

## **MINUTES**

### **North Dakota State Water Commission Special Meeting Bismarck, North Dakota May 28, 2025**

The ND State Water Commission (Commission or SWC) held a special meeting at the Bank of North Dakota, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND, and via phone conference on May 28, 2025. Lt. Governor Strinden called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A quorum was present. The board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **State Water Commission Members Present:**

Lt. Governor Strinden, Acting Chairman  
Doug Goehring, Commissioner, ND Agriculture Commissioner  
Michael Anderson, Lower Red River Basin (online)  
Jeff Frith, Devils Lake Basin (online)  
James Odermann, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Upper Cannonball River Basins  
Connie Ova, James River Basin (online)  
Jay Volk, Lower Missouri River Basin  
April Walker, Upper Red River Basin (online)  
Jason Zimmerman, Mouse River Basin

#### **State Water Commission Members Absent:**

Gene Veeder, Upper Missouri River Basin

#### **Others Present:**

Reice Haase, Director, ND Dept. of Water Resources (DWR or Department) and Commission Secretary  
John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer  
DWR Staff  
Approximately 10 people present online and in person.

#### **Consideration of Agenda**

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the May 28, 2025, special meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk and passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Executive Session**

##### **Under Authority of NDCC § 44-04-19.1(9) for Attorney Client Consultation regarding SWPP – Intake, Contract 1-2A**

It was the recommendation of Lt. Governor Strinden that further discussion relating to the SWPP/Fowler Intake be held in Executive Session, under the provisions of NDCC § 44-04-19.1(9), for the purpose of attorney consultation. The Commission invited the following to participate in the Executive Session:

#### **State Water Commission Members Present:**

Lt. Governor Strinden, Acting Chairman  
Doug Goehring, Commissioner, ND Agriculture Commissioner  
Michael Anderson, Lower Red River Basin (online)  
Jeff Frith, Devils Lake Basin (online)  
James Odermann, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Upper Cannonball River Basins  
Connie Ova, James River Basin (online)

Jay Volk, Lower Missouri River Basin  
April Walker, Upper Red River Basin (online)  
Jason Zimmerman, Mouse River Basin

**Others Present:**

Reice Haase, DWR Director and Commission Secretary  
John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer  
Matthew Sagsveen, General Counsel, Attorney General's Office (online)  
Elizabeth Mayans, Attorney General's Office  
Justin Froseth, Southwest Pipeline Project Manager  
Shana Brost, Administrative Officer  
Chris Kadrmas, DWR Administration Division Director  
Abby Ebach, DWR Policy Advisor  
Aaron Weber, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office (online)  
Reed Johnson, Governor's Office  
Elise Radaj, Fabyanske, Westra, Hart & Thomson, P.A. (online)  
Mark Becker, Fabyanske, Westra, Hart & Thomson, P.A. (online)

**Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Volk that under the provision of NDCC § 44-04-19.1(9), the Commission proceed into Executive Session on May 28, 2025, at 10:06 AM for the purpose of attorney consultation relating to the Southwest Pipeline Project/Fowler Intake—Contract 1-2A.**


**Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Odermann, Ova, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

Following attorney consultation regarding the Southwest Pipeline Project/Fowler Intake, Contract 1-2A, Lt. Governor Strinden reconvened the open session of the Commission meeting at 10:35 AM.

**Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to direct DWR staff to finalize the SWPP Intake settlement agreement.**

**Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Odermann, Ova, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Lt. Governor Strinden adjourned the May 28, 2025, special meeting at 10:37 AM. The next State Water Commission meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, at 1:00 PM CT at the Bank of North Dakota, Lewis & Clark Room #238, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, North Dakota.

  
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Michelle Strinden, Lieutenant Governor  
Acting Chairman, State Water Commission

  
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Reice Haase, Director, DWR  
Secretary to the State Water Commission