association, Red River Water Resource Council,



Sprynczynatyk

Red River Basin Board, International Joint Commission Red River Basin Task Force, and the Red River Basin Flood Mitigation Initiative.

Sprynczynatyk

also served as a member of the executive council of the Western States Water Council, the board of directors of the North Dakota Water Users and Water Education Foundation, advisory committee for the National WET (Water Education for Teachers) Program, and President of the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers.

During his tenure at the Commission, Sprynczynatyk accrued a long list of accomplishments. Shortly after arriving at the Commission, Sprynczynatyk's first task was to develop plans to deliver water to southwest North Dakota. That same project is now operational as the Southwest Pipeline. Sprynczynatyk says it was one of the highlights of his career when water was delivered to Dickinson through the pipeline in 1991.

Sprynczynatyk was also a strong advocate of the Northwest Area Water Supply project (NAWS) since the beginning planning stages in 1986. Largely due to Sprynczynatyk's persistence to provide a clean, safe, reliable source of water to the northwest portion of the state, it is expected that initial construction will begin on NAWS as early as next year, despite seemingly insurmount-

able opposition from Canadian interests.

Also under Sprynczynatyk's stay as State Engineer, the 1999 State Water Management Plan (SWMP) was developed. It is the first ever adopted by the North Dakota Legislature. As a result of the Legislature's support of the 1999 SWMP, several key water-related challenges facing North Dakota were addressed politically and financially. Flood control funding for Grafton, Grand Forks, Wahpeton and Devils Lake were provided, along with continued funding for the Southwest Pipeline Project and for the delivery of water to eastern North Dakota through the Garrison Diversion Project. Often referred to as the state's "road map to future water development," the 1999 SWMP and resulting legislative support can be classified as nothing less than landmark.

And most recently, only a week before Sprynczynatyk's resignation as State Engineer, the long awaited Dakota Water Resources Act was passed by Congress. This is yet another leap toward securing the state's ability to meet the future water supply needs of North Dakota for years to come.

Tremendous progress has been made in water development throughout North Dakota during Sprynczynatyk's tenure as State Engineer. His knowledge of water-related issues and efforts to improve and develop the state's water resources have helped advance North Dakota toward its vision of water management for the 21st Century. Due in large part to Sprynczynatyk's efforts as State Engineer, "...North Dakota will enjoy an adequate supply of quality water... ensure health, safety, and prosperity; and balance the water needs for present and future generations."

On behalf of the North Dakota State Water Commission staff, we wish Dave the best in his future endeavors. And, we wish him and his family many more years of happiness, health, and success. ■

Water Development 2001 Biennial Reports are available

By Brett Hovde

The State Water Commission (SWC) is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date state water management plan. The last major update was published in 1999, in time for 1999 legislative session. For the convening of the 2001 Legislature, a supplement to the 1999 State Water Management Plan (SWMP) was completed. The report, titled "Water Development 2001 Biennial Report," is a culmination of several efforts for water development in the state. The report addresses the State Water Commission's general concepts for funding, a statewide water development program with project priorities, and priority funding for the 2001-2003 biennial budget.

Funding Policy

The first part of the report discusses a change in the SWC cost-share policy for domestic water supply. The federal government recently approved the Dakota Water Resource Act for continued funding of the state's Municipal, Rural and Industrial Water Supply Program, but has yet to authorize the necessary funds. Until adequate funding is available, the SWC will begin cost sharing up to 65 percent of the cost for domestic water supply projects.

Water Development Program

The 1999 ND Legislature directed the SWC, "to develop a new comprehensive statewide water development program with priorities based upon expected funds available from the water development trust fund." To meet the legislative directive, the SWMP was evolved into such a

program. This program has three main components: needs identification, funding sources, and a process to match needs to available funding.

Needs Identification

Development of the new program began by updating the SWMP water project database. The database now contains \$438 million of projects for the 2001-2003 biennium that local sponsors have identified. Under current SWC cost-share policies, the state's share would total \$101 million.

Funding Sources

In developing funding scenarios, all expected funds available to the SWC for water development were considered. This includes the Resources Trust Fund and the General Fund, as well as the Water Development Trust Fund. The Water Development 2001 Biennial Report highlights the funding need and shows projected project costs and funding abilities through year 2050.

Prioritization

The final component of the water development program is having a process to match project needs to available funding. Filter criteria and a prioritization process has been developed to help match limited state dollars to the best projects. The entire process has been developed, and will be managed, within the framework of the SWMP.

The intent of a filter mechanism is to ensure projects being listed each biennium will benefit the state and are ready to proceed. Once a project has passed through the filter, it will be added to the database. Only

Copies of the Water Development 2001 Biennial Report are available from the State Water Commission by contacting the Planning and Education Division, 900 East Boulevard, Bismarck, ND 58505 or call Brett Hovde at 328-4968 or e-mail to bhovde@water.swc.state.nd.us

projects that are on the database will be eligible for cost-share. When funding is limited, as determined by the SWC, prioritization criteria will be considered. A point system will be used to weight the prioritization criteria and rank the projects. The project that accumulates the most points will be given priority for funding, although the SWC reserves the right to consider other factors in the final cost-share decision.

Implementation of the prioritization process will be in phases, giving project sponsors time to gather necessary information. The process provides the ability to base decisions upon the project's merits and the expected benefits to the state. With full support of the State Water Commission, the Legislature, and project sponsors, this process could be fully functional and beneficial for the 2003-2005 biennial budgeting process.

2001-2003 Priority Funding

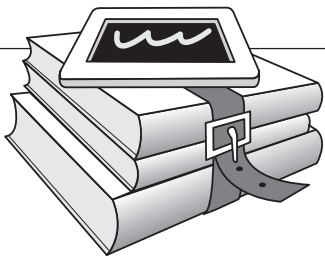
The last part of the report is the biennial water development budget. With the assistance of the ND Water Coalition, Commission staff has identified \$40.84 million of new projects that should receive priority for funding in the next biennium. When combined with the \$31.5 million of projects authorized in SB 2188, the total is \$72.34 million. House Bill 1023 addresses the 2001-2003 biennium budget for the State Water Commission. This includes new water development project funding and extending authorization for funding identified in SB 2188 from last biennium. ■



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Patrick Fridgen, Editor

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THE WATER PRIMER

Water: A Tour Through Time (Part 3)

This is Part 3 of a series that features a timeline giving a brief glimpse of the past 110 years in water development.

1970 - Grand Forks-Traill, serving 900 customers, was the first rural water system constructed in the state.

1971 - West River Diversion Feasibility Study was begun to determine the future water requirements of the state's rivers and streams located west and south of the Missouri River. The study also explored the feasibility of diverting Missouri River water to those rivers and streams.

1975 - The North Dakota Weather Modification Board was created as a Division of the Aeronautics Commission. The Board was established to conduct a cloud modification program, provide guidance in following prudent weather modification procedures, and to assess the effects of an operational weather modification program. In 1981, the Board was transferred, becoming a Division of the State Water Commission.

1981 - Formation of The International Coalition, a non-profit organization incorporated in the U.S. and Canada to serve as an international model for communication, cooperation, and action on land and water concerns.

1981 - North Dakota Floodplain Management Act established state policy to guide development of the floodplains and to reduce flood damages through sound floodplain management, stressing nonstructural measures. To this purpose, the State Water Commission coordinates the National Flood Insurance program and provides technical floodplain management assistance to communities.

1981 - Missouri Basin States Association was formed by the governors of the ten Missouri River basin states, following termination of the federally-created Missouri River Basin Commission. The Association was created to promote communication and coordination among the basin states. It was later renamed the Missouri River Basin Association.

1983 - State Water Plan update incorporated broad public input into a comprehensive plan emphasizing future water demand projections, particularly from the Missouri River.

1984 - Garrison Diversion Unit Commission, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, recommended reformulating the project authorization if the project were to be completed. The Final Report recommended development of a project substantially different from the project authorized by Congress in 1965.

1985 - North Dakota became the first state in the nation to complete the County Ground Water Survey Program in cooperation with U.S. Geological Survey.

1986 - State Water Commission initiates a public information/education program in response to the need for quality information on North Dakota's water and related land resources.



Governor Sinner opening the valve as Southwest Pipeline water reaches Dickinson in October 1991.

1986 - Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 was signed into law May 12, to authorize the recommendations of the Garrison Diversion Unit Commission's Final Report.

1986 - Garrison Diversion Municipal Rural and Industrial Water Supply Program, a part of the 1986 Reformulation Act, authorized a \$200 million federal grant for planning and constructing water supply facilities statewide.

1986 - Interbasin Water Transfer Studies Program undertook the research needed to respond to Canada's concerns about the potential transfer of certain fish species, pathogens, and parasites into Canadian waters through the operation of the Garrison Diversion Project.

1986 - Construction began in April on the Southwest Pipeline Project, which diverts Missouri River water to areas in southwestern North Dakota for municipal and rural water uses.

1987 - The North Dakota Weather Modification Board had its name changed to the North Dakota Atmospheric Resources Board.

1987 - Northwest Area Water Supply Study concentrated on identifying the water supply needs of a nine-county area in northwestern North Dakota and potential water supply alternatives.

1991 - In October 1991, Southwest Pipeline Project water was first delivered to Dickinson. The pipeline, which is a regional water supply system that diverts water from Lake Sakakawea to the southwestern portion of the state, now serves about 30,000 North Dakotans with high quality Missouri River water. ■