

From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Mary Massad,
 Manager/CEO

This past year marked the 30th anniversary for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) and 25th anniversary for Southwest Water Authority (SWA). Like the years before, 2016 was also a year full of accomplishments, construction, and project completions. As of the first of 2017, SWA serves more than 6,800 rural customers, 33 communities, 26 contract customers, 21 raw customers, two rural water systems, and two raw water depots. To date, the SWPP installed over 5,000 miles of pipeline delivering quality water to nearly 500 new rural customers.

In 2016, construction began on the six million gallons per day (6 MGD) Supplemental Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson. The East and West Center Service Areas were substantially complete with a total of 720 customers turned over for service. Construction of the Halliday and Dunn Center Service Areas is underway with 495 customers turned over for service. Construction continues on the Supplemental Intake on Renner Bay.

The SWPP could not have happened without state ownership and construction costs being initially paid by the state. As we enter into another Legislative session year, it is important to remember the customers receiving SWPP's quality water are paying back to the state the cost of construction. Together, SWA's rural, city, contract and industrial customers, are paying back into the Resources Trust Fund (RTF), on average \$12,000 per day or about \$5 million per year. By the end of 2016, the amount paid back by the customers of SWA was more than \$52 million.

This past year, we had two board member retirements: Ray Bieber, Hettinger County and Duane Bueligen, Oliver County. During their terms both Ray and Duane served SWA with unwavering dedication and leadership. On behalf of a grateful SWA Board of Directors, management and staff, we appreciate what both Ray and Duane brought to SWA's Board of Directors and the SWPP.

Along with all of us at SWA, we welcome Ray Bieber's successor, Don Schaible and Duane Bueligen's successor, Mike Tietz.

As we enter into 2017, the SWPP remains a good example of how a partnership between the state and a water authority works. It has worked for 30 years and with support from our legislators – it will continue quality water to southwest North Dakota.

Rate Change Approved

At the November 2016 Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors meeting the budgeting process was approved and water rates were set for 2017. 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 customers. Rates for standard rural customers will increase 15 cents from \$4.69 to \$4.84, per thousand gallons and contract customers will see an increase of 11 cents from \$4.15 to \$4.26, per thousand gallons. The standard monthly minimum for rural customers increased 37 cents from \$39.95 to \$40.32.

SWA Board of Directors



Jonathon Eaton
 Adams County
 jonathoneaton@swwater.com



James Odermann
 Billings County
 jamesodermann@swwater.com



Rick Seifert
 Bowman County
 rickseifert@swwater.com



Glenn Eckelberg
 Dunn County
 glenneckelberg@swwater.com



Gene Allen
 Golden Valley County
 geneallen@swwater.com



Brian Roth
 Grant County
 brianroth@swwater.com



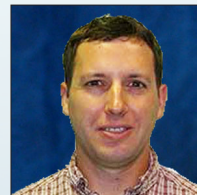
Don Schaible
 Hettinger County
 donschaible@swwater.com



Marie Johnson
 Mercer County
 mariejohnson@swwater.com



George Saxowsky
 Morton County
 georgesaxowsky@swwater.com



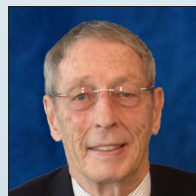
Mike Tietz
 Oliver County
 miketietz@swwater.com



Dave Juntunen
 Slope County
 davejuntunen@swwater.com



Steve Schneider
 Stark County
 steveschneider@swwater.com



Larry Bares
 City of Dickinson
 larrybares@swwater.com

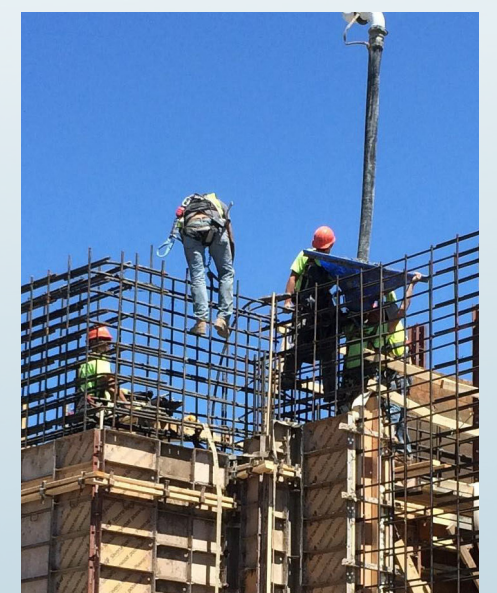


Larry Stang
 City of Dickinson
 larrystang@swwater.com



Bob Leingang
 City of Mandan
 bobleingang@swwater.com

Happy New Year



Duane Bueligen Awarded 2016 Water Wheel Award

Duane Bueligen, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board member representing Oliver County was honored with the 2016 Water Wheel Award at the 53rd Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop in Bismarck at the end of 2016. For over two decades Duane has been instrumental in defining the very mission of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) and SWA. Considered a forefather of SWA and the SWPP, Duane has been passionate about the development of rural water and bringing safe, reliable drinking water to the citizens of southwest North Dakota. The Water Wheel Award is given to someone who demonstrates a commitment to protect and manage North Dakota's water resources. Duane's distinctive leadership and perseverance has gone above and beyond in the promotion of the SWPP and SWA. Duane has remained steadfast in communicating the importance of North Dakota's water resources for the livelihood and enjoyment of its residents. Mary Massad, Manager/CEO of SWA, states "Duane truly is a water pioneer and visionary, and his years of service to the water industry and the undeniable results of his efforts have earned him the Water Wheel Award. Congratulations Duane!"

Accomplishments in 2016

- SWA's customers paid back over \$52 million to the state
- Added over 500 new rural customers
- Delivered over 2.4 million gallons of quality water
- Completed the Finished Water Pump Station
- Added over 300 miles of pipeline



Crews pouring concrete for the first floor slab at the Supplemental Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson, January 19, 2017.

Award Winning Water – Award Winning People



Many have recognized the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) for the quality water it delivers to over 56,000 residents in southwest North Dakota, but it also takes quality people to make that happen. People like Grace Rixen-Handford, SWA Water Treatment Manager, who was recognized by the ND Department of Health for "Outstanding Water and Wastewater Facility Management" in October 2016 at the North Dakota Pollution and Control Conference.

Our Vision:
People and Business
Succeeding with
Quality Water

Our Mission:
Quality Water for
Southwest
North Dakota

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

Visit our website...from job
postings to the latest pipeline and
water news, it's all online!

www.swwater.com

Send address changes to:
Southwest Water Authority
4665 Second Street Southwest
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

Phone: **(701) 225-0241**
Toll Free: **(888) 425-0241**
Email: swa@swwater.com
Fax: **(701) 225-4058**

SWA 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.

Protect Water Pipes From Freezing

It has been a relatively harsh winter so far. The problem with water is it expands as it freezes and can fracture pipes. When the temperature the pipes are exposed to drops below 32 degrees, Fahrenheit (F), even for a short period, the water inside can freeze. It is important to take the following precautions to avoid the pipe fracturing or breaking and then leaking.



- Even if pipes are indoors, any exposure to outside cold air could cause freezing. Make sure your pipes, crawl spaces and vents are well insulated against any cold air.
- Cold air can penetrate through even a small opening or crack. A bathroom or laundry room located above or next to a garage is particularly vulnerable and keeping that garage door closed can make a huge difference.
- Do you have bathroom pipes running along an exterior wall? When the mercury plunges, think about opening a nearby door to bring warmer air to this area. In extremely cold weather, a fan will facilitate air circulation near the pipes — or you can use a portable heater on a temporary basis.

Remember: If you leave home during the winter, leave your thermostat set to at least 55 degrees F.

Board of Directors

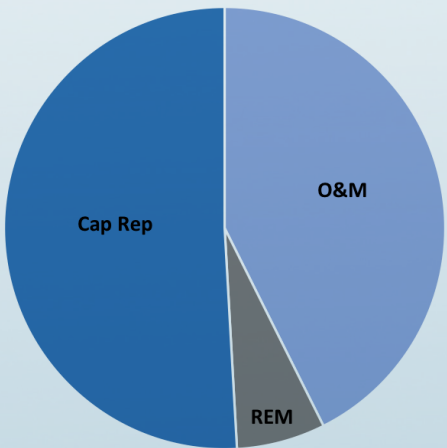
During the past year, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) had two board members retire after two decades of service. Ray Bieber, Hettinger County, retired and was succeeded by Don Schaible at the end of 2016. Duane Bueligen, Oliver County, also retired and was succeeded by Mike Tietz, January of 2017.

During their terms both Ray and Duane served SWA with unwavering dedication and leadership. On behalf of a grateful SWA Board of Directors, management and staff, we appreciate both of them.

Dollars at Work

With the state's repayment for construction and the Replacement for Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) Fund for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), most of the monthly *Rural Minimum* with average usage of 6,000 gallons and a large portion of the *Contract Water Rate* usage goes back to the state. The remaining portion is spent on the costs for operations (O&M).

Rural Minimum with 6,000 gallons



Contract Water Rate

