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## WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
Room 327B, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

8:30 a.m. Call to order  
Roll call  
Consideration of the [minutes of the September 18, 2025, meeting](#)  
Comments by the Chairman  
Staff comments and distribution of a background memorandum on the Tax Reform and Relief Advisory Committee's study of the oil extraction tax exemption for stripper wells

### GENERAL DISCUSSION OF WATER-RELATED TOPICS

8:40 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of memorandums regarding the [Water Development Trust Fund](#), proceeds transferred from the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, and [major water-related state funds](#)

8:55 a.m. [Presentation](#) by representatives from the Department of Water Resources regarding information relating to the committee's [statutory duties and directives](#)

### WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STUDY

9:35 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Dani Quissell, Executive Vice President, North Dakota Water Users Association, and Mr. Larry Skiftun, Board Member, North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association, 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](#)

10:15 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Aaron Birst, Executive Director, North Dakota Association of Counties, 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

10:35 a.m. Committee discussion

10:45 a.m. Break

### STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER STUDIES

11:00 a.m. [Presentation](#) by a representative from the Department of Water Resources regarding the committee's study of funding for stormwater projects in the state, including funding sources, related statutes, and the policies of the [State Water Commission](#)

11:20 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Birst regarding funding sources available to counties for wastewater or stormwater 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

11:40 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Matt Gardner, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities, regarding funding sources available to cities for wastewater 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

12:00 noon Committee discussion  
12:15 p.m. Recess

### REPORTS

1:00 p.m. Presentation by a representative from the State Water Commission of a report of the recent activities of the commission

1:20 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Chris Kadrmas, Director, Administration Division, Department of Water Resources, regarding information relating to the [state's investment practices](#) for water-related projects

1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by a representative from Deloitte US regarding the Department of Water Resources' studies relating to governance and finance and cost-share policies

2:00 p.m. [Presentation](#) by a representative from Fort Berthold Rural Water regarding an anticipated request for which the state cost-share is estimated to be \$10 million or more for the Four Bears Water Treatment Plant

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Jason Benson, Executive Director, Metro Flood Diversion Authority, regarding a comprehensive status update of the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project

3:15 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Michael Gunsch, Vice Chairman, Friends of Lake Sakakawea, regarding an update on the work and mission of the organization

3:35 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