



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3181
denr.sd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, March 31, 2016
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mike Perkovich, 773-4216
FOR PROJECT DETAILS: Visit <http://denr.sd.gov/bwnrapps.aspx>

Gov. Daugaard Announces \$750,000 for Big Sioux River Hydrologic Model

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved a \$750,000 State Water Resources Management System grant to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for a Big Sioux River hydrologic model.

The grant will be administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“I am pleased to announce that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will receive this grant,” said Gov. Daugaard. “New hydrologic modeling will help local, state and federal officials respond better during flooding events to protect homes, businesses and infrastructure.”

DENR will contract with an engineering and hydrologic consulting firm to develop the model. Data generated from the model will allow more accurate predictions of river stages during a flood event. The model will also consider such things as how natural landscape changes impact flows during a flood event and how variable flows in the Missouri River impact flood events in the lower Big Sioux River basin.

The project will produce a user-friendly website that authorities can use to more accurately predict areas that will be inundated during a flood. The data, model and website generated from this study will predict impacted areas for a range of flood scenarios.

The State Water Resources Management System, funded in part by revenues from the sale of lotto tickets, provides grants and loans for large water projects that have been authorized by the Legislature. Gov. Daugaard recommended the funding to the 2016 Legislature. Lawmakers approved it by appropriating funds from the state Water and Environment Fund to the State Water Resources Management System through the Governor’s 2016 Omnibus Water Funding Bill.

The board met Wednesday and Thursday in Pierre.