



2017 Discover Today's Souris River Watershed Institute RECAP



This year's Discover Today's Watershed Institute (Institute) focused on the contemporary watershed management and water resource issues in the Souris/Mouse River watershed. Participants explored social, economic, and environmental issues and concerns related to flooding, drought, and water access.

For over 20 years, the Water Commission's Water Education program has organized an annual Institute as a way for formal and non-formal educators to explore all of the state's unique watersheds, including their characteristics, issues, and challenges. The Institutes provide opportunities to expand their curriculum offerings to include a wide variety of teacher resources.

Participants in the Institute can earn four graduate credits (upon approval) through Minot State University, North Dakota State University, or the University of North Dakota.

This year, the Institute was hosted at Dakota College in Bottineau. Through organized tours, presentations, and hands on activities, participants were able to experience a wide variety of water issues and resources, and conduct water quality testing and assessments. Participants were engaged in a variety of hands on activities such as creating and testing their own

The **2018 Watershed Institute** will be in the scenic and historic Little Missouri River watershed on July 8-14. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2018 (30 participants maximum) for this high demand workshop. The registration fee for the Watershed Institute is \$200, which includes room and board, resource materials, and instructors. If the registrant is applying for graduate credits for the course, there is an additional \$200 fee payable to the accredited institution.

water filtration system and built turbidity tubes, all while interacting with the knowledgeable professionals who manage those resources.

Participants also took part in on-site tours and presentations that included: Towner State Nursery and Irrigation System, J. Clark Salyer Wildlife Refuge, Pride Dairy, Dakota College Green House and Bio Controlled Aquaponics, Minot's Wastewater and Water Treatment Plant, Souris River Flood Protection and Levee Project, Geology of the Turtle Mountains, Lake Metigoshe, and the International Peace Garden.

The Institute is funded by the Water Commission, an EPA Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Grant, and ND Water Resource and Soil Conservation districts.

For more information about the Watershed Institutes, please contact Tina Harding, Project WET Education Manager at (701) 328-4833 or tinamharding@nd.gov or swc.nd.gov under the Water Education tab.

Julie Mosher, Willow City, ND - *"This was a wonderful experience among wonderful people. I learned so much about the Souris (Mouse) River Watershed. The instructors were knowledgeable about issues, helpful in teaching activities and techniques and out did themselves in making this an excellent adventure."*

Seth Peterson, Bismarck, ND - *"Great tour of the Souris River Watershed. I saw locations and experienced activities that I wouldn't have or done had I not enrolled in this class."*

north dakota water education

Raising Water Issue Awareness For The State's Children, Teachers, and Parents



The North Dakota Water Education Program (Program) uses Project WET curriculum materials and educational resources, in conjunction with other water education resources as a means of enhancing awareness, promoting action learning, and enhancing knowledge through exploration and stewardship of North Dakota's water resources.

The Program teaches water science, conservation, and best management practices by demonstrating how water interacts with humans and the natural environment within North Dakota's watersheds. Over the years, one of the increasingly popular means of delivering water education to students, teachers, and communities is through water festivals.

Through August, over 4,100 students had attended water festivals this year.

Evaluation forms filled out by students reported that...

78% learned
NEW VOCABULARY

81% learned how
IMPORTANT WATER is to them

75% learned about
CAREERS related to **WATER**

90% reported having
INCREASED KNOWLEDGE
about water

FESTIVALS & PARTNERS INCLUDE

- Dickinson Water Festival hosted by Southwest Water Authority
- Mandan Water Festival hosted by Morton County Soil Conservation District
- Bismarck Water Festival hosted by Bismarck Public Schools
- Kathryn Water Festival hosted by Prairie Waters
- Red River Water Festival hosted by River Keepers
- Wahpeton Water Festival hosted by Wahpeton Parks and Recreation and Chahinkapa Zoo
- Grand Forks Water Festival hosted by Dakota Science Center
- Fort Totten Water Festival hosted by State Historical Site
- Bottineau Water Festival hosted by Dakota College at Bottineau
- Minot Water Festival hosted by Ackerman Estvold Consulting Firm
- Yellowstone Missouri Confluence Water Festival hosted by Fort Buford State Historical Site

Three new water festivals to be held in Washburn, Jamestown, and Mayville are in the planning process for spring and fall of 2018.