

The Oxbow

FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION



Bruce Engelhardt at the control structure of the West Devils Lake Outlet.

Engelhardt Retiring After 28 Years Of Service

Bruce Engelhardt, Water Development Division Director for the State Water Commission is retiring after 28 years of distinguished service to the people of North Dakota.

The words innovative, dedicated, insightful, and accomplished come to mind when reflecting on Bruce Engelhardt and his career. Engelhardt started his life on the family-run 101 Ranch established on Grahams Island near Devils Lake, ND. Engelhardt spent his early years learning life lessons on the ranch while earning a diploma from Minnewaukan High School. Engelhardt continued his education at North Dakota State University where he acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering.

His professional career began in 1986 at the North Dakota State Water Commission. Throughout the years, Engelhardt has exhibited impeccable character as a Water Resource Engineer, Chief of the Investigations Section, and since 2011 as Director of the Water Development Division.

Engelhardt's expertise has led to substantial accomplishments and achievements regarding water management and water development across the state. "Bruce has been the backbone of the State Water Commission for many years, and I sincerely applaud him for all of his hard work and devotion," expressed State Engineer Todd Sando. "It's hard to see him leave, but I wish him all the best in his retirement."



Bruce Engelhardt inside a 96-inch diameter section of a concrete pipe at the construction site of the East Devils Lake Outlet.

Bruce Engelhardt

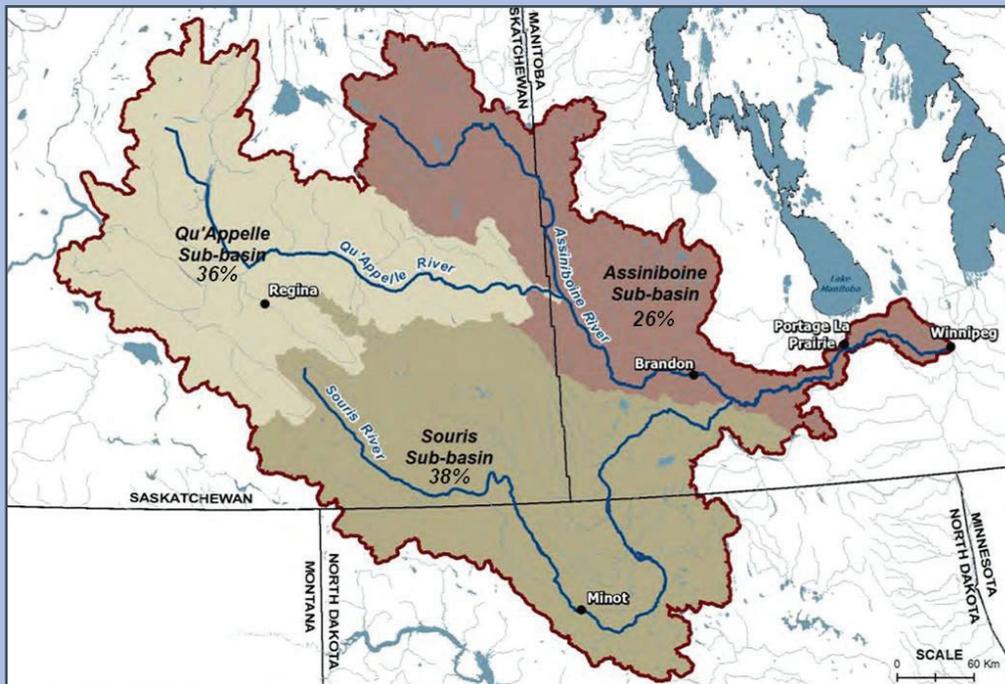
His remarkable guidance and exceptional knowledge led to the completion and ongoing operation of the West and East Devils Lake outlets. Engelhardt has also demonstrated vast knowledge in the Missouri River system and its operation, playing a major role in the revision of the Master Manual. He exuded steadfast resolve during the statewide flood-fighting efforts of 1997, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Ultimately, Engelhardt's leadership at the State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer earned him multiple awards, and the respect and admiration of his peers.

Engelhardt is proud and grateful that he was able to spend his career as a member of the Water Commission family, but is looking forward to retirement. "Well, I'm excited to spend more time on my hobby farm, to do some wood and leather work, and to not have to wear a tie anymore," Engelhardt said with a smile. "But in all seriousness I want to thank the exceptional staff that I have had the pleasure of working with. I was always recognized and given the credit for most of the projects throughout the years, but truly the credit should go to the hardworking and dedicated staff."

East Devils Lake outlet drop structure. Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Senior Policy Advisor; Governor Jack Dalrymple; State Engineer Todd Sando; and Water Development Division Director, Bruce Engelhardt.



Newly Forming Assiniboine River Basin Initiative



The sub-basins of the Assiniboine River Basin. Source: Prairie Improvement Network

After decades of flood-related challenges throughout the greater Assiniboine River basin, a grassroots effort has emerged to bring basin stakeholders together in a collaborative effort to, in the simplest sense – make the basin a better place to live for current and future generations of basin residents. This gathering of grassroots interests has resulted in the formation of the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI). ARBI covers the entire Assiniboine River basin, which includes the Qu'Appelle, Mouse (Souris in Canada), and Assiniboine River watersheds in North Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

The ARBI began when basin stakeholders first met in 2008 to explore opportunities to work together and take collaborative actions across the basin. The initiative gained momentum in 2014 through a spring workshop in Virden, Manitoba - reaffirming stakeholder interest in collaborative actions and the formation of a basin-wide organization. Their first workshop led to a November conference in Regina, Saskatchewan, where stakeholders put in place the beginnings of an organization with board leadership and provided direction related to land and water issues and concerns.

Since that time, ARBI's board and executive committee have been working to establish the organization. A

vision and mission statement are in the works, along with guiding principles, goals, and objectives for the next year for the fledgling organization. Planning is also underway for the second annual conference to be held on November 12 and 13, 2015 in Brandon, Manitoba.

Thus far in the ARBI's development process, the State Water Commission has been involved by attending formational meetings and providing technical assistance as needed. There has also been participation in the process from North Dakota local leaders, as well as other stakeholders.

For additional information about the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative, see their website at <http://prairienetwork.ca/assiniboine-river-basin/>



North Dakota State Water Commission
Todd Sando, P.E., State Engineer
900 East Boulevard Ave. • Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 328-2750 • <http://swc.nd.gov>

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