

From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Spring is here and we are starting to see signs of growth. It is also time to begin gearing up for the seasonal increase in water demands. To prepare for those demands, construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) continued throughout winter.

Construction of the residuals handling facility is under construction and the new Southwest Water Treatment Plant, which was designed for expansion, is coming online to treat water for Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) customers. The new plant increases the water treatment capacity from 12 million gallons per day (MGD) to being able to treat 18 MGD in Dickinson. This increase in capacity will allow SWA to serve not only the existing, but the future water needs of those we serve in southwest North Dakota.

In addition to being able to treat more water, the Project is increasing its storage capacity, as the two new raw water reservoirs, one east of Dickinson and the other one north of Richardton will be completed in 2018. The second intake at Lake Sakakawea is under construction and will deliver raw water to the water treatment plant in Dickinson through parallel pipelines at various locations.

Since SWA first collected water usage fees in 1991, residents and businesses have returned on investment more than \$58 million. As might be expected, it is a program growing by leaps and bounds, from a trickle of \$11,000 in 1991 to over \$5 million, expected in 2018. The funding of the Project also could not have happened without the one mill collected from all of the counties within SWA's service area. It is important to keep the one mill.

Currently, SWA distributes quality water to more than 7,100 rural customers, 33 communities, 26 contract customers, 21 raw customers, two rural water systems and two raw water depots. Yet, we are not done. There are hundreds of people and businesses still waiting to connect to quality water and to gain the same quality of life as those already connected. This is why all of us at SWA remain dedicated to our mission: *Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota.*



Spring Is In the Air

Since we live in an area that has a colder climate in the winter, spring brings a special excitement to us all as we begin enjoying the warmer weather and seeing our landscapes come to life. It is part of what makes living in North Dakota so amazing. It also means you are probably turning on your irrigation systems. Be sure to inspect your irrigation system before and after turning it on to ensure that it is in good working condition, that there are no leaks and that it is set for the correct days and times.



Get Connected

Contact the Southwest Water Authority office to get connected to the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Please note customers are not allowed to turn on their water by themselves or by their water and sewer installer or licensed plumber. This **must** be done by SWA. It is a safety concern for our customers. The line must be flushed and tested to be sure it is safe to drink. If a customer turns on their own water, it will result in a fine and/or termination of water service.

Roller Awarded 2017 Outstanding Water Works Employee of the Year



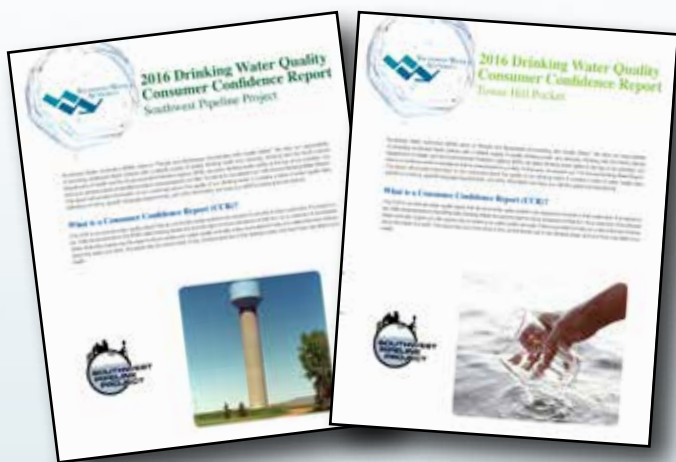
SWA Operator, Dan Roller Checks Out the Water System
Photo Credit: Kyle Martin Photo

Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) Operations Specialist, Dan Roller, was awarded 2017 Outstanding Water Works Employee of the Year by the North Dakota Rural Water System Association.

Few operators have been around as long as the system they serve, but Roller's 24-years with the system, makes him one of them. SWA took over maintenance and operation of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) in 1996. At that time, Roller was a maintenance worker with the State Water Commission, which was in charge of the project before SWA took it over. A veteran employee, his knowledge and insight into the workings of the SWPP are what make him a valuable asset to SWA.

Roller isn't just an excellent resource for SWA, over the years he has also pushed to improve the system, for example, he was instrumental in the implementation of automatic satellite-read water meters. He pushed for and took the lead on the program, which allows the Authority to get daily reads throughout the system. Roller saw automatic meter reading as a money-saving and efficiency-increasing measure, and he personally researched other utilities and programs using the technology — going above and beyond his official responsibilities to help out. It's one of the many reasons he was named 2017 Outstanding Water Works Employee of the Year by the North Dakota Rural Water System Association.

Recognition of Dan Roller was the cover story in the February 27, 2018, edition of *Municipal Sewer & Water*. Read the article online at: <https://www.mswmag.com/ezone/2018/03>



Your Consumer Confidence Report

By June 1st, customers will be receiving Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in their mailboxes. We're pleased to announce that the drinking water provided by SWA continues to meet and or exceed the EPA's strict drinking water quality standards. Your water quality is important to us, which is why we employ the most qualified operators. These operators are responsible for the ongoing testing, treatment, and distribution of your drinking water.

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!

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Add Sprinkler Spruce-Up to Your Spring Cleaning List

Experts estimate that as much as half of the water we use outdoors is lost due to evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems. Before you add water to your newly planted garden this spring, do a little “sprinkler spruce-up” to clean up on water savings outdoors. It just takes four simple steps: inspect, connect, direct, and select.



- Inspect your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads.
- Connect points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes and hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large soggy areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- Direct sprinklers away from your driveway, house, or sidewalk in order to apply water only to your landscape.
- Select a seasonally appropriate watering schedule that meets your landscape’s minimum needs. Better yet, select a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller—which uses local weather data so your system waters only when necessary—to replace a traditional clock-timer scheduling system.

Learn more by visiting www.epa.gov/watersense.

While being water efficient is always important, the week of May 6-12 is recognized as a time to check for and repair any leaky toilets or dripping faucets. Together, we can protect and preserve our precious water supply.

Drinking Water Week | May 6-12, 2018



Protect the
SOURCE

Reclamation & Weed Control



Each spring, when the snow melts and the ground thaws, landscapes will often reveal settling. Beyond the control of the Southwest Pipeline Project’s (SWPP) contractors are the heavy snow and rain, which combined with run off and fluctuating temperatures can cause trench settlement. Settlement can happen over time or immediately after construction. If you observe this scenario in an area where water pipelines have been installed, please contact Southwest Water Authority (SWA) as soon as possible. We’re here to help.

Also SWA is again working to coordinate control of noxious weeds along recently installed pipelines. Spraying takes place according to the specifications as not all weeds can be controlled at the same time. Seeding depends on the time of year and weather conditions. Quite often, issues are not discovered until the landowners are seeding their crops. If you find areas in need of either weed control or seeding, please let us know.



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