

- WELCOME -

# NEW HIRE

## Meet Our Newest Staff



### CRAIG ODENBACH TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF WATER DEVELOPMENT

In August, Craig Odenbach began serving the people of North Dakota as the State Water Commission's new Director of the Water Development Division.

Odenbach comes to the Water Commission with over 31 years of experience in the civil engineering field, having earned an AS in Civil Engineering from the North Dakota State School of Science and a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University.

Odenbach worked [from 1985-2004] for the Water Commission as a hydrologist in the Water Appropriation Division and as the Chief of the Regulatory Section. During his first career at the Water Commission, Craig was directly involved in the water appropriation process; hydrologic data collection; comprehensive water management studies; floodplain management; regulatory review of dams, dikes, and drainage projects; the National Flood Insurance Program; sovereign lands; and general water management.

Then, in 2004, Odenbach left the Water Commission for the private sector, taking a position with Houston Engineering in Bismarck. While with Houston Engineering, his areas of focus were floodplain management, reservoir water quality improvement, sovereign lands, irrigation, storm water, and dam construction and analysis.

In addition to his wide-ranging and extensive experience in the water resource field, Craig has an active and exciting life away from work, where he and his wife Anna, who works as a Nurse Manager in long-term care, pursue hunting, travel, cooking, and he is an avid skydiver.

Todd Sando State Engineer stated that "We are facing a wide variety of opportunities and challenges in North Dakota, with record-setting flooding, and significant flood control and water supply projects all being dealt with at the same time. Having a Director with Craig's valuable experience here at the Water Commission, and his experience outside the agency in the private sector will be vital in helping us succeed.

Please welcome Craig back as one of the newest staff members at the State Water Commission.

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## JOHN PACZKOWSKI PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY

In July, John Paczkowski was promoted to the Director of the Regulatory Division of the State Water Commission.

Paczkowski grew up in Kensal, ND, where he worked at the family gas station. He earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in 1990, a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) License in 2001, and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation in 2005. John started his career as an Engineering Aide with NDSU

Extension, investigating water infiltration and irrigation. He then moved on to Steiger Tractor/Case IH and Arts-Way Manufacturing as a testing and design engineer for various types of farm equipment.

In 1991, Paczkowski began his career at the State Water Commission, working in the Water Appropriation Division as a hydrologist. During his seven years in that position, he was extensively involved in water permitting issues, testing of developing technologies for tracking water resources, and administration of the Water Commission's incredibly extensive water use database.

Paczkowski took a position as a water resource engineer with the Water Development Division's Investigations Section in 1998, where he coordinated a wide variety of vital projects, such as the Red River Valley Water Supply Study, Missouri River management, hydrologic watershed modeling, construction of the West Devils Lake Outlet, and technical reviews.

In 2004, Paczkowski was promoted to the Chief of the Regulatory Section, where his portfolio included construction, drainage, and sovereign lands permitting and regulation; the Water Commission's cost-share program; the National Flood Insurance Program; and the Silver Jackets program.

"John brings tremendous experience to his position as Director of the Regulatory Division," says State Engineer Todd Sando. "He's worked in many parts of the agency, and his understanding of the Water Commission, and the importance of the work we do will prove incredibly valuable to the people of North Dakota."

John and his wife Monica have been married for 23 years, and they have three children, Nicholas, Tyler, and Kylie. He is a passionate hunter and fisherman who loves camping with family and friends. In addition, his extensive experience in the outdoors has led to his development into a fine wildlife photographer, with photos published in numerous venues throughout the state.

Please join us in congratulating John on his recent promotion.



## Red River Watershed Institute Held in Mayville

Both formal and non-formal educators from around the state gathered at Mayville State, in Mayville, ND on July 6-10, for the Discover Today's Red River Watershed Institute.



The Watershed Institute is held annually in different watersheds of the North Dakota. Through hands-on, critical thinking experiences, participants gain a valuable and unique perspective on current water resource issues of the Red River watershed. Participants are exposed to a wide variety of educational lesson plans and techniques, behind the scenes tours of various water projects, and are engaged in a wide variety of natural resource-related activities.

The Red River Watershed Institute was offered as a three graduate credit

workshop that allowed participants to earn credits towards professional development. To gain a grade for the institute, participants had to demonstrate enhanced knowledge of contemporary water resources concerns and issues in the Red River watershed. Participants left with a greater understanding of how the Red River watershed plays an important role in North Dakota's social and economic well being.

*I loved it! I have learned so much on why water is so important and how water can be recycled.*  
- P. Wallette, Belcourt, ND -



*I definitely learned many new things and have a new appreciation of our watershed.*

- Andrew Henjum, Fargo, ND -

*It was a fun, fast, knowledge filled week!*

- Gretchen Schmidt, Grand Forks, ND -

Planning for the 2016 Discover Today's Missouri River Watershed Institute has already begun. Information about the institute can be found by contacting Tina Harding, Water Education Resource Manager, at (701) 328-4833 or [tinamharding@nd.gov](mailto:tinamharding@nd.gov).



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