



WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 26, 2026
Pioneer Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

JOINT MEETING WITH THE STATE WATER COMMISSION

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Introductory comments by the Committee Chairman and Commission Chairman
- 9:05 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Reice Haase, Director, Department of Water Resources, regarding information about the Department of Water Resources' studies relating to the state's cost-share policies and governance and finance of regional water systems; information relating to the department's recent activities; and information relating to the committee's statutory duties
- 10:05 a.m. Presentation of a report by Mr. Valeriy Dokshukin, Partner, and Mr. Matt Austin, Specialist Leader, Deloitte US, regarding the results of and any recommendations from the commission's cost-share policy study
- 10:35 a.m. Presentation of a report by Mr. Dokshukin and Mr. Austin regarding the results of and recommendations from the regional water systems governance and finance study
- 11:05 a.m. Comments from interested persons
- 11:15 a.m. Committee and commission discussion
- 11:25 a.m. Recess to dissolve the joint meeting with the State Water Commission

WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

- 11:30 a.m. Reconvene the meeting of the Water Topics Overview Committee
Comments by the Chairman
Consideration of the [minutes of the December 9, 2025, meeting](#)
- Missouri River Discussion**
- 11:35 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Wade Bachmeier, Chairman, and Mr. Ken Royse, Project Manager, Missouri River Joint Water Board, regarding the current activities of the board
- 11:55 a.m. Recess

Watershed Management Study

- 12:40 p.m. Presentation by a representative of Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts 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
- 1:10 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil 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

1:40 p.m. Comments from interested persons and committee discussion

Wastewater Study

1:50 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Matt Gardner, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities, regarding service fee reserves for municipal wastewater projects

Statutory Updates and Reports

2:05 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Duane DeKrey, General Manager, Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and General Manager, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, regarding the status of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project

2:35 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Presentation by a representative from the City of Bismarck regarding the flood control project in Bismarck

3:05 p.m. Presentation by a representative from the City of Bismarck regarding an anticipated request for which the state cost-share is estimated to be \$10 million or more for the city's water main replacement project

3:25 p.m. Presentation by a representative from the All Seasons Water Users District regarding an anticipated request for which the state cost-share is estimated to be \$10 million or more for the district's expansion of existing water distribution systems

3:45 p.m. Presentation by a representative from the South Central Regional Water District regarding an anticipated request for which the state cost-share is estimated to be \$10 million or more for the district's water treatment plant expansion project

4:05 p.m. Comments from interested persons

4:15 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives

4:30 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