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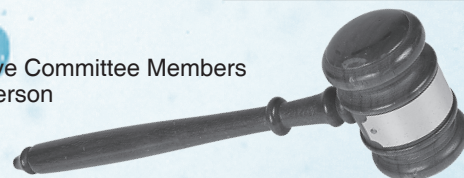
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Water Works

SOUTHWEST WATER
AUTHORITY

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

January 2009
Volume 12, Issue 1

Manager's message

By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer



Mary Massad
Manager/CEO

The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board of directors, management and staff wish all of our customers, partners and stakeholders a very Happy New Year! We are dedicated to serving you and look forward to construction in 2009.

It wasn't long ago when residents of southwest North Dakota battled collapsing wells and inadequate water quality and supply. Concerned about their health and livelihoods, they shared their critical water needs with state and national elected officials and other key decision makers. The need for an adequate supply of quality water was established and a commitment was made to fulfill the promise of water.

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) began construction in 1986, and today, serves more than 3,300 rural customers, 14 contract and 13 raw water customers, Perkins County Rural Water and 28 communities. Entering the 2009-2011 biennium and the 61st Legislative Assembly, SWPP construction begins its twenty-fourth year.

Currently, construction in the Medora-Beach Regional Service Area is wrapping up and work continues in the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Service Area. The pilot study for the water treatment plant (WTP) to be located near Zap continues at the WTP in Dickinson and is scheduled to conclude this year. The preliminary engineering report for the OMND Service Area, prepared by Bartlett & West/AECOM USA (BW/AECOM), has also been completed. With adequate funding in the current biennium, construction of the OMND Service Area will continue in earnest.

The SWA board of directors recently convened to discuss the remaining SWPP construction schedule. The decisions made at the meeting will be recommended to the North Dakota State Water Commission to plan the OMND Service Area construction sequence.

The board is recommending the main transmission line to Hazen be built while procuring membranes for, and beginning the construction of, the WTP north of Zap. Construction in the 2009-2011 biennium aims to complete the Zap WTP and the Zap Rural Service Area. Progress schedules prepared by BW/AECOM will continue to be followed. The schedules are flexible and are closely monitored by the SWA board of directors and management, who maintain the authority to propose changes if needed. The cost of construction for the next five bienniums is anticipated to be \$16 to \$18 million per biennium.

Funding is crucial to the advancement and completion of the promise of water. With SWPP water, ranchers will no longer have to haul water to their livestock, fathers will no longer have to haul water to their homes and families will not need to worry about water with elevated levels of sulfate, uranium, sodium, iron and manganese. Project completion will only become a reality with the continued support of federal, state and local governments, along with grassroots support by the individuals in need of an adequate supply of quality water in southwest North Dakota.



New rates for the new year

At the November Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board of directors meeting, the budgeting process was completed and water rates were set for 2009. Board members and management continuously strive to stabilize the cost of water. Rates are carefully reviewed annually to determine if changes are needed to maintain operations. Due to rising costs, there will be a slight water rate increase for contract and raw water customers in 2009. Rates will increase five cents, to \$3.12 from \$3.07, per thousand gallons of water for contract customers and five cents, from \$2.49 to \$2.54, per thousand gallons of water for raw water customers. Rural customers with standard hookups will note a minimum payment increase from \$39.45 to \$41.10 per month. Rural water rates will remain the same at \$3.65 per thousand gallons.

SWA appreciates our customers and the support they provide to the Southwest Pipeline Project. If you have questions or need additional information regarding 2009 water rates, please contact SWA at 701-225-0241 or 1-888-425-0241.



Board members and their wives enjoyed themselves recently at Southwest Water Authority. Pictured left to right: Faye Stroh, Sue Juntunen, Dave Juntunen and Emanuel Stroh.

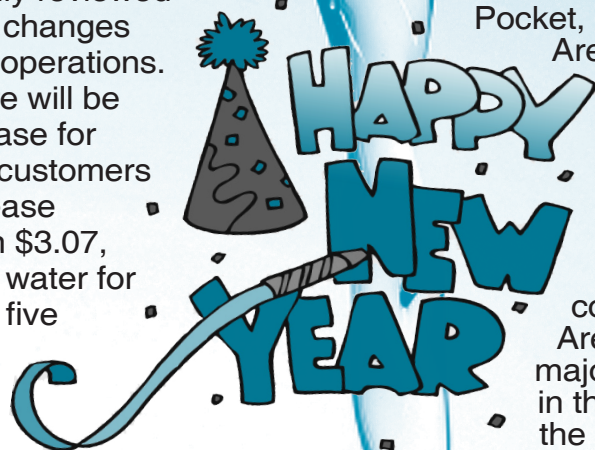
Construction update

By: Tim Freije, SWPP Project Manager

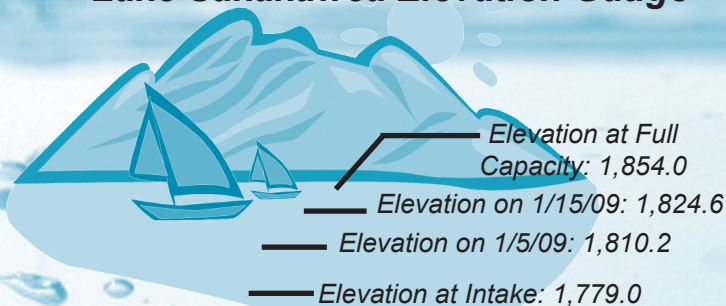
The 2008 Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) construction season has come to a close. During the past year, four rural distribution contracts – the Trotters Pocket, Fairfield Service Area, Grassy Butte Service Area and Killdeer Mountain Service Area – were bid and awarded in addition to one potable water reservoir contract. The Trotters Pocket has reached substantial completion. The Fairfield Service Area is nearing completion, with a majority of the 206 miles of pipeline in the ground and more than half of the users turned over to Southwest Water Authority for service. The Grassy Butte and Killdeer Mountain Service Areas are approximately forty percent complete and scheduled to be finished in 2009. The reservoir, located northwest of Fairfield, has been standing since fall but will not be put into service until later this year. Overall, 358 of 485 miles of 1½ to 10 inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe has been installed and 183 of 487 users have been turned over for service. Twenty-seven percent of these users (131 of 487) were added to the four contracts after the projects were bid. Dollars spent on the SWPP in 2008 totaled \$10.1 million, which included \$2.2 million in state funding and \$7.9 million in federal funding.



Tim Freije
Project Manager



Lake Sakakawea Elevation Gauge



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.

Holiday Observance

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 19
Presidents' Day - February 16
Good Friday - April 10

SWA named Employer of the Year

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) was named Employer of the Year by the Dakotas' Chapter of the International Right of Way Association (IRWA). Chapter President Elect Don Hellman and Valeree King, property and right of way specialist for Basin Electric Power Cooperative, presented an honorary plaque to SWA at the November board of directors meeting.

The Employer of the Year Award acknowledges associate companies which actively support their employees as IRWA members. Recipients are chosen for demonstrating strong employee support and commitment in terms of participation, financing and service at chapter, regional and international levels of the association. SWA Marketing Coordinator Bruce Koppinger and Assistant Marketing Coordinator Rachelle Weiler are each active members of the IRWA.



Pictured above: Don Hellman presents SWA Manager/CEO Mary Massad, Bruce Koppinger and Rachelle Weiler the IRWA Dakotas' Chapter Employer of the Year Award.

Cindy's water notes

By: Cindy Miller, Customer Service Representative

Following are a few frequently asked questions we receive from you, our customers.



Cindy Miller
Customer Service Representative

What are the charges to reconnect service if my account becomes delinquent and water service is disconnected?

Payment will be made in full prior to reconnecting. Service can be restored provided water capacity is still available. Payment shall include the accumulated monthly minimum bills since the date service was disconnected, any requested deposits, any unpaid water usage and a service charge.

What if my water service is permanently disconnected?

Once water service is permanently disconnected, it can only be restored after unpaid minimums, expenses incurred in the collection of past due amounts, and reconnect charges are paid; or a new hookup fee is paid. A new hydraulic study may be required.

If you have further questions, please call 701-225-0241, 1-888-425-0241 or e-mail us at swa@swwater.com.

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

Editor: LoAnn's Marketing Inc.
 Published quarterly.

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