



WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 18, 2025
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

- 10:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Comments by the Chairman
Review of the [Supplementary Rules of Operation and Procedure of the North Dakota Legislative Management](#)
- 10:10 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of background memorandums on the committee's statutory duties and the committee's studies of funding for storm water projects, establishment of a wastewater project fund, and assigning management authority for waters based on watersheds
- 10:50 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Reice Haase, Director, Department of Water Resources, regarding the activities, duties, and mission of the department and an update on the agency's studies relating to regional water systems, governance and finance, cost-share policies, and Phase 2 of the Missouri River intake sites study
- 12:00 noon Recess

COMMITTEE STUDIES AND REPORTS

- 12:30 p.m. Presentation by Ms. Kylee Merkel, Business Banker, Bank of North Dakota, regarding funding sources available to the Bank for wastewater or storm water projects, recently approved projects, and the feasibility and desirability of establishing a wastewater project fund to provide grants for upgrading, constructing, or replacing wastewater infrastructure
- 1:00 p.m. Presentation by Ms. Elizabeth Tokach Duran, Program Manager, Department of Environmental Quality, regarding the department's current wastewater activities, projects, and funding and the feasibility and desirability of establishing a wastewater project fund to provide grants for upgrading, constructing, or replacing wastewater infrastructure
- 1:30 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Haase regarding the committee's study on the feasibility and desirability of establishing a wastewater project fund to provide grants for upgrading, constructing, or replacing wastewater infrastructure and the committee's study on the funding for storm water projects in the state, including current funding sources, related statutes, and the policies of the State Water Commission
- 1:50 p.m. Break
- 2:00 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Aaron Carranza, Director, Regulatory Division, Department of Water Resources, regarding the committee's study on the feasibility and desirability of assigning management authority for the waters of the state to the area located in the naturally occurring watershed, rather than assigning management authority based on political subdivision boundaries

2:30 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Michael Anderson, Commissioner, State Water Commission, regarding the activities of the State Water Commission and the commission's role and policy relating to the economic analysis formula for assessment drain projects

3:00 p.m. Comments from interested persons

3:30 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives

3:45 p.m. Adjourn

A livestream of the meeting will be available to the public at: <https://video.ndlegis.gov>.

Committee Members

Representatives: Steve Swiontek (Chairman), Mike Beltz, Mike Berg, Liz Conmy, Jay Fisher, Jon O. Nelson, Todd Porter, Dan Ruby, Matthew Ruby, Daniel R. Vollmer

Senators: Randy A. Burckhard, Michael Dwyer, Justin Gerhardt, Larry Luick, Ronald Sorvaag, Paul J. Thomas, Mark F. Weber

Staff Contacts: Dustin A. Richard, Counsel
Levi Kinnischtzke, Senior Fiscal Analyst