

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | June 9, 2023

## Water Commission Approves \$28.2 Million in Cost-Share for Water Projects

BISMARCK - At the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) meeting chaired by Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller yesterday, the SWC approved \$28.2 million in cost-share requests. Approvals included funding for the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS), Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), other rural and municipal water supply projects, as well as flood control and general water management.

The SWC 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 DWR's Cost-Share Program is to assist local project sponsors with financial support for water development projects – making them more affordable to local constituents.

"The requests approved yesterday reflect the State Water Commission's strong commitment to making critical water infrastructure projects more affordable for local constituents," Miller said. "Ensuring reliable supplies of clean water is essential to our high quality of life and future economic growth across North Dakota."

For the NAWS project, \$4.5 million of federal municipal, rural and industrial water supply program funding was approved for construction of the discharge pipeline from the Snake Creek Pumping Plant – pending agreement from Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and the US Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of the discharge pipeline is to transfer Missouri River system water from Lake Sakakawea to the Biota Water Treatment Plant near Max, ND. The water will be treated at the Biota Water Treatment Plant before it is piped to the Minot Water Treatment Plant. The DWR and SWC's goal is to deliver Missouri River water for NAWS by the end of 2024.

The SWC also approved \$6.9 million for membrane equipment and \$2.1 million for softening equipment procurement for the Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) Expansion which is part of Southwest Pipeline Project. This equipment is needed for the 12 million gallons per day expansion of the SWTP located in Dickinson, ND.

"We are proud of the progress that continues to be made on the Southwest Pipeline and Northwest Area Water Supply," DWR Director Andrea Travnicek said. "Both of these state-owned projects play a pivotal role in our efforts to provide clean, sustainable and drought-resilient water supplies for the people and economies of those regions of our state while putting our Missouri River water to good use."

Water supply project funding was a theme of the SWC meeting. Multiple other municipal and rural water supply projects were funded from across the state totaling \$12.8 million. The largest was \$4.4 million for

Fargo's Regional Water System Distribution Extension project which will benefit both Fargo and the Cass Rural Water system.

General water projects approved include an Artificial Aquifer Recharge Opportunities Analysis for \$148,432 and a Cooperative Monitoring Program between DWR and the United States Geological Survey for \$521,440. The aquifer recharge analysis is part of a statewide initiative by DWR to manage aquifer recharge opportunities as groundwater systems approach sustainable limits. This effort would serve to mitigate the impacts of drought and increase confidence in maintaining a dependable groundwater supply long-term. The cooperative monitoring project will collect data from streams and rivers to apply to flood response, water resource planning, flood mapping and more.

The 10-member SWC consists of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring, and eight members appointed by the governor to serve six-year terms. For additional information, please visit [www.dwr.nd.gov](http://www.dwr.nd.gov).

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**Doug Burgum, *Governor***

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