

EAE Program is Coming to the Missouri River

The Missouri River Joint Water Board is embarking on a program tagged the EAE Program – Educate, Advocate, and Engage – for the Missouri River System in North Dakota.

The program supports the Joint Board mission statement which seeks to provide ... *“a coordinated effort ... (for) ... management, conservation, protection, development, and control of the water resources in the Missouri River Basin.”*

The Joint Board believes an important component in achieving that mission statement lies in an aggressive and comprehensive program that:

EDUCATES the general public and policymakers of the concerns of the users of our state with that river system ...

ADVOCATES those concerns in clear and concise communications to state and federal leaders and regulatory agencies and ...

ENGAGES with all the interests in our state, all those users and those who rely on or enjoy the benefits of the river system, so that their inputs and voices are heard in how the system is managed.

Although the EAE Program will formally start in May 2022, much preparatory work has already been accomplished. In addition to the Joint Board activities on this issue, much coordination and cooperation has been received from local and area water leadership, including Rep. Jim Schmidt of Mandan, county commissioner Kathleen Jones of Burleigh County, and through primary State Water Commission



WADE BACHMEIER
Chairman, Missouri River
Joint Water Board



KEN ROYSE
Program Manager, Missouri
River Joint Water Board

members Jim Oderman of Dickinson, Eugene Veeder of Willison, and Jay Volk of Bismarck. North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Andrea Travnicek and her staff members have helped define the program’s goals and objectives.

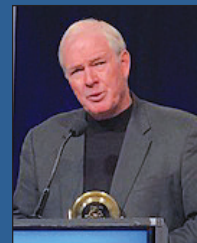
The program will continue through this calendar year and the next with an expectation that significant work can be accomplished to allow a review and determination of future program activities after the end of year 2023.

Program funding is through local funds from member counties of the Joint Board, with matching funds from the DWR and the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDU). The Joint Board has raised \$55,000; the GDU matched that with an additional \$55,000; and the DWR is providing the balance of \$74,000.

Program management will be by the Joint Board with guidance from a selected advisory board for input and assistance. The advisory board will include a cross section of water managers and water leaders who have demonstrated leadership in Missouri River System issues in our state.

Administrative and management assistance will be provided by contract with North Dakota Water Users

“We're blessed to have the Missouri River's roughly 17 million acre feet of water moving through North Dakota every year. It's value to North Dakotans in water supply, power generation, agriculture, recreation, industry and overall economics is growing and cannot be taken for granted. I believe we need a strong effort, both locally and nationally, to secure our rights to what is ours. It's prudent for the legislature to support this locally driven effort by the Missouri River Joint Water Board and assisted by the Department of Water Resources, to pursue national recognition of our needs and willingness to develop infrastructure to use it.” – Jim Schmidt



(NDWU) and with the North Dakota Water Education Foundation.

“This is a long overdue and important program for not only us located along the Missouri River and its Reservoirs, but for the entire state,” NDWU President David Lang said. “A greater understanding of the system is of benefit for all of us.”

Longtime water resource engineer and Missouri River advocate Ken Royse, who recently retired as vice president of Bartlett and West Inc., will provide the day-to-day management of the program.

In the coming months and through the life of the program, a series of articles will appear in *North Dakota Water* magazine. Topics to be explored will cover existing issues or those that may arise during the progression of the program such as

- History of Pick Sloan
- Pick Sloan Promises
- North Dakota Use of the Missouri
- Missouri Use by Other States
- Recreation on the Missouri

Additionally, the Joint Board, with the North Dakota Missouri River Advisory Committee, will co-host in August a Missouri River Stakeholders Meeting most likely in Bismarck. At that meeting, the Joint Board will seek input and comments from area water leadership and the public on issues of the river system. Results of that meeting will shape the message that the Joint Board will present to water groups and other entities during the progression of the program.

This is a start to more fully understand why our state was asked to make such a large land and resource sacrifice for the implementation of the Pick Sloan Act; a start to realize the benefits that our state was promised for such sacrifices that are yet to be delivered; and a start in forming an understanding of how important the Missouri River System is to our state and how we can take measures to protect our ability to gain benefits from that system.

Does this program interest you?

- Would you like to have more discussion or a special presentation of the Missouri River issues provided to your group?
- Are you interested in being on a contact or email list to keep up to date on this program and other Missouri River issues?
- Do you have specific issues or concerns on our use of the Missouri River or of regulations of such use that may affect you?

For more information on the program and to follow Missouri River issues:

Wade Bachmeier, Chairman,
Missouri River Joint Water Board
Wade@landmarknd.us
701-400-4251

Ken Royse, Program Manager,
Missouri Joint Water Board
Ken.royse@gmail.com
01-202-5459

WEBSITE

www.mrjwb.weebly.com

FACEBOOK

Missouri River Joint Water Board

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Missouri River Stakeholders Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Baymont Inn, Mandan

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW