

Minot Daily News  
October 23, 2004  
Pages B1 & B6

MINOT CITY COUNCIL

# NAWS looks for funding for remaining 15 miles

By **KEN CRITES**  
Staff Writer  
kcrites@ndweb.com

The Minot City Council is expected to discuss a report from Bob Frantsvog, the city's finance director, that recommends a funding advance for the final 15 miles of the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) pipeline.

Frantsvog said in the report that the city has been advised by the State Water Commission that there is not enough federal funding to complete the remaining 15 miles of the pipeline, taking the line to the Snake Creek Pumping Plant.

The estimated cost of the contract is currently \$11.5 million, which includes engineering and inspection. Frantsvog said it is the intent of the water commission to complete design of the entire

remaining 15 miles and make a final decision closer to the bidding process as to how much could actually be included in the contract. Currently, Frantsvog said, "It appears they may only be able to include seven or eight miles in the bid."

The finance director is recommending to the council that the city notify the water commission that they are willing to advance the estimated \$2,675,000 shortfall with that amount to be paid back to the city in the form of a credit on future phases of the project.

That would put total local payments for that phase at \$6.7 million, up from the current \$4.025 million.

Frantsvog in his report said the city currently has \$11 million in the NAWS account.

He included a breakdown of the \$11.5 million needed for this phase of the pro-

ject as \$4.025 million from local funds, \$2 million from the State Water Commission, \$2.3 million from Municipal, Rural and Industrial funds and a half-million dollars for miscellaneous expenses.

That leaves the shortfall of \$2,675,000.

City Manager David Waind said Friday afternoon said that the funding is just for the pipeline itself. He said other parts of the project include construction of the intake unit and holding stations, among other features. He said he feels it's important to "keep the project moving along."

The pipeline project is wrapping up for the construction season. It is scheduled to resume with the final stretch to

See NAWS — Page B6

## NAWS

Continued from Page B1

Lake Sakakawea, where the water will be drawn, next spring.

Meanwhile, a federal court in

Washington, D.C., is still deciding a lawsuit brought against the project by the province of Manitoba. Issues under litigation include whether or not an environmental study of the project was adequate to protect Manitoba from biota transfer from the Missouri Basin to the

Hudson Bay Basin.

Proponents of the project contend that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent the transfer. Another issue in the lawsuit is whether full treatment of the Missouri River water is necessary before it's routed to Minot for distribu-

tion. If the court rules in favor of full treatment, the price tag for building a water treatment plant could be in the neighborhood of \$70 million.

The original plan called for partial treatment near the source and full treatment at the Minot Water Treatment

plant.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said recently that he expects the decision from the federal court could take another month.

Both sides in the lawsuit had asked for a summary judgment.