

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:  
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For More Information, Contact:  
Mike Ell or Jim Collins  
Environmental Health Section  
Phone: 701.328.5210  
E-mail: mell@nd.gov

### **North Dakota Department of Health to Hold Red River Basin Water Quality Meetings**

BISMARCK, N.D. – To kick off its Red River Basin water quality management planning process, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will be holding two public stakeholder meetings. The meetings will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2017, at the AmericInn Hotel in Valley City and March 1, 2017, at Lake Region College in Devils Lake.

“North Dakota is diverse; each river basin in the state has its unique water quality challenges. The NDDoH believes a one-size-fits-all approach to water quality management is not the most efficient way to address local challenges. By engaging stakeholders in each of the major river basins we believe we can better deliver our water quality management programs,” says Karl Rockeman, director of the Division of Water Quality. The NDDoH has developed the North Dakota Basin Water Quality Management Framework to guide water quality management planning using a targeted basin approach. The NDDoH is starting in the Red River Basin because it already has a well-established stakeholder structure which will aid in organizing a basin stakeholder advisory group.

Anyone with interest in water quality or water resources is invited to participate. Invitations have been sent to key stakeholder groups in the basin, including water resource boards, soil conservation districts, city councils, county commissions, county park boards, sportsmen’s organizations, lake associations, and commodity groups.

“Participants will want to come prepared to learn about the NDDoH’s water quality programs and projects, as well as nutrient management and basin water quality planning and activities. In addition, the NDDoH will be asking for input on further stakeholder participation and water quality and resource concerns,” says Mike Ell of the NDDoH Watershed Management Program.

For more information on the water quality management planning process, visit the NDDoH website at [www.ndhealth.gov/WQ/SW](http://www.ndhealth.gov/WQ/SW) or contact Mike Ell or Jim Collins at 701.328.5210.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200  
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727E-mail: [health@nd.gov](mailto:health@nd.gov)

*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*