

Eric Volk, Executive Director

ND Rural Water Systems Association

In Support of Senate Bill 2020

Senate Appropriations Committee-E&E Div.

January 19, 2023

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations - Education and Environment Division, my name is Eric Volk. I am the executive director of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA). Our vision is to ensure all of North Dakota has access to affordable, ample, and quality water. NDRWSA is committed to completing and maintaining North Dakota's water infrastructure for economic growth and quality of life (see attached system map). Today I am submitting testimony in support of a Department of Water Resources (DWR) budget that allows for adequate funding to meet the critical water needs of Rural North Dakota.

In addition to the Southwest Pipeline Project, Northwest Area Water System, the Red River Valley Water Supply Project and the Western Area Water Supply Project, there are currently many other rural and regional projects in various stages of development across the state. Some examples of these projects are the completion of the large expansion of the McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District, the further development of the East Central Regional Water District, and the start of a large user expansion for All Seasons Water Users District, in addition to several others; many of them located in the energy impacted areas of our state. All of the systems are key players in the state's Agriculture Industry. The total cost of these rural and regional projects for the next biennium is \$125 million (**\$91 million state grant is needed**) (see attached funding map).

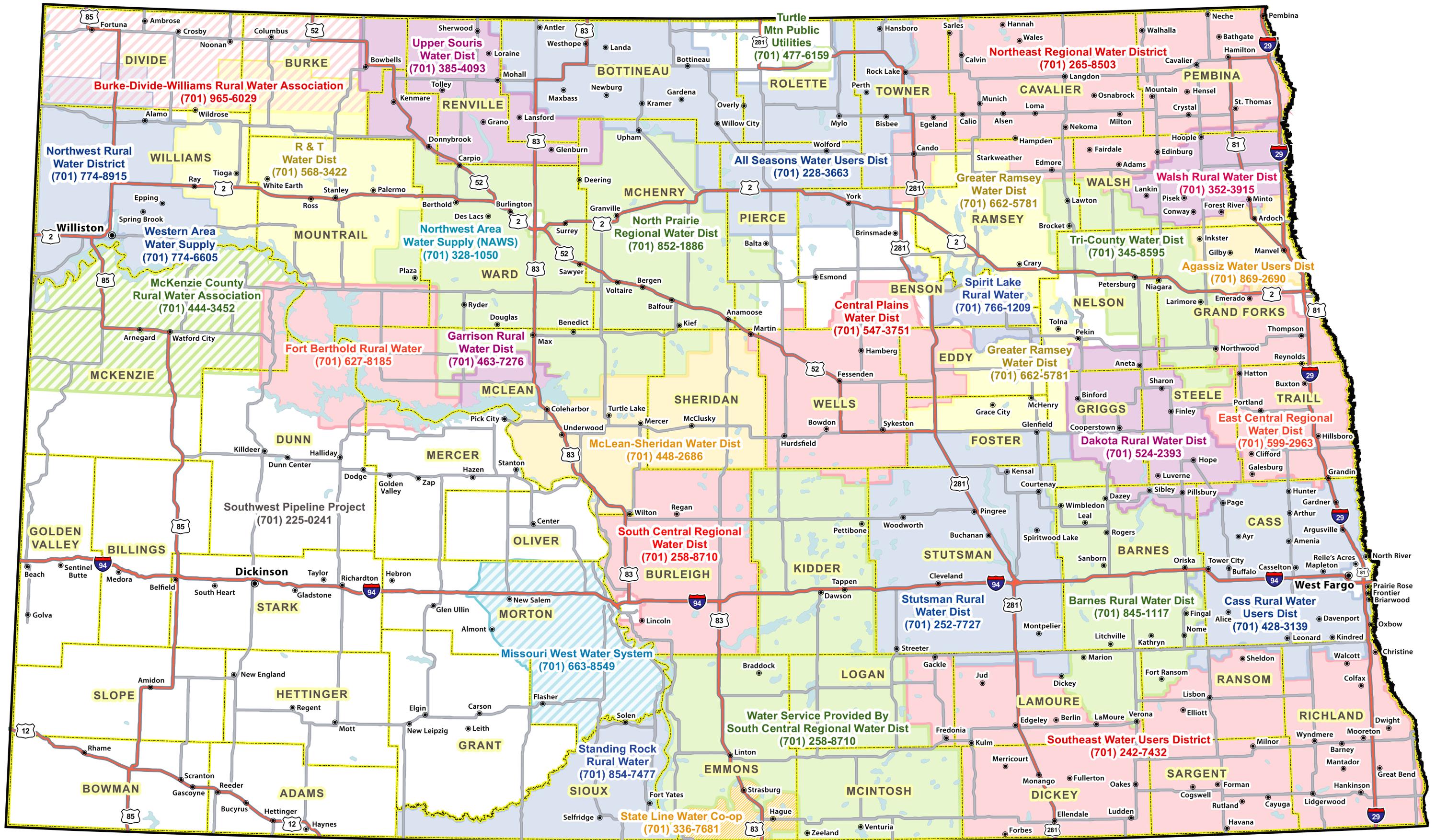
These projects are designed to meet similar needs. Those needs include water quality and quantity. On the water quality side, the projects will help communities comply with federal mandates required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, including arsenic levels, nitrates, disinfection by-products, and total coliform bacteria. Quality issues also include water extremely high in sodium, sulfates, iron, and manganese. On the quantity side, many families do not have a potable source of water and even in this day and age must haul water for their families and livestock.

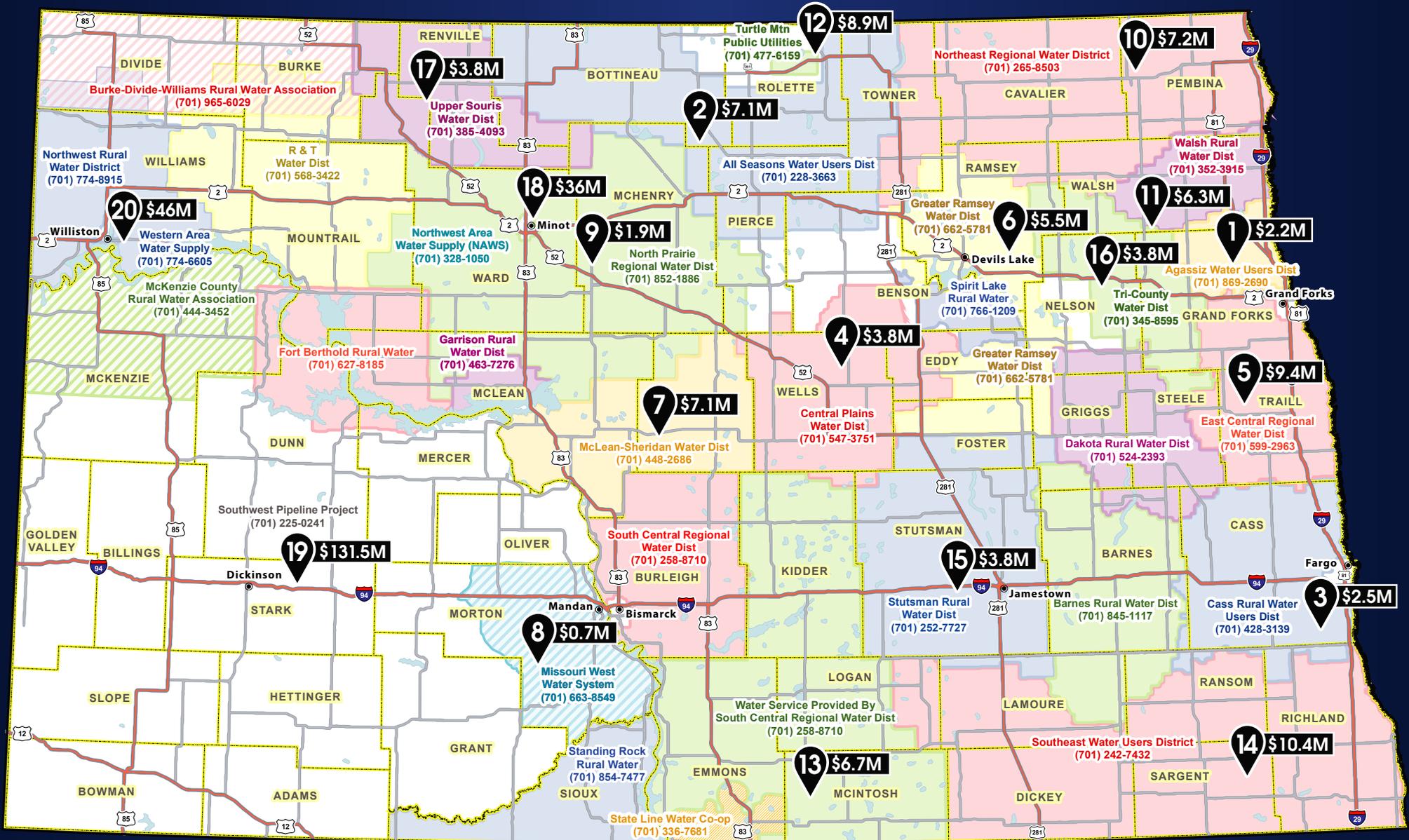
Meeting the demands of repairing & replacing aging infrastructure and complying with rules & regulations are taking its toll on many small and rural water systems. A study completed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency revealed the rates needed to cover future infrastructure repair and replacement for small systems will be four times as high as their larger counterparts. Another major challenge facing rural and small water systems is the ever increasing rural to urban migration, which continues to decrease the population base, and which adds to the cost to the individual consumer. This does offer a challenge in finding affordable ways to bring quality water to rural areas. Without significant state grant funding, the cost to the consumer is just too much for the average family to afford.

The money spent on water projects in the past has been an investment in the future of North Dakota – an investment in economic development and quality of life for our citizens (see attached 23-25 project funding). Every rural water system that has been built in our state is still operating. They are providing safe, clean water to their customers, reducing their debt, putting money in reserve, complying with every state and federal regulation, and doing so with a prudent rate structure; albeit higher than most municipalities charge (see attached rate schedule). Not only do rural & regional water systems serve over 170,000 rural residents, they also provide water to 266 (75%) of the state's 355 incorporated cities (see attached map of cities not served by RW).

With that said, the NDRWSA supports a Department of Water Resources budget that allows for adequate funding to meet the critical water needs of Rural North Dakota. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the members of the NDRWSA. Eric Volk, ericvolk@ndrw.org.

Incorporated Cities on a Rural or Regional System





- 1 **AGASSIZ WATER USERS DISTRICT – GILBY**
Reservoir 1 to 3 Transmission Expansion
- 2 **ALL SEASONS WATER USERS DISTRICT – BOTTINEAU**
System 1 Expansion - Phase 2
- 3 **CASS RURAL WATER DISTRICT – KINDRED**
County Road 17 Improvements, System Wide Improvements
- 4 **CENTRAL PLAINS WATER DISTRICT – FESSENDEN**
Connection to the city of Maddock
- 5 **EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT – THOMPSON**
Individual Service to Galesburg, Hillsboro WTP Expansion, Wellfield, Transmission & User Expansion
- 6 **GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT – DEVILS LAKE**
North System Capacity Improvements
- 7 **MCLEAN-SHERIDAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT – TURTLE LAKE**
Phase 2 WTP Construction, Phase 3 Expansion
- 8 **MISSOURI WEST WATER SYSTEM – MANDAN**
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Improvements
- 9 **NORTH PRAIRIE REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT – MINOT**
Reservoir 3 to Max Transmission Line
- 10 **NORTHEAST REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT – CAVALIER**
Bulk Cities to Individual Services, WTP and Wellfield Expansion
- 11 **NORTHEAST, WALSH, AGASSIZ, TRI-COUNTY, & EAST CENTRAL RWDS**
Northeast North Dakota Long-Term Groundwater Supply
- 12 **ROLETTE COUNTY - TURTLE MOUNTAIN – BELCOURT**
Highway 43 Reservoir & Pump Station Improvements, Three Mile Road Rural Water Main Replacement, Highway 3 and BIA 8 Water Main Replacement
- 13 **SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT – BISMARCK**
Service to the city of Ashley
- 14 **SOUTHEAST WATER USERS DISTRICT – MANTADOR**
West System Water Treatment Plant Improvements
- 15 **STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT – JAMESTOWN**
Raw Water Facilities Improvement, Service to the city of Streeeter
- 16 **TRI-COUNTY WATER DISTRICT – PETERSBURG**
Phase 6 Expansion, Phase 7 Expansion - McVilleville Area
- 17 **UPPER SOURIS RURAL WATER DISTRICT – KENMARE**
Improvements & Expansion - Phase 2
- 18 **NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (NAWS) – MINOT**
2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements
- 19 **SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT (SWPP) – DICKINSON**
2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements
- 20 **WESTERN AREA WATER SUPPLY (WAWS) – WILLISTON**
2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements

New Horizons in Rural Living

NORTH DAKOTA
Rural Water
SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

2718 Gateway Avenue #201 • Bismarck, ND 58503
Phone: 701-258-9249 • FAX: 701-258-5002
Email: ndrwa@ndrwa.org • www.ndrwa.org

OUR VISION
All of North Dakota has access to
affordable, ample, and quality water.



Local Sponsor	Project Name	SWC 23-25 Grant	Local Share	Total Project Cost
Agassiz Water Users District	Reservoir 1 to 3 Transmission Expansion	\$2,150,550	\$716,850	\$2,867,400
All Seasons Water Users District	System 1 Expansion - Phase 2	\$7,125,000	\$2,375,000	\$9,500,000
Cass Rural Water District	County Road 17 Improvements	\$891,675	\$297,225	\$1,188,900
Cass Rural Water District	System Wide Improvements	\$1,575,000	\$525,000	\$2,100,000
Central Plains Water District	Connection to the city of Maddock	\$3,750,000	\$1,250,000	\$5,000,000
East Central Regional Water District	Individual Service to Galesburg	\$1,337,737	\$445,913	\$1,783,650
East Central Regional Water District	Hillsboro WTP Expansion	\$2,124,513	\$708,171	\$2,832,684
East Central Regional Water District	Wellfield, Transmission & User Expansion	\$5,954,906	\$1,984,968	\$7,939,874
Greater Ramsey Water District	North System Capacity Improvements	\$5,521,522	\$1,890,507	\$7,412,029
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District	Phase 2 WTP Construction	\$4,800,000	\$1,600,000	\$6,400,000
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District	Phase 3 Expansion	\$2,300,000	\$800,000	\$3,100,000
Missouri West Water System	Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Improvements	\$744,000	\$248,000	\$992,000
North Prairie Regional Water District	Reservoir 3 to Max Transmission Line	\$1,918,000	\$639,000	\$2,557,000
Northeast Regional Water District	Bulk Cities to Individual Services	\$2,698,986	\$899,662	\$3,598,648
Northeast Regional Water District	WTP and Wellfield Expansion	\$4,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$6,000,000
Northeast, Walsh, Agassiz, Tri-County, & East Central RWDs	Northeast North Dakota Long-Term Groundwater Supply	\$6,255,647	\$2,085,215	\$8,340,862
Rolette County - Turtle Mountain	Highway 43 Reservoir & Pump Station Improvements	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
Rolette County - Turtle Mountain	Three Mile Road Rural Water Main Replacement	\$1,125,000	\$875,000	\$2,000,000
Rolette County - Turtle Mountain	Highway 3 and BIA 8 Water Main Replacement	\$4,822,500	\$3,607,500	\$8,430,000
South Central Regional Water District	Service to the city of Ashley	\$6,655,440	\$2,218,480	\$8,873,920
Southeast Water Users District	West System Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$10,350,000	\$3,450,000	\$13,800,000
Stutsman Rural Water District	Raw Water Facilities Improvement	\$3,203,250	\$1,067,750	\$4,271,000
Stutsman Rural Water District	Service to the city of Streeter	\$582,000	\$194,000	\$776,000
Tri-County Water District	Phase 6 Expansion	\$1,350,000	\$450,000	\$1,800,000
Tri-County Water District	Phase 7 Expansion - McVillage Area	\$2,464,500	\$821,500	\$3,286,000
Upper Souris Rural Water District	Improvements & Expansion - Phase 2	\$3,750,000	\$1,250,000	\$5,000,000
	Totals:	\$90,950,226	\$33,899,741	\$124,849,967
Northwest Area Water Supply Project (NAWS)	2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements	\$36,000,000	\$16,200,000	\$77,200,000
Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP)	2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements	\$131,500,000	\$0	\$131,500,000
Western Area Water Supply (WAWS)	2023-25 Treatment & Distribution Improvements	\$46,000,000	\$24,000,000	\$70,000,000
	Totals:	\$213,500,000	\$40,200,000	\$278,700,000

Rural Water System Rates - January 2023

SYSTEM	# of Users	Minimum Cost	\$/1000 Gal.	\$/6000 Gal.	Miles of Pipe
Agassiz Water Users District	1,400	\$27.50	\$8.50	\$78.50	400
All Seasons Water Users District System 1-4	908	\$40.00	\$7.50	\$85.00	
All Seasons Water Users District System 4 Phase 1&2	124	\$48.00	\$7.50	\$93.00	
All Seasons Water Users District System 5	538	\$48.00	\$7.50	\$93.00	1,700
Barnes Rural Water District #1	1,400	\$50.00	\$5.50	\$83.00	
Barnes Rural Water District #2	274	\$60.00	\$6.00	\$96.00	
Barnes Rural Water District #3	350	\$56.00	\$5.50	\$89.00	1,200
Belcourt Public Utilities	3,500	\$20.50	\$5.75	\$55.00	245
Cass Rural Water District	8,017	\$27.00	\$5.40	\$59.40	
Cass Rural Water District - Leonard Project	140	\$40.00	\$5.40	\$72.40	2,400
Central Plains Water District (Old)	790	\$30.00	\$6.50	\$69.00	
Central Plains Water District (New)	340	\$56.00	\$7.25	\$99.50	1,266
Dakota Rural Water District Expansion	1,035	\$53.00	\$6.50	\$92.00	1,200
East Central Regional Water District	2,310	\$40.00	\$7.00	\$82.00	
East Central Regional Water District	2,469	\$60.00	\$7.00	\$102.00	2,200
Fort Berthold Rural Water	2,500	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	650
Garrison Rural Water District	822	\$62.00	\$8.00	\$110.00	162
Greater Ramsey Water District	1,011	\$35.00	\$5.50	\$68.00	
Greater Ramsey Water District	1,132	\$40.00	\$5.50	\$73.00	
Greater Ramsey Water District	385	\$45.00	\$5.50	\$78.00	1,650
McKenzie County Water Resource District	1,260	\$45.90	\$7.02	\$88.02	1,530
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District #1	696	\$62.00	\$7.40	\$106.40	
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District #2	174	\$65.00	\$6.54	\$104.24	
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District #3	113	\$76.00	\$7.80	\$122.80	700
Missouri West Water System	2,005	\$40.00	\$6.29	\$77.74	650
North Prairie Regional Water District (Existing)		\$54.00	\$9.83	\$112.98	
North Prairie Regional Water District (New)	4,788	\$65.00	\$9.83	\$123.98	2,500
Northeast Regional Water District/Langdon Branch	1,299	\$63.00	\$6.10	\$99.60	
Northeast Regional Water District/North Valley Branch	1,372	\$50.00	\$6.10	\$86.60	2,512
Northwest Rural Water District	2,600	\$45.00	\$8.80	\$97.80	1,200
R&T Water District	825	\$50.00	\$7.70	\$96.20	514
South Central Regional Water District (Includes 500 gals)	6,260	\$34.00	\$7.50	\$75.25	
South Central Regional Water District	1,780	\$40.00	\$6.00	\$76.00	5,000
Southeast Water Users District Central	623	\$50.00	\$5.75	\$84.50	547
Southeast Water Users District Central-New	138	\$55.00	\$5.75	\$89.50	147
Southeast Water Users District East	1,810	\$31.00	\$4.50	\$58.00	1,372
Southeast Water Users District East-New	252	\$55.00	\$4.50	\$82.00	201
Southeast Water Users District West	732	\$50.00	\$3.50	\$71.00	743
Southeast Water Users District West-New	136	\$55.00	\$3.50	\$76.00	166
Southwest Water Authority	7,465	\$55.32	\$6.47	\$94.14	5,260
State Line Water Cooperative (includes 1000 gals)	452	\$40.00	\$6.25	\$71.25	200
Stutsman Rural Water District	1,222	\$43.00	\$5.35	\$75.10	1,100
Stutsman Rural Water District Expansion Project	1,347	\$48.00	\$5.35	\$80.10	1,090
Tri-County Water District	1,200	\$54.00	\$6.00	\$90.00	1,200
Upper Souris Water District	650	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$95.00	600
Walsh Rural Water District R1	1,232	\$36.00	\$7.75	\$82.50	
Walsh Rural Water District R3	155	\$48.00	\$7.75	\$94.50	
Walsh Rural Water District R4	142	\$55.00	\$7.75	\$101.50	700
	70,173				41,005
Median		\$48.00	\$6.38	\$85.80	
Average		\$47.15	\$6.57	\$86.36	
Yearly Average				\$1,036.38	

