



SENATE BILL 2020

AN OVERVIEW of the State Water Commission's Funding Bill



At the end of April, the 64th Legislative Assembly gave final passage to Senate Bill 2020, which is the funding bill for the North Dakota State Water Commission.

WATER PROJECT FUNDING

Within Senate Bill 2020, the Legislature directed about \$660 million toward water development projects from funding sources such as: the Resources Trust Fund, the Water Development Trust Fund, the Disaster Relief Fund, the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund, and other sources. The appropriated funds will be

used to advance flood control, water supply, and other general water management projects in watersheds and communities throughout the entire state.

Senate Bill 2020 included specific appropriations, including:

- \$1 million grant to North Dakota's Parks and Recreation Department to develop recreational opportunities along the state's navigable waterways.



Fargo levee wall.

- \$69 million for permanent flood protection in the Fargo area, and another \$60 million to move forward on interior flood control projects within the city of Fargo.
- \$30 million towards construction of a new water treatment plant in Grand Forks.
- \$5 million for continued development of the Red River Valley Water Supply project.
- \$4 million for permanent flood control projects along the Missouri River in Burleigh County.
- \$11 million for reimbursements to rural and municipal water supply projects affected by the state’s cost-share policy changes during the 2013-2015 biennium.
- \$113 million to advance flood control projects on the Sheyenne River at Valley City and Lisbon, in Williston, on the Mouse River, and in Grafton.
- \$61 million for general water management efforts.
- \$130 million for rural water supply projects, including the Western Area Water Supply, Northwest Area Water Supply, and the Southwest Pipeline Project.
- \$85 million for municipal water supply projects.

Southwest Pipeline pipe installation.



- \$25 million in state Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund dollars for water supply projects.
- \$20 million for the Central Dakota Water Supply project.
- \$10 million in grant funds and \$40 million in loan funds for development of a water reuse facility in Stutsman County.

NEW POSITIONS

Related to State Water Commission and Office of the State Engineer staffing, Senate Bill 2020 included seven new full time equivalent positions (FTE), which will increase the agency’s total staff from 90 to 97.

Four of the new positions will be located in the agency’s Water Appropriation Division to assist with the increasing demand for water supply permits. Only five years ago, the agency was processing and issuing just over 200 temporary water permits per year. In 2014, that number had jumped to 1,056 temporary permits issued.

A Western Area Water Supply water depot.



The other three positions will be located in the agency’s Water Development Division. One of the positions will be a Water Supply Program Manager, to administer contracts related to the increasing number of water supply projects across the state; a Water Resource Program Administrator, to assist with management of the state’s sovereign lands (which include beaches and islands in and around navigable waterways); and a Regulatory Division Director position.

The new Division Director position will be used to split the current Water Development Division into two divisions – Development and Regulatory. Currently, regulatory functions are administered as a section under the Water Development Division. The workload in both of these areas has increased dramatically in response to increased development activity statewide. Splitting off the regulatory functions into a separate division will allow the agency to better manage those respective responsibilities.



STATE ENGINEER WORKING TO PROTECT SOVEREIGN LAND

As the summer of 2015 arrives, the Office of the State Engineer is once again ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations on Sovereign Land throughout the state, particularly along the Missouri River. Signs are posted at numerous access points along the river, making the public aware that littering and the possession of glass containers on the river's beaches and sandbars are prohibited.

“We would like to remind people to please keep your beaches clean. The Missouri River and its sandy beaches are an outstanding resource and asset to our state, and are particularly beneficial for local recreation,” said State Engineer Todd Sando. “We saw an improvement last summer with less litter being left behind, but it continues to happen more often than it should.”

Littering and glass container use are prohibited on Missouri River



Litter on the beach, north of Bismarck.

sandbars and beaches. The fine for littering on beaches and sandbars carries a maximum penalty of \$250, while possession of glass containers carries a fine of \$100.

Sando stressed, “Bare feet and broken glass on beaches makes for a serious health hazard, which is why glass containers are prohibited on public beaches. For North Dakota’s major waterways, it’s no different – because once there’s broken glass on a beach, it can be a danger for anyone using that area for years to come.”

People using Missouri River beaches and sandbars are being asked to clean up after themselves and avoid the use of glass containers. Anyone witnessing littering or glass container violations are encouraged to call the



Broken glass on sovereign land, north of Bismarck.

Report All Poachers line at (800) 472-2121, and to inform violators that those acts are finable offenses.



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