



**09-003, Spring Flooding
June 3, 2009
12:50 p.m. CDT
Incident Summary Report #76**

Incident Overview

Summaries are published after 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday until further notice.

Updated information is in red.

The following is a summary of key issues related to the 2009 spring flood for the Red River of the North, Souris, Devils Lake, James and Sheyenne River Basins.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activation – Level III (Monitoring Activation). N.D. Division of Homeland Security (NDHLS) personnel staff the SEOC daily from 8:00 a.m. until to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The NDHLS Duty Officer has responsibility for incident-related calls between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and on weekends and holidays. *I made this section more active voice.*

Significant Events

- **Deaths/Injuries/Illnesses** – as reported by the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) and the N.D. Highway Patrol (NDHP)
 - Deaths – 3; Injuries – 252
 - Illnesses – 71
- **Livestock loss and producer impact reports** - May 22
 - Calf losses – 20,479
 - Cattle losses– 4,719
 - Horse losses – 34
 - Other livestock losses – 448
- **Crops** – May 24, (USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office Report)
 - Sixty-nine percent of Spring wheat has been seeded and 29 percent has emerged which is more than two weeks behind average. Sixty-nine percent of Durum wheat has been seeded compared with the 77 percent average. Sixty-six percent of barley has been planted compared with the 93 percent average. Oat planting is 77 percent complete, compared with the 94 percent average. Twenty-five percent of all small grains planted has emerged compared to 50 percent last year. Sugarbeet planting is 89 percent complete. Sixty-one percent of the corn crop has been planted compared with the 89 percent average. Twenty-seven percent of the soybean crop has been planted compared with the 67 percent average. Fifteen percent of the sunflower crop has been planted compared with the 41 percent average. Thirty-nine percent of the potato crop has been

planted compared with the 78 percent average. Ninety percent of the dry edible bean crop has been seeded and 37 percent has emerged. Fifty percent of the canola crop has been seeded and 17 percent has emerged.

➤ **Electrical Outage Reports**

▪ **Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC)**

The following summarizes problems experienced by NPEC in Benson, Ramsey and Towner Counties as a result of the rising level of Devils Lake.

- Benson County: NPEC relocated a transformer and metering point at one farm. NPEC's north source into Grahams Island is presently in jeopardy. It is necessary to splice the cable and extend it approximately one-mile south to higher ground. The existing pole line will be removed. Rising water created a new fringe area in which several services will have to be removed.
- Ramsey County: Two electric services have been relocated; a customer impacted will have to relocate his service conductors to new metering points. Most NPEC customers intend to continue electrical service until the cooperative is unable to provide them with power. Service in some areas may fail due to ice movement next winter. NPEC has abandoned three services in the Churchs Ferry area and can no longer maintain the line. Several other locations are likely to fail in the next year. Several miles of line in water remain energized and continue to provide service to area farms near Churchs Ferry that are now islands. Many of these locations will be abandoned as roads continue to disappear or lines fail in deep water and reasonable alternatives to provide electric power no longer exist. The company expects to install a new three phase feeder located south of Penn in late June.
- Towner County: Service to two accounts has been discontinued along the south side of Towner County this year; the line and service points will be relocated at the two locations. NPEC continues to monitor the existing underground tie line on the east side of US Highway 281 between Churchs Ferry and Cando because it will be impacted by rising lake levels.

➤ **Dams –June 2**

▪ **Pipestem and Jamestown Dams**

- Combined releases into the James River are currently 2,200 cfs
- Current reservoir level along with inflow and outflow rates can be found at the following website: www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/north_dakota_lakes.htm

▪ **Baldhill Dam**

- Releases from the Baldhill Dam reservoir are currently at 591 cfs.
- Current reservoir level along with inflow and outflow rates can be found at the following website: www.mvp-wc.usace.army.mil/bulletins/reservoir_bulletin.shtml

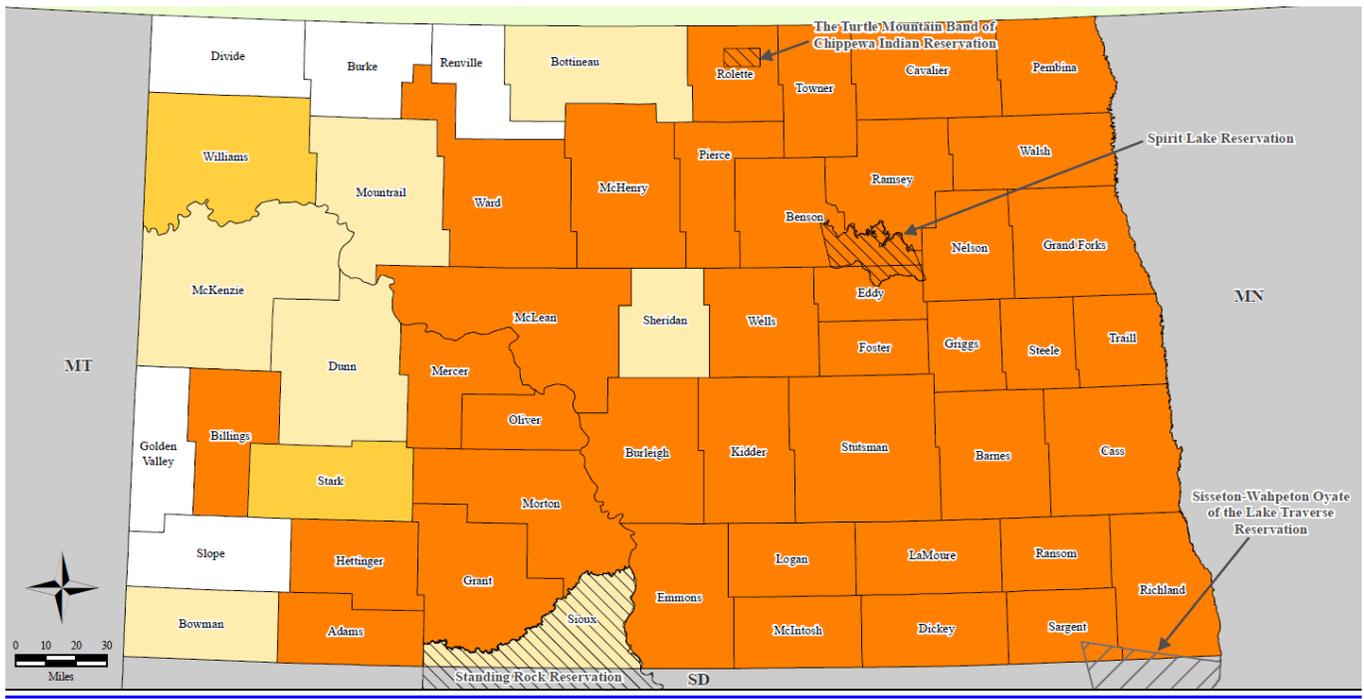
➤ **Roads**

The following is the ND Department of Transportation road report as of June 3.

- The following highways are closed due to water damage:
 - ND-9 nine miles west of Kensal.
- The following highways have water over the roadway but traffic is allowed.
 - ND-13 one mile east of Lehr and five miles east of Lehr.

➤ **Railroads**

- The Northern Plains Railroad (NPR) notified the Nelson County Water Resource Board that water is up to the rails in Enterprise Township. The company is drafting a plan to update a bridge, add rip rap and raise the tracks. The estimated repair is \$100,000 to \$150,000. Officials plan to send a letter to the Governor and State Engineer outlining a



Legend

Designated Counties		Designated Reservations	
	No Designation		Public Assistance
	Public Assistance		Individual Assistance and Public Assistance
	Individual Assistance and Public Assistance		
	Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Category B)		

All counties are eligible for Hazard Mitigation

Weather Forecast: WESTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA:

- Today:** Sunny, with a high near 71. Calm wind becoming west between 6 and 9 mph.
- Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. West wind between 6 and 9 mph.
- Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 77. West wind between 8 and 14 mph.
- Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. North wind between 5 and 9 mph.
- Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 63. North wind between 8 and 11 mph.
- Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40.
- Saturday:** A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55.
- Saturday Night:** A chance of showers. Cloudy, with a low around 42.
- Sunday:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55.
- Sunday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.
- Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 64.
- Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.
- Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Weather Forecast: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:

Today: Sunny, with a high near 67. Southwest wind between 6 and 9 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. Southwest wind around 9 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 70. West wind between 8 and 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1:00 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. North northwest wind between 3 and 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. North northwest wind between 8 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 57.
Saturday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40.
Sunday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.
Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.
Monday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.

[River Forecasts by River Basin – Listing Includes Rivers Above Flood Stage](#)

Rising= Steady= Falling=

Red River of the North

- All gauges on the Red River have dropped below flood stage.

Sheyenne River

- All gauges on the Sheyenne River have dropped below flood stage.

James River Basin

- James River at Kensal — 10 ft—Flood Stage 9 ft—Crest (no forecast)
- James River at Jamestown — 12.23 ft—Flood Stage 12 ft—Crest (no forecast)
- James River at Ludden Dam — 14.81 ft—Flood Stage 12 ft—Crest 18.2 ft on Apr 24

Devils Lake Basin

- Devils Lake — 1,450.44 ft — continuing its record rise.
- Stump Lake — 1,450.21 ft — continuing its record rise.
- Devils and Stump Lakes long-range probabilistic outlook valid June 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009. Chances of Devils and Stump Lakes rising above the given lake levels.

	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
Creel Bay	1450.8	1450.9	1450.9	1451.0	1451.0	1451.0	1451.1	1451.2	1451.5
Stump Lake	1450.8	1450.9	1450.9	1451.0	1451.0	1451.0	1451.1	1451.2	1451.5

Souris River Basin

- All gauges on the Souris/Mouse River have dropped below flood stage.

[Resource/Assistance Requests](#)

- The State Emergency Operations Center has processed 622 requests for assistance since March 12, 2009. There have been no additional requests for assistance since May 22.



Detailed Reports

Refer to previous Incident Summaries, as necessary.

LOCAL

Benson County

- Heavy spot showers and downpours on May 15, 24, and 25 in the city of Leeds and surrounding areas caused four new washout/road closures. Outflow from Hurricane Lake in Towner County through the Leeds-Nesvig Wildlife area, Little Coulee, and Lake Isben increased more than 50 percent compared to past spring-flows. Many sites sustaining prior damage from spring flooding remain blocked or flagged but all bridges remain functional. Emergency repair continues and state disaster-recovery damage inspections are ongoing. Some minimum-use township prairie roads may never be reopened due to flooding. – May 29
- Citizens are reporting water in basements. Lake water is approaching Minnewaukan school property and is visible on the north, south, east and the west side coulee.
- Five homes qualify for buy-out through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- The city boat ramp within and the dump ground ramp are inaccessible. The dump ground roads are eroding. – May 13
- The city continues to secure sewer system operations. – May 13

Nelson County

- American Red Cross clean-up kits were distributed to residents and more have been pre-positioned throughout the county.
- One request for ND Department of Agriculture Emergency Feeding Assistance was forwarded to the State Veterinarian due to water and overland flooding. – May 13
- Homes, dikes, roads, and utility infrastructure will be adversely affected by high Stump Lake and overland water levels throughout the spring and summer. Stump Lake continues to experience flooding along its shorelines. During windy weather, the possibility for severe bank erosion will be increased. - May 13
- NDDDES coordinated delivery of HESCO Bastion for temporary dike construction at Stump Lake Park to save the bathhouse, restaurant, and pavilion. Work was completed May 20.
- Currently, there are 28 county and township roads closed, which does not include more than 16 miles of road impacted by previous lake level rises. The Nelson County Highway Department has reported damage at 21 sites on county roads and seven sites on Federal Aid Secondary (FAS) roads. Preliminary estimates for township roads show 140 damaged sites.
- The Nelson County Water Resource District has been on-call regarding rising water issues in the Stump Lake region of Nelson County. Culverts on drain ways continue to sustain damage and bank and ditch erosion is contributing to culvert wash-outs.
- City of Michigan officials are concerned about rising water levels northwest of the city. – May 13

Ramsey County – May 13

- Numerous homeowners are experiencing problems due to wet basements, sewer system failures, road access, and shoreline home dike problems. Current shoreline problems include:
 - Homes being flooded
 - Several homes in jeopardy of flooding

- Roads flooded on shoreline
- Sewer systems submerged under rising lake waters
- Loss of farmland and farmsteads
- Loss of business on shoreline
- Severe erosion will continue for months
- Home dikes need additional maintenance; new ones need to be built
- Boat ramps and parking lots need adjustment to adapt to rising lake levels.
- Rural utilities and lift stations require erosion protection
- City of Devils Lake officials are currently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on Phase One of the dike alignment.
- The Greater Ramsey Water Resource District (GRWD) has concern regarding continued water and sewer service to members in the areas of Lakewood, the west side of Creel Bay, and Acorn Ridge.
- GRWD has raised a lift station and sealed several septic tanks and manholes which will be inundated by the lake if predicted levels are reached.
- GRWD has been notified of a pending dike-to-dam policy change which would not allow water and sewer lines to penetrate new dam construction. The proposed change stems from redefining current dike construction and future protection from dam construction. This policy change will greatly affect the current alignment of several water and sewer lines.
- GRWD is currently working with the Federal Highway Department regarding Roads Acting as Dams in the Acorn Ridge area. The issue of no conduits through dam construction creates a major financial problem in constructing water and sewer systems required to continue member service. – May 13

Spirit Lake Nation

- Many roads are soft and wet.
- Several septic pumps have been setup across the reservation.
- Workers are driving sheet piling into the ground to aid with water control in the Curtis Dam and Geskes Curve areas. Water is being pumped out of the bay at Geskes Curve to equalize the pressure differential between the wet and dry side of the road. Project completion is expected to take 60 days. – May 13

Stutsman County

- The USACE continues reductions in releases from both Pipestem and Jamestown Dams. Release reductions of 100 cfs from Pipestem Dam are scheduled for June 3 and June 5. By Friday, June 5, the combined release will be 2,000 cfs; another 200 cfs reduction is scheduled for next week in order to reach the projected combined release of 1,800 cfs. The combined release of 1,800 cfs is the record release achieved in 1997.
- Intermittent city water well problems have been resolved and usage restrictions will not be necessary at this time.
- City of Jamestown officials met with National Guard officials on Monday, June 1, to review the current Guard missions. It was decided to meet again on Wednesday, June 3, to discuss a 37 soldier reduction in Jamestown. Until that time, the current missions will remain as follows:
 - 8 Public Works Support
 - 52 Dike Patrol/Quick Reactionary Force/Evacuation
 - 8 Logistical Support (checking pumps)
 - 6 Traffic Control
 Total staffing for these missions remains at a 74.

- As of May 27, the north end of Jamestown Reservoir was reopened to watercraft. A temporary portable boat ramp located immediately north of the Jamestown Reservoir east-side cabin area will provide access to the north end of the reservoir. The temporary ramp is being installed by the Stutsman County Park Board and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Buoys will be installed east-to-west across the reservoir to designate open and closed areas.

STATE

N.D. Division of Homeland Security (NDHLS)

- State Emergency Operations Center efforts continue in support of flood response and recovery operations across the state in coordination with local, state and federal agencies.

N.D. Parks and Recreation

- Grahams Island State Park on Devils Lake has been basically rebuilt above the flood plain with the exception of the boat ramp area and an associated roadway. The primary concern this year will be to maintain the operation of the four lane boat ramp and provide protection to an access road. The top of the ramp is at an elevation of 1,452 msl. The State Department of Parks and Recreation is currently adding riprap to existing boat ramp breakwaters and will add riprap to 500-600 feet of an associated roadway. Higher water levels than 1,552 msl will require a major extension of the boat ramp site. The beach area established in the past two years is flooded. Shoreline erosion and the loss of trees due to flooding is an issue. Placing and maintaining fishing/courtesy docks is becoming difficult to sustain. Access to the park on the county road built to 1,455 msl is being maintained but will present a more difficult issue as the lake rises to 1,451 msl because waves overtopping the riprap on windy days will impact the road. – May 13
- Black Tiger Bay Recreation Area has a 65,000 square foot parking lot with two boat launching ramps. The top elevation of one ramp is 1,452 msl and the other is 1,450.5 msl. The top elevation of the parking area is approximately 1,452 msl. The area is open and strongly impacted by northerly winds and wave action. Six-hundred feet of perimeter around the parking area needs rip-rap. The township road into the site is soft in several locations and is on the verge of going under water in one location. As levels near 1,452 msl, officials will have to decide what to do with the site. – May 13
- Shelters Grove Recreation Area has been closed to public use for several years and all facilities have been removed. At an elevation of 1,451 msl most of the site will be under water. It will be questionable as to whether the Lake Region Bowman, Inc. will be able to continue to utilize the site under the current lease agreement. – May 13

N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT)

- The NDDOT has an emergency quick response contract in place that allows the district to repair areas along its road system that have deteriorated from high winds and wave action. Surveys are being conducted to assess damage; more will be conducted throughout the summer. The department is working to obtain permits to pump water off the eastbound roadway of US Highway 2 just east of Penn.
- Roads Acting as Dams (RAAD) has identified the following work to be completed on the NDDOT system in 2009:
 - ND 20 at Spring Lake – Grade raise to 1,460 msl. Water on both sides of the roadway was equalized last fall and the decision was made to raise the roadway to 1,460 msl.
 - ND 20 at Geskes Curve – The grade raise project has been set back because of the emergency RAAD project. The RAAD project provides an emergency contract to build a cofferdam east of Geskes Curve. The location of this cofferdam was moved so work

could be completed more quickly. There is an incentive for the contractor to have the cofferdam built and water pumped down between the cofferdam and Geskes Curve by July 20.

- RAAD work to be accomplished in 2010:
 - ND-20 at Acorn Ridge – Roadway to be constructed as a dam. This project will require coordination with the city of Devils Lake dike project.
 - ND-57 South of BIA 1 - BIA 4 and 5 will be constructed as dams. Culverts will be installed to equalize water levels on both sides of the roads.
 - ND-20 at Geskes Curve - When the perimeter dam is built to protect Geskes Curve, culverts will be installed on this section of roadway.
 - The department continues monitoring lake elevation forecasts to determine possible grade raises on roads surrounding Devils Lake. – May 13

State Water Commission (SWC)

- Devils Lake is at a record high level and rising. Inflow to Devils Lake this year has already exceeded 450,000 acre-feet. Only 16 years have had inflow greater than 100,000 acre-ft, and only 1997, with an inflow of 538,000 acre-ft, had greater inflow. In order to reach an elevation of 1,451 ft msl, the inflow to Devils Lake would have to exceed 600,000 acre-ft, a new record. Wet conditions last fall and the heavy snow this winter have increased the probability of Devils Lake continuing to rise in future years. USGS modeling now indicates the probability of Devils Lake reaching an elevation of 1,457, approximately the natural overflow elevation, by 2018 is 10 percent. – May 13

FEDERAL

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- The USACE, St. Paul District, awarded a \$123,000.00 contract on Friday, May 29, to Spruce Valley, Corp., of Middle River, Minnesota, to remove emergency clay levees in Grafton, N.D. Work was scheduled to begin May 29 and the contractor has 12 days to complete the project. – May 29
- A contract to raise two levees on Spirit Lake Nation tribal land that protect 12 homes has been awarded. A borrow pit has been located and the USACE is waiting for permits. – May 13

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- A series of mitigation workshops have been scheduled around the state to help North Dakotans protect their homes and property against future disasters. Federal, state and local officials will be on hand to discuss flood maps, flood-fighting home improvement projects, benefits of flood insurance, possible funding sources and other issues. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

City	Date	Location
Center	June 3	Civic Center: 312 N. Lincoln Ave.
Jamestown	June 4	Civic Center (Exchequer Room): 212 3rd St. NE
Wahpeton	June 8	TBA
Cavalier	June 9	Emergency Operations Center: 308 Courthouse Dr.

Grafton	June 10	TBA
Mayville	June 11	Mayville Armory: 332 Center Ave. S.

- The Cavalier Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Pembina County will close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.
- The Fargo and Fort Totten DRCs closed Saturday, May 30. The Disaster Recovery Center in Fargo transitioned to a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) on Monday, June 1.
- The Devils Lake Disaster Recovery Center closes Wednesday, June 3.
- DRC Locations:
 - **Barnes County**, Barnes County Courthouse, 230 4th St. NW, Valley City;
 - **Pembina County**, Emergency Operations Center, 308 Courthouse Drive, Cavalier
 - **Ramsey County**, Ramsey Armory Meeting Room, 417 5th St. NE, Devils Lake;
 - **Spirit Lake Nation**, Dakota Tribal Industries, Main Lobby, 1 Main St., Fort Totten;
 - **Stutsman County**, Buffalo Mall, 2400 8th Ave. SW, Suite B, Jamestown;
 - **Wells County**, Fessenden-Bowden School Gymnasium, 500 North 2nd Street, Fessenden
- **FEMA Cumulative Individual Assistance Registrations: 5,263 – June 1**
 - Small Business Administration Approvals: 191
 - Eligible Requests for Public Assistance: 285
 - Disaster Unemployment Assistance Claims Received: 1,429
 - Dollar Amounts Approved:
 - Individual and Household Program: \$5,722,494
 - Disaster Unemployment Assistance: \$184,970
 - SBA Applications: \$7,412,700
 - Public Assistance Obligated: \$6,534,269

Federal Highways Administration (FHWA)

- Funding is in place to raise the grade of ND-20 at Spring Lake. Authorization to receive bids can be given as soon as the NDDOT has worked out contract details. Similarly, funding is in place to implement emergency measures for ND-20 at Geskes Curve if necessary. – May 13
- A project to build a cofferdam across the bay east of Geskes Curve is being advertised and there should be a contract in the very near future. This project is a precursor to a permanent dam across the bay, but it will also provide interim protection for ND-20 at Geskes Curve. – May 13
- The ND Division Office has notified FHWA Headquarters of approval for \$5 million in damages (\$4 million in federal funds) outside of the Devils Lake Basin. This will permit authorization of permanent repairs and the reimbursement of emergency work already completed for approved flood damages across the state, but outside the Devils Lake Basin. – May 13

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

- There will be a North Dakota Long Term Recovery Committee meeting June 3, at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the United Way (219 7th St S) in Fargo.

- The next VOAD meeting will be held Thursday June 18 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Lantern Room of the Jamestown Business Center in Jamestown.
 - Agenda items include current flood issues and a hotwash of the flood response.

Division of Homeland Security
Greg M. Wilz, Director

Division of State Radio
Mike Lynk, Director