

Recovery from water damage in basements

Safety and efficient drying procedures are key

Intense summer rain has left homeowners across the region with wet basements.

To address water-damaged basements, Ken Hellevang, professor emeritus and retired NDSU Extension agricultural engineer, recommends a multistep approach that includes water removal, cleaning, drying and preventing mold growth.

**Safety first**

Water conducts electricity, says Hellevang, so care is required if materials are wet. If someone does not have the

expertise to determine if it's safe to be in the basement, they should call a licensed electrician to determine if there is a safety hazard. All circuits being used should be protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFI). Some extension cords include a GFI. This is for personal protection.

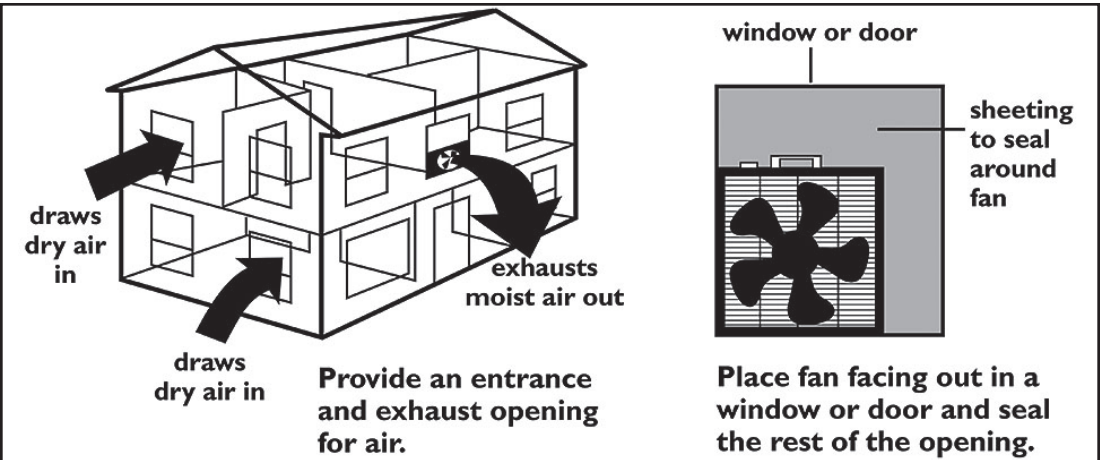
All electrical equipment that has been submerged needs to be reconditioned by the original manufacturer or its approved representative, or it needs to be replaced. Electrical wiring

that has been submerged may require replacement depending on the type of wire.

"If the water might have chemical or biological contaminants, wear protective gear and handle it appropriately," says Hellevang.

**Water removal**

Use pumps, if necessary, and then a wet/dry vacuum, or call a professional cleanup service to remove water. Move furniture, belongings and other items to a dry area. Use dry airflow around objects to assist with



For moisture removal, there must be an air exchange -- both an inlet and an exhaust are needed. (NDSU graphic)

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MADDOCK SCHOOL BOARD  
June 12, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Maddock School Board was held June 12, 2025 at 7 a.m. Present: Sheila Lindgren, Justin Maddock, Bryan Kenner, Paul Backstrom and Paul Rice; Shannon Sabbe; and Mr. Allmaras. Guests: Denette Buckmier, Sarah Dove and Ms. Thompson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to add D. Roof Maintenance under #7. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Backstrom, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

ACT .....	\$704.00
Advanced Business .....	
Methods .....	1,149.74
Allmaras, Benjamin J. ....	187.44
Anne Carlsen Center ....	16,103.50
BC Schoolmasters .....	300.00
Border States Electric .....	
Supply .....	924.70
CenDak .....	10,148.53
City of Maddock .....	5,201.75
Cole Papers .....	791.99
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance .....	84.30
Dakota Prairie Public School .....	20,940.00
DRN .....	1,813.65
Ecolab Pest Elim. ....	168.28
Hagen, Jennifer .....	533.40
Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc. ....	92.37
Heart of America HMO .	249.00
Huffman, Dick .....	64.25
IntegratEd .....	1,617.60
Johnson Controls .....	2,672.52
Jostens Printing & Publishing .....	53.50
LR Special Ed .....	15,303.75
Linde .....	2,384.96
McCloud, Shawn .....	57.20
NAPA Auto Supply .....	374.69
ND Public Health Insurance Trust .....	22,696.66
Risovi, Joleen .....	99.86
Stevick Business Specialties .....	556.94
Sysco ND .....	69.21
Terpening Construction .....	900.00
Trane US, Inc. ....	220.80
Vestis .....	836.88
Wage Works .....	1,020.68
Total .....	\$108,322.15

Mr. Allmaras gave his superintendent report.

Shannon Sabbe gave the AD report.

Old Business -- July 9 retreat to follow the regular meeting.

Mr. Allmaras shared the strategy map.

A motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Maddock, to apply for federal funds through the consolidated application. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Maddock,

seconded by Rice, to lease the baseball diamond until the property transfers for \$1 according to parcel B. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Kenner, to hire Tremco for a roof analysis for a one-time fee of \$5,000. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to adjourn at 7:47 a.m. The motion carried.

Shannon Sabbe  
Business Manager

Sheila Lindgren  
Board President

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MADDOCK SCHOOL BOARD  
July 9, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Maddock School Board was held July 9, 2025 at 7 a.m. Present: Sheila Lindgren, Justin Maddock, Bryan Kenner, Paul Backstrom and Paul Rice; Shannon Sabbe; and Mr. Allmaras. Guest: Mrs. Elise Kallenbach.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Backstrom, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Advanced Business .....	
Methods .....	\$956.51
Aflac .....	355.65
Alex Brandvold .....	
Construction, LLC .....	2,240.00
BC Farmers Press .....	236.25
Cash & Carry Lumber ...	1,382.07
CenDak .....	2,650.61
Cengage Learning .....	385.00
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance .....	84.30
DRN .....	1,813.65
Golden Rule, The .....	238.94
Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc. ....	2,605.97
IntegratEd .....	1,167.80
LR Special Ed .....	7,339.23
NAPA Auto Supply .....	50.24
ND Public Health Insurance Trust .....	22,696.66
North Star Community Credit Union .....	50,000.00
NE Education Services Cooperative .....	4,500.00
Reslock Printing .....	10.25
USPO .....	154.00
Wage Works .....	61.23
Total .....	\$98,928.36

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Maddock, to approve the oath of office for Sheila Lindgren and Paul Rice. The motion carried.

Superintendent Allmaras assumed the chair. Nominations for school board president -- Sheila Lindgren. All were in favor.

Nominations for vice president -- Paul Backstrom. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Rice, to approve committees as: co-op -- Justin Maddock and Paul Rice; communication -- Sheila Lindgren and Paul Backstrom; planning --

Justin Maddock and Bryan Kenner; negotiations -- Paul Backstrom and Paul Rice. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Maddock, to authorize Superintendent Allmaras as admin for federal programs. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Rice, to continue with Benson County Farmers Press as our local newspaper. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to continue to use First United Bank as our official bank. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Maddock, for the continuation of flexible benefits as Horace Mann and Aflac. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Maddock, to approve the 2024-25 pupil membership report. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Rice, to approve GP4; a motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Maddock, to approve GP5; a motion was made by Rice and seconded by Kenner to approve GP6; and a motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Kenner, to approve work plan GP8. These motions carried.

A motion was made by Maddock, seconded by Kenner, to add a column for Anchor 1 for April and Anchor 2 for March. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to approve a tuition agreement. Roll call was in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Backstrom, seconded by Rice, to increase breakfast and lunch prices each by 15 cents. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenner, seconded by Maddock, to approve the following policies: ABAA, ABDA, ABBF, ABCA, ABCB, GAAD, DAB, FBA, FCAA, GACB and FFI. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Kenner, to approve the milk bid for 2025-26 to Meadow Sweet Dairy from New Rockford. The motion carried.

Planning committee updates were presented.

Superintendent report was given by Mr. Allmaras.

Athletic director report was given by Shannon Sabbe.

Shannon Sabbe  
Business Manager

Sheila Lindgren  
Board President

rapidly removing any dampness.

**Cleaning**

Scrub surfaces with hot water and a heavy-duty cleaner. Then, sanitize with a solution of 1/2 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water, keeping the surface wet for a few minutes, according to the label, or use a product that is labeled as a sanitizer to kill germs, especially after biological pollutants. Don't mix cleaning products. A combination of chemicals can give off toxic fumes.

Hellevang recommends thoroughly cleaning concrete walls and floors. Some carpet that is made to be exposed to the weather can be cleaned and dried.

Remove materials like carpet with padding, since it is extremely difficult to adequately clean and dry them unless it is a small area. Lift the carpet and pad so fans can circulate air on both sides of each. The exposed surface of drywall may be cleaned, but because it is porous, moisture will move through the

drywall if exposed to water; the inside of the drywall may mold before it dries, leading to a health hazard. Rapid drying of an uninsulated wall cavity may prevent mold growth.

**Drying and ventilation**

Open windows (if the weather is dry) and use fans to increase airflow, both circulating within the basement and exhausting from the basement. Remember that for moisture removal, there must be an air exchange -- both an inlet and an exhaust are needed. Place one fan exhausting air from the basement and another drawing in dry air. Dry airflow must circulate over all surfaces and be exhausted to the outdoors to ensure rapid drying.

Run a dehumidifier to lower humidity if the outdoor air is humid.

"Much more moisture can be removed using ventilation than with a dehumidifier," says Hellevang. "Once materials are nearly dry, a dehumidifier can be used for the final drying."

**Mold prevention**

• **Monitor humidity:** Keep humidity levels below 60% to limit the potential for mold growth.

• **Act quickly:** Dry materials within a few days, preferably two to three days.

• **Isolate:** If mold is present, isolate affected items to limit the spread of fungal spores, and remove the moldy material.

Homeowners should review their insurance policy to understand coverage for water damage, including groundwater seepage or sewer backups. Keep a list of the damage, and take photos or video while cleaning.

"Complete records are needed for insurance claims, disaster assistance applications and income tax deductions," reminds Hellevang.

If the damage is extensive or the proper remediation process is unclear, consider contacting a professional water damage restoration company.

For more information about summer storm recovery, visit [ndsu.ag/summerstorms25](https://ndsu.ag/summerstorms25).

Interesting facts about fall

In 2025, the fall equinox arrives on Monday, Sep. 22, marking the official beginning of fall, also known as autumn. The fact that the season goes by two different names is just one of many interesting facts about fall.

Fall is known for its colorful foliage, but the pigments responsible for those colors are actually present year-round. According to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, green, yellow and orange pigments are present year-round. However, during spring and summer, the leaves serve as factories where many foods necessary to help the tree grow are manufactured. That process takes place in the leaf in cells containing chlorophyll, which gives the leaves their green

color. This process ceases as hours of daylight decrease and temperatures drop. As a result, chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears and the vivid colors begin to appear.

Squirrels hiding food in autumn for the upcoming winter is a familiar sight. And squirrels are more organized than many people may know. Groundbreaking research released in 1991 found that, even when squirrels bury that stash of nuts closely to one another, they will each return to the precise location of their personal cache. Recent research also has shown that

squirrels bury their stash based on certain traits, such as the type of nut being buried.

Researchers at the University of Chicago studied more than 1,500 centenarians born in the United States between 1880 and 1895. They then compared birth and death information with those centenarians' siblings and spouses so they could compare their early environment and genetic background and their adult environment. Their research found that most centenarians were born between September and November.

-metrocreativeconnection

**North Central Soil Conservation District 2026 Budget Hearing**

will be held on

**Thursday, September 11, 8:00 a.m.**

at the **USDA Building**

**210 Main Street East, Minnewaukan, ND.**

**West Antelope Township Annual Budget Meeting**

West Antelope will hold an Annual Budget Meeting on **September 10, 2025 at 9 a.m.** at the **Aanderud Residence**. If you would like a copy of the 2026 budget, please email [westantelopetownship@gmail.com](mailto:westantelopetownship@gmail.com) to receive a copy.

Dawn Aanderud, Clerk

**Benson County Weed Board**

**INDIVIDUAL COST SHARE PROGRAM**

**Fall 2025**

The Benson County Weed Board will have a Fall Individual Cost Share Program for land owner/renters in Benson County. **Chemical may be purchased from August 29 - September 26, 2025.**

The program will be run the same as the spring program, using the same chemicals and cost share amounts. Maximum cost share of chemical will be 80% up to **\$900.**

**You can send your invoice & maps to PO Box 39, Maddock, ND 58348, postmarked by Sept. 30.**

The Benson County Weed Board has Plateau available for the fall cost share program.

**If you have any questions call**

**Tim Finley of Oberon at**

**(701) 798-2776 or (701) 740-0801**

**Knox Township Budget Hearing**

**Sept., 17, 2025**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Knox City Hall**

Steve Anderson, Clerk

**Hesper Township Budget Meeting**

**Sept., 11, 2025**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Harriman's Resturant**

Keith Smith, Clerk  
701-351-7012

**Maddock District Ambulance Budget Hearing**

**Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.**

at the

**Maddock Fire Hall**

**JOB OPENING**

**Clerk of Court**

**Position open for Clerk of Court in Benson County.** Position will be to fill a 2-year vacancy of a 4-year elected position. Position entails a wide variety of duties. Applicants must be a resident of Benson County or be willing to relocate to Benson County and become a qualified elector within 30 days of appointment.

Position questions, applications and résumés should be submitted to the Benson County Auditor's Office, PO Box 206, Minnewaukan, ND 58351 (Telephone: 701-473-5340).

**Deadline to submit applications/résumés is September 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MADDOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT #9 TAXPAYERS**

A public hearing will be held at the Maddock School, 909 1st St., Maddock, ND, on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 at 7 a.m. Citizens will have an opportunity to present oral or written comments regarding the property tax levy.

**BENSON COUNTY WEED CUTTING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to all landowners and/or operators with land adjoining regularly traveled county and township roads and highways that they shall cut and destroy all weeds and grasses along such regularly traveled roads and highways including weeds and grasses growing within the public right of-way bordering such roads and highways and their land **between September 15 and October 15, 2025** or the County Commissioners or the Township Supervisors, as the case may be, shall cause the same to be cut or destroyed and a charge of \$100 per mile on one side of the road will be charged against the adjacent land. The landowner will be charged whether or not they mow the roads after the deadline and the charge will be collected with the real estate taxes upon the land. Mowing must be done in a satisfactory workmanlike manner. The height of the stubble shall not be higher than the road top. If swathers or rotary mowers are used, the swath or debris must be removed from the road.

**Roads mowed before September 15 MUST be re-mowed before October 15**

**All after-deadline mowing MUST be preapproved by the Benson County Highway Department**