



NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVE. • BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850 • 701-328-2782 • www.swc.nd.gov

May 30, 2014

For more information:

SWC Planning and Education Division

Jessie Wald (701) 328-2782

State Water Commission approves funding to implement Plan of Study for the Souris River Basin

The State Water Commission has approved funding to assist with carrying out the first year of the 2012 Souris River Basin Task Force Plan of Study. Funding will support the establishment of an International Souris River Study Board, who will ultimately provide the International Joint Commission (IJC), as well as Canadian and United States interests with recommendations on how flood operations and coordination activities could be improved in the Souris River Basin.

“The devastating flood events of 2011 in the Souris River Basin have prompted a lot of questions about how those types of impacts might be avoided in the future. And providing the funding for the first year of this project is extremely important to answering some of those questions,” said State Engineer Todd Sando. “The study board will examine tasks that have been on-going and will also generate an overview of the current operating plans and determine if potential adjustments or changes will be recommended.”

With the partnership of Canadian and United States representatives already in place through the IJC’s International Souris River Board, and the funds provided by the Water Commission, the Plan of Study should be able to move forward effectively once all parties have agreed to the scope of the plan.

The proposal and funding request for the Study Board came from the IJC, following an offer from the Governor of North Dakota to help with funding the effort. However, final details of how the Plan of Study will be funded and executed are still being discussed.

The State Water Commission will utilize funds appropriated in the 2013-2015 biennium toward the first year of this three-year effort. The total amount of funding approved by the Commission was \$302,500.