

MINUTES

Northwest Area Water Supply Authority Minot, North Dakota September 19, 2024

The Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Authority held a meeting in Conference Room 3 of the Minot Public Works Building, 1025 31st St SE, Minot, ND, and via Microsoft Teams on September 19, 2024. Dan Schaefer, Chairman of the NAWS Authority, called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM. A quorum was present.

NAWS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

David Lakefield, City of Minot Representative (virtual)
Tom Ross, City of Minot Representative (virtual)
Dan Schaefer, Chairman, All Season Water Users District Representative
Tony Schwalbe, Cities with Direct Service Representative
Jason Sorenson, Vice Chairman, City of Minot Representative
Teresa Sundsbak, North Prairie Regional Water Representative
Jason Zimmerman, State Water Commission (SWC) Representative (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Travis Johnson, Department of Water Resources (DWR) NAWS Project Manager
Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist
Clint Cogdill, NAWS Operator
Abby Ebach, DWR Director of Public Policy (virtual)
Annika Plummer, ND Water/Clearwater Communications (virtual)
Dave Schwengler, Houston Engineering (virtual)
Eric Volk, ND Rural Water Systems Association Executive Director(virtual)
Dustin Offerdahl, Snake Creek Pump Plant Supervisor, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (virtual)

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Chairman Schaefer requested for any corrections or additions to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda was approved as presented by voice vote.

Consideration of July 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were sent to the Authority for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Schaefer requested for feedback or changes to the meeting minutes from the previous Authority meeting on July 18, 2024. No feedback was presented.

It was moved by Representative Sorenson, seconded by Representative Sundsbak, and approved unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from the July 18, 2024, NAWS Authority meeting as presented.

August 8, 2024 State Water Commission (SWC) Meeting Update

NAWS Contract for Pressurization of Main Transmission Line

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that the contract was approved without any changes from the suggestions in the July 18, 2024, NAWS Authority meeting. Bid opening was held on August 21st and a single exceptionally high bid was received to conduct the work which was ultimately rejected due to cost and lack of competitive bidding. The DWR is looking into a simplified scope of pressure testing with the current NAWS Contract 2-1E, Discharge Pipeline Contract's contractor as an alternative.

September 12, 2024 Pre-Commission Meeting NAWS Agenda Items

Contract for Pressurization of the Main Transmission Line to Biota WTP

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that the SWC was updated about the bid results for the Contract for Pressurization at the September Pre-commission meeting.

Contract for Pressure Reducing Station and Isolation Vaults Improvements

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, stated that the bid opening was held September 19, 2024, for this project to add power, lighting, controls, telemetry, environmental controls, and tipping tower antenna to the isolation vaults, as well as, upgrading lighting, ventilation controls, telemetry, control panel, antenna, and generator disconnect at the Pressure Reducing Station.

Water Rate for 2025

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted the historical increase for the NAWS water rate has been ~5% per year except for 2024, where the rate increase was about triple that to cover increased overall costs. DWR is currently working with utility providers to get an estimate for any rate changes for 2025 to projected cost for 2025 water rate estimation. The City of Minot has submitted their Supply and Treatment rate for the NAWS customers. 2025 NAWS Water Rate will be presented at the October SWC meeting and brought up for discussion at the November Authority meeting.

NAWS OPERATIONS – RESOURCES UPDATE

Travis Johnson, DWR NAWS Project Manager, noted that in previous NAWS Authority meetings there has been discussion on determining necessary staffing levels and plans for shared resources with NAWS Authority member entities for the long-term operations and maintenance of the NAWS project. There have been meetings held between rural water representatives on the NAWS Authority and DWR senior staff to discuss the long-term operations and maintenance. DWR has received preliminary feedback on what rural water entities may be capable of handling based on the proposed maintenance schedule along with estimated cost to provide the services. DWR will continue to evaluate resource needs for NAWS operations and will continue to discuss with rural water representatives to determine the long term plan.

NAWS BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS

Travis Johnson updated the Authority on the agreements related to the NAWS Biota Water Treatment Plant (WTP). DWR has been working on finalizing a Cooperative Agreement between the State and Reclamation to ensure the ability to transfer federal funds for operation expenses. A letter requesting federal assistance was submitted to the Dakota Area Office,

and Reclamation staff have notified DWR that the Cooperative Agreement should be completed by later this month. Travis noted that DWR has received a version of the Cooperative Agreement that is currently being reviewed.

DWR and City of Minot staff continue to meet with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to better understand the requirements to be met by the Biota WTP and the Minot WTP pertaining to the switch over from Sundre aquifer to Lake Sakakawea as a water source. A meeting including the consulting engineer, DEQ, DWR, and Minot WTP staff was held at the facilities on September 4th to discuss DEQ comments on facility design and to review ongoing construction. The site visit was able to resolve several of the comments and concerns from DEQ. The consulting engineer is working with DEQ and the contractor to finalize revisions needed in construction to resolve any remaining comments.

NAWS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Travis Johnson gave a brief update on NAWS projects including the intake modifications to Snake Creek Pumping Plant. Work continues with some delays due to abatement for asbestos and minor lead paint concerns. The completion of the Demolition Contract is expected by mid-October 2024. With the delays on the Demolition Contract and delivery of equipment included in the Procurement Contracts, the expected completion date on the Construction Contract is delayed to June 2025

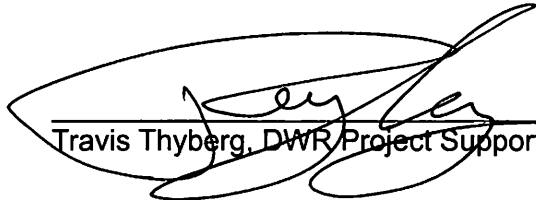
Contract 2-1E includes the discharge pipeline connecting Snake Creek Pumping Plant to the NAWS raw water transmission pipeline. The installation of all pipelines and backfill has been completed. The contractor is waiting for flowmeter/components in the isolation vault with an expected completion date by November 2024. DWR is working with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Reclamation on application/design for the lakebed installation for the intake structure, that is about 95% complete. DWR staff and the engineering consultant are working with the USACE to address geotechnical concerns of an exposed sand seam when dredging through the coffer dam that was installed during the original installation of Snake Creek for the permanent intake pipe for NAWS. DWR has requested a funding breakdown for requested funds to review and a timeline for receiving the permit from USACE. Along with the previous discussion on the Biota WTP, the pipeline from the South Prairie Reservoir towards the Biota Plant is getting filled and discussions are ongoing with the contractor regarding the defective roof correction along with a manufacturing defect found in the air chamber for the filter underdrain system. The seed germination for ground cover around the South Prairie Reservoir and Control Structure is thought to have been weak due to hot and dry weather this summer but DWR will wait until spring thaw to decide to reseed or not. Final punch list items are being completed and should be able to close out the contract soon. A proposal draft has been requested to address rerouting electrical conduits around the Minot Water Treatment Plant due to long-term ground settlement that resulted in damaged underground conduits. The Minot WTP also experienced a slight roof drain leak, which is a minor issue. The Bottineau Reservoir, is 50-60% complete and is progressing on schedule with shotcrete covering going on over the pretensioned steel reinforcement. This project is expected to be completed by late November 2024.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

A possible tour of the Max Biota WTP or other areas of operation was briefly discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for November, so weather is a consideration. Tour of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant would likely be after hours and the conference room at the Biota WTP is not ready. It was discussed that waiting until after completion of the Biota WTP and when it is under operation may provide a better opportunity for the tour.

There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis Thyberg, DWR Project Support Specialist