

Tentative Agenda

27.5069.02000

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 regrding

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, 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

9:55 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Keith Weston, Vice-Chairman, Cass County Joint Water Resource

District, 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

STORM WATER 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 storm water 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 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

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. Terry Fleck, 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