



Project WET leadership workshop held

By Bill Sharff

Project Wet facilitators are formal and nonformal K-12 and preservice educators who, once trained and certified, are authorized to plan, promote, develop and conduct a variety of Project WET teacher, youth and general public water resource educational programs and events. A Project WET Explore Your Watershed Facilitator Leadership Training Workshop was held at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck, February 7-8, 2004. Sixteen individuals from across North Dakota were trained and certi-

fied to promote and deliver credit and non-credit programs to K-12 educators and students.

Nine people were seeking Project WET facilitator certification for the first time. The new facilitators were all K-12 formal educators. 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 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 included:

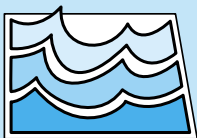
- planning and teaching activities from the Project Guide;
- planning and teaching activities from five Project WET Supplemental Guides;
- reviewing components of the Project WET Facilitator Handbook;
- learning methods for planning, promoting, facilitating and conducting Project WET educational opportunities;
- 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 Liquid Treasure and Watershed Pollution educational trunks. A great diversity of water education resource and educational materials, and visits from a Norwegian immigrant (Ila LaChapelle) and an early North Dakota homesteader (Sharleen Stigen) were big hits with the group.

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



Facilitator training attendees included: First Row: Robert Jacobson, Fargo; Virginia Dietz, Fargo; Hank LaBore, Bismarck; Dianne Ornberg, Fargo; Susan Thompson, Minot; Second Row: Kim Belgarde, Fargo; Rita Kainz, Page; Ila LaChapelle, Walhalla; Sharleen Stigen, Billings County; David Marquardt, Fargo; Patrick O'Brien, Mandan; Diane Pettit, Minot; Jim Collins Jr., Bismarck; Doreen Harvey, Minot; Angie Bartholomay, Bottineau; and Pam Hintz, Elgin.



North Dakota State Water Commission
Dale L. Frink, State Engineer
900 East Boulevard Ave. • 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.

SRJWRD receives Outstanding Project Award for Baldhill project

On January 15, 2004, the Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District (SRJWRD) was awarded the Red River Basin Commission's (RRBC) "Outstanding Project Award" for 2003 at the RRBC's annual conference in Moorhead, Minnesota. The SRJWRD was presented the award for their outstanding efforts as the local sponsor of the Baldhill Dam flood pool raise project.

Before the Baldhill Dam flood pool raise was completed, Baldhill Dam had previously been operated for flood control by drawing down the reservoir as much as nine feet, providing 39,000 acre-feet of storage for spring flood events. However, there was no flood storage capacity for summer floods such as the one experienced in 1993. After completion of the flood pool raise project, Baldhill Dam now has a flood storage capacity of 70,000 acre-feet for spring flood events, and 31,000 acre-feet of storage for summer flood events. With this added storage capacity, residents downstream on the Sheyenne River are better protected from spring and summer flood events.

Specific efforts by the SRJWRD that led to their nomination included:

- 1) their efforts to drum up local grassroots support of the project, which in turn prompted the U.S. Army Corps (Corps) to revisit the (previously halted) project;
- 2) their efforts to support the Corps when they were reexamining the original plan with the intent of limiting impacts of the pool raise to property owners around the reservoir; and

3) their efforts to meet with Corps' real estate professionals and local landowners on a one-on-one basis to discuss project and easement issues with impacted property owners.

In short, the Baldhill Dam flood pool raise project showed that it is still possible to build a large-scale water management project in this day and age with the right amount of cooperation, communication, and determination among local stakeholders and government officials.



Al Biggs (Richland County Water Resource Board representative for the SRJWRD) accepting the Red River Basin Commission's "Outstanding Project Award" from RRBC Chairman, Bud Oliver.



Notice!

The new State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer 2001-2003 Biennial Report is available on the SWC website at www.swc.state.nd.us/reports/bienrpt.html. Or, you can request a copy through the mail by calling the Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4989.

The 2001-2003 Biennial Report outlines the State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer's activities and accomplishments from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003.

SWC approves more funding for Mt Carmel

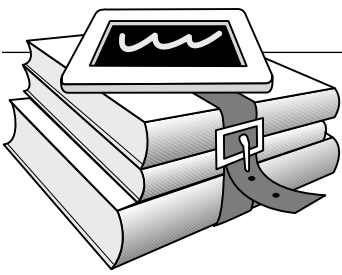
During a February 11, 2004, conference call from the Governor's conference room, the North Dakota State Water Commission approved additional funding in the amount of \$25,417 for the final design to rehabilitate Mount Carmel Dam.

In January, the SWC entered into an agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc. of Engelwood, Colorado to complete a partial design for the rehabilitation at a cost of \$163,995. The final design, however, will require an additional \$34,523, which was \$31,771 over the original

estimated project cost. The Commission's most recent action will cover 80 percent of the \$31,771.

Preliminary estimates suggest that the cost of rehabilitating Mount Carmel Dam could be between \$1.5 and \$2.0 million.

In March of 2003, Mount Carmel Dam experienced a substantial failure, as water was exiting the dam uncontrolled under the concrete chute spillway, and out a large hole at the base of the dam.



THE WATER PRIMER

Project WET workshops coming in 2004

During the upcoming summer of 2004, Project WET will once again be providing workshop opportunities for graduate credits. One of the workshops has been provided before, which is the Missouri River Institute. The other, Discover Today's Devils Lake Dilemma, is a brand new opportunity.



The NEW Devils Lake Dilemma Workshop

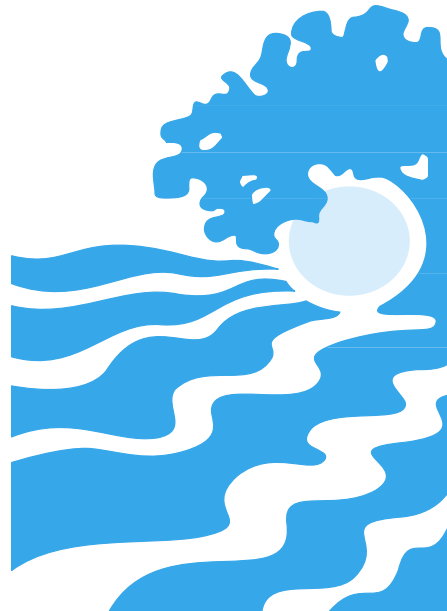
In response to several issues facing the Devils Lake basin today, Project WET *Explore Your Watershed* has developed a new two graduate credit workshop for K-12 formal and non-formal educators. The workshop will be called "Discover Today's Devils Lake Dilemma"—to be held in the Devils Lake area, June 14-17, 2004.

The workshop will give participants knowledge and skills to teach about contemporary issues of the Devils Lake watershed and how the Devils Lake basin's citizens are meeting the challenges of managing its water resources. Contemporary issues will be taught through hands-on activities, an environmental investigation, a watershed and lake tour, and multiple presentations. Speakers

will be natural resource professionals from various government agencies, scientists, and local individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in Devils Lake issues.

Workshop topics and discussions will be focused on flooding, fisheries, wildlife, agriculture, lake recreation and access, wetland restoration, biota transfer, floodplain mapping, water supply, tribal cultural history, water quality, economic development, irrigation, and forestry.

Participants will receive Devils Lake-related and water resource curriculum, and other educational materials.



The Missouri River Institute

Project WET's Discover Today's Missouri River Institute is again being offered at the Western 4-H Camp near Washburn, July 18-23, 2004, for four graduate credits. The Discover

Today's Missouri River Institute will give participants knowledge and skills to teach about contemporary issues facing the Missouri River in North Dakota today.

Contemporary issues will be taught through two environmental investigations, hands-on activities, two Missouri River tours, environmental models, and presentations. Like the Devils Lake workshop, speakers at the Missouri Institute will be natural resource professionals from various government agencies, scientists, and local individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in the Missouri River and its issues.

Missouri River issues to be covered at the institute will include: fisheries, river recreation and public access, bank stabilization, endangered and threatened species, floodplain management, riparian woodlands and forests, sediment degradation and delta formation, riverfront development and use, power generation, agricultural and irrigation development, historical/archaeological preservation, riverfront preservation, water quality, reservoir operation, water supplies and distribution, and multi-jurisdictional Missouri River basin issues.

Participants will receive Missouri River and water resource curriculum, and other educational materials.

For additional information on either of these programs, please contact Bill Sharff at the North Dakota State Water Commission at (701) 328-4833, or e-mail: bsharff@state.nd.us.