

State Water Commission Approves More Than \$103.7M For Water Projects

The North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) approved more than \$103.7 million in funding for projects including flood control, water supply and other water infrastructure projects across the state during its February 12 meeting in Bismarck. The approved projects include \$81.1 million for the Mouse River Flood Protection project as well as over \$5 million each for the Memorial Highway Watermain project and R&TWD Battlevue-McGregor Rural project.

“The actions taken at today’s Water Commission meeting demonstrate our ongoing commitment to strengthening North Dakota’s water infrastructure,” Director Haase said. “The approval of twenty projects and more than \$103.7 million in funding represents a significant step toward delivering much-needed flood protection for the citizens of Minot and the Mouse River Basin, while also ensuring long-term, reliable water resources for communities across the state.”

Approved projects include:

- Missouri River Intake Study, \$860,255
 - SWPP - Water Treatment Plant Service WO No. 4, \$1,262,000
 - Horsehead Irrigation District - Preliminary Study Phase 1, \$150,000
 - Steele County WRD - Drain 1 Outlet Repair, \$110,861
 - City of Mandan - 2026 Reconstruct Project Area 2B, \$228,357
 - South Central - Burleigh Co. Main Transmission Line, \$140,400
 - City of Bismarck - 2025 WU149 Watermain Extension, \$457,400
 - City of Dickinson - 5th Street SE, \$198,780
 - Stutsman Rural Water District - Booster Station No. 14, \$557,925
 - City of Elgin - East Side Watermain Improvements, \$78,137
 - Souris River Joint Board - Mouse River Flood Protection 2025-27, \$81,100,000
 - Rush River WRD - Drain 12 Reconstruction, \$150,000
 - Maple River WRD - Cass County Drain 37, \$561,112
 - Maple River WRD - Cass County Drain 39, \$513,621
 - City of Lisbon - Infrastructure Improvements, \$1,532,343
 - City of New Town - Sand Hill Water Tower Replacement, \$3,682,171
 - City of Oaks - WTP Rehabilitation, \$558,531
 - City of Stanley - Capital Improvements Plan Phase 3, \$339,804
 - City of Mandan - Memorial Highway Watermain, \$5,728,681
 - WAUSA - R&TWD Battlevue-McGregor Rural Phase 1, \$5,454,817
- Projects receiving significant funding include the Souris River Joint Board’s Mouse River Flood Protection 2025-27 and City of

Mandan’s Memorial Highway Watermain.

• The Mouse River Flood Protection 2025-27 project will continue to implement flood control measures across the Mouse River Basin designed to increase the basin’s resilience to flooding. This \$81.1 million is in addition to the \$389.5 million that was previously approved for the Mouse River Flood Protection project. The project includes a combination of levees, floodwalls, pump stations, diversion channels, bridge improvements, road raises, infrastructure modifications, property acquisitions, and relocations.

• The City of Mandan Memorial Highway Watermain project will replace aging asbestos cement watermain along Memorial Highway between Main Street and 32nd Ave SE (West half) and 32nd Ave SE and 46th Ave SE (East half) in Mandan. The Project is being constructed in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Transportation’s (NDDOT) Memorial Highway reconstruction project and is part of combined sanitary sewer, storm sewer, lift station, paving, and lighting infrastructure improvements.

The State Water Commission consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, the Agriculture Commissioner, and the Governor as chairperson. Cost-share funding approved by the SWC is primarily supported by North Dakota’s Resources Trust Fund, which receives 20.5 percent of the state’s oil extraction tax revenue.

For more information, visit www.dwr.nd.gov.

Card of Thanks

We would like to give another special thank you to all 2025 Sibyl Center donors. The 2026 Sibyl schedule is coming soon. It will be among the best in the state.

Thank you to Ardis Afseth, Betty Van Vugt, Beverly Neuenfeld, Camilla Hornbacher, Fritz & Cheryl Weisenberger, Curt and Lesley Trulson, Delvin and Janice Jellesed, Doug and Susan Halden, Dr. James Burbidge, Ellen Reid, Freda Vachal, Gordon and Sharon Aas, Gary and Vicki Evans, Iva Fox, Janet and John Guinn, Jerry Lumley, Larry and Bonnie Thronson, Mike and Kim Humphreys, Pete Duca, R and J Johnson, Rodney and Patricia Barstad, Roger and Cheryl Sorenson, Ron and Linda Hamers, SA and JA Hoff, Shirley Oja, Stephen and Maxine Brewer, Thomas and Shelby Edwards, Class of 1970, Class of 1975, Rodney Kjellberg, Bonnie and Larry Thronson, Brian and Lynn Rosencrans, Carly Muderman, Dakota Drug, Diane and Meyer Kinnoin, Don and Marlene Hoirup, Fred and Joyce Evans, Gayle Schweer, Gayne and Barb Meiers, Gordon and Danita Bye, Grace Chewakin, Irvin Eliason, John and Cecilia Enns, John Denn, Jim and Jeanne Burbidge, June Enget, Larry and Grace Lystad, Larson Tire Service, Lee and Kerry Evans, Liberty State Bank, Marilyn Mattson, Merlin Gandrud, Orville and Betty Harstad, Raoul Brandt, Rodney and Kathleen Johnson, Roger and Addy Evans, Ruth Hysjulien, Shirley and Raymond Ramirez, Steve and Cathy Springman, Susan Davy, Thomas and Debby Wright, Wayne Johnson, Carl and Michelle Kannianen, Christine Glueckert, Evonne Piepkorn, Gary and Vicki Evans, Prairie Home Furnishings LLC Stanley, American Foundation for Wildlife - Leader Bar, City of Palermo - gaming, City of Stanley Visitors Fund, EOG, Five Spot - Veterans gaming, Golden Age Club Stanley, MDU, Mountrail County Historical Society, Ross Bar - Veterans gaming, and RTC Operation Roundup.

c Sibyl Center Board

NDFB Week Highlights Farm Safety With Student Drawing Contest

North Dakota Farm Bureau will celebrate NDFB Week, March 8-14, under the theme “Harvesting Hope: For Healthy Minds and Safer Farms.” The week focuses on supporting farmers, ranchers and their families through hope, well-being and safety initiatives.

A key highlight of the week is a farm safety drawing contest for students in grades 4 and 5. Centered on the theme “Farm Safety Starts With Me,” students are invited to create a drawing that shows how they help make the farm a safer place.

Artwork should illustrate a farm safety behavior that helps prevent injuries and reinforce that everyone plays a role in safety.

Guidelines:

- Open to 4th and 5th grade students
 - Artwork must be on 8.5” x 11” paper
 - Include student name, grade, school and contact information on the back
- Drawings must be submitted to the NDFB office by March 4, 2026.

Farm And Ranch Day

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snickers cake; fourth place to Joyce Waldock for her juneberry pie; fifth place to Joyce Waldock for her white chocolate raspberry dream; and sixth place to Kristina Johnson for her banana pudding cookies.

Prizes were awarded to the top places in the youth and adult divisions, along with additional cash prizes for first through third place in each division. The desserts were then auctioned off to raise funds for the Ag Improvement scholarships. This year’s auction raised \$3,125.00. Following the dessert auction, lunch was served by Bravera Bank of Stanley.

Following lunch was the second keynote speaker, Bart Carmichael from Faith, SD, and the Wedge Tent Ranch. When Bart Carmichael moved to the family ranch two days after graduating high school, his grandfather ran cattle through four seasonal pastures. Bart and his wife Shannon bought Wedge Tent Ranch from his grandfather in 1996 and, with the help of their four kids, have managed to change the ranch over the years for the better.

When he began his movement toward a low-input grazing system, Bart attended a South Dakota Grassland Coalition sponsored event where he met Terri Gompert and came away with new knowledge to bring back to his ranch. Bart sought out wisdom from other grazing management figures like Wayne Berry and Jim Gerrish. Bart stayed involved with the Coalition and has served on the board of directors for the past three years because he believes in the value of healthy grasslands and the role education plays in holding onto them. Bart puts on many workshops and schools throughout the Midwest.

He is the co-founder of Principled Land Managers, helping landowners and producers strengthen both the ecological and economic health of their operations while demonstrating how thoughtful stewardship can restore productivity, biodiversity and beauty to the prairie.

He started by having a volunteer put together a puzzle that showed the ranch area. Then he added a new piece and asked them to figure out where to put it. That often changes the picture for a producer as they shuffle what they have to make it work.

He talked about the ecosystem of living things, living and working together and the relationship they have to each other.

He talked about the amount of grasslands lost in the last fifteen years along with the impacts grasslands face. There is a decrease in the diversity of plant communities, increased edge habitat, decrease of invertebrates and a decrease in rangeland health.

Management of the ecosystem processes includes the energy cycle, water cycle and mineral cycle. The

Two winners will be selected in each grade based on creativity and overall design. The winners will be announced during NDFB Week, receive \$50, and be featured in NDFB’s publication, Focus.

Additional tips, resources and video for Healthy Minds, can be found at <https://ndfb.org/healthy-minds>.

For contest details and entry forms, visit www.ndfb.org/events/ndfb-week-7/.

Memorials Received By Stanley Library

In memory of Rosemary Martens from Todd and Celeste Heidbreder.

In memory of Dale Larsen from Gene and Carol Hanson.

All donations and memorials are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the library or mailed to Box 249, Stanley, ND 58784.

more the environment cycles, the more it builds.

Management of the diversity of species is as important to the future as breathing is to the present. Management influences the outcome, which is why they try to do something different every time. He says they pattern after nature’s model. You do not have to do what grandpa did, but do not forget what grandpa knew.

He says they look at purpose beyond profit. While it is important to be profitable, it is important to find your “why”. His why is his family and how to get them involved in the operation.

He stresses using soil health principles with the grazing principles. That includes rest and managed alternate timing, as well as noting the effects of wildlife and livestock when it comes to those strategies and biodiversity. The above ground diversity creates the below ground diversity.

They watch for indicators of change including wildlife, plants, insects and production. He says that it is important to note that things may not be just a problem, but also a symptom.

That includes looking at pest problems. When killing pests, you may also kill the beneficial species. Insects keep the cycle going.

Restorations options for grasslands include rotation, recovery and rest. That includes some intercropping after grazing it down to increase the restoration process. He spoke about the value of forbs and flowers in rangeland.

He says the first step is management. Have a plan and implement it. Observe and adjust as needed, learning as you go.

As for soil health principles, he pointed to the importance of keeping it covered, optimize and alter disturbances, manage for living roots, enhance diversity, increase stock density and reduce length of time, as well as incorporating livestock.

He urges producers to avoid overgrazing and providing that armor of keeping ground covered to protect from extreme weather.

Rest your land to let it recover. His process means that the land has that chance to recover, rest and rejuvenate the soil. It is important not to repeat what you did last year so everything has rotation. He encourages ranchers to manage for living roots all year, match stocking rate to carrying capacity. He says the land will tell you what those numbers should be.

Increasing stock density is better for soil health, but it does have a limit. He points to short grazing periods in any specific spot, taking and leaving as much as you need as fast as you can.

The day concluded with the Ag Improvement annual meeting and the commodity elections. This year, producers were set to elect representatives to the corn, barley, and dry pea and lentil commodity councils.

Illegal Alien With Child Sexual Abuse Material Nabbed By Border Patrol

Border Patrol agents assigned to Grand Forks Sector, along with the North Dakota’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations, arrested an illegal alien from Mexico for possessing Child Sexual Abuse Material.

On Friday, February 6, a federal search warrant for Child Sexual Abuse Material was executed at a local residence. During the search, electronic devices were seized. Hugo Lopez-Diaz’s phone was examined and found to have CSAM.

Helping Hands Account Set Up For Hartwick

A Helping Hands account for Shawn Hartwick has been set up at Liberty State Bank in Powers Lake, ND to help with medical expenses. You may drop off donations at the bank or mail to P.O. Box 228, Powers Lake, ND 58773.

UND Fall 2025 Dean’s List

More than 1,900 University of North Dakota (UND) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester Dean’s List. The UND Dean’s List comprises students whose grade point average are in the top fifteen percent of the enrollment in each of the University’s degree granting Colleges and Schools. A student must have completed no fewer than twelve semester hours of academic work for the semester, of which eight or more hours must be graded work rather than “satisfactory/unsatisfactory.”

Congratulations to Autumn Pulver and Katherine Wilhelmi from Stanley, ND.

The County Clover

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with audio and visual capabilities. **Login info-** will be provided once you are pre-registered.

Commercial Fumigation (Commodity & Structural)

March 10, 2026: Zoom Webinar at home or place of employment. **Training 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CT. Pre-registration Deadline: 3/9/2026 by 12 NOON.** Computer, tablet, i-Pad running Windows or IOS system is optimal and need to be networked with audio and visual capabilities. No Smart phones! **Login info-** will be provided once you are pre-registered.

For other trainings being offered, please check out the NDSU Pesticide website at: <https://ndsupesticide.org>.

Amazing New Tomatoes for 2026 in Dakota Gardener by Tom Kalb, NDSU Horticulturist

Tomato production in the Dakotas is about to change. There is a new wave of tomato varieties that will provide more colors, better flavors and higher yields.

Scientists have cracked the genetic code of tomato. They have identified new genes to improve the crop. Through natural breeding (not GMO) techniques, scientists are using these genes to develop new varieties with amazing qualities.

The latest breakthrough is **Bad-aBing!** This is one of the first varieties to resist Septoria leaf spot, the most common disease of tomatoes in the Dakotas. Septoria is a fungus that causes spotting and browning of tomato leaves late in the season. This breakthrough will help our vines stay healthy and productive until frost.

You won’t hear much about Bad-aBing! The seeds of this cherry tomato are rare and expensive. Nevertheless, this news is very exciting. That’s because this special gene can now be bred into future varieties. The same thing occurred over the past 10 years with early blight and late blight. Now we have several varieties that resist these diseases.

Another breakthrough has led to the Plus varieties. **Celebrity** is one of the most popular varieties in the Dakotas. Now we have **Celebrity Plus**. **Celebrity Plus** has all the great qualities of **Celebrity**, with better fruit quality and greater disease resistance. The same goes for other varieties such as **Better Boy Plus**, **Big Beef Plus** and **Lemon Boy Plus**. Look for them.

A new group of varieties is coming out of the Blue Ridge Mountains. These varieties resist diseases and grow well in cool summers. **Mountain Fresh Plus** and **Mountain Merit** have excelled in our trials. A new beefsteak called **Moun-**

The subject was arrested on state charges for CSAM possession and is awaiting prosecution. All questions should be directed to the North Dakota Attorney General.

UND Winter 2025 Graduation List

Nearly 900 students graduated from the University of North Dakota (UND) at ceremonies in which host UND President Armacost and keynote speaker and alumna Jill Cholewa delivered powerful messages of gratitude and congratulations, on December 19, at the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center on campus.

Three separate ceremonies were held; the Professional and Graduate Ceremony in the morning, and two Undergraduate Degrees ceremonies in the afternoon, on a day when Mother Nature tried to deliver a wintry message of her own.

“Today is a day of celebration, and you braved the slick roads out there, the snow and the wind, and we’re so glad that you would be here,” Armacost said. “But, our students, this day is for you.”

The Winter Commencement address at all three ceremonies was given by Cholewa, a 1977 and 1979 graduate of the University, a 2015 recipient of the Sioux Award for Distinguished Achievement and Leadership and a longtime supporter of UND academic and athletic programming. She is a retired business owner currently serving as a SCORE Certified Mentor for small businesses and resides in San Luis Obispo, California.

Congratulations to Savannah S. Elkins, Master of Science, Teaching and Leadership and Jared Rivera, Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics, Aviation Studies, both of Stanley, ND.

tain Man is available this spring. This variety is reported to have a perfect balance of sweetness and acidity, making it perfect for slicing and topping burgers and sandwiches. It sounds delicious!

A bonus of the Mountain tomatoes is that their vines are determinate. This is important because determinate vines stay compact. They do not need to be pruned and can be easily trellised with cages or weaving. Determinate varieties usually yield earlier than indeterminate vines, which are more vigorous and require a lot more work.

Another big trend is the improvement of heirloom tomatoes. Gardeners enjoy the taste of heirloom fruits, but the vines are unproductive and susceptible to disease.

Scientists are now developing hybrid heirlooms that have the beauty and flavor of heirloom fruits, but with productive, disease-resistant vines. A good example is **Cherokee Carbon**. This is a cross between the popular heirlooms Cherokee Purple and Carbon. This new hybrid has the special flavors of these two purple heirlooms, but it ripens earlier, produces more fruits, resists cracking and fights diseases. I can’t wait to try it.

I also look forward to growing **Wonderstar Pink**. This new hybrid produces pink tomatoes like the famous heirloom Brandywine, but its fruits are firmer and ripen earlier. Its compact, two-foot vines resist diseases and are easy to grow.

Get to know the new and colorful cherry tomatoes. Gardeners have raved over the golden cherry **Sungold** for its intense, fruity flavor in recent years. This year, we will test **Sunorange**, which has larger fruits that crack less. We are going to test chocolate cherry tomatoes, too. These will be great for snacking.

You won’t find many of these new varieties in garden centers yet. You will need to search for the varieties online. Aim to sow the seeds in late March to early April.

I encourage you to visit our website at ndsua.gardentrails and download our list of recommended varieties. In that publication, there is also a list of companies that you can contact for seeds. Nearly all these companies offer free catalogs.

Many of these new varieties will be tested in gardens across our region. If you want to evaluate the varieties for North Dakota State University, you can request our online catalog from our website.

A revolution in tomato production is upon us. Let’s explore and enjoy!

Dakota Gardener articles can be found at: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/dakota-gardener/>.

Notice Of Filing Deadline for Ross City Election

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate’s name printed on the ballot for the **City of Ross** is **Monday, April 6, 2026 by 4:00 P.M.** The following city offices are up for election:

City Mayor, 1 position, 4-year term
City Council Member, 2 positions, 4-year term

A Candidate for a city office must turn in a completed SFN 2704 Petition/Certificate of Nomination and a completed SFN 10172 Statement of Interests to the City of Ross Auditor’s Office, 203 Main Street, Ross, by the above deadline date and time. Forms can be obtained online at <http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/elections/forms.html>.

District 2 GOP Convention Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Tioga Community Center 410 6th St. NE, Tioga, ND

Agenda: Elect 67 Delegates to State Convention, Political Candidates, Other District Business
Speakers: Alex Balazs and Senator Mark Enget

Nicole Skabo, Treasurer

Mountrail County Medical Center Clinic is starting to give the annual flu vaccine.

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine. A flu vaccine is especially important if you have a chronic health condition such as heart disease or diabetes

Please call today to get your annual flu vaccine - 701-628-2505.

The regular flu vaccine will be \$35 and High Dose will be \$90 at time of visit or billed to your insurance at the same rate.

We have the higher-dose flu vaccine specifically designed for ages 65 and older.

Mountrail County Health Center
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Or Drew Larsen at 701-609-7509
Office Number 701-628-3277

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