

Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division

Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman

January 19, 2023

Chairman Sorvaag, Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee- Education and Environment Division:

My name is Keith Hunke and I am the City Administrator for the City of Bismarck.

I am providing written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2020.

Senate Bill 2020 provides the appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Department of Water Resources. Appropriations for water supply grants, discretionary funds for water projects, general water projects are included in Senate Bill 2020.

The City of Bismarck has appreciated the collaboration between the Department of Water Resources team members and City of Bismarck team members involved in preparing the 2023-2025 ND Department of Water Resources State Water Plan. Bismarck has several water utility projects included in the State Water Plan and are highlighted on the attachment to my testimony. These projects provide regional service to the University of Mary, South Central Regional Water District, United Tribes Technical College, and City of Lincoln. Favorable consideration and appropriation of funding for Senate Bill 2020 and Bismarck's water utility projects would be greatly appreciated.

I urge you to give SB 2020 a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2020. I am happy to stand for any questions the Committee may have.

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City of Bismarck Public Works – Utility Operations 2023-2025 Capital Projects Overview

Bismarck has invested \$40M in awarded contracts in the last three years (2020-2022) for watermain repairs, disinfecting and dewatering projects. There are several additional water utility projects, representing a tremendous amount of work and planning, that will affect our local and regional residents in the immediate future for which we are seeking state grant funding assistance.

Water Needs – \$50M Grant



\$43M in grant funding for the WTP Expansion Project has been submitted in the 2023-2025 ND Department of Water Resources State Water Plan. The Expansion Project will alleviate shortages experienced and increase output capacity to 40 million gallons per day. This is expected to have an overall cost of \$72M with \$29M being funded by City of Bismarck utility fees. The water plant provides regional service to University of Mary, South Central Regional Water District, United Tribes Technical College, and City of Lincoln. Design work is underway.

Two additional projects for \$6M and \$675K in grant funding are also submitted for Cast iron Watermain Replacements and an Ash Coulee Drive Watermain extension in the 2023-2025 State Water Plan. The remaining costs would be covered by Bismarck utility fees. Design work is underway.

Other Utility Needs – \$58M IN NEEDS



Hay Creek Lift Station Needs - \$25M

Hay Creek Interceptor - \$22M

In 2019, this lift station was serving 6000 homes beyond its capacity, increasing the risk of sewer backups into homes during significant rain events. Since then, this area has seen the addition of Silver Ranch Elementary School, medical uses, and approximately 1200 new residential lots. Design work is underway.



Treatment Equalization Basin - \$11M

Additional work is required for 2 million gallons of storage to balance incoming flows during rain events, assist with hydrogen sulfide control, piping, and aeration and electrical in flow control building and a biosolids equipment maintenance building. Regional services are provided to the Burleigh County shop, United Tribes Technical College, and new regional service is being evaluated to receive flows from the City of Lincoln. Design work is underway.

For any additional information, please contact
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