



# WATER APPROPRIATIONS

## *A Year of Changes and New Faces*



The Water Appropriations division of the State Water Commission has seen a lot of changes over the course of the year, facing new responsibilities, adding new staff members, and saying goodbye to retirees. Water Appropriations is responsible for many tasks, including administering water rights and processing permit applications, water resource monitoring, planning and development of reliable water supplies, and conducting water resource research.

Most recently the division was awarded five new full-time equivalents (FTE) due to the recent surge of water permit requests throughout the state. “The request for conditional water permit applications has increased dramatically. It is largely due to the recent oil boom and the increased need for water in the hydraulic fracturing process,” stated Jon Patch, Water Appropriations Division Director. Prior to the early stages of the oil boom in 2009, the Division received about 75 conditional water permit applications per year. Today the Division is receiving in excess of 150 per year. “This boost urged us to request more staff members for our division. We really needed more people to keep up with the demand,” said Patch. “Thankfully we were granted five new FTEs.”

In addition to the many new employees, the division has also witnessed a number of valuable professionals retiring. “This year we lost some vital long-term knowledge due to retirement. It’s hard to see that deep-rooted devotion and valuable experience depart,” noted Patch. “But it’s also exciting to see all of the new employees that we have added. They each bring a fresh new perspective, enthusiasm and energy to the group. We have added an abundance of talent to our division.”

**Abigail Franklund,  
Hydrologist II  
Ground Water Management**



Originally from Hankinson, ND Abigail graduated from MSUM Moorhead with a BS in Business Administration and from NDSU with a BS in Geology. She continued her education at UND earning a MS in Geology with an emphasis in hydrology in 2007. After graduating from UND, she moved to Louisiana and then to Texas. While in Louisiana and Texas, Abigail worked for two different environmental consulting companies as a staff geologist. She is excited to be back in her home state and to have received a job with the State Water Commission.

**Brady Rambo,  
Hydrologist II  
Ground Water Management**



Brady earned a BS in Geology and a minor in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University. Before leaving school to work as a consultant, he completed some graduate level work in Hydrogeology at Clemson. For two years, Brady worked with the Bioremediation R&D group at Savannah River National Lab. Last year, he received his MBA from The University of Florida. After many years in the environmental industry, Brady is very happy to be working in ground water resources, his favorite subject since his first hydrogeology course.

**Christopher S. Simmons,  
Hydrologist II  
Ground Water Management**



Chris is originally from Grafton, ND. He obtained a BS in Environmental Geoscience with a Minor in GIS from the University of North Dakota in 2010. He went on to receive a MS in Hydrogeology and a Hydrogeology GIS Graduate Certificate from Illinois State University in 2012. Chris was employed at the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Water Quality – Ground Water Protection Program, as an Environmental Scientist prior to transferring to the North Dakota State Water Commission.

**Eric Sikora,  
Hydrologist II  
Ground Water Management**



Eric previously worked for eight years as a hydrogeologist with an environmental and engineering consulting firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He holds a MS in Geology from the University of Illinois. Eric conducted his thesis research in ground water stable isotope techniques. Before that he earned a BA in Environmental Sciences from Northwestern University.

**Michael Ginsbach,  
Hydrologist III  
Ground Water Management**



Michael is originally from Hankinson, ND. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 2011, with a BS in Geology and a BS in Earth Science Education. Michael furthered his education earning a MS in Geology from Idaho State University in 2013.

**Gerry Manderfeld,  
Equipment Operator  
Hydrological Data**



Gerry has worked in the industrial sector for over 13 years. His past employment includes Bobcat and Mariner Construction Inc. of Bismarck, and Case New Holland in Fargo.

**David Hisz,  
Hydrologist III  
Ground Water Management**



David completed a BS in Geology from St. Lawrence University, a MS in Hydrogeology, and is a PhD Candidate in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University. He worked with a private consulting firm before pursuing his advanced education. Before accepting employment in the Water Appropriations Division, David worked in some interesting places, such as Antigua, Trinidad and Tobago.

**Darin Schepp,  
Water Resource Engineer II  
Water Management**



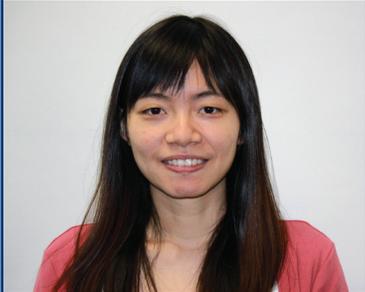
Darin worked in the printing industry in Dickinson, ND and Seattle, WA for eight years as a pressman. In 2008 he furthered his education and graduated from the University of North Dakota earning a BS in Civil Engineering followed by a Masters of Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering. He is currently working towards his P.E.

**Deidra Lies,  
Water Resource Project Manager  
Water Permit Administration**



Deidra is a Fargo native and attended Bemidji State University for her undergraduate in environmental studies. Deidra joined the Peace Corps and served in the Community Environmental Conservation sector for two years in Panama from 2009 – 2011. Upon finishing the Peace Corps service, she earned a MS in 2013 in Environmental Science from North Dakota State University.

**Eva YiHua Ho,  
Temp Water Resource Engineer  
Surface Water Management**



Eva is from Taipei, Taiwan. She graduated from National Taiwan University with a BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She worked with T.Y. Lin International for three years, and then ventured to the United States working as a Visiting Scientist at the University of Washington.

**Peter Gesellchen,  
Water Resource Project Manager -  
Water Permit, Admin. Section**



Peter is a North Dakota native that began his career in Civil Engineering in the late 1970's in North Dakota before moving to the east coast working with several firms. He came back to ND in 2007 and has worked in the engineering departments of both the cities of Grand Forks and Bismarck. Peter has a BA in Architectural Studies from NDSU and holds a P.E. from the state of Maryland.



**The drilling process used in hydraulic fracturing uses both surface water and ground water sources. Both surface and ground water sources are managed by the Water Appropriations Division of the State Water Commission.**



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