

Gov. Dave Heineman has named Brian Dunnigan to serve as director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Dunnigan's appointment takes effect immediately.

Gov. Heineman said, "I am very pleased that Brian Dunnigan has agreed to serve as the permanent Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

"As Acting Director, he has demonstrated outstanding communications skills. He is a leader and he understands the complexities of our water challenges. Brian is respected by the water community and he will continue to move Nebraska forward."

Dunnigan commented on his new position. "As Director, I look forward to addressing the many water and natural resources challenges that we face as a state and finding acceptable solutions."

Dunnigan was appointed acting director in March 2008. Previously, he had been deputy director of the department and also supervised DNR's Dam Safety, Floodplain Management and Photogrammetry divisions.

State law requires the DNR director to be a professional engineer with at least five years experience in irrigation-related work.

Dunnigan is a registered professional engineer and a certified floodplain manager and has spent the last 23 years with DNR, totaling more 25 years with the state of Nebraska.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1981 from the University of Nebraska.

Dunnigan's salary will be \$104,500.