



■ **News from
Southwest Water
Authority**

■ **July 2003**

Water works



Volume 6 # 1 Issue 3

Manager's Message # by Ray Christensen, Manager/CEO

Medora-Beach phase next in line!



*Ray Christensen
Manager/CEO*

With construction winding down on the Bowman-Scranton phase, we turn our attention to the Medora-Beach phase of construction. Bids were awarded for the first phase of the Medora-Beach construction, including installation of the main transmission pipeline and necessary booster pump stations from Belfield to Beach. When completed (September 2004) this segment of pipeline will provide service to the communities of Medora, Sentinel Butte, Beach and ultimately Golva, as well as, rural customers. I know this is extremely good news for the community of Beach as they have been concerned about the condition of their existing wells.

Northern Improvement Company was awarded the contract for this segment of work. They have provided services on many segments of the Southwest Pipeline Project. Construction through the badlands includes crossing a considerable amount of US Forest Service land. Not only will the terrain be a challenge, but the stringent guidelines imposed on this sensitive Ecosystem by the US Forest Service. We know we face many challenges, but we are committed to complete this work in a manner acceptable to all parties involved.

It is very encouraging, after seventeen plus years of construction, to begin the final phase of the original plan. Plans are to solicit bids for the necessary storage

(see Medora-Beach, page 2)

Customer satisfaction remains high; water quality excellent



Customers rate Southwest Pipeline Project water “very good” to “excellent,” according to a recent customer satisfaction survey conducted by LoAnn’s Marketing Inc. of Dickinson. The survey sample included customers in the Regent, Mott, Glen Ullin, Hettinger, Hebron, Reeder and Richardton areas. Responses indicated that residents were also pleased with the staff’s courtesy, knowledge and timeliness in solving problems.

“These results seem to be consistent with those from other areas,” said LoAnn Wegh, President, LoAnn’s Marketing Inc.

“Overall, we are proud of the excellent responses the pipeline and Southwest Water Authority staff received in the survey,” said Ray Christensen, Manager/CEO. “We welcome questions or comments from any of our customers as they only help to make us and the pipeline run more efficiently.”

Medora-Beach (continued from front)

reservoirs in the near future, as well as a small portion of the rural water delivery system. We are hopeful funds can be secured to follow-up with construction on the remaining rural areas including the city of Golva. Contingent upon funding, this work will probably begin in 2005. When this phase is complete, we can continue our plans to provide service for the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn phase, the final phase of the current project. As always, funding dictates project pace. As I have stated in previous columns, current world affairs make funding difficult to secure. However, we remain hopeful we can overcome these obstacles and secure the necessary funding to complete the Southwest Pipeline Project.

One Call saves time and prevents hassles

People digging often find more than what they bargained for. Hidden beneath the soil and out of view are many miles of electrical cables and piping. Careless digging can rupture these facilities and often cause severe injury and even death to the worker. Plus, a simple miscue when digging can mean a loss of utility service to hundreds of customers, and repair can be expensive. With summer weather, digging projects will be in full swing. If you're digging, make sure you make a telephone call to have all your underground lines and pipes located free of charge -- it could save your life.



North Dakota 1-800-795-0555

Notice!!

The Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) Consumer Confidence Report has been published in the June issue of the North Dakota Water Magazine. It is also located on SWA's web site: www.swa.swc.state.nd.us/ccr.pdf.

The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Annual Operating Report has also been published. Contact the SWA office for more information toll-free at 1-888-425-0241 or via e-mail at swa@swwater.com.



Tampering with rural water systems has serious consequences!

If you tamper with a public water system or make a threat to tamper with public drinking water, you may be imprisoned, fined, or both. Please report any suspicious activities to your local law enforcement.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY AND
SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT

Southwest Water Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Mission Statement:

Providing clean, quality water for southwest North Dakota

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Construction Update # by Jim Lennington, Project Manager

Construction begins on Medora-Beach phase I



*Jim Lennington
Project Manager, ND State
Water Commission*

Under the Southwest Pipeline’s phased development plan the next area scheduled for construction is the Medora-Beach phase. Included in this phase are the cities of Medora, Beach, Sentinel Butte and Golva, along with an estimated 260 rural water users. The estimated cost for this service area, to be constructed in two phases, is approximately \$22.5 million, depending on the scope and extent of the rural water portions. In the first phase, the main transmission pipeline would be extended from Belfield to Beach, serving Medora, Sentinel Butte and Beach. This would also require the construction of three potable water reservoirs at Belfield, Fryburg and Beach. A small rural water contract will be issued for construction serving those whose service lines require crossing of US Forest Service (USFS) property in the Little Missouri National Grasslands. The main transmission pipeline will also cross USFS property, and under the terms of the permit from the USFS, it would be best to have only one year of impact to those properties.

In the second phase, the rural water distribution systems would be constructed, as well as, service to the city of Golva. A number of high cost areas have been identified in the rural service areas, and the extent of areas meeting the commission’s feasibility criteria remains to be determined. If our experience with the Bowman-Scranton phase is any indicator, we can expect several of these high cost areas to add users between now, final design and bidding to ultimately meet the commission’s feasibility criteria.

Table one shows the facilities included in the first construction phase of the Medora-Beach phase.

An application for \$2.8 million in funding for the first phase of construction for the Medora-Beach phase was submitted to USDA-Rural Development this spring. We were informed June 19 by USDA that the application was approved and funding would be available. Table two shows the funding proposal for the first phase of construction.

Table One

Southwest Pipeline Project Medora-Beach Phase I				
Projected Construction Schedule and Estimated Cost				
Contract	Status	Facility	Description	Estimated Cost
2-5B	Awarded	Medora-Beach		
		Main Transmission Pipeline	46.4 miles 12” - 6”	\$5,065,000
5-9	Future	Belfield Reservoir	750,000 gallons	691,000
5-10	Future	Fryburg Reservoir	480,000 gallons	522,000
5-11	Future	Beach Reservoir	420,000 gallons	500,000
7-8A	Future	Fryburg Service Area	27 miles, 21 users	780,000
6	Future	Telemetry		176,000
Total				\$7,734,000

The state grant portion of the funding is part of the ND State Water Commission’s budget, which was approved during the legislative session.

At its June 12 meeting, the ND State Water Commission awarded contract 2-5B, Medora-Beach main transmission pipeline, to Northern Improvement Company of Bismarck, for \$4,189,999.50. Work should begin on this contract in August.

Table Two

Medora-Beach '03-'05 Funding			
State Grant	USDA Grant	USDA Loan	Total
\$5,000,000	\$1,260,000	\$1,540,000	\$7,800,000

Coffee Shop # by Glenn Eckelberg, Marketing Coordinator

21 Angus Ranch participates in high volume discount



Marc and Anne Wolf family
21 Angus Ranch near New England

Healthier cattle – that’s one benefit of utilizing Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) pasture taps and standard hook-ups for livestock, according to Marc and Anne Wolf of 21 Angus Ranch. The Wolfs, third generation ranchers near New England, source SWPP water year-round for at least half of their 500 head operation, including 350 registered black Angus cattle and 150 commercial head. The entire herd drinks pipeline water over the winter.

“The pipeline guarantees us a good source of quality water,” said Wolf. Before connecting to the pipeline, it was necessary for the Wolfs to monitor the quality of the water available in their pastures for toxicity. This was particularly important during dry summers. They also had to maintain or replace several wells throughout the years.

Now, 21 Angus Ranch is one of many ranches participating in the volume discount offered by Southwest Water Authority (SWA).

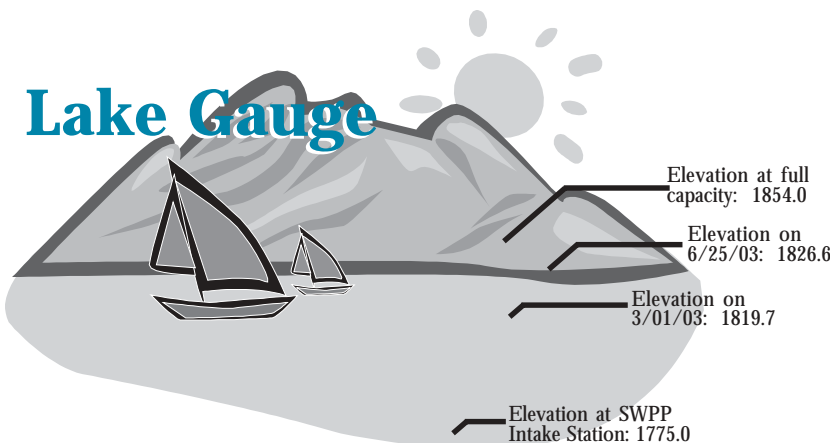
From February 2002 to February 2003, rural customer usage increased by nearly 23 percent, clearly indicating the popularity of the high volume discount for pasture taps and standard connections.

High volume discounts are available for livestock consumption (pasture tap connection) or for human and farming/ranching consumption (high consumption standard meter connection). For rate information, contact the SWA at 701-225-0241 or toll-free 1-888-425-0241.

“Every operation has to assess if connecting to the pipeline is a viable solution for them,” said Anne. “We have, also, seen an improvement in our cattle’s health. They do not have to travel as far for a good source of water. At times, we could not afford to be *without* Southwest Pipeline Project water.”



Jake Wolf



While Lake Sakakawea contains ample water to sustain the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), reports of relatively low lake levels are concerning to the public. In reality, levels are still far above the intake station. Each quarter, we will illustrate with the left diagram, how the elevation of the lake has changed. From March to June, it rose 6.9 feet. **Factoid: On a hot summer day, nearly one inch of water evaporates from the lake’s surface, nearly twice the amount SWPP uses in one year!**

Vickie's Water Notes # by Vickie Franchuk, Customer Service

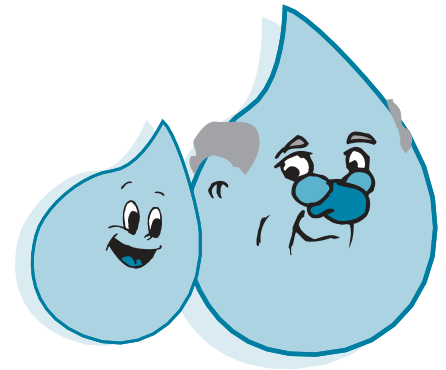



*Vickie Franchuk
Customer Service*


Summer is a busy time for everyone! If you wish to connect to the pipeline and need your water turned on this summer, please give us at least 72 hours notification. This gives us time to schedule the hook-up with one of the operators. Often, operators are able to turn water on within 24 hours of notification, depending on workload.

You can schedule a hook-up by calling our office in Dickinson at 701-225-0241 or toll-free 1-888-425-0241. Also, we have two satellite offices to better serve you. Reach Shawn Bilquist in Elgin at 584-2388 or Andy Erickson in Reeder at 853-2617.

News
from the
Southwest Water Authority
(SWA) office






 Peter J. Bader of Mott recently won 10,000 gallons of water in a drawing conducted by the SWA. Bader entered the drawing by responding to a customer satisfaction survey earlier this spring.

 Loren Myran, chairman of the board, SWA, recently presented Shawn Bilquist a certificate of appreciation for five years of service. Bilquist is the SWA's operation and maintenance representative in Elgin. His area includes 425 square miles and about 775 miles of pipeline and related appurtenances. Previously, Bilquist also managed the first SWA satellite office in Regent.




*Shawn Bilquist
recognized for service*

 SWA welcomes new and returning exceptional seasonal employees!

-  Clint Scott, Manning, North Dakota
-  Jeremy Jepson, Killdeer, North Dakota
-  TeeJay Zenker, Regent, North Dakota

Seasonal employees make it possible to complete the many operations and maintenance tasks the SWA performs in the summer.

 Terry Eckelberg joined SWA as a permanent, full-time Water Distribution Maintenance Operator. He and his wife Denae have a two year old daughter, Madison, and they are expecting another child in August.



*Terry Eckelberg
joins staff*

 Mary Massad and Sandra Burwick recently attended the 2003 North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System Payroll Conference in Bismarck.

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors

To obtain information in your area regarding SWA, contact your county or city representative.

Adams

Leonard Jacobs (2004)*
 401 Highway 22 North
 Reeder, ND 58649
 853-2219

Billings

James Odermann (2004)
 2767 129th Avenue SW
 Belfield, ND 58622
 575-4767

Bowman

Don Flynn (2006)*
 PO Box 531
 Scranton, ND 58653
 275-6351

Dunn

Emanuel Stroh (2004)
 101 Eger Street
 Manning, ND 58642
 573-4552

Golden Valley

Darrel Oech (2006)
 16690 40th Street SW
 Beach, ND 58621
 872-4807

Grant

Brian Roth (2004)
 7260 77th Avenue SW
 New Leipzig, ND 58562
 584-2470

Hettinger

Ray Bieber (2006)
 PO Box 125
 Mott, ND 58646
 824-2712

Mercer

John Klein (2006)
 PO Box 56
 Beulah, ND 58523
 748-2535

Morton

Steve Tomac (2006)
 2500 59th Street
 St. Anthony, ND 58566
 445-7364

Oliver

Duane Bueligen (2004)
 4251 29th Street
 New Salem, ND 58563
 843-7239

Slope

Joe Steier (2004)
 PO Box 1127
 Hettinger, ND 58639
 567-5294

Stark

**Loren Myran (2006)*
 9440 32nd Street SW
 Taylor, ND 58656
 974-3644

Dickinson

Larry Ziegler (2004)
 887 13th Street West
 Dickinson, ND 58601
 483-3054

Larry Bares (2006)
 1131 Senior Avenue
 Dickinson, ND 58601
 225-2030

NEW!

Lake Gauge



*Executive Committee Members
 **Chairperson

Watch for updated lake levels from Lake Sakakawea each newsletter!