

The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

Educators and students “get splashed” with water education

In September, 2,868 students (from third, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grades), 150 teachers, 315 volunteers, and 71 schools from North Dakota, west central Minnesota and southeastern Manitoba, participated in the annual Project WET “Make A Splash” water festivals. The festivals were held in Morris, Manitoba (September 20), Dickinson (September 23-24), Moorhead, Minnesota (September 28-30) and Grand Forks (September 30 - October 1). These “Make A Splash” water festivals were held in conjunction with National Project WET’s Water Education Day, September 24, during which over 50,000 volunteers and presenters, in 85 cities across the nation, took part in similar events.

International Project WET sponsored the national effort with extensive support from Nestle Waters of North America. This was the fifth annual effort of this kind and is the nation’s largest single water education event designed to raise awareness of the critical need for water education. The North Dakota water festivals consisted of structured learning stations, demonstrations, and exhibits where students were actively engaged in hands-on water activities and investigations. These water festivals exposed students to water resources in a way that both complemented and reinforced their traditional classroom learning in a fun and exciting manner. Students from all four festivals spent a half-day to a full day participating in

activities. Presenters included 16 Project WET facilitators, as well as local, state and federal agency and community organization personnel.

Bill Sharff, the North Dakota Project WET director, believes that “through the educational efforts provided by the local water festival sponsors, young people are more likely to appreciate and be aware of their natural environment. This can help promote their water resource stewardship and increase the chance that these youth will become responsible citizens as adults.”

The festival at Dickinson also included a “Family Program of Explo-

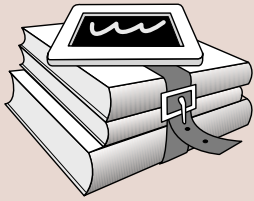
ration” at which children and their parents and the general public were invited to attend. Through many of the same hands-on activities and informational sessions, participants learned about the importance of using and protecting our water resources. Over 950 individuals attended the Family Program at Dickinson.

The “Make A Splash” festivals were coordinated and developed by the following local organizations: Southwest Water Authority (Dickinson); River Keepers (Fargo); Dakota Science Center (Grand Forks); and Walhalla, ND, and Morris, Manitoba Public Schools (Morris). Project WET provided much of the curriculum and Project WET facilitators as presenters. Each of the festivals were also co-sponsored by local water resource and soil conservation districts, local organizations, local business, and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Thanks to all the organizers, sponsors, contributors, volunteers, presenters, school personnel, and of course, the participating students and teachers.

Students learn about watersheds and water pollution at a “Make A Splash” water festival.





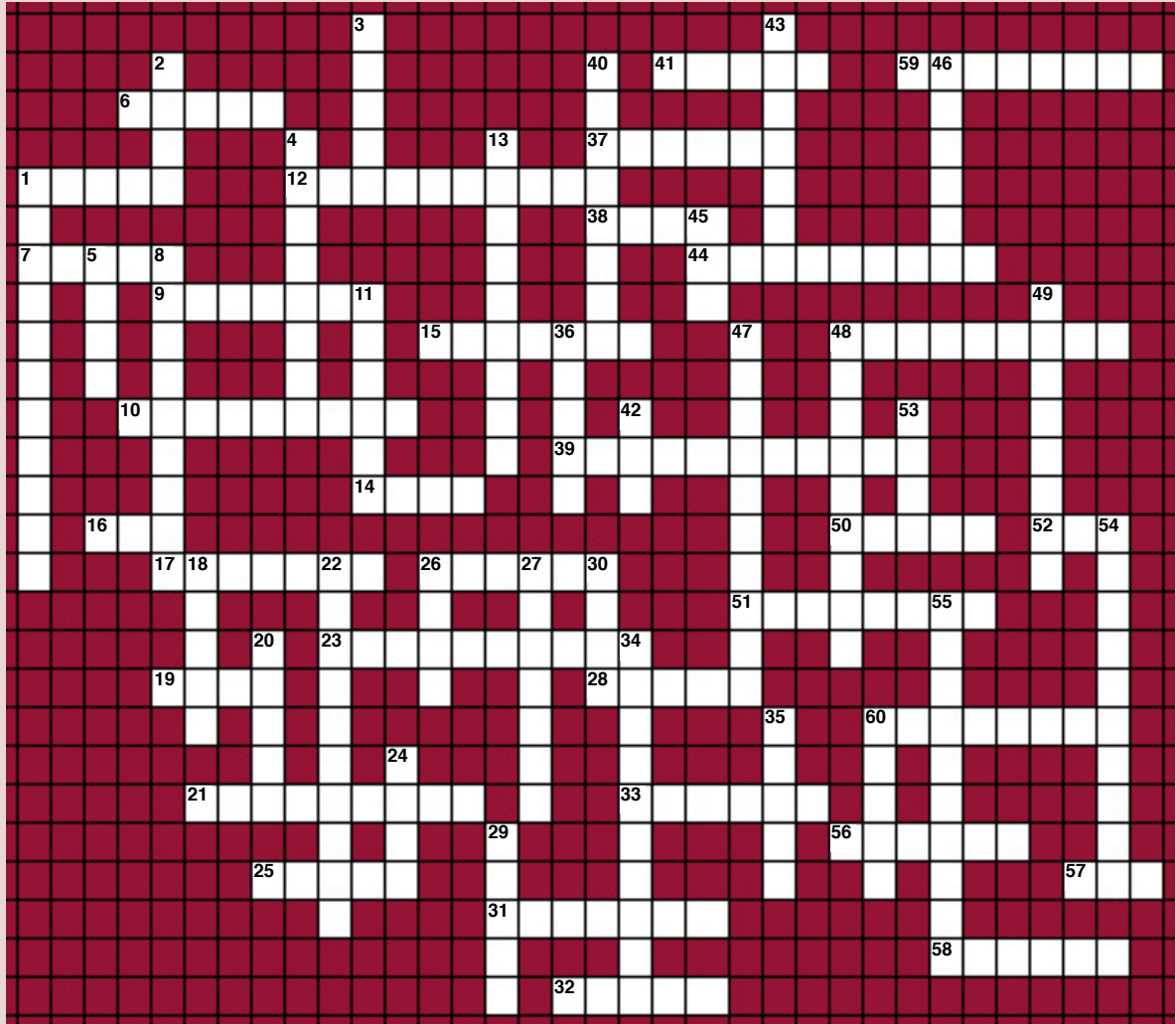
THE WATER PRIMER

NORTH DAKOTA WATER CROSSWORD

By
Patrick Fridgen

DOWN

1. Found in an aquifer
2. Missouri River reservoir
3. Land area that provides water to lakes/streams
4. Common measure of water volume
5. Water transportation
8. Area of land drained by a river system
11. Erosion protection
13. Manmade lake
18. Transfers surface water
20. Too much water
22. They'll put a dent in your weekend
24. Place on a river that may require a decision
26. Will ruin your parade
27. Water leaving a system
29. Result of boiling water
30. What water does in liquid form
34. Traveling via water
35. Flying vapor
36. Flood protection measure
40. Enclosed water transporter
42. Can create a reservoir
43. Parent material of some deep aquifers
45. Protects the pallid sturgeon
46. Tiny water body
47. One authorized purpose of Missouri River dams
48. Prevents agricultural flooding
49. River made famous by Lewis and Clark
53. Fluffy water
54. Sometimes called the "Spirit Lake"
55. Where river water goes



60. Peaceful water transportation

ACROSS

1. Measures stream flows
6. Mix of wind and water
7. Abandoned river bend
9. Tapped by wells
10. Smaller branch of a river system
12. Meeting of two rivers
14. Moves water uphill
15. Tiny river or stream
16. Hard water
17. Too little water for too long
19. Hole in the ground
21. Study of water
23. Helps plants grow
25. Don't get caught here
26. Water moving downhill
28. Most common substance on the planet
31. Water moving soil
32. Large ditch; think McClusky or New Rockford
33. 8.34 pounds of water
37. Section of *North Dakota Water* magazine
38. Natural collection of water
39. Invisible water loss
41. Jimmer River Jr's father
44. Reservoir, and Lewis and Clark guide
48. Transfer of water from its native source
50. Contains water and

- community names
51. Cover 2 million acres of North Dakota's landscape
52. Eastern North Dakota river and border
56. AKA "The Mouse"
57. Splashing will get you...
58. Place to park your boat
59. Important safety feature on a dam
60. Fill a couple for a Badlands hike

ACROSS: 1. Groundwater 2. Oah 3. Basin 4. Acrefoot 5. Boat 8. Watershed 11. Riprap 13. Reservoir 18. River 20. Flood 22. Hailstones 24. Fork 26. Rain 27. Outflow 29. Steam 30. Flow 34. Navigation 35. Cloud 36. Levee 40. Pipeline 42. Dam 43. Bedrock 45. ESA (Endangered Species Act) 46. Puddle 47. Hydroponics 48. Drainage 49. Missouri 53. Snow 54. Devils Lake 55. Downstream 60. Canoe
DOWN: 1. Gauge 6. Waves 7. Oxbow 9. Aquifer 10. Tributary 12. Contingency 14. Pump 15. Rivulet 16. Ice 17. Drought 19. Well 21. Hydrology 23. Irrigation 25. Creek 26. Runoff 28. Water 31. Erosion 32. Canal 33. Gallon 37. Primer 38. Lake 39. Evaporation 41. James 44. Sakakawea 48. Diversion 50. Wetlands 52. Red 56. Sours 57. Wet

Crossword Answers



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The North Dakota State Water Commission (Commission), chaired by Governor John Hoeven, acted on several items of business at their November 17 conference call.

In action items, the Commission:

- Agreed to allocate \$977,100 for the construction of a new shop. The shop will be located on 4.3 acres north of the State Penitentiary, and east of the Health Department's Consolidated Laboratories in southeast Bismarck.

Bids for the new shop were originally opened in June 2004, but all came in above the limit that was established in HB 1023. Therefore, the shop project was opened for bids at a later date. And, as a result of better timing and the exclusion of various amenities, the bids were much more competitive and below the authorized limit of \$977,100.

- Supported a draft bill that would amend North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 61-36-01. The amendment would add a Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board representative to the Devils Lake Outlet Management Advisory Committee.

- Supported a draft bill that would allow the State Engineer to negotiate with Tribes or the federal government to quantify reserved water rights.

Reserved water rights are water rights that have been impliedly reserved to the Tribes or the federal government in amounts sufficient to fulfill the purposes of the reservations. These rights are based on federal law, and they differ from state-based prior appropriation rights because their priority is the reservation's creation date, and they are not

subject to forfeiture or abandonment for nonuse. This bill will authorize the State Engineer to enter into negotiations with each Indian Tribe, or the federal government, to quantify the reserved water rights of respective reservations.

- Supported a draft bill amendment relating to bond issuance.

When soliciting proposals to select an underwriter for the agency's bond issue, it became apparent that it would be advantageous to the agency to identify sources of repayment in addition to the Water Development Trust Fund. Bonds issued using only tobacco proceeds for repayment have become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to sell. And, if saleable, command substantially higher interest rates. Thus, replacing

the source of repayment identified for the 2000 series statewide water development bonds would make the bonds more marketable. These sources would include: the Water Development Trust Fund, the Resources Trust Fund, other revenues appropriated to the Commission, and an amount necessary to make one biennium's payments from proceeds of the Bank of North Dakota.

It was also recommended that project-specific sections of the law be eliminated in favor of authorizing bonding for projects identified in the North Dakota State Water Development Plan. The Commission will seek to make these changes in a separate Legislative bill with an emergency clause, which will allow the Commission to issue bonds late in the 2003-2005 biennium.

Project WET facilitators receive awards

Project WET facilitators are formal and nonformal educators who once trained and certified are authorized to plan and conduct a variety of Project WET teacher and youth educational programs and events. The following are award recipients for 2004:

Navigator Level (75 -149 hours)

Bill Gion, American State Bank, Dickinson
Michelle Bechtold, Elementary Educator, Belfield
Kayleen Marmon, Elementary Educator, Belfield

Commodore Level (300 – 499 hours)

Sharleen Stigen, Elementary Educator, Billings County
Kim Belgarde, Elementary Educator, Fargo
Angie Bartholomay, Secondary Educator, Bottineau

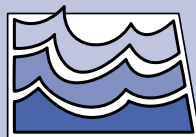
Admiral Level (over 500 hours)

Kim Belgarde, Elementary Educator, Fargo

Project WET 2003-2004 Educator Facilitators of the Year

Angie Bartholomay, Secondary Educator, Bottineau
Pam Hintz, Secondary Educator, Grant County
Kim Belgarde, Elementary Educator, Fargo

It should also be mentioned that Sharleen Stigen and Kim Belgarde are nominees for the 2005 North Dakota National Presidential Science Award, which is a non-Project WET award.



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