



Garland Erbele, P.E.
State Engineer &
Chief Engineer-Secretary

2017 Issue IV

A NEWSLETTER FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER & STATE WATER COMMISSION

On August 10, 2017, the State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer received some very positive and progressive news regarding the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project. The U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, issued summary judgement in favor of the Department of Interior and the State of North Dakota, allowing the Water Commission and Interior-Bureau of Reclamation to move forward with construction of the NAWS project.

The State Water Commission began construction on the NAWS project in April 2002, with the intent to provide quality drinking water and long-term water supply infrastructure to an estimated 81,000 people in north-central North Dakota. This includes the communities of Berthold, Bottineau, Burlington, Kenmare, Sherwood, Minot, and Mohall, the Minot Air Force Base, and several rural water systems to alleviate some of the area's long-standing unsustainable water supply issues.

Also in 2002, the Province of Manitoba, Canada filed suit maintaining inadequate NEPA analysis over concerns regarding invasive species and inter-basin transfer of water between the Missouri River and Hudson Bay basins. The State of Missouri later joined the lawsuit over potential depletions to the Missouri River system. These lawsuits ultimately lasted for 15 years, causing numerous delays and postponements to the project.

The favorable decision issued in August is truly a major milestone for a Federal project which will ultimately deliver high quality drinking water to thousands of North Dakotans. The completion of this project will address the well documented water supply needs within the north central region of our state.

Since this encouraging ruling, the joint venture of Houston Engineering and Stantec was awarded the contract to design and construct a water treatment plant in Max and a water intake at Lake Sakakawea. It is with great optimism and enthusiasm that we move forward and resume construction of this critical project.

Can You Find The Water Drop?



This water drop is hidden
somewhere in this issue.

THANK YOU COMMISSIONER'S



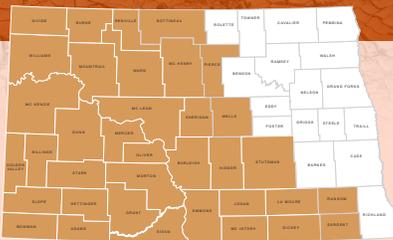
Commission members photographed with Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, former Governor Jack Dalrymple, and State Engineer Garland Erbele. Commissioners (from left to right) Douglas Vosper (9 years), Arne Berg (11 years), Harley Swenson (24 years), Larry Hanson (18 years), George Norland (4 years), Maurice Foley (11 years), and Robert Thompson (24 years).

The State Water Commission would like to express our sincere gratitude and recognize the out-going Commission members who admirably served the people of North Dakota until the summer of 2017.

The Commissioners demonstrated a profound commitment to promoting water resource management, addressed flood protection issues, provided valuable support of water supply and other water development projects, and have contributed influential direction throughout their esteemed terms on the State Water Commission.

Thank You!

DROUGHT DISASTER PROGRAM HELPING STATE'S RANCHERS



In response to the severe summer drought of 2017, the Drought Disaster Livestock

Water Supply Project Assistance Program (Program) has provided long-term water supply assistance to North Dakota ranchers in affected counties.

The program provides 50% cost-share, up to \$3,500 per project, with up to three projects per applicant, for eligible costs related to the development of drought-resistant water supplies for livestock. Examples of eligible projects are new wells, rural water connections, pasture taps, as well as the materials and labor needed to get water to the ranchers' livestock.

Since the Program's reauthorization in June, 422 projects have been approved for cost share, benefiting 302 of the state's ranchers, in 28 counties.

From its reauthorization, through October, \$1.325 million in funding was allocated to the Program by the State Water Commission through multiple actions.

For more information, please contact the Water Commission's Planning and Education Division at (701) 328-4989 or email swclivestock@nd.gov.

COMMISSION MEETING APPROVALS

At the Commission meeting held on August 23, 2017, the State Water Commission approved multiple cost-share requests.

City of Mercer, Connect to McLean-Sheridan	\$166,950
City of New Town, Water Transmission/Storage	\$1,040,000
City of West Fargo, Brooks Harbor Water Tower	\$1,950,000
City of West Fargo, North Loop Connection	\$510,000
City of West Fargo, West Loop Connection	\$1,110,000
City of Williston, US Highway 2 Water Main	\$434,400
Greater Ramsey Water District, Expansion Phase II	\$599,000
North Central District, Mountrail Exp. Phase II	\$3,086,000
North Central District, Mountrail Co. Phase III	\$3,430,000
Southeast Water District, System Wide Exp.	\$2,749,000
Cass Rural Water District, Horace Storage Tank	\$91,000
Grand Forks Traill District, Expansion/Interconnect	\$51,000
North Prairie Rural District, Reservoir 9 Water Supply	\$26,950
North Prairie Rural District, Surrey/Silver Spring	\$5,950
Traill Rural District, Expansion/Interconnect	\$75,880
Walsh Rural District, System Expansion	\$57,375
City of Lisbon Permanent Flood Control Project, Levee D	\$900,000
Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP)	\$62,781,034
Red River Valley Water Supply Project	\$17,000,000
Garrison Diversion Unit, Mile Marker 42	\$937,207
Western Area Water Supply (WAWS) Project	\$8,750,000
Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Program	\$500,000

NEW HIRES

CHERYL FITZGERALD

Administrative Staff Officer



Cheryl Fitzgerald started in August at the State Water Commission as an Executive Assistant to the State Engineer. Cheryl was previously employed with the Department of Human Services as a Contract Officer. She began her career as a legal secretary after obtaining an Associate's of Applied Science degree from Bismarck State College.

Cheryl was born in Washington state, but North Dakota has always been home. Cheryl has been married to her husband Kevin for over 20 years and together they have a blended family with three grown children, three grandchildren, and a very special rat-terrier named Jaxon.

Spending time on the river is a favorite past-time of Cheryl's, along with spending time with her family and grandchildren. She enjoys volunteer work, going to the gym, and she recently started running again. This summer, Cheryl participated in a 5k race and hopes to complete a couple more before winter sets in.

ALEXIS COOK

Dam Safety Engineer



Alexis Cook was hired in July as a Dam Safety Engineer in the Regulatory Division at the State Water Commission.

She was born and raised in Mandan, ND. Alexis graduated from Mandan High School and proudly cheers for the Braves. She attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Alexis worked on several water quality projects and inspections while completing an internship with Larson Engineering. She enjoys working with water and would like to see as many dams in the world as she can.

She enjoys hiking, swimming, volleyball, painting, traveling, and loves spending time with her cat, Marley. Alexis is also engaged to her fiancé Nick and is very excited to get married in September of 2018.

WATER DAY AT THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR



Water Day at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot was held on July 27, 2017. State Engineer Garland Erbele along with SWC staff members Jessie Wald and Ashley Persinger, hosted a booth on behalf of the State Water Commission.

Numerous publications, maps, and information regarding water projects across our state were discussed and distributed during the event.

Several water organizations participated in the event: Ackerman-Estvold, American Water Works Association, Assiniboine River Basin Initiative, Bureau of Reclamation, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Lake Agassiz Water Authority, ND Irrigation Association, ND Rural Water Systems Association, ND State Water Commission, ND Water Education Foundation, Southwest Water Authority, and Western Area Water Supply Authority.



Welcome COMMISSIONERS

On August 10, 2017, Governor Doug Burgum appointed seven members to the State Water Commission. The new members bring a wide-range of experience in numerous water issues including, flood protection, regional and rural water supplies, and other water development projects.

The State Water Commission consists of Governor Burgum as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring as an ex-officio member, and seven members appointed by the Governor to serve staggered terms.

Each appointed member represents one of the seven major drainage basins in North Dakota. The Commission also appoints the State Engineer as its Chief Engineer and Secretary, who employs a staff as needed to carry out the work of the Commission.



Commissioner Katie Andersen

JAMES RIVER BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2019

Katie is the Mayor of Jamestown and was elected in 2010, where she has been involved in a variety of water topics including flood control, storm water management, drainage, and wastewater treatment. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from South Dakota State University and owns her own dry-cleaning business.



Commissioner Michael Anderson

LOWER RED RIVER BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2021

Michael is from Hillsboro, ND and is a farmer, former banker, and Vice President of the Traill Rural Water Board of Directors. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a focus on management and finance from Texas Christian University.



Commissioner Richard Johnson

DEVILS LAKE BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2019

Richard has been the Mayor of Devils Lake since 2010 and is the chairman of the North Dakota Water Coalition. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Teaching from Mayville State University and is currently retired. Richard has been involved with flood fighting efforts in the Devils Lake region for more than 20 years.

Welcome COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Leander McDonald
LOWER MISSOURI BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2019

Dr. McDonald resides in Bismarck and is the President of the United Tribes Technical College. He previously served on the Devils Lake Outlet Advisory Board and is the former Chairman of the Spirit Lake Nation. Leander earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Sociology from the University of North Dakota. He also received a Ph.D. in Educational Foundations and research from UND.



Commissioner Mark Owan
UPPER MISSOURI BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2021

Mark Owan of Williston is a third-generation farmer who currently serves as President of the Williams Rural Water District Board of Directors and Chairman of the Western Area Water Supply Authority, which provides water to about 60,000 rural and municipal customers. Mark received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Dakota.



Commissioner Matthew Pedersen
UPPER RED RIVER BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2023

Matthew Pedersen is a certified public accountant and City Commissioner in Valley City. He is involved in flood protection, financing, and planning and zoning projects. Matthew has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and he currently chairs the Valley City Flood Protection Task Force.



Commissioner Jason Zimmerman
MOUSE RIVER BASIN

Term Expires: June 30, 2023

Jason Zimmerman resides in Minot and served as Minot's flood recovery coordinator following the 2011 flood. He is a business banking officer and currently serves as a member of the Ward County Water Resource Board. Jason obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

STATE WATER COMMISSION PROMOTIONS



AARON CARRANZA
Regulatory Division Director

Effective July 1, Aaron Carranza accepted a promotion as Director of the State Water Commission's Regulatory Division. His responsibilities include regulating the construction and modification of dams, dikes, and other water control devices. In addition, Carranza now oversees North Dakota's Dam Safety Program, floodplain management and mapping efforts through the National Flood Insurance Program, the Silver Jackets Program, and sovereign land management.

Carranza is a Plymouth, MN native, and attended Iowa State University's School of Science and Technology, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. He and his wife reside in Bismarck with their three children, ages six, three, and one. Carranza began his career with the Water Commission in 2011, and previously served as a Water Resource Engineer, and then as Engineering and Permitting Section Chief - both located in the Regulatory Division.

Carranza sees his new division as an efficient, predictable, and empathetic part of the agency, and one of his goals is to maintain a consistent and reliable program to promote sound water resource management within the state. In October, he will celebrate his 6-year anniversary with the Water Commission.



KIMBERLY FISCHER
Hydrologist Manager

As of August 5, Kimberly Fischer accepted a new position as a Hydrologist Manager at the State Water Commission. She will oversee a team of three hydrologists in the Groundwater Management section of the Water Appropriations Division.

During her eight years with the State Water Commission, Fischer has also served as a Hydrologist II and III prior to accepting her promotion. She previously gained experience working for a civil engineering firm prior to her time with the Water Commission.

Fischer grew up in Olympia, Washington where most of her family still lives, though many have spread across the country. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from the University of Montana in Missoula, and a Master's Degree in Hydrology from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. Fischer enjoys skiing and fishing, but stays very busy with her three children, ages seven, five, and three.

STATE WATER COMMISSION PROMOTIONS



LAURA ACKERMAN
Investigations Section Chief

In July, Laura Ackerman accepted a promotion to become Investigations Section Chief at the State Water Commission.

Ackerman grew up on a farm near Thompson, ND, and is the fourth of five siblings. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Geological Engineering from the University of North Dakota in 2006. And, she and her husband, Dan, live in Mandan.

The Investigations Section, housed in the Water Development Division, provides a number of specialized technical services to support the agency's overall mission. As new Section Chief, Ackerman sees the Investigations Section's ultimate role as providing technical support to the agency as well as fulfilling agreements with public entities. By getting involved where needs are identified, she believes her Section must remain flexible in order to best serve the agency. Ackerman says the Section will continue to perform its core functions while incorporating new technology to continually improve the efficiency of current processes.

Ackerman previously served the Water Commission as a Regulatory Permitting Engineer and then as the Missouri River Engineer. In December, she will celebrate her 11-year anniversary with the Water Commission.



MATT LINDSAY
Regulatory Section Chief

On September 1, Matt Lindsay was promoted to Engineering and Permitting Section Chief of the Regulatory Division at the State Water Commission.

Before Lindsay was hired by the State Water Commission, he worked for the United States Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. He began working for the State Water Commission in April 2013 and has previously held the titles of Water Resource Engineer II and III in the Regulatory Division. Lindsay received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University, where he also minored in political science.

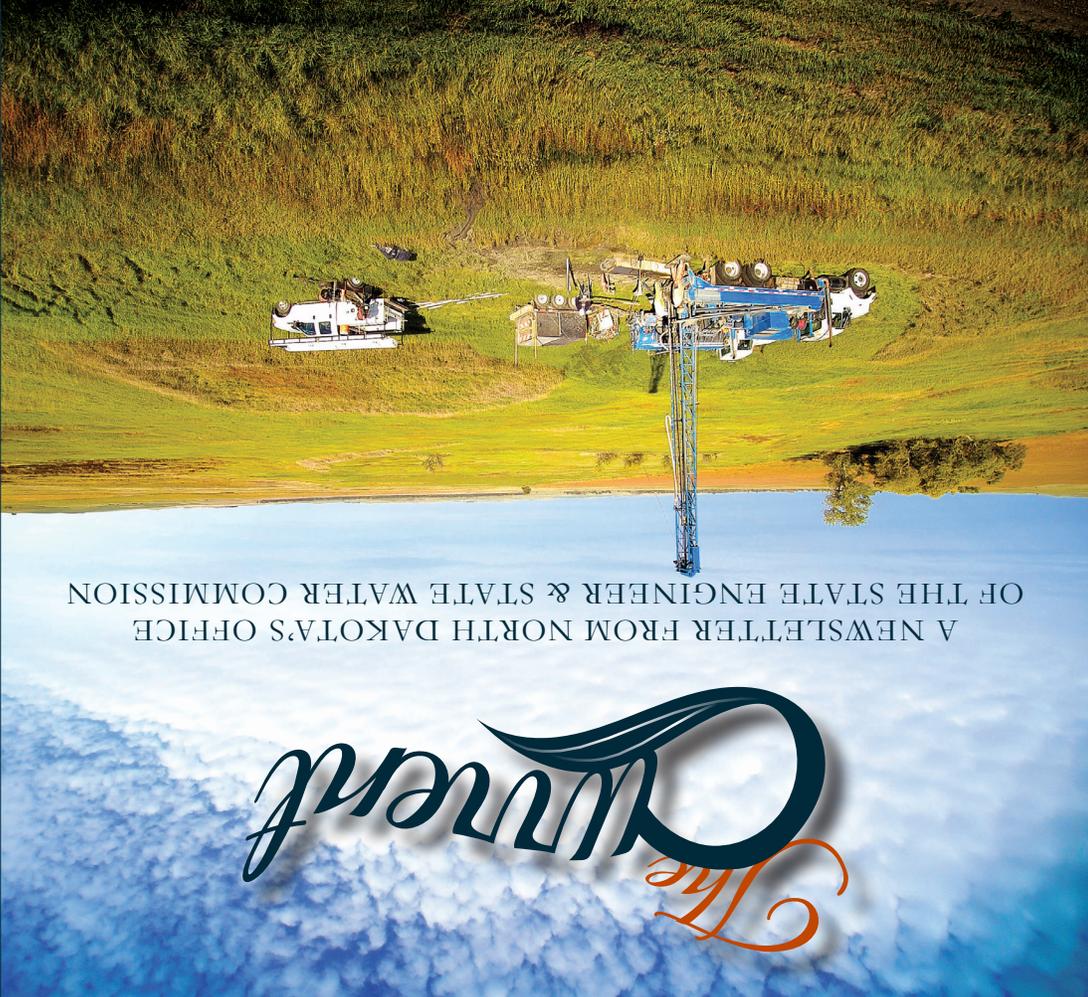
Lindsay grew up in Bathgate, ND, and attended Neche Public School in Neche, ND. He and his wife Kirsten now live in Bismarck with their two daughters, Everly and Mirella.

His goals for the Section include increasing public awareness of water resources issues and projects in the state as well as providing efficient implementation of North Dakota's water resource regulations. Under Lindsay's leadership, the Section will take an honest look at the challenges North Dakota faces with respect to water resources management and will strive to address those challenges through fair and well thought out policy and rule making.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER COMMISSION

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVE, DEPT. 770
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850



A NEWSLETTER FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S OFFICE
OF THE STATE ENGINEER & STATE WATER COMMISSION

The Current

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