

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | October 10, 2024

SWC Approves Funding for Low Head Dam Mitigation Projects

Bismarck, ND – The North Dakota Water Commission (SWC) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) have announced the approval of funding assistance for seven low head dam mitigation projects aimed at enhancing public safety and reducing drowning hazards associated with downstream roller effects. These projects were part of \$9.1 million in cost-share assistance approved at the Water Commission’s Oct. 10 meeting in Bismarck, chaired by Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller. Other approvals for cost-share assistance included water supply projects that will benefit multiple cities and a rural water system.

Among the low head dam approvals were pre-construction cost-share for projects on the Maple and Wild Rice rivers in eastern North Dakota, amounting to \$178,875 and \$209,625, respectively. Additionally, funding was approved for construction projects at Katz Dam on Painted Woods Creek in McLean County, with an allocation of \$136,466, and for four projects on the Mouse River in Minot, totaling \$1.1 million.

DWR Director Andrea Travnicek underscored the importance of these initiatives, stating, “The Water Commission and Department of Water Resources have made it a point of emphasis to encourage and incentivize low head dam owners across the state to implement roller effect mitigation projects. The SWC will provide up to 75% cost-share assistance for those types of projects. We’ve seen real progress toward low head dam mitigation efforts statewide in recent years, and we will continue to work with local political subdivisions and cost share partners to address them.”

These mitigation projects are vital for enhancing safety and minimizing risks associated with low head dams. For that reason, the state is committed to supporting further dam safety initiatives across North Dakota through the SWC’s Cost-Share Program. For more information about funding assistance for low head dam mitigation projects, please contact the North Dakota Department of Water Resources at (701) 328-4989 or dwrcostshare@nd.gov.

For More Information Contact:

Cam Wright, Communications Manager

camwright@nd.gov

| (701) 328-2782

Doug Burgum, Governor

Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D., Water Resources Director

1200 Memorial Highway

| Bismarck, ND 58504

PHONE: (701) 328-2750

| FAX: (701) 328-3696

| E-MAIL: dwr@nd.gov

www.dwr.nd.gov