

Minot might supply water to Burlington

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The City of Minot is considering helping Burlington and some of the nearby rural area gain access to additional water.

The Minot City Council's Finance and Improvements Committee voted Tuesday to recommend the council approve a request from Burlington and West River Water & Sewer District to hook up to Minot's water service through the Northwest Area Water Supply project.

Last August, Minot signed an agreement with the State Water Commission

to provide interim water for NAWS until Missouri River water becomes available. The estimate is for 179,000 gallons a day to be provided to Burlington and West River in 2010.

The two systems would hook up to the NAWS line at Speedway Hill. The cost associated with the connection is estimated at \$535,562. The cost to Minot's NAWS fund would be \$187,447. There also is an alternate bid that would be taken for the eight-inch water line to Burlington in case the line needs to be replaced. That estimate is \$189,898.

Should the project go through, Burlington plans to blend its existing water supply with the NAWS water.

Clinton Cogdill, Burlington public works director, said the city will need more water than Minot can supply. For that reason, the water storage tank recently constructed by the city will continue to be used to store water from the existing supply system, particularly to meet the storage requirements for fire protection.

Diane Fugere, Burlington city auditor, said the addition of NAWS water would require new water rates for residents, but the city hasn't determined what effect a change would have. Residents still would have costs associated with the existing water supply as well as the NAWS water. Debt on the water tank isn't scheduled to be paid off until 2018.