



# 62nd Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention AND Irrigation Workshop

## AND Upper Missouri Water Association Conference

Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center

**December 9–11, 2025**

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

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|--------------|---|
| 2:30–4:30 pm | Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board Meeting                                     |
| 3:00–4:00 pm | Upper Missouri Water Association Board Meeting  |
| 4:30–6:00 pm | Water Resource Districts Association Board Meeting  |
| 6:00–8:00 pm | All Water Social<br><i>Co-Hosted by HDR and the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District</i> |

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

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|---------------|--|
| 7:30 am       | Registration   |
| 8:00–11:00 am | Water Managers Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost Benefit Analysis for Assessment Projects:<br/><i>WRDA Working Group</i></li><li>• HR Best Practices for Water Resource Districts:<br/><i>Katie Schmidt, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.</i></li><li>• Update to the State's Dam Safety Requirements:<br/><i>Department of Water Resources</i></li></ul> |
| 9:00–11:00 am | Educate, Advocate, Engage on the Missouri River Public Meeting   |

9:00–11:30 am ND Rural Water Systems Association Managers Meeting  
(*Rural Water Managers Only*)

9:00 am–Noon Commercial Exhibit Set-up

## — UPPER MISSOURI CONFERENCE BEGINS

11:30 am Opening Lunch

Noon Keynote: Water is Life — Don't Waste It: *Rickey Bolden, Discipleship Works*

Noon Commercial Exhibits Open

Noon ND Water Education Foundation Silent Auction Benefit Opens

1:00–2:15 pm Using Missouri River Water in South Dakota

- *Kristin Conzet, Western Dakota Regional Water System*
- *Troy Larson, Lewis & Clark Regional Water System*
- *Kurt Pfeifle, Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System*
- *Shane Phillips, WINS Project*

2:15–3:00 pm Missouri River Floodwater Project:  
*Representatives from Kansas Irrigation Districts*

3:00–3:30 pm Break

3:30–3:35 pm Message from Senator John Hoeven

3:35–4:20 pm The "SAGA" of Western Water – Lessons Learned Over 40+ Years  
In Water Management: *Blaine Dwyer, HDR*

4:30–5:30 pm Resolutions Meeting  
Water Users/Water Resource Districts/Irrigation Association

5:30–7:00 pm Social

## — UPPER MISSOURI CONFERENCE ENDS

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00–9:00 am Prayer Breakfast: Tearing Down Walls and Building Bridges:  
*Rickey Bolden, Discipleship Works*

9:00–9:45 am Wetland Litigation in the Prairie Pothole Region:  
*Jeffrey McCoy, Pacific Legal Foundation*

9:45–10:30 am Economics of Irrigation and Drainage: *Decision Innovation Solutions*

10:30–11:00 am Break

11:00–11:45 am	State of Water: <i>Reice Haase, Department of Water Resources</i>
11:45 am	ND Water Users Association Elections
Noon	Buffet Luncheon
Noon–2:00 pm	Concurrent Joint Board and Annual Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board</i></li> <li>• <i>Missouri River Joint Water Board</i></li> <li>• <i>ND Irrigation Association Membership Meeting</i></li> <li>• <i>Souris River Joint Board</i></li> <li>• <i>Red River Joint Water Resource District</i></li> </ul>
2:00–2:20 pm	ND Water Users Association Update: <i>Mary Massad and Dani Quissell</i>
2:20–2:50 pm	Sovereign Lands Regulation: <i>Department of Water Resources</i>
2:50–3:20 pm	Making Fishing Accessible for Everyone: <i>Jeff Gooss, Wheelchairs &amp; Walleyes</i>
3:30–4:00 pm	Resolutions – Final Adoption Water Users/Water Resource Districts/Irrigation Association
4:00–5:30 pm	ND Water Users Association Board Meeting
5:30–6:30 pm	Social
6:30 pm	Awards Banquet – <i>Entertainment: Strolling Strings of Bismarck</i> ND Water Education Foundation Silent Auction Benefit Ends

# IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

**Thursday, December 11 • 8:00 am–3:30 pm**

SPONSORED BY: North Dakota Water Users Association and North Dakota Irrigation Association

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|----------------|--|
| 8:00–9:00 am   | Prayer Breakfast: Tearing Down Walls and Building Bridges:<br><i>Rickey Bolden, Discipleship Works</i> |
| 9:00–9:45 am   | Wetland Litigation in the Prairie Pothole Region:<br><i>Jeffrey McCoy, Pacific Legal Foundation</i>    |
| 9:45–10:30 am  | Economics of Irrigation and Drainage: <i>Decision Innovation Solutions</i>                             |
| 10:30–11:00 am | Break  |
| 11:00–11:40 am | Innovation in Irrigation, <i>TBD</i>   |
| 11:45 am       | Buffet Lunch   |
| Noon–1:00 pm   | ND Irrigation Association Membership Meeting   |
| 1:00–2:00 pm   | ND Irrigation Association Board Meeting  |
| 2:00–3:20 pm   | Irrigation Water Permit Forum with the Department of Water Resources                                   |
| 3:30–4:00 pm   | Resolutions – Final Adoption   |
| 5:30–6:30 pm   | Social   |
| 6:30 pm        | Awards Banquet   |

