MINUTES
North Dakota State Water Commission
Bismarck, North Dakota
August 18, 2026

The ND State Water Commission (Commission or SWC) held a meeting at the ND State Capitol, Pioneer Room, 1st Floor Judicial Wing, 600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND, and via phone conference on August 18, 2026. Governor Armstrong called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A quorum was present. The board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Water Commission Members Present:
Governor Armstrong, Chairman
Lt. Governor Strinden, Acting Chairman (1:28 PM)
Doug Goehring, ND Agriculture Commissioner
Michael Anderson, Lower Red River Basin
Jeff Frith, Devils Lake Basin
Steve Hansen, James River Basin
James Odermann, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Upper Cannonball River Basins
Gene Veeder, Upper Missouri River Basin
Jay Volk, Lower Missouri River Basin
April Walker, Upper Red River Basin (online)
Jason Zimmerman, Mouse River Basin

Others Present:
Reice Haase, Director, ND Dept. of Water Resources (DWR or Department) and Commission Secretary
John Paczkowski, DWR State Engineer
Patrick Fridgen, DWR Deputy Director
DWR Staff
Approximately 86 people present online and in person.

DROUGHT DISASTER LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

Governor Armstrong signed an executive order declaring a drought disaster and activating the State Emergency Operations Plan. The order also directed the State Water Commission to administer the Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Assistance Program (DDLWSAP). Governor Armstrong asked the Commission to approve $2 million for the program for cost-share assistance for new water wells, rural water connections, pipeline extensions, pasture taps, and other costs. Each producer is eligible for cost-share on up to three projects and may be reimbursed up to 65%, but no more than $10,000 of the eligible cost for each project. Livestock producers in counties impacted by a drought rating of D2 (severe) or higher, and adjacent counties and tribal nations will be eligible for the program.

The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission reactivate, in accordance with the drought disaster declaration issued by the Governor of North Dakota, the Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Assistance Program (DDLWSAP) effective August 18, 2026, for counties designated D2 and those adjacent**

as identified in the declaration and, authorize $2,000,000 for the 2026 DDLWSAP, consisting of the remaining $1,713,564 in carryover funding from the 2021-23 biennium and $286,436 from the 2025-27 discretionary fund.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Governor Armstrong voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

COST-SHARE AND GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE POLICY DISCUSSION

Governor Armstrong emphasized the need to reform the cost-share policy citing the finite nature of oil and gas tax revenues and the increasing demands on the Resources Trust Fund. Two philosophies for cost-share were discussed: maintaining high percentages and funding fewer projects or lowering percentages to fund more projects and maximize statewide impact. Governor Armstrong stated the latter aims to stretch resources and leverage local and federal investment. The Commission was urged to prioritize maximizing the return on state dollars, supporting more communities, and leveraging additional investment, rather than focusing solely on high cost-share percentages. Governor Armstrong referenced a recent example where a lower cost-share percentage allowed funding for an additional community, demonstrating the benefits of flexible policy. The cost-share policy should be tied to project priorities, local responsibility, affordability, and sound financial decisions, avoiding unaffordable projects reliant on state bailouts.

The importance of long-term financial planning was stressed, moving away from biennium-based management and considering impacts 5, 10, and 15 years ahead. Governor Armstrong called for governance structures that clarify operational and financial responsibilities for regional water systems, align risk with decision-making, and ensure accountability to users. The state should not indefinitely bear growing financial risk. The Commission was encouraged to consider new governance models for major water systems (SWPP, NAWS, Red River Valley Water Supply), and to be open to change despite lobbying and pushback from those benefiting from the current structure. Leadership was defined as making responsible decisions for the long-term benefit of North Dakota, not just preserving comfortable arrangements. Commissioners were expected to challenge recommendations and propose alternatives if needed.

Governor Armstrong highlighted the need for financial discipline, partnership, and prioritization, noting that success should be measured by the amount of water infrastructure built, not by cost-share percentages. The Commission was thanked for engaging seriously in the process, with the expectation that decisions would be made for the state's long-term benefit.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Veeder moved to remove item H3. Ransom Co WRD: Fort Ransom Dam Modification from the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Frith moved to approve the August 18, 2026, meeting agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk and passed by unanimous vote.

DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Walker disclosed a potential conflict of interest with agenda item H1. Burke Co WRD: North Star Dam Removal due to her employment with Barr Engineering.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Goehring moved to approve the June 9, 2026, State Water Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the July 23, 2026, Pre-Commission meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Volk and passed by unanimous vote.

COMMISSION SECRETARY UPDATE

Reice Haase, DWR Director, Commission Secretary, provided an update on State Water Commission funding obligations, carryover funds, and the ongoing cost-share policy and governance and finance studies. The Large Regional, Municipal, and Rural Water buckets are substantially or fully obligated, with the current meeting agenda expected to fully obligate the General Water bucket. The Discretionary bucket will be used to fund the activated drought disaster livestock program. Haase reported that $282.8 million of prior biennium carryover funds has been spent, leaving $287.2 million remaining. Haase also reported that meetings have been held in all eight basins and public comments have been reviewed as part of developing a revised cost-share policy. The draft policy will address the state's current budget realities and is not expected to mirror the Deloitte recommendations exactly. An implementation plan for the cost-share and governance and finance recommendations is expected to be presented to the Water Topics Overview Committee on September 17, with additional discussions with the Commission planned throughout the remainder of the year and potential Commission action anticipated at the December meeting. The NAWS Authority submitted a resolution supporting Deloitte Option 1, which would provide the Authority with additional responsibility and the ability to hire an executive director. Haase will meet with the Southwest Water Authority in September to discuss the Deloitte recommendations and obtain feedback. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and Lake Agassiz Water Authority submitted resolutions supporting Deloitte Option 3 for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, which would place ownership of the project with the State Water Commission while continuing to contract with Garrison to complete the project. Haase also reported receiving positive feedback on Option 3 from the mayors of Grand Forks, Fargo, and West Fargo during the basin meetings.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Glossary of Terms, allocated program expenditures, and financial reports were presented by Chris Kadrmas, DWR Administration Division Director.

The oil extraction tax deposits total $207,191,407 estimated through July 2026 for the 2025-27 biennium, which is $19,193,675 above the projected biennium revenue of $187,997,728 through July 2026.

The 69th Legislative Assembly estimated oil extraction tax deposits for the 2025-2027 biennium to total $354,510,000 through June 2027. It also provided for the transfer of oil

extraction tax deposits in excess of the legislative forecast for the 2025-2027 biennium to be transferred quarterly to the Water Projects Stabilization Fund.

SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT (SWPP)

Justin Froseth, SWPP Manager, presented the following SWPP items to the Commission:

Contract 1-1C: Modifications to Existing Intake Pump Stations—Award and Funding Authorization Update

Froseth stated Contract 1-1C – Modifications to Existing Intake Pump Stations, is a project to install equipment and complete necessary construction modifications to increase pumping capacity within the existing SWPP's intake by 3,000 gallons per minute. The June 2026 memo included the award of SWPP Contract 1-1C General Construction with Bid Alternate G-1 to CC Steel, LLC in the amount of $727,750. The correct amount is $764,250. The funding authorization presented and approved at the June 2026 meeting was $2.98 million. With the correction to the contract amount, the required funding authorization for all scopes of work, including Bid Alternate G-1 is $3.02 million.

The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Volk the Commission allocate $3.02 million to the Southwest Pipeline Project from funds appropriated in the 2025-2027 biennium; and, authorize the Secretary to award SWPP Contract 1-1C General Construction with Bid Alternate G-1 to CC Steel, LLC in the amount of $764,250, Contract 1-1C Mechanical Construction to Peterson Sheet Metal in the amount of $612,500, and Contract 1-1C Electrical Construction to Edling Electric in the amount of $1,137,000.**
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> **Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

Contract 2-2I: Metallic Raw Water Pipeline Replacement—Award Authorization

Froseth discussed plans to replace approximately 2,500 feet of microbiologically affected ductile iron pipeline near Dodge. Project plans and specifications have been completed, and bids were advertised beginning August 4, with bid opening scheduled for the following week. Due to the project's time-sensitive nature, staff requested pre-authorization for the contract award, allowing Secretary Haase to award the contract following the bid opening and prior to the October State Water Commission meeting. The project is intended to allow pipe to be ordered for installation in late winter or early spring, with potential dewatering work occurring this fall. Staff recommended using contractor-procured pipe rather than owner-procured pipe, as previous owner procurement did not provide a time savings and would affect available tax-exemption benefits. Funding authorization will be requested at the October SWC meeting.

The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Veeder the Commission authorize the Secretary to award Contract 2-2I, Raw Water Main Transmission Pipeline Replacement, to the lowest responsible bidder.**

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

NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY (NAWS)

Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager, presented the following NAWS item to the Commission:

High Service Pump Station—Operations and Maintenance Agreement

Hicks presented the proposed High Service Pump Station Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the State Water Commission and the City of Minot, with an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2027. The agreement formalizes the roles and responsibilities of the City of Minot and the Department of Water Resources for the pump station, which serves the City of Minot and the NAWS Regional Water System. The City of Minot will be responsible for day-to-day operations, routine and preventive maintenance, SCADA alarm response, and maintaining maintenance records, while the Department of Water Resources will retain ownership responsibilities and be responsible for electricity costs, property taxes, insurance, and administration of the existing NAWS reserve fund. The City will provide bi-monthly maintenance reports and operational data to the Department. Cost-sharing will be based on average water usage from 2023 through 2025, with Minot accounting for 87% and the NAWS system accounting for 13% of usage. Accordingly, the Department will reimburse the City for approximately 13% of annual operations and maintenance costs, with the percentage updated annually based on the preceding three years of water usage. The agreement remains subject to legal review and approval by the Minot City Council. Staff recommended that the State Water Commission authorize the Secretary to finalize and execute the agreement with the City of Minot.

The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission authorize the Secretary to finalize and execute the Northwest Area Water Supply Project—High Service Pump Station operations and Maintenance Agreement between the State Water Commission and the City of Minot.

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

Replace and Extraordinary Maintenance—Isolation Vault #2 & Raw Water Transmission Line Repairs

Hicks presented two requests for reimbursement from the NAWS Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) Fund. The first request was for repairs to Isolation Vault No. 2, which was discovered completely flooded in December 2025, resulting in damage to electrical and instrumentation equipment. An investigation determined that low pressure at the Minot Sundre Booster Station was likely the cause of the incident. DWR has been working with the City of Minot to ensure appropriate discharge pressure is maintained to prevent a recurrence. The estimated cost to restore the electrical and instrumentation components is just over $110,000. The second request involved a raw water transmission line failure that occurred on August 4 near Totten Trail while water was being conveyed from the lake to the Biota Water

Treatment Plant. The repair has been completed at an estimated cost of approximately $30,000, and a failure analysis is underway to help prevent recurrence. Hicks reported that the current NAWS REM Fund balance is $4,558,130 as of May 31 and recommended that the State Water Commission approve use of REM funds for both the Isolation Vault No. 2 repairs and the raw water transmission line repair.

The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission approve isolation vault #2 repairs and raw water transmission line repairs as eligible Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance projects.**
>
> **Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

STATE COST-SHARE REQUESTS

General Water

Commissioner Anderson discussed the General Water project: Ransom County Water Resource District—Fort Ransom Dam Modifications. Commissioner Anderson requested that the Ransom County item be removed from the consent agenda to allow additional discussions between the Ransom County Water Resource District and DWR staff regarding potential coordination on the dam rehabilitation project. Commissioner Anderson requested Ransom County to work collaboratively with DWR on the project and noted that coordination among dam rehabilitation projects help avoid duplicative efforts and reduce project costs. DWR staff were recognized for taking a proactive role in exploring opportunities for coordination and cooperation among the projects.

Dr. Duane Pool, DWR Planning and Education Division Director, provided an update on DWR's Operation Safe Flow initiative, which was initiated late last year to evaluate several low-head dams, including the Ransom County Fort Ransom Dam. DWR engaged a consulting firm to complete preliminary design evaluations, and the agency's construction crew also developed an estimate for dam removal. Three alternatives are being considered: private removal of the dam, removal by DWR's construction crew, or mitigation of the existing structure by leaving it in place and constructing rock riffles downstream. The rock riffle alternative was the option presented by the Ransom County Water Resource District at the time of application, with an estimated project cost of $457,500 and a required 25% local cost-share. DWR subsequently provided the district with information regarding the other alternatives, including an estimated $237,000 cost for DWR's construction crew to remove the dam. The Ransom County Water Resource District has not yet made a final decision regarding the contracting option. Dr. Pool noted that, given the Commission's longstanding priority of addressing low-head dams and the associated public safety concerns, DWR is prepared to use its own staff and construction crew to remove the dam at no cost to the local water resource district. Dr. Pool emphasized that many of these structures are legacy dams inherited by local districts and that the Fort Ransom Dam presents significant life-safety concerns.

Ransom Co WRD: Fort Ransom Dam Modification $457,500
(SWC Project No. 0275)

Ransom County Water Resource District (WRD) requested construction cost-share for the Fort Ransom Dam Modification project. Fort Ransom Dam is a low-hazard, low-head dam on the Sheyenne River. The purpose of the project is to mitigate the public dangers associated with low head dam roller effects while allowing for the passage of aquatic species. The dam will remain in place, and fill and riprap will be placed downstream in a fish passage arrangement.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Frith, DWR staff work with the Ransom County Water Resource District (WRD) to evaluate options for low head dam removal of the Fort Ransom Dam, including coordination with DWR for potential state-led removal. The Commission further approved Ransom County WRD's request for state cost-share participation in the Fort Ransom Dam modification project at 75%** of **eligible costs**, **with a state cost-share amount not to exceed $457,500**. **This approval is contingent upon the availability of funding.**
>
> **Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the following cost-share projects with requested funding amounts for approval:

General Water		
Burke Co. WRD	North Star Dam Removal	$185,282
GDCD	MM 10R Irrigation Project	$253,729
General Water (Conveyance)		
Pembina Co WRD	Drain 4 Stabilization	$100,609
Water Supply (Discretionary)		
Medora	New Water Storage Reservoir	$784,156
Water Supply (Municipal)		
City of Underwood	Water System Improvements	$450,074

There were no questions, and the following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Veeder and seconded by Commissioner Hansen the Commission approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.**

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

GENERAL WATER, WATER SUPPLY, AND DEFERRED PROJECT FUNDING

Dr. Pool presented the water supply buckets and a list of projects from sponsors requesting cost-share. The list of projects detailed if the project was in the water development plan and then was ranked by prioritization based upon the SWC cost-share policy.

STATE COST-SHARE REQUESTS

General Water (Discretionary)

Abigail Franklund, DWR Cost-Share Program Manager, presented the following general water (discretionary) project.

Pembina Co WRD: Pembina City Dam Modifications $1,185,243
(SWC Project No. 0299)

Pembina County Water Resource District (WRD) requested construction cost-share assistance for the Pembina City Dam Modification project. The Pembina City Dam is a low-hazard, low-head dam on the Pembina River. The project will mitigate public safety hazards caused by the dam's recirculating roller effect while facilitating aquatic species passage. Rock riprap and boulders will be installed to create rapids in the location of the existing dam. The dam abutments will be eliminated, and slopes will be protected with rock riprap. The City of Pembina owns the dam and is the construction project owner. Under a memorandum of understanding executed in June 2026, the WRD is the fiscal agent for external grant funding.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Odermann and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission fund the request from the Pembina County Water Resource District for state cost-share participation in the Pembina City Dam Modification project at 75% of eligible costs, not to exceed $1,185,243. This approval is contingent on available funding.

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

General Water (Conveyance)

Franklund presented the following general water (conveyance) projects.

Cass County Joint WRD: Cass County Drain 13 Outlet Improvements $165,000
(SWC Project No. 1069)

North Cass Water Resource District (WRD) requested preconstruction cost-share funding for the Cass County Drain 13 Outlet Improvements project. A feasibility study completed in 2026 evaluated alternatives to address significant erosion along an 8.5-mile reach of Drain 13, extending from Highway 81 to its outlet at the Red River. The study determined that erosion

and bank sloughing are most severe along the downstream 1.2 miles of the drain. The proposed project includes geotechnical investigations, final design, permitting, and utility coordination to improve this 1.2-mile reach. Planned improvements also include replacing the existing bridge at the 20th Street SE crossing with two 14-foot by 12-foot reinforced concrete box culverts.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Goehring and seconded by Commissioner Hansen the Commission fund the request from the North Cass Water Resource District for state cost-share participation in the Cass County Drain 13 Outlet Improvements project at 60% of eligible costs, not to exceed $165,000. This approval is contingent on available funding.**
>
> **Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

North Cass WRD: Cass County Drain 26 Improvements $279,626
(SWC Project No. 1079)

North Cass Water Resource District (WRD) requested construction cost-share for the Cass County Drain 26 Channel Improvement project. The purpose of the project is to replace culverts and reconstruct a half mile of channel in Sections 27 and 28 of Wiser Township. The proposed project includes replacing the crossing at 171st Ave SE, regrade the channel to improve flow and reduce erosion, and install erosion protection at culverts.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

> **Moved by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission fund the request from the North Cass Water Resource District for state cost-share participation in the Cass County Drain 26 Channel Improvement project at 60% of eligible costs, not to exceed $279,626. This approval is contingent on available funding.**
>
> **Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Volk, Walker, Zimmerman, Goehring, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.**

Richland Co WRD: Drain 4 (33) Improvements $127,218
(SWC Project No. 1178)

The Richland County Water Resource District (WRD) requested construction cost-share for the Richland County Drain 4 (33) Reconstruction project. Drain 4 Lateral 33 is a combined drain system with a north and south outlet discharging into Antelope Creek, with a high point dividing the two. The purpose of the project is to lower the high point along the drain alignment to allow for the south outlet to be utilized more frequently. The project includes improving 7,400 feet of drain and replacing two culverts along the drain alignment.

This project as presented meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Odermann and seconded by Commissioner Anderson the Commission fund the request from the Richland County Water Resource District for state coast-share participation in the Richland County Drain 4 (33) Improvement project at 60% of eligible costs, not to exceed $127,218. This approval is contingent on available funding.

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

Water Supply (Rural/Regional)
Julie Prescott, DWR Engineer Manager, presented the following rural/regional water supply projects.

Northeast RWD: User and Reservoir Expansion $1,277,607
(SWC Project No. 2050NOE)
Northeast Regional Water District requested construction cost-share for their User and Reservoir Expansion project. The project includes a user expansion portion, which was previously approved for cost-share by the Commission, and a reservoir expansion portion, which is the current request. The proposed reservoir expansion includes pump station upgrades at Reservoirs 11 through 14, Mountain Reservoir, and the Walhalla Meter Station.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Odermann and seconded by Commissioner Goehring the Commission approve the request from the Northeast Regional Water District for an additional state cost-share participation in the User and Reservoir Expansion project in the amount of $1,277,607, or 75% of eligible costs, with total cost-share not to exceed $2,799,856. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Walker, Zimmerman, Bodine, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

WAWSA: R&T Stanley and Little Knife Bay $646,650
(SWC Project No. 1973)
The Western Area Water Supply Authority requested preconstruction cost-share for their R&T Water District Stanely Part II Alt II and Little Knife Bay project. The project is installation of 62 miles of distribution pipeline, a bulk meter at Little Knife Bay, and a booster pump station to provide service to 44 new rural users and 38 new users within the extra-territorial area (ETA) of the Cities of New Town and Stanley.

This project meets requirements of the Water Commission's cost-share policy. The following motion was made:

Moved by Commissioner Frith and seconded by Commissioner Veeder the Commission approve the request from the Western Area Water Supply Authority for state cost-share participation in the R&T Water District

Stanley Part II Alt II and Little Knife Bay project at 75% of eligible rural costs, and 60% of eligible extra-territorial area costs, not to exceed $646,650. This approval is contingent on available funding.

Commissioners Anderson, Frith, Hansen, Odermann, Veeder, Walker, Zimmerman, Bodine, and Lt. Governor Strinden voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Water Supply (Municipal)
The following municipal water supply projects were deferred pending available funding.

Grenora	Water Treatment Plant Improvement	$30,000
Steele	Water Main Replacement Phase I	$124,200
Almont	Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer	$47,540
Casselton	Downtown Improvements Project	$525,218
Harwood	North Main Water Loop	$491,129
Grafton	Water System Replacement Phase I	$2,556,064
Regent	Main Avenue Reconstruction	$644,705
Watford City	2026 Water Main Replacement	$2,130,923
West Fargo	1st Avenue E Reconstruction	$1,136,346
West Fargo	Meadow Ridge Reconstruction Phase I	$1,120,118
Rolla	WTP Improvements	$15,000
Binford	Water & Wastewater System Improvements	$300,000
Mandan	Intake Phase III Study	$135,000
Stanley	Capital Improvements Project IV	$95,460

WESTERN AREA WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY (WAWSA) PROJECT UPDATE

Chris Barke, WAWSA Executive Director, presented the WAWSA project update detailing ongoing and upcoming projects across five counties, including pipeline installations, pump station upgrades, and coordination with the US Forest Service, with construction and funding timelines outlined for each project.

LEGAL UPDATES

Matthew Sagsveen, Attorney General's Office, provided an update on current legal matters involving the SWC and DWR.

PROJECT UPDATES

DWR staff provided updates on the following projects:

- Devils Lake: Yaping Chi, Water Resources Engineer
- Red River Basin: Yaping Chi, Water Resources Engineer
- Mouse River: Laura Ackerman, Water Resource Engineer
- Missouri River: Clay Carufel, Water Resource Engineer
- NAWS: Brandon Hicks, NAWS Project Manager
    - Ryan David, Houston Engineering – Lake Water Delivery to Minot Update
- SWPP: Justin Froseth, SWPP Manager

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Lt. Governor Strinden adjourned the August 18, 2026, meeting at 3:30 PM. The next State Water Commission meeting will be held on September 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT .

Michelle Strinden, Lieutenant Governor
Acting Chairman, State Water Commission

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