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NAWS looking for more money

MINOT (AP) — The manager of the Northwest Area Water Supply project, which would pipe Missouri River water to this area and northwestern North Dakota, says it needs about \$5 million to stay on track next year.

Project manager Michelle Klose said the project needs cash on hand or appropriated before the State Water Commission can call for bids on a Minot supply pipeline and a pipeline to Berthold.

Bob Schempp, of Minot, chairman of the NAWS Advisory Committee, said he does not expect a construction delay due to lack of money. Even if bid letting is delayed, it still should happen in time to lay pipe next summer, he said.

One possibility is to ask the city of Minot for a cash advance and pay it back with federal money.

Minot earlier advanced about \$5 million from its NAWS fund for the pipeline between Minot and Lake Sakakawea, and paid it back.

The cost of projects proposed for next year, with engineering and inspection, comes to about \$20 million. NAWS has \$4.5 million from the state so far.