

Legislative Report

This water Legislative Report is sent to subscribers of *Week in Water* as part of the *Week in Water* subscription.

I. 2017 Legislative Leaders Chosen

The legislative leadership for the 65th Legislative Assembly has been chosen. Republican and Democratic House and Senate members have selected the following leaders for the 2015 legislative session. There are 81 Republicans and 13 Democrats in the House of Representatives and 38 Republicans and 9 Democrats in the Senate. The leadership of the two parties include:

Senate

ÉPresident ó Brent Sanford (R)
ÉPresident Pro Tempore ó Gary A. Lee (R)
ÉMajority leader ó Rich Wardner (R)
ÉAssistant majority leader ó Jerry Klein (R)
ÉMinority leader ó Joan Heckaman (D)
ÉAssistant minority leader ó John Grabinger (D)
ÉMajority caucus chairman ó David Hogue (R)
ÉMinority caucus chairman ó Carolyn C. Nelson (D)

House of Representatives

ÉSpeaker of the House ó Larry Bellew (R)
ÉMajority leader ó Al Carlson (R)
ÉAssistant majority leader ó Don Vigesaa (R)
ÉMinority leader ó Cory Mock (D)
ÉAssistant minority leader ó Kathy Hogan (D)
ÉMajority caucus chairman ó Mike Lefor (R)
ÉMinority caucus chairman ó Joshua A. Boschee (D)

Here is the listing of committee chairs for the 2017 legislative session:

Senate Committees

ÉAgriculture ó Larry Luick
ÉAppropriations ó Ray Holmberg
ÉEducation ó Donald Schaible
ÉFinance and Tax ó Dwight Cook
ÉGovernment & Veterans Affairs ó Nicole Poolman
ÉHuman Services ó Judy Lee
ÉIndustry, Business and Labor ó Jerry Klein
ÉJudiciary ó Kelly M. Armstrong
ÉEnergy & Natural Resources ó Jessica Unruh
ÉPolitical Subdivisions ó Randall A. Burckhard
ÉTransportation ó Lonnie J. Laffen

House Committees

ÉAgriculture ó Dennis Johnson
ÉAppropriations ó Jeff Delzer
ÉEducation and Environment ó David Monson
ÉGovernment Operations Division ó Mike Brandenburg
ÉHuman Resources Division ó Chet Pollert
ÉEducation ó Mark S. Owens
ÉFinance and Taxation ó Craig Headland
ÉGovernment and Veterans Affairs ó Jim Kasper
ÉHuman Services ó Robin Weisz
ÉIndustry, Business and Labor ó George Keiser
ÉJudiciary ó Kim Koppelman
ÉEnergy & Natural Resources ó Todd Porter
ÉPolitical Subdivisions ó Lawrence Klemm
ÉTransportation ó Dan Ruby

II. Governors Budget: General

The Governor's Budget Recommendation priorities include infrastructure, tax relief, education and economic development. Governor Dalrymple recently presented the Executive Budget Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, which included revenues totaling \$4.783 billion and \$4.780 billion in ongoing expenditures.

To view Governor Dalrymple's full budget recommendations, visit

III. Governors Budget: Water

The initial Governor's Budget Recommendation includes \$319 million for water projects. Throughout the year the Water Coalition Priorities Subcommittee worked very hard to establish funding needs for water projects in 2017-2019. The Governor made the following comments in regards to water funding for the 2017-2019 biennium:

“We remain committed to supporting flood protection projects throughout the State. In the Mouse River Basin, the state provided \$40 million toward permanent flood protection during the current biennium. For the 2017-2019 biennium, we recommend an additional \$70 million to assist the region in furthering the progress on home acquisitions and working towards completion of phases one, two and three of the flood control project, as well as implementing control measures in rural reaches of the basin. Since the flood of 2011, the state has contributed more than \$315 million to assist Minot and the Ward County region with flood recovery and protection.

In the Fargo area, state law calls for a \$570 million commitment towards flood protection, with \$66.5 million budgeted for the upcoming biennium. This brings total appropriations to \$370.5 million since 2009. This budget also includes funding for permanent flood protection along the Sheyenne River and continuing operation of the Devils Lake outlets, bringing the state's total commitment for flood control to \$147.5 million for the 2017-2019 biennium.

In light of our growing population and expanding water supply needs, this budget supports investments totaling \$125 million for municipal and rural water projects. We also remain committed to providing another \$30 million towards the Grand Forks Water Treatment plant, bringing the state's total financial support for the project to \$60 million. With the remaining \$95 million in water infrastructure funds, we can continue to advance the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, WAWS, NAWS, the Southwest Pipeline Project as well as other municipal and rural water projects. Again, the grand total for water projects comes to \$319 million.”

The State Water Commission and Governor's budget allocation for water are attached.

IV. How to Contact Your Legislators

During a legislative session, a legislator can be reached at the State Capitol through e-mail or by leaving a message with the legislative telephone message center at (888) NDLEGIS (635-3447). That number can also be used to obtain information on bills under consideration. A legislator can also be reached by mail or e-mail and address rosters are posted at <http://www.legis.nd.gov/contact-information>.

Addressing Mail Correspondence

To a Senator:

Honorable (full name)
State Senator
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
Dear Senator (last name)

To a Representative:

Honorable (full name)
State Representative
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505
Dear Representative (last name)

V. 2017 Legislative Deadlines and Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 3	Session begins
January 16	Deadline for representatives to introduce bills
January 23	Deadline for senators to introduce bills
February 14	Rural Water/North Dakota Water Coalition Legislative Social
February 24	Crossover for bills
February 27-28	Recess
March 8	Crossover for resolutions
April 14	Good Friday
April 28	Session is limited to 80 legislative days

VI. 2017 Water Day

Mark your calendars for Water Day on February 14! The North Dakota Water Coalition and the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association are hosting a social for all North Dakota legislators **Tuesday, February 14** from **5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** at the **Ramkota Hotel** in conjunction with Water Day at the Legislature. We urge you to take this opportunity to help us host and to discuss our water needs with our legislators.

VII. E-mail Version of Weekly Legislative Reports

If you receive this by mail or fax, but have e-mail, please send your email to Julie at ndwaterusers@btinet.net, and you can receive it by e-mail.

Legislative Bills Tracked (To Date)

1. APPROPRIATION BILLS

HB 1020 State Water Commission Appropriation Bill

2. WATER BILLS

SB 2047 Quick Take Eminent Domain

3. MISCELLANEOUS BILLS