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Water Commission Gives Green Light To Treatment Plant Expansion For Southwest Pipeline Project & Approves \$15.1 Million For Water Projects

The North Dakota State Water Commission today approved \$15.1 million in cost-share requests for several municipal, regional, and rural water supply projects, as well as projects related to flood control, and general water efforts from across the state.

The Water Commission supports local sponsors in development of sustainable water-related projects in North Dakota through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Cost-Share Program. The primary purpose of the DWR Cost-Share Program is to assist local project sponsors with financial support of water development projects – making them more affordable to local constituents.

“Providing reliable water supplies, flood protection, and other critical water infrastructure is essential to maintaining North Dakota’s high quality of life and supporting the long-term growth of our communities and our economy,” Gov. Doug Burgum said. “We appreciate the State Water Commission and the Department of Water Resources for their guidance and support in promoting wise management of our state’s water resources for the benefit of all North Dakotans.”

The largest cost-share approved today is \$6.2 million for the McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District – System Expansion Phase II. The Commission also approved \$750,000 in cost-share for an additional well in the Sondre aquifer to increase raw water capacity for the City of Minot and the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project. The new well will ensure that NAWS can meet necessary water demands in the interim period until Lake Sakakawea water can be delivered to Minot. This action was put into place due to impacts from several dry years and to ensure adequate water supply during drought periods. It also enables NAWS to deliver a high-quality water source to the Bottineau area in the coming months.

The Commission also approved a request from the Southwest Water Authority to begin expanding the Southwest Water Treatment Plant’s capacity from 6- to 18-million gallons per day (MGD). As part of this effort, the existing 12-MGD Dickinson Water Treatment Plant treatment processes will be migrating to the expanded Southwest Water Treatment Plant.

“Cost-Share funding approved by the State Water Commission comes from the Resources Trust Fund, which is funded by the state’s revenues from the oil extraction tax. The availability of these dollars makes it possible for the Commission to support the water community’s advancement of priority water projects across North Dakota,” said DWR Director Andrea Travnicek. “Carefully managed revenue and continued success requires strategic planning, communication efforts, and

collaboration amongst the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Commission, and North Dakota's water stakeholders."

The 10-member Water Commission consists of Burgum as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, and eight members appointed by the governor to serve six-year terms. For additional information, please visit the Department of Water Resources' website at www.dwr.nd.gov.

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