

North Dakota WATER COALITION

PO Box 2254
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 223-4330
FAX (701) 223-4645
MEMBERS

Cass County Joint Board
City of Bismarck
City of Devils Lake
City of Dickinson
City of Fargo
City of Grafton
City of Grand Forks
City of Mandan
City of Minot
City of Valley City
City of Williston
Devils Lake Basin Joint Board
Garrison Diversion
Conservancy District
Grand Forks-Traill Water
District
Independent Water Providers
Lake Agassiz Water Authority
Lisbon/Fort Ransom
Missouri River Joint Water
Resource Board
Mercer County Water
Resource District
North Central Rural Water
Consortium
North Dakota County
Commissioners Association
North Dakota Association of
Rural Electric Cooperatives
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Irrigation
Association
North Dakota League of Cities
North Dakota Public Finance
Authority
North Dakota Rural Water
Systems Association
North Dakota State Water
Commission
North Dakota Water Resource
Districts Association
North Dakota Water Users
Association
North Dakota Weather
Modification Association
North Valley/Langdon Rural
Water District
Red River Joint Water Board
Souris River Joint Water
Resource Board
South Central Regional Water
District
Southwest Water Authority
Stutsman Rural Water District
Three Affiliated Tribes
West River Joint Water Board
Western Area Water Supply

Presentation by Jean Schafer, Executive Director North Dakota Water Coalition Water-Related Topics Overview Committee February 28, 2012

Good morning. My name is Jean Schafer and I serve as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Water Coalition. It is a pleasure to be here today to visit with you about the North Dakota Water Coalition's process.

The North Dakota Water Coalition was formed in 1994 to implement the Vision 2000 recommendations to help build a stronger economy for the state. The mission of the Water Coalition is to **“complete North Dakota’s water infrastructure for economic growth and quality of life.”**

The Water Coalition brings together nearly 40 water interests and related groups to help build grassroots understanding and support. Each biennium the coalition works very hard to put together recommended water priorities as we move into a new legislative session. The current members are listed on the left of this page.

This process allows the water community to provide input to the State Water Commission, the Governor’s Office and ultimately to you as a Legislative Assembly. Under our current process, the State Water Commission maintains flexibility to maximize its efforts, and yet still be responsive to emergent critical water needs - such as we have seen arise within the past several years.

Today I would like to share with you:

- how the funding priorities subcommittee process works,
- how it is used, and
- the next steps.

A. Development of the Funding Priorities Plan

The process begins during the interim at the grassroots level by the Funding Subcommittee. The current critical water needs have been listed into 13 major funding categories, which are listed below:

2013-15 Funding Priorities Subcommittee

Major Funding Categories and Representatives:

ND Water Coalition—*Dennis Hill, Chairman*
Devils Lake—*Mayor Richard Johnson*
Fargo Flood Control—*Pat Zavoral*
Grand Forks—*Curt Kreun*
Irrigation—*Dave Koland*
MRI—*Eric Volk*
Missouri River—*Ken Royse*
Northwest Area Water Supply—*Alan Walter*
Red River Valley Water Supply Project—
Sheyenne Valley Flood Control—*Mary Lee Nielsen*
Souris River Flood Control—*Dan Jonasson*
Southwest Pipeline Project—*Mary Massad*
Water Resource Districts/Water Management—*Jim Lyons*
Western Area Water Supply—*Jaret Wirtz*

These categories identify the major project needs across the state seeking funding for projects in the next biennium. This subcommittee is subject to change each biennium as projects get completed and no longer have major funding needs, such as the Maple River Dam and Grand Forks flood control, or as new needs develop, such as Souris River and Sheyenne River Flood control projects.

The members of the subcommittee bring forward a list of real needs - not simply a wish list. Over the course of the next several months, the subcommittee meets and works together to allocate funding amounts to the various projects. This biennium the subcommittee will work to establish funding amounts that equal what the projected Resources Trust Fund revenue total will be for the 2013-15 biennium.

Clearly the funding is greater than it has ever been, and sadly so are the needs. The epic flood events of 2011 and 2009, as well as the oil-related activities in western North Dakota mean that we are no longer looking at project needs in the millions, but in the billions.

B. How it is used

Once the subcommittee establishes the funding needs for the upcoming biennium, they are presented to the full Coalition membership, and there must be unanimous consensus. The key part of the Water Coalition is that once this work has been done and there is consensus, then we have a unified water community. Once we have consensus, the funding recommendations can then be used by the State Engineer, who is part of the subcommittee, to establish project needs for the Executive Budget. The Governor's Office is also part of the subcommittee, and having the executive branch and the state agency as part of subcommittee ensures that the funding priorities are an accurate reflection of the current water needs in the state.

The funding priorities are then used to show the significant amount of water needs across North Dakota. It will be presented to you as legislators and also presented in testimony for the State Water Commission Budget Appropriations Committee hearings in the upcoming Legislative Session. At this point in the process, coalition members themselves will provide testimony on the critical water needs for their specific project within the major funding categories.

C. What is next?

We are at the beginning of our Funding Subcommittee work cycle as outlined above for the 2013-15 biennium. The first subcommittee meeting will be held in March, with subsequent subcommittee and full coalition meetings to follow. We are pleased to be part of this process that can be helpful and effective in completing North Dakota's much needed water infrastructure.

2012

North Dakota Water Education Foundation

Summer Water Tours

The 2012 water tours offer a firsthand look at North Dakota's critical water issues. Water supply and quality, environmental restoration, fish and wildlife, flood management, water conservation and more are illustrated and addressed by a wide variety of speakers representing different viewpoints during these one-day tours. Individual registration is \$20 per person and includes tour transportation, meals, refreshments, informational material, and a one-year subscription to the North Dakota Water magazine.

Devils Lake Solutions in Action – June 20

The state's west end outlet was completed in 2005 and in the summer of 2010 the capacity was increased to 250 cubic feet per second (cfs). In addition to this outlet, the state's east end outlet is preparing to move another 250 cfs that would take water from East Devils Lake near Jerusalem Channel, as well as a flood control structure on Tolna Coulee to limit discharge should the lake spill over. The first of two Devils Lake tours, this tour will focus on the critical outlets and flood control infrastructure components as the lake hovers at near disastrous levels. The tour begins and ends in Devils Lake.

Fargo-Moorhead Flood Facilities – July 12

Major flooding in the Red River Valley has become so commonplace that last year the Fargo-Moorhead area experienced its third largest flood on record, and it went virtually unnoticed by many outside the region. On this half-day tour stops will include levels of protection around the city, existing flood control facilities, and projects under construction on both sides of the river. The final stop will be on the Minnesota side to learn about the Reelin' on the Red guided fishing business and a tour of the Rustic Oaks special events venue. This tour begins and ends in Fargo.

Innovations in Irrigation – July 18

In northeastern North Dakota, where it is much more common to hear about flooding than dry conditions, one wouldn't think irrigation would be necessary. However, the bench land areas and sandy soil left by glacial Lake Agassiz typically become dry during the hot days of July and August. Creative growers in the region began to implement innovative ways to capture water that is "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and store it so it can later be put to beneficial use. The first stop will be a tour and lunch at the Forest River Hutterite Community, and the afternoon stops include several examples of cutting-edge irrigation practices in Walsh and Pembina counties. This tour begins and ends in Grand Forks.

Managing the "Mighty" Mouse – August 2

Not since 1997 has North Dakota seen what utter devastation and range of emotions a flood can bring to an entire community until last summer. While every region of the state experienced epic flooding in 2011, no region felt it quite as hard as the Mouse River Basin. The Mouse River begins in Saskatchewan, winds its way into northwestern North Dakota, then turns north and returns to Canada. While in Canada, the river is known as the Souris, the French word for mouse; however, a 1961 North Dakota law states the river, while in North Dakota, is to be called the Mouse. This tour will focus on sites around Minot and surrounding region including, Lake Darling Dam, Mouse River Park, and Burlington, as we learn about the Mouse River Basin Enhanced Flood Protection Project. This tour begins and ends in Minot.

Sites Along the Sheyenne – August 15

The Sheyenne River is a 581-mile-long river that runs through seven counties in eastern North Dakota. The river is home to a fish hatchery, state park, dams and recreational facilities. Explore the river to learn why the Sheyenne is part of the discussion on the Devils Lake crisis, and gain a better understanding of the benefits and potential this river holds for the future. Participants depart from Valley City, and visit the Baldhill Dam and Lake Ashtabula, the National Fish Hatchery and head down to Valley City for a tour of the new water treatment plant. Then travel to Kathryn to the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center for a tour and educational activities, and the final stop will be activities at Clausen Springs. This tour begins and ends in Valley City.

Devils Lake: Infrastructure Inundation and Protection – September 6

The second of two Devils Lake tours, this tour will focus on the many issues the upper basin faces in dealing with the Devils Lake flooding dilemma, and show how inundated and inaccessible acres are affecting production, the loss of yields and many roads in the basin, and the quality of life for those living in the upper basin region. The tour begins and ends in Devils Lake.

2011 Water Tour sponsors were: AEsS, Bartlett and West Engineers, Inc., Black and Veatch, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Houston Engineering, Image Printing, Montgomery Watson, N.D. Game & Fish Department, N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Water Resource Districts Association, N.D. Water Users Association, and Southwest Water Authority. Other contributors included: Marathon Oil Corporation, Moore Engineering, and the N.D. Rural Water Systems Association.