

# Water Works

SOUTHWEST WATER  
AUTHORITY

November, 2007  
Special Edition

## **Medora-Beach nears completion - Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn continues**

By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer

Fall is here in southwestern North Dakota. What a lovely time of year. It is also a busy time for all of us involved with the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). Southwest Water Authority (SWA) has finished signups for the Medora-Beach Phase III Service Area. It is planned to bid that area this fall or early winter. The areas include the North Fairfield Pocket and the Trotters Pocket, as well as the McKenzie County Area around Grassy Butte. SWA is working with the McKenzie County Water Resource District and the ND State Water Commission (SWC) to provide service to this area through the SWPP. It is the most cost effective and economical use of tax payer dollars to provide service to this area. This will be the final phase of construction in the Medora-Beach Service Area. The SWC received \$2.3 million in funding in the form of loan and grant money from USDA-Rural Development (USDA-RD) to finance the current area in Medora-Beach that is under construction. James Andrew, USDA-RD Administrator, presented a check to SWC and SWA for construction on August 14, 2007. We were privileged to have Mr. Andrew here with us during his tour of North Dakota. The SWC has also submitted an application with USDA-RD for funding of the final phase in the Medora-Beach Service Area. If this funding is approved, the state funding not spent in this area will be spent in the next phase of construction, Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Service Area.

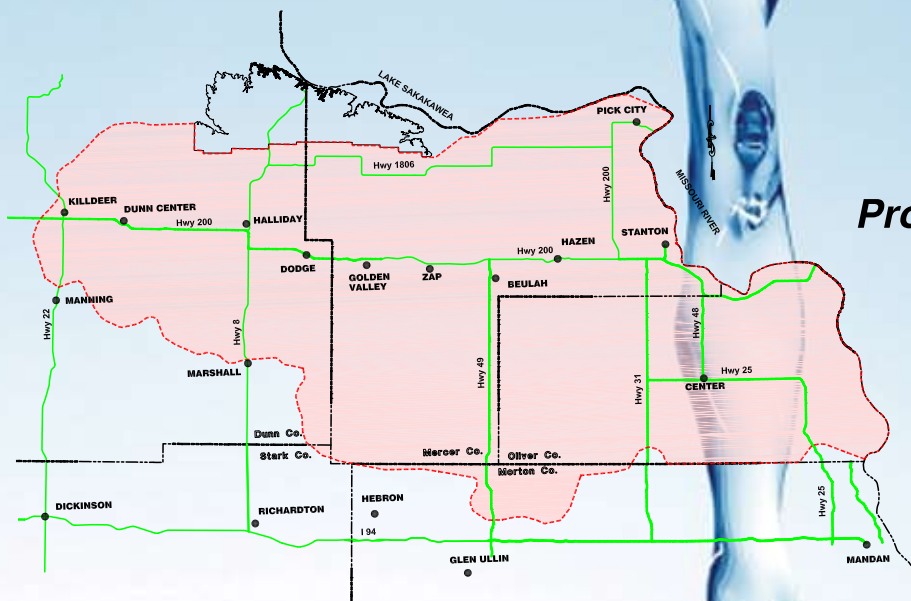
SWPP representatives have been busy meeting with communities in Oliver, Mercer and North Dunn Counties this year. The communities that currently do not have service with the SWPP were given a deadline of September 1, 2007, to decide on water service. This will enable design of the final phase of construction to begin. Meetings were held throughout the region with the respective city councils. Most communities also held public meetings to provide city residents information about SWPP and the OMND Service Area.



SWPP receives funding from United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development. From left: Loren Myran, SWA Chairman; Jack Dalrymple, Lieutenant Governor; James Andrew, USDA-RD Administrator; Clare Carlson, USDA-RD State Director; Dale Frink, ND State Water Commission State Engineer

The intent is to move forward with final design this winter and construction to continue on the OMND Service Area in 2008. This service area will have its own water treatment plant located by the raw water tanks north of Zap on the highest point in Mercer County. In order to design the size of the water treatment plant and to size the pipeline accordingly, SWA needs to know who will be served. This begins with the communities, as well as the power plants and coal mines in the region. We are in the process of completing the rural signup campaign in the region, as well. The cutoff date for rural signups is November 30, 2007. (Please see Glenn's article for more details.)

I am delighted to report that the following communities have voted to sign up for water service with the SWPP: Hazen, Center and Stanton. The Hazen City Commission voted unanimously for SWPP water. Center and Stanton held special city elections. Center voted on August 14th. The results were 122 for and 93 against SWPP water. Stanton held a special city election on August 28th. The Stanton election results were 103 for and 18 against SWPP water service. SWA is excited to welcome these communities and looks forward to serving them quality water in the not too distant future.



## ***Proposed construction in Oliver, Mercer and Dunn Counties***

*Continued from previous column*

These customers can only be added if there are funds available in the construction budget. (That is why, if you are interested in water service, it is much better to sign up during the final design versus construction phase.) Anticipated completion of construction is 2009 through 2015, contingent on funding.

### ***Bringing service home***

By: Glenn Eckelberg, Marketing Coordinator

***When will you bring water to us?*** This is the question customers in the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area have been asking for years. Finally, we can answer, yes, you're next. Thank you for signing up years ago and patiently waiting for service in your area. Without your support and signups for service, we may not even be discussing this project today. Soon, many people will benefit from the vision of providing quality water for southwest North Dakota. This area is very special to me, as my family has been farming and ranching northeast of Dunn Center for five generations. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to receive quality rural water.

***Residents encouraged to sign up during the final design phase.*** Southwest Water Authority (SWA) is in the process of conducting final signup meetings throughout Oliver, Mercer and Dunn Counties the last week of September and throughout October. Please note costs and upcoming deadlines. The signup fee is \$430.00 until November 30, 2007. This is the final design deadline to sign up at this rate. After November 30, 2007, the fee will increase to \$750.00. This increase is to encourage early signup, enabling pipeline engineers to better prepare final plans, routes and treatment plant capacity needed for the project. Once the design is completed and approved, it will be submitted for bidding by the ND State Water Commission. While in the bidding process, any new customers wanting to receive service are considered construction customers.

### ***Can residents still sign up during the construction phase?***

Yes. Until the project is bid, residents can still sign up as explained above, and have the service brought into the edge of your yard as a standard or high consumption customer. Pasture tap customers have a distance restriction of 325 feet from the nearest transmission line. In both cases, signing up for service during the construction phase is more expensive than signing up for service during the final design phase.

After the bid has been let, all costs to bring water service to your home become your responsibility. So, if you miss the final design deadline, you will still have an opportunity to be included in the project, though at your own expense! For further information,

please call 701-225-0241 or toll-free: 1-888-425-0241 and ask for myself or my assistant, Rachelle Weiler. From all of us at SWA, best wishes and have a great Thanksgiving holiday.

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# 2007



## Progress Report

### **Background in brief**

The North Dakota State Legislature established the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), a political subdivision, in 1991 to manage, operate and maintain the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). A 14-member board of directors governs the SWA. One director represents each county within the SWPP Service Area and two directors represent the city of Dickinson. The counties represented include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope and Stark.

The SWPP, a state-owned project, administered by the ND State Water Commission and operated and maintained by SWA, transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson where it is treated and delivered to customers in southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota.

For 22 years, the SWPP has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs to treatment facilities bringing southwest North Dakota an adequate quantity of quality water. To date, the pipeline serves 28 communities, more than 3,100 rural service locations, 12 contract customers, eight raw water customers and Perkins County Rural Water.

### **Construction update**

#### *Medora-Beach Service Area*

Progress continued in the Medora-Beach Service Area which included construction in Trotters, North Fryburg and Fairfield Areas. A total of \$10.3 million was secured from the North Dakota Legislature for Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) construction, in the current biennium. In 2007, the city of Medora converted their blended service to a sole-source agreement with the SWPP. With Medora's decision, all communities receiving water from the SWPP do so via a sole-source contract. "We think this a testament to the quality of water produced and delivered by our system. . .at a reasonable price," said Mary Massad, SWA Manager/CEO.

#### *Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area*

With construction nearing completion in the Medora-Beach Service Area, focus will move to final design of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area. Southwest Water Authority asked cities in this area to decide by September 1, 2007, if they desired service from the Southwest Pipeline Project. Doing so will assist engineers in creating the final project design. Hazen's City Commission voted unanimously in favor of the water, while Stanton and Center held special city elections. Residents of Stanton voted 103 to 18 and Center voted 122 to 93 in favor of receiving pipeline water. Rural residents were asked to sign up for rural water by November 30, 2007. Multiple public information meetings were held throughout the proposed service area in 2007 to discuss project plans and options.

### **Phased Development Plan**

**Current Development Phase**  
Medora-Beach Phase  
*West Zone*

**Next and Final Development Phase**  
Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Phase  
*North Zone*

# *happenings*

## **Water Infrastructure Critical to States' Economic Viability**

As federal funding continues to shrink for water projects, Southwest Water Authority's focus has been on state funding to move projects forward including the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). Working closely with the North Dakota Water Coalition has been key to success in recent years. The coalition was formed to bring state-wide water interests together so a concerted effort for funding acquisition could be made through a unified approach. The collective goal: completing water infrastructure statewide. Recent accomplishments include completing the Devils Lake Outlet, Maple River Dam and Grand Forks Flood Control Project, progressing with construction on the Northwest Area Water Supply, the SWPP and many other smaller projects. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is now on the horizon and is in the process of completing its Environmental Impact Statement. They hope to secure funding and soon move forward with construction. A combination of federal, state and local money is being sought to fund the project. Working with the North Dakota Water Coalition, Southwest Water Authority helped secure \$31 million for water development statewide during the 60th Session of the North Dakota Legislature. Of this, \$10.3 million was allocated for Southwest Pipeline Project.

## **Funding**

The United States Department of Agriculture granted a \$2.3 million loan and grant funding package for construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project. This funding will be used to complete construction in both Stark and Billings Counties, serving 81 customers in the south Fryburg Pocket. Also, included in this project is 3.3 miles of parallel pipeline in the Missouri West Water System accommodating the additional customers who signed up during construction in eastern Morton County.

**Vision Statement:**  
People and business  
succeeding with quality water.

**Mission Statement:**  
Providing quality water for  
southwest North Dakota.

## **Water rates**

Water Rates increased for the first time in five years. The constant flow contract customer rate is \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. The raw water contract rate is \$2.49 per 1,000 gallons of water. The demand flow contract customer rate is \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. The rural monthly minimum is \$39.45, an increase of \$1.20 from last year. The rural customer rate per 1,000 gallons is \$3.65, up \$ .05 from previous years.

## **Christensen honored**

Ray Christensen, former Manager/CEO of the Southwest Water Authority was recognized for his 21 year career in water development when the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) renamed its high service pump station in Dickinson the Ray Christensen Pump Station. Christensen logged 45 years of dedicated service to North Dakota's water industry, 21 of which were devoted to the SWPP in southwest North Dakota.

## **Changing of the guard**

Mary Massad became the third Southwest Water Authority Manager/CEO on July 1, 2007, upon the retirement of Ray Christensen. Massad says she is committed to seeing the vision of "people and business succeeding with quality water."