

City Of Williston Delegation Secures Levee Funds



The City of Williston delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. April 20-23, 2026, in coordination with Nexxus Consulting, LLC to advance federal discussions regarding the Williston levee system and its connection to Garrison Dam operations. Representing the City were Mayor Howard Klug, Commissioner Tori Siemieniowski, City Administrator Shawn Wenko, and City Engineer David Juma. The delegation was joined by Tracee Sutton, Bob Holmes, and Ana Ma of Nexxus Consulting, LLC.

The History
The Williston levee system was

originally constructed as part of the federal flood protection infrastructure tied to Garrison Dam operations and managed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over time, sediment buildup and river aggravation have significantly reduced the levee's effectiveness, meaning it no longer provides full 100-year flood protection. This creates a serious long-term flood risk for the community and surrounding region.

For years, one of the biggest challenges has been determining responsibility. There was uncertainty over whether the Corps would classify this as a local operations and main-

tenance issue, which would place much of the burden on the City, or as a federal dam safety issue, which would allow access to major federal funding and long-term federal responsibility.

Importance of Travel to Washington D.C.

During the trip, the delegation met with Steve Kopecky, Chief of the Northwest Division Command Integration Element with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Senator John Hoeven and his staff; Kelly Colyar with the Office of Management and Budget; Representative Julie Fedorchak and congressional staff; Stacey Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Management and Budget with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); and Senator Kevin Cramer and his staff. These meetings were focused on securing federal recognition, funding, and long-term support for the levee rehabilitation effort.

"The City of Williston delegation went to Washington, D.C. to protect our community and our residents. Without addressing the levee and FEMA floodplain concerns, many homeowners and businesses could have been forced to carry thousands of dollars in additional flood insurance costs just to protect the investments they've made here. Our goal was simple - protect Williston and make sure our residents are not unfairly burdened by decisions beyond their control," said Mayor Howard Klug.

The primary purpose of the trip was to reinforce the urgency of the levee issue, secure federal funding for the required evaluation study,

and establish clear federal ownership and responsibility for the long-term rehabilitation of this critical infrastructure.

Trip Success

A major takeaway from this trip is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) formally acknowledged that this is their asset and that the issue falls under federal responsibility. This was a significant step forward. Previous concerns centered around whether USACE would classify the issue as local operations and maintenance versus a dam safety issue. Through our meetings, USACE recognized that sediment buildup and river aggravation have significantly reduced the levee's effectiveness, resulting in the levee no longer providing full 100-year flood protection. Their position now supports moving forward under the Dam Safety Program rather than standard operations and maintenance, creating a much stronger path toward meaningful federal investment.

The delegation also secured confirmation of initial federal funding to begin the Issue Evaluation Study, which is the first formal step in the rehabilitation process. Specifically, \$250,000 has been confirmed for Fiscal Year 2026 to begin the study, along with an additional \$500,000 identified for Fiscal Year 2027 to continue and complete that effort. This \$750,000 total represents the first critical dollars needed to move the project forward and officially places Williston on the federal dam safety funding radar. This study will define the technical failures, rehabilitation needs, and total project costs, which are currently estimated to exceed \$200 million and could approach \$250 million depending

on final design requirements.

Williston and Beyond

Our discussions consistently emphasized that this project is far larger than a local flood control issue. The levee protects major community and regional assets including water, which services 5 counties with over 70,000 residents, wastewater treatment facilities, the Burlington Northern main rail line, Highway 85 and U.S. Highway 2 crossings, over 100 oil wells, significant agricultural and freight movement, and infrastructure serving five counties. Failure of this system would have substantial impacts on energy production, rail transportation, agriculture, and downstream water systems affecting a large portion of western North Dakota. This is not simply a Williston issue, it is critical infrastructure with statewide and national implications.

"What we're protecting here goes far beyond city limits," said City Commissioner Tori Siemieniowski. "This levee safeguards infrastructure that supports energy, transportation, agriculture, and multiple counties across western North Dakota."

A key discussion point throughout the trip was tying the Williston levee directly to Garrison Dam operations. Because the levee functions as part of the broader dam protection system and prevents significant backwater flooding, we emphasized that this should be treated as a dam safety issue and funded accordingly. This positioning was well received and strengthens our long-term funding strategy.

Moving Forward

USACE made clear that this will be a marathon, not a sprint. Following the Issue Evaluation Study, the

next phase will be a Dam Safety Modification Study, which could take one to two years, followed by construction planning and implementation that could extend four to five years or longer. While the timeline is lengthy, the most important outcome is that the problem is now formally documented, ownership has been acknowledged, and the funding path has begun.

In summary, this delegation trip was highly successful. We returned with three major outcomes: first, formal USACE acknowledgment that this is a federal asset and their responsibility; second, confirmation of \$750,000 in federal study funding across FY26 and FY27; and third, stronger alignment with our Congressional Delegation and federal partners to continue advancing the long-term rehabilitation effort.

The work ahead will require continued advocacy, annual engagement in Washington, D.C., and ongoing communication with the public regarding both flood preparedness and long-term project progress. The most significant funding request will come later when construction dollars are needed, but securing the first dollars and federal ownership was the most important step and we accomplished that this week.

This trip was about protecting Williston's future.

We went to Washington to ensure the federal government understands that this levee is not just our responsibility, it is part of the larger Garrison Dam system and critical national infrastructure. We returned with acknowledgment, funding, and momentum. That is real progress.

For more information, please contact: City of Williston Communications Department, alyssan@ci.williston.nd.us, 701-713-3800.

66133	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
Wilton Reinsurance Company In the state of Minnesota	
Total Assets	24,329,854,900
Total Liabilities	22,967,309,943
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	574,083,086
Common Capital Stock	2,500,030
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	147,773,313
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	300,000,000
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	102,583,129
Unassigned Funds	40,344,629
Total Capital and Surplus	1,167,254,187
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	24,194,364,130

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life and Annuity Premiums Written	0
Total Life and Annuity Direct Losses Paid	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Written	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Paid	0

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).
JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid,

NOW THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Bismarck this first day of March, A.D., 2026 (SEAL).
JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

12721	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
Direct Auto Insurance Company In the state of North Dakota	
Total Assets	106,653,562
Total Liabilities	68,364,476
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	1,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	2,000,000
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	35,289,086
Total Capital and Surplus	38,289,086
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	106,653,562

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Direct Losses Incurred	31,981
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

24414	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
General Casualty Company Of Wisconsin In the state of Wisconsin	
Total Assets	1,684,221,635
Total Liabilities	1,375,076,224
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	295,013,169
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	10,132,242
Total Capital and Surplus	309,145,411
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	1,684,221,635

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	266,904
Total Direct Losses Incurred	31,981
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

12041	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
MBA Insurance Corporation In the state of New York	
Total Assets	156582722
Total Liabilities	82244146
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	1500269
Preferred Capital Stock	2759080
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	952655000
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	584,496,410
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	-1952017032
Total Capital and Surplus	74338576
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	156582722

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Direct Losses Incurred	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

65528	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
Life Insurance Company Of The Southwest In the state of Texas	
Total Assets	43,097,279,198
Total Liabilities	40,513,593,910
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	3,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	30,000,000
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	584,496,410
Unassigned Funds	1,966,188,878
Total Capital and Surplus	2,583,685,288
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	43,097,279,198

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life and Annuity Premiums Written	(4,817,720)
Total Life and Annuity Direct Losses Paid	2,213,406
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	104
Written	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Paid	0

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

74900	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
PartnerRe Life Reinsurance Company Of America In the state of Arkansas	
Total Assets	533,517,219
Total Liabilities	432,440,037
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	2,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	162,415,164
Unassigned Funds	(63,837,982)
Total Capital and Surplus	101,077,182
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	533,517,219

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Life and Annuity Premiums Written	0
Total Life and Annuity Direct Losses Paid	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Written	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Paid	0

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16024	
ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025	
of the	
Federated Reserve Insurance Company In the state of MN	
Total Assets	298,835,163
Total Liabilities	202,428,423
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	6,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	127,000,000
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	43,406,740
Total Capital and Surplus	176,406,740
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	298,835,163

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	3,628,358
Total Direct Losses Incurred	592,375
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0

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