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# Water Works



**The Official Publication of  
Southwest Water Authority  
and the  
Southwest Pipeline Project**

**April 2009  
Volume 12, Issue 2**

## Manager's message

*By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer*



**Mary Massad**  
Manager/CEO

Today, as I write this, it certainly seems spring is in the air. Being a North Dakotan, I know better, but hopefully soon, spring will be upon us. One thing I can say for most North Dakotans is we are optimists, and we are especially optimistic for the future of water in our region. We are hopeful that as the legislature continues their

deliberations, they will be thoughtful to the needs of our citizens, including the need for an adequate supply of quality water for everyone.

Looking toward the future, our ultimate goal is to reach out to those who have patiently waited for project completion. There are several factors influencing this, most importantly, adequate funding. The sources of funding for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) are through state and federal dollars. On the state level, the funding sources for water projects are the Resources Trust Fund and the Water Development Trust Fund (45 percent of state tobacco settlement dollars). These are a part of the North Dakota State Water Commission's budget. The Resources Trust Fund is tied to oil revenue. The fund's revenue source is 20 percent of the oil extraction tax collected by the state. Thus, when oil prices are high, there is more revenue streaming into this fund. As oil prices decrease, so do revenues. This is a double-edged sword. We want reasonable prices for fuel, both as business people and as consumers. However, we also want oil prices high enough to keep the market and the economy moving in a positive direction in regions where oil exploration has been active. Oil also impacts the construction of water projects. The resin used in the manufacturing of PVC pipe is a product of oil. The cost of installation of

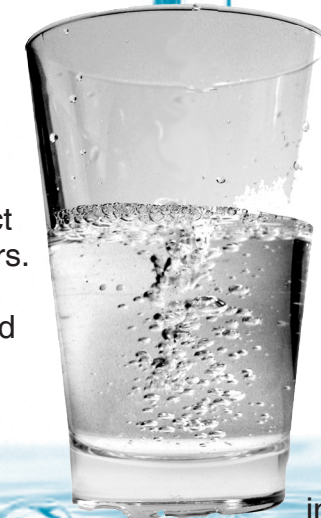
the SWPP requires fuel, and just as in business, and farming and ranching, the price of fuel has a major influence.

There are several bills currently being considered by our state legislature which would have an impact on the oil extraction tax, thereby affecting water funding. Southwest Water Authority and the North Dakota Water Coalition have taken the stance of extraction taxes being neutral on the revenue to the Resources Trust Fund.

In closing, as an optimistic North Dakotan who looks for the good in most situations, I am hopeful spring is coming, the state will see adequate revenues to fund water projects statewide and those patiently waiting for project completion will soon have their first glass of SWPP water.

## National Drinking Water Week

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) invites you to recognize and celebrate National Drinking Water Week May 3-9, 2009. National Drinking Water Week provides a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. SWA is committed to continuing the campaign to raise public awareness and the understanding of drinking water. One of the ways you can participate is by following some basic water conservation tips. Visit [www.swa.swc.state.nd.us](http://www.swa.swc.state.nd.us) to learn more!



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## Dorgan approves funding

Senator Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D., met with Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board members, management, staff and other water advocates on Monday, April 6, 2009, at the Elk's Lodge in Dickinson, North Dakota.

"As chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, I've changed the way we are doing business," said Dorgan. "We are fulfilling a promise." A promise made to North Dakota by the United States government over 60 years ago is the reason why SWA will receive \$8 million in federal funding in 2009. This money will be in addition to \$3 million received in 2008 and the projected \$8 million for 2010.

The Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944. When the Garrison Dam was built as a part of this program, the federal government assured North Dakota "benefits" in exchange for a permanent flood in our state. "Although," said Dorgan, "we haven't seen much of the irrigation benefits, we have benefitted substantially by being able to fund rural water systems, such as the SWPP."

The \$8 million will be used to fund construction in the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Regional Service Area. Eventually, service will be provided to over 1,100 rural customers, power plants, small businesses and eight communities, including Center, Hazen and Stanton. "Best case scenario, with adequate funding, we could be done in ten years," said Mary Massad, SWA Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

"I will continue to fight to bring fresh water, good quality water, to a state that so desperately needs it," vowed Senator Dorgan.

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



Senator Dorgan holds a photograph of his hometown, Regent, ND, presented to him on behalf of SWA. The photograph's caption read, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." – Benjamin Franklin.

## Southwest Water Authority surveys customers

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) strives to provide affordable, quality water and superior customer service. In an effort to learn how we can better serve you, customer satisfaction surveys were mailed in March to all contract and rural water customers.

A chance to win 10,000 gallons of free Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) water was offered to rural customers, tenants and landowners who returned their surveys prior to March 25, 2009. However, due to recent snow storms, the deadline was extended to March 31.

Congratulations to the winners, Travis and Michelle Hauck!

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned their survey. We continue to receive surveys daily. If you haven't completed yours, do so today! Your input is important to us! Watch for survey results to be printed in an upcoming edition of *Water Works*.

## Holiday Observance

Southwest Water Authority will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**Memorial Day - May 25**  
**Independence Day - July 4**

## Certificates of Compliance awarded

Public water systems are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to protect source water and provide safe drinking water. Congress passed the SDWA to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supplies. Initially, the SDWA focused solely on water treatment as a means of providing safe drinking water. Amendments to the law now recognize source water protection, funding for water system improvements and public information as important components of safe drinking water as well.

A water system must act in accordance with specific rules of the SDWA based on the system's source water, population served and the treatment process used. Southwest Water Authority (SWA) is proud to announce Water Distribution Manager, Lee Messer, and staff, successfully complied with all of the requirements for each of SWA's five public water systems. The North Dakota Department of Health has issued each system a Certificate of Compliance. Congratulations on a job well done!

## Charles Magnuson joins team



Charles Magnuson has accepted a position with Southwest Water Authority as a maintenance electrician. Charles moved to Dickinson from Marshall, Minnesota. He and his wife, Amy, have three daughters, age 25 and

15 year old twins. In his free time, Charles enjoys shooting his bow, hunting and fishing. Welcome, Charles!

## Cindy's water notes

By: Cindy Miller, Customer Service Representative

If your water became available after October 1, 2008, you will receive your first bill in May, 2009. On your first bill, it will show a credit of 1,000 gallons so you can flush your system. Once you are hooked up and using water, 2,000 gallons of water is included in your monthly minimum for each month you provide us with a meter reading. The monthly minimum is based on the type of service for which you signed up. If you signed up for a pasture tap, your first bill will be prorated from May, 2009, to October, 2009.

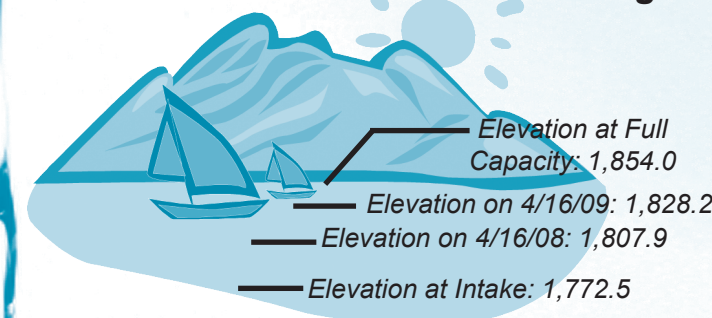


Cindy Miller  
Customer Service Representative

### ATTENTION!

Southwest Water Authority is not responsible for cash payments mailed or deposited in the drop boxes!

## Lake Sakakawea Elevation Gauge



*Water Works* is an Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

### Vision Statement:

People and business succeeding with quality water

### Mission Statement:

Providing quality water for southwest North Dakota

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