

## **MINUTES**

### **North Dakota State Water Commission Audio Conference Call Meeting Bismarck, North Dakota**

**December 17, 2008**

The North Dakota State Water Commission held an audio conference call meeting in the Governor's conference room, Bismarck, North Dakota, on December 17, 2008. Governor John Hoeven, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M., and requested Dale L. Frink, State Engineer, and Chief Engineer-Secretary to the State Water Commission, to call the roll. Governor Hoeven announced a quorum was present.

#### **STATE WATER COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Governor John Hoeven, Chairman

Roger Johnson, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Bismarck  
(via telephone)

Arne Berg, Member from Devils Lake

Maurice Foley, Member from Minot

Larry Hanson, Member from Williston

Jack Olin, Member from Dickinson

Harley Swenson, Member from Bismarck

Robert Thompson, Member from Page

Douglas Vosper, Member from Neche

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dale L. Frink, State Engineer, and Chief Engineer-Secretary,  
North Dakota State Water Commission, Bismarck

State Water Commission Staff

Todd Sattler, North Dakota Office of Attorney General, Bismarck (via telephone)

David Johnson, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington (via telephone)

Cory Chorne, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Bismarck  
(via telephone)

Jerry Ranum, Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association, Ray (via telephone)

Elizabeth Suhr, Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association, Ray (via telephone)

The attendance register is on file with the official minutes.

The meeting was recorded to assist in compilation of the minutes.

## **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

There being no additional items for the agenda, Governor Hoeven announced the agenda approved as presented.

### **RAY AND TIOGA WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS - APPROVAL OF 2007-2009 BIENNIUM STATE FUNDS (\$4,200,000) (SWC Project No. 237-03)**

The Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association (R&T) has developed an interim solution for its east R&T water demands, which includes the cities of Tioga and Stanley, to meet the oil impacted water demands. The interim

improvements include the following major components: 1 million gallons per day iron/manganese and membrane treatment plant, well improvements/modifications, new pipeline (from water treatment plant to Tioga HP reservoir), Stanley transmission main enhancements including booster pumps, membrane procurement documents, and engineering plans and specification. The total cost of the interim improvements, Phase I, is estimated at \$6,000,000, and is part of an overall project estimated to cost \$13,800,000.

R&T has evaluated its water treatment plant for expansion because the plant is near capacity. The study considered water treatment, supply, distribution, storage, expansion of the facility, and provided cost estimates with rate impacts. R&T serves the communities of Ray, Tioga, Stanley, Ross, and a gas-processing plant owned by Amerada Hess. Long-term water demand projections have been completed indicating that the demands could possibly double and/or triple in the next 20-30 years.

On December 5, 2008, the State Water Commission considered a request from the Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association for a 70 percent grant in the amount of \$4,200,000 for Phase I. It was the consensus of the State Water Commission members that action be deferred on the request, and directed that a committee (Commissioners Berg, Foley, and Hanson) meet with representatives of the Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association to re-evaluate the short and long-term options which are being considered to meet the Association's water demands.

Options being considered to address the short and long-term water demands the service area is experiencing due to the increase in the work force population and the growing industrial demands include proposed improvements to the existing R&T system of new groundwater wells, construction of a pipeline, and expansion to the water treatment plant for additional capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day, at an estimated cost of \$13,800,000.

The Williams Rural Water is developing a feasibility study, Phase IV, in cooperation with R&T. The expansion service would include areas within and adjacent to the existing service area, the communities of Wild

Rose and Powers Lake, and rural users. The estimated cost to create a regional system is \$20,800,000 and would involve the construction of a 38-mile transmission pipeline from Williston to the R&T system. The study will also evaluate the construction of a new system in the Ray and Tioga region that would be provided bulk service from R&T.

On December 8, 2008, State Water Commission members Arne Berg, Maurice Foley, and Larry Hanson, and others, attended a meeting of the Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association. The Association's board re-evaluated the options to address improvements to provide an additional 1 million gallons per day capacity to meet the water demands of the population growth, new businesses, and reduce the water rationing resulting from the oil exploration and production activity. The Association reconfirmed its request for developing the Phase I improvements to the R&T system, at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000.

It was the recommendation of Secretary Frink that the State Water Commission approve a 70 percent grant allocation, not to exceed \$4,200,000 from the funds appropriated to the State Water Commission in the 2007-2009 biennium (S.B. 2020), to the Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association, for interim improvements, Phase I.

***It was moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Hanson that the State Water Commission approve a 70 percent grant allocation, not to exceed \$4,200,000 from the funds appropriated to the State Water Commission in the 2007-2009 biennium (S.B. 2020), to the Ray and Tioga Water Supply Association, for interim improvements, Phase I. This action is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfaction of the federal Municipal, Rural and Industrial (MR&I) Water Supply program requirements, and subject to future revisions.***

***Commissioners Berg, Foley, Hanson, Johnson, Olin, Swenson, Thompson, Vosper, and Governor Hoeven voted aye. There were no nay votes. Governor Hoeven announced the motion unanimously carried.***

There being no further business to come before the State Water Commission, Governor Hoeven adjourned the audio conference call meeting at 3:00 P.M.



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John Hoeven, Governor  
Chairman, State Water Commission

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Dale L. Frink,  
North Dakota State Engineer,  
and Chief Engineer-Secretary  
to the State Water Commission





