

North Dakota WATER COALITION

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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

McLean-Sheridan Rural Water
District

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 Report Water-Related Topics Overview Committee April 19, 2012

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 with you in Fargo today.

Chairman Hofstad has asked the Water Coalition to report at each committee meeting throughout the remainder of the biennium on the development of funding needs and priorities in order to keep all of you involved with the process.

As I indicated at the last meeting there was a Funding Subcommittee meeting scheduled for March 19, which the Governor did attend. At this meeting the Governor addressed the subcommittee and asked that the members of the Water Coalition to help build consensus on how we use our resources for water development in North Dakota.

The Governor also acknowledged that the flood events in the past few years, coupled with the energy boom in the west, have set off a long list of needs that are not normally planned in a given biennium. He asked the coalition to come together as a united water community to help educate staff and legislators about critical water needs existing now, and in the future, and to provide recommendations on how to balance these needs and priorities across the state to produce a balanced statewide plan that everyone can support.

At the subcommittee meeting in March, it was acknowledged that going into this next biennium there are many "policy-related" circumstances that need to be discussed and reviewed before a clear cut discussion on funding can occur. Policy-related topics discussed by the subcommittee at the March 19 meeting included:

- Priorities and ranking;
- Energy conservation as a portion of the statute related to the Resources Trust Fund;
- New funding program development;
- MR&I federal funding;
- Water quality vs water quantity.

These are just a few policy-related issues that need to be discussed if the subcommittee is going to provide input on water funding priorities. So in order to proceed with our work, Chairman Dennis Hill appointed a smaller committee from the Funding Subcommittee to discuss some of these issue-related topics, and possibly come up with some guidelines or recommendations for the Funding Subcommittee to bring forward.

That smaller committee met on April 3 and again yesterday prior to the Funding Subcommittee's second meeting.