



A view from below the scaffolding erected around the Round Lake center column while repairs were being made in early 2014.

Repairs to the West Devils Lake Outlet are expected to be completed in May of this year. After operating for eight years, the West Devils Lake Outlet, required repairs on the standpipes located at the Round Lake and Josephine Pump Stations, replacement of a transformer, and general maintenance on the outlet channel.

In late 2013, damage was found on the center column of the Round Lake standpipe structure. The water enters the standpipe through the top of the center column, which has a series of baffle plates attached to it. The center column serves to

REPAIRS on Devils Lake Outlet

COMPLETED

reduce the velocity of the water being pumped into the standpipe before the water is gravity fed into the pipeline that runs from the bottom of the structure. The baffle plates had been torn away from the center column by the flow of water into the standpipe, and sections of the column needed to be replaced.

An analysis of the structures determined that the baffle plates were the source of the problem. Inspection of the Josephine Standpipe revealed similar damage was occurring to that structure's center column, although the damage was not as severe. To fix the damages, the Water Commission bid out contracts to remove the baffles from the center columns, repair the columns, and reinforce the center columns. Total costs of repair for the two standpipes are not expected to exceed \$350,000.

A transformer at the Josephine Pump Station overheated in 2013. Repairs were completed over the winter, with parts being replaced.

Annual channel maintenance on the outlet was completed as well, with vegetation and sediment removed where it had been an issue.

Because the West Devils Lake Outlet design represented a pioneering approach to moving such a large volume of water, occasional issues such as this have been discovered and dealt with over the years. Operation of the outlets has been a learning experience, with an improved understanding being gained every year.

With a relatively dry winter in the Devils Lake basin, both the West and East Devils Lake Outlets will be ready to begin operation as soon as conditions permit. An earlier spring than last year, makes it likely that the outlets will be able to surpass the almost 142,000 acre-feet of water that was removed from the lake in 2013. With the completion of the repairs, the outlets will again begin their work to reduce the elevation of Devils Lake and restore previously flooded lands.



NORTH DAKOTA INVESTING IN WATER SUPPLY Statewide

For decades, the State of North Dakota relied heavily on the federally funded Municipal, Rural, and Industrial (MR&I) Program to fund water supply projects statewide. But with a sharp decline in available federal funding, the state has since stepped up to fill that void – in a very big way.

SWC Investment In Water Supply

With North Dakota becoming the nation’s second largest oil producing state, it has gained not only national, but international attention. And with that growth, there have indeed been challenges, but also tremendous benefits that no one could have ever imagined, not even a decade ago.

Some of the major benefactors of North Dakota’s success have been water supply projects – because of the state’s Resources Trust Fund (RTF). The RTF is funded with 20 percent of North Dakota’s revenues from the oil extraction tax. And a percentage of the RTF has been designated by the Legislature to be used for water-related projects.

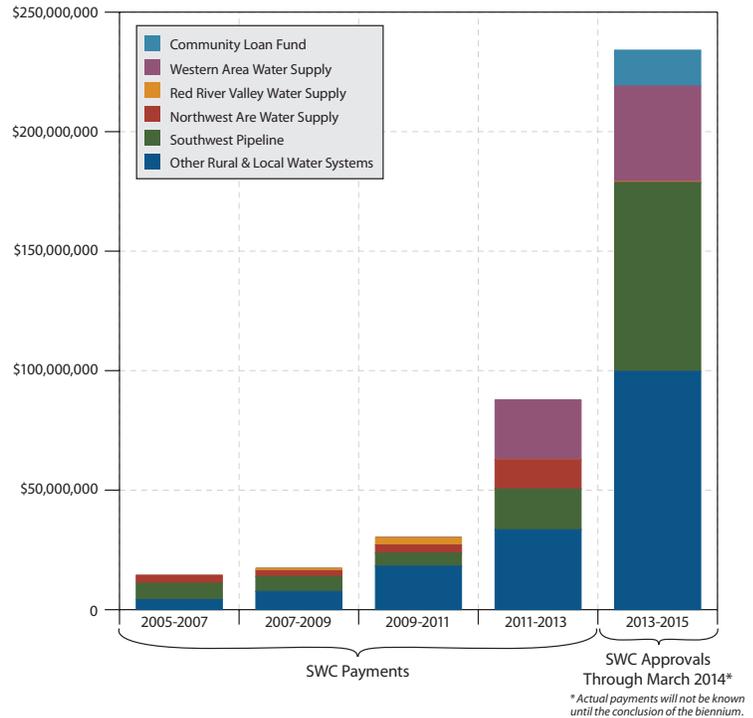
Back in the 2005-2007 biennium, the State Water Commission (SWC) only received about \$30 million in project dollars through the RTF. By the current 2013-2015 biennium, that number has now jumped to about \$560 million – available for water development efforts statewide.

The adjacent bar chart shows historic and current SWC investment in water supply infrastructure since the 2005-2007 biennium. From the \$14 million in payments directed toward water supply projects in 2005-2007, to the \$234 million in SWC approvals so far this biennium, it is clear that water supply has indeed become an increasingly high priority for North Dakota.

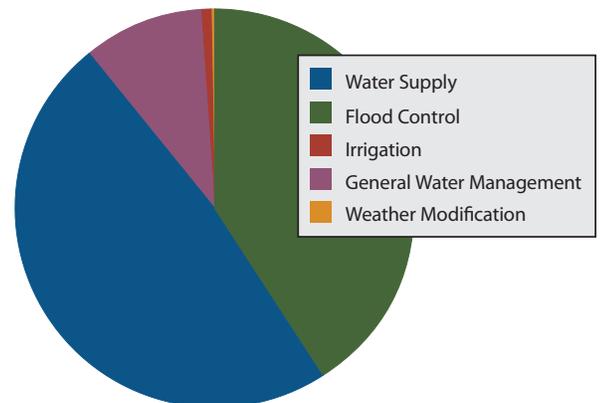
Developing Water Supply Projects Statewide

With the lion’s share of the state’s water development dollars coming from oil producing counties in the western part of the state, North Dakota has recognized that to sustain growth, investments in infrastructure must be made to support that growth. As such, the state, through the SWC, has approved unprecedented levels of funding for water supply projects in that region. This includes grants and loans for large regional water supply projects like the Southwest Pipeline Project and Western Area Water Supply, and for

State Water Commission Investment In Water Supply Infrastructure



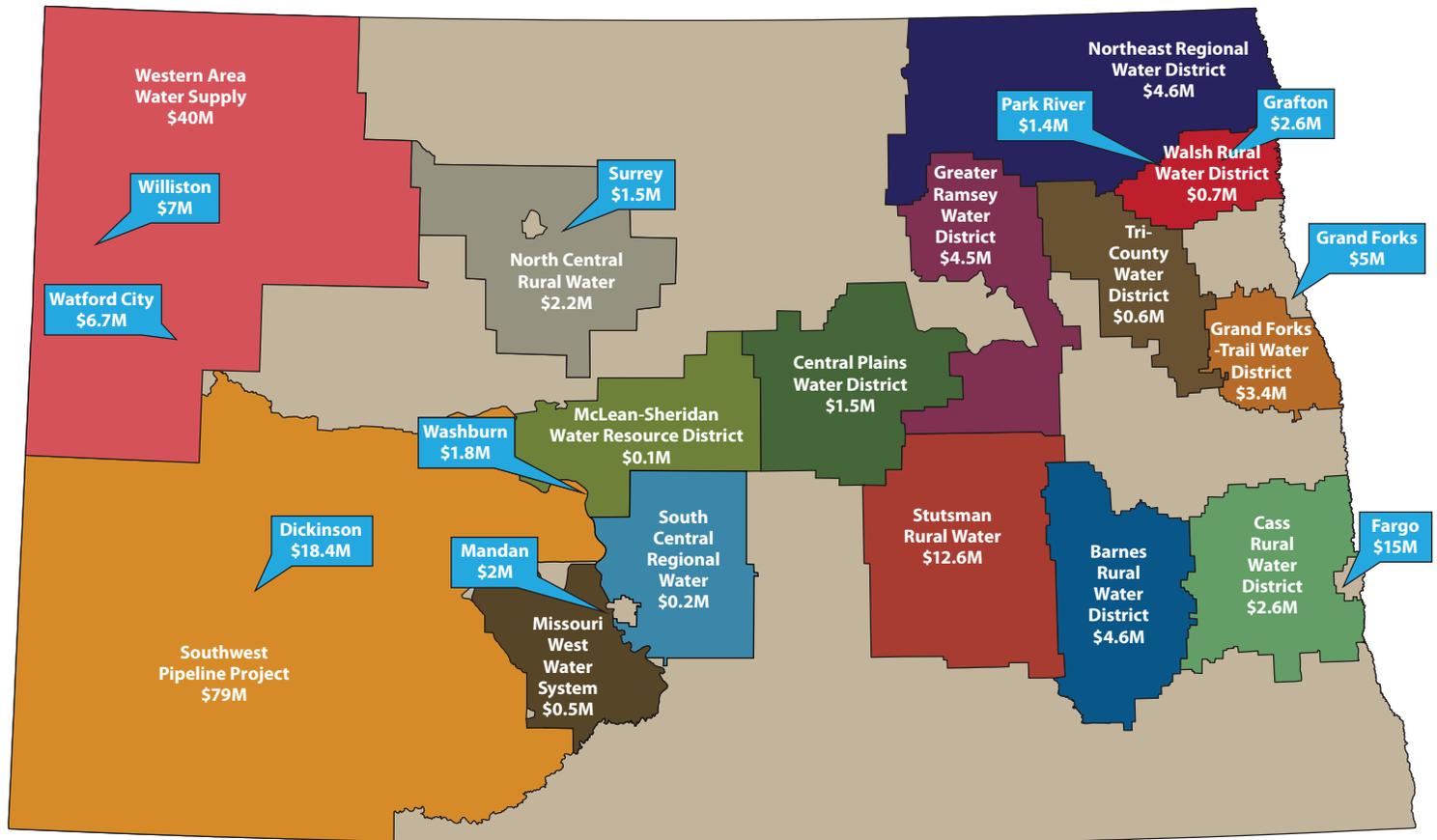
2013-2015 SWC Project Budget



When looking at the SWC’s current \$706 million project budget, \$341 million, or 48% of all water project dollars have been budgeted for water supply.



2013-2015 SWC Water Supply Project Approvals Through March 2014



The SWC also approved \$15 million for the Community Water Facility Revolving Loan Fund, and \$375,000 for a Red River Valley Water Supply Project study.

cities like Williston, Watford City, and Dickinson, that are very much feeling the crunch of dealing with challenges associated with current and projected water supply needs.

But it's not just in the oil-producing region of the state where investments in water supply projects are being made. Many other communities and rural water systems have also been approved for funding through the SWC to advance much-needed supply projects in all other corners of the state (see map).

Looking To The Future

As North Dakota's water managers look to the future, many significant water supply challenges lie ahead. These challenges include: developing a drought-resistant water supply system for the Red River Valley, with the Missouri River as a source; bringing water to citizens who currently don't have a clean and reliable source; and continued support of communities and rural areas that are experiencing incredible growth.

But in spite of those challenges - considering the state's current and recent support of water supply projects, and its commitment to other important priorities like flood protection for communities, the prospect of developing the state's water resources continues to look promising.

POLICY

SWC Cost-Share Policy Changes

A challenge for the agency, policy-makers, and lawmakers alike has been to equitably prioritize and distribute the state's major increase in available funding for water development projects. In response to that challenge, and in response to directives from the Legislature, the SWC moved forward with modifications to the agency's cost-share policy with three main goals in mind:

- 1) To support local sponsors with development of sustainable water projects;
- 2) To be more equitable between the broad spectrum of project types that are awarded funds from the SWC; and
- 3) To make the state's resources go further in more areas of the state.