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Water Works



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

February 2010
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Manager's message

By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer



Mary Massad
Manager/CEO

Thank you... two of the most powerful words. As the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) continues to progress and nears completion it becomes more evident to me the importance of those two words. The project continues to reach its vision despite whatever challenges encountered as the result of many. From the daunting task of securing funding, planning and construction to the day-to-day operations, it takes hard work and perseverance to progress and bring a reliable source of quality water to southwest North Dakota. Thank you... to the many individuals who share their time, talent and treasure to reach the ultimate vision of "People and business succeeding with quality water."

At the November Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board of directors meeting, the budgeting process was approved and water rates were set for 2010. 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 rural and contract water customers. Rates will increase five cents from \$3.12 to \$3.17, per thousand gallons of water for contract customers and five cents, from \$3.65 to \$3.70, per thousand gallons of water for rural water customers. Standard minimum rates remain the same at \$41.10 per month. On behalf of the board of directors and the entire staff at SWA, thank you to our customers. It is with your support that we continue to bring a reliable source of quality water to southwest North Dakota.

SWA is governed by a 14-member board of directors representing the 12 counties and the city of Dickinson in southwest North Dakota. The board meets monthly to discuss the operations, maintenance and progress of the SWPP.

If you are interested in representing your respective city or county on the SWA Board of Directors contact your county and/or city auditor to obtain the criteria to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for the office of director. Elections for the board will be held this year in the following: Bowman, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton and Stark Counties, as well as the cities of Dickinson and Mandan. Currently, the individuals representing their respective county/city are as follows: Don Flynn, Bowman, Darrel Oech, Golden Valley, Ray Bieber, Hettinger, John Klein, Mercer, George Saxowsky, Morton, Loren Myran, Stark, Larry Bares, the city of Dickinson, as well as the city of Mandan electing a representative on the board for the first time. Thank you, directors... for your hard work and commitment to rural water development.

Many hours have been spent on emergency preparedness and it has paid off. Thank you to the many individuals who have diligently worked to rebuild the community after tornadoes ripped through the area and during the statewide flooding last spring; to the many individuals who have worked tirelessly to provide the resources and vital information regarding influenza, needed to keep southwest North Dakota residents healthy; and finally, thank you to the many individuals and power companies who have worked day and night restoring electricity to those left powerless for days.

I'd like to thank the entire SWA team for their recent efforts to ensure customers continued to receive a reliable source of quality water during the power outages, as well. Going the extra mile in the most challenging of times demonstrates your true commitment to our customer, thank you. SWA will continue to develop and implement effective emergency preparedness strategies.

(Manager's message continued on page 3)

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Cindy's water notes

By: Cindy Miller, Customer Service Representative



Cindy Miller
Customer Service
Representative

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) offers Automatic Payment Plan. You can have your payment made automatically from your checking or savings account. There is no check to write, no payment to mail, no more late fees, no more forgetting to pay, and Automatic

Payment Plan is FREE! This may also be convenient for people who leave for the winter months.

How Does Automatic Payment Plan Work?

Automatic Payment Plan lets your financial institution do all the work. Each month, the amount due on your SWA bill is automatically deducted from your designated bank account on the 20th of the month. The proof of payment will appear on your monthly bank statement. It will still be important for you to call, e-mail or mail in your meter reading monthly.

How Much Does it Cost?

Automatic Payment Plan will cost you nothing. In fact, you will save time and money with no check writing expense and no postage costs.

How Do I Sign Up?

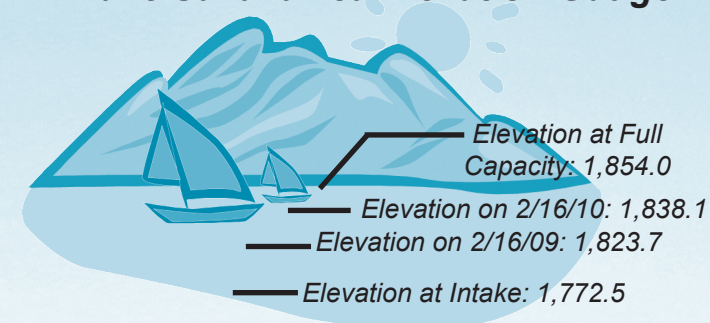
Sign up is simple. Complete the Authorization Form below and return it to SWA. Please attach a blank, signed check marked "VOID." This will be used to record the bank information necessary to process the payments.

You can designate a checking or savings account. Make sure the signatures match bank records. If the bank account is in two or more names, all account holders must sign.

How Long Does It Take For Automatic Payment Plan To Go Into Effect?

Automatic Payment Plan will usually take one month to implement. A note indicating this will appear on your water billing statement. Please continue to pay your bill as usual until you see this note.

Lake Sakakawea Elevation Gauge



Meeting schedule 2010

The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors meet monthly to discuss the operations, maintenance and progress of the Southwest Pipeline Project. These meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to be placed on an agenda, please call SWA at 701-225-0241 or toll-free 1-888-425-0241.

Below you will find a list of meeting dates and locations. Watch your local newspaper for further details or changes.

Monday, March 1	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Monday, April 5	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Monday, May 3	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Monday, June 7	Hazen City Hall, Hazen ND
Tuesday, July 6	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Monday, August 2	Center Civic Center, Center, ND
Tuesday, September 7	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Monday, October 4	Buckskin Bar & Grill, Killdeer, ND
Monday, November 1	Elks Lodge, Dickinson, ND
Tuesday, December 7	Seven Seas, Mandan, ND

Holiday Observance

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

Good Friday - April 2

(Manager's message continued from page 1)

As you well know, oil production is on the rise. As production increases in North Dakota so does the need for a reliable source of quality water. In an effort to explore possible partnership opportunities SWA has appointed a subcommittee comprised of four current board members. The subcommittee is responsible for gathering information and reporting to the full board. The members appointed, followed by the county/city they currently represent on the board of directors include Duane Bueligen, Oliver County, Chairperson; Emanuel Stroh, Dunn County, Vice Chairperson; Loren Myran, Chairman of the Board, Stark County and James Odermann, Billings County.

On behalf of SWA and as Manager/CEO **thank you** congressional delegation, governor, legislators, water supporters, customers, board members, staff and the many more for your continued commitment to bring life's most precious resource... water... to those in need.

ATTENTION!

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

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People and business succeeding
with quality water

Mission Statement:
Providing quality water for
southwest North Dakota

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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.

YES, I WANT TO DO AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN AUTHORIZATION FORM (Please Print)

Please attach a blank check marked "VOID."

I (we) authorize the Southwest Water Authority (SWA) to initiate debit entries to my (our) account identified below for payment of water bills. The financial institution named below is authorized to charge these bills to my (our) account. This authority will remain in effect until I (we) notify you in writing to cancel it at such time as to afford the bank a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by timely notification to my financial institution prior to charging my account. I understand that both the financial institution and the SWA reserve the right to terminate my participation in this payment plan.

Name (as it appears on your water bill)

Southwest Water Authority
Account Number

Bank Account Number

Address

Name of Financial Institution

City

State

Zip

Address of Financial Institution

Authorized Signature as Shown on Bank Account

Authorized Signature as Shown on Bank Account

Date

Work Phone

Home Phone

Date

Work Phone

Home Phone

Authorized Signature as Shown on Bank Account

Authorized Signature as Shown on Bank Account

Date

Work Phone

Home Phone

Date

Work Phone

Home Phone

REMEMBER, IF BANK ACCOUNT IS IN TWO OR MORE NAMES, ALL ACCOUNT HOLDERS MUST SIGN!!