

From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Most people rarely think about water infrastructure — and that is understandable, especially for those of us connected to SWA's reliable water. We can turn the tap and fill a glass with safe drinking water, make coffee or fill the dog's water bowl almost unfailingly, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We drink, shower and cook without ever considering how this safe water gets to our homes. For the most part our system runs smoothly, reliably and safely. Yet, these water systems, underground and out of sight, are easily forgotten — especially since we have experienced relatively few leaks.

Actually, we hope our customer's reliance on us to deliver tap water remains a given, and the extra infrastructure remains out of sight. That means we are doing our job. Like its operators, SWA's water systems must work around the clock to bring you clean, safe water.

In southwest North Dakota, those already connected to the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) have come to rely on a safe and abundant water supply. In reality, we are vulnerable to changes in weather and climate, and to the almost inexorable deterioration of our water systems. Even the smallest of things, like zebra mussels, must be monitored and controlled to prevent them from clogging our intake at Lake Sakakawea. (Read more about this invasive species inside this newsletter and what you can do to help keep our waterways clear of the tiny, but extremely destructive zebra mussel.)

To keep the waters flowing to your home, it's important to always call 811 before you dig. A cut or damaged waterline creates potential contamination, resulting in service disruptions, water shutoffs and potential boil orders. Even if your project seems small, water lines lie below the surface — making that heads-up call to 811 crucial for your safety and the safety of others - www.ndonecall.com, 1-800-795-0555.

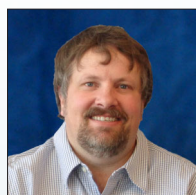


We are pleased to have received funding from legislation for the upcoming biennium as it helps us on our mission of Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota. You can learn more about where the funds will be used and funding needs by visiting our website.

While many of the rural residents of the southwest area are now receiving safe, high-quality water, there are those who still wait to be connected. With quality water, local economies are strengthened, and the state is steadily repaid for its important water infrastructure investment. SWA's customers have already returned over \$70 million of the state's initial investment into the SWPP back into the coffers of North Dakota's Resources Trust Fund.

To learn more about your drinking water and SWA's efforts to protect its safety, please review the Consumer Confidence Report you received in the mail (if not, it is available on our website). However you choose to engage with us, we want you to know that your questions are always welcome; we take all concerns seriously, and pledge our dedication to providing you with water quality that meets or exceeds the regulatory standards of the state of North Dakota and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

SWA Board of Directors



Jonathon Eaton
Adams County
jonathoneaton@swwater.com



James Odermann
Billings County
jamesodermann@swwater.com



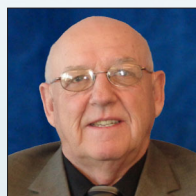
Rick Seifert
Bowman County
rickseifert@swwater.com



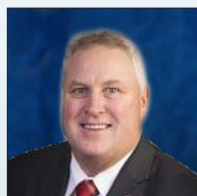
Glenn Eckelberg
Dunn County
glenneckelberg@swwater.com



Mark Begger
Golden Valley County
markbegger@swwater.com



Brian Roth
Grant County
brianroth@swwater.com



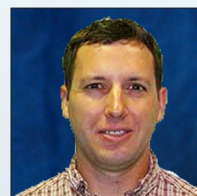
Don Schaible
Hettinger County
donschaible@swwater.com



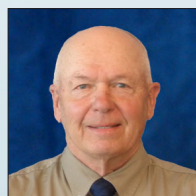
Marie Johnson
Mercer County
mariejohnson@swwater.com



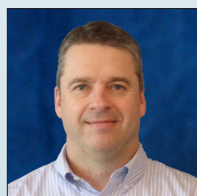
George Saxowsky
Morton County
georgesaxowsky@swwater.com



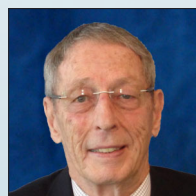
Mike Tietz
Oliver County
miketietz@swwater.com



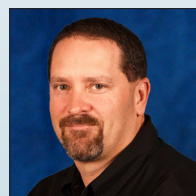
Dave Juntunen
Slope County
davejuntunen@swwater.com



Steve Schneider
Stark County
steveschneider@swwater.com



Larry Bares
City of Dickinson
larrybares@swwater.com



Jason Bentz
City of Dickinson
jasonbentz@swwater.com



Bob Leingang
City of Mandan
bobleingang@swwater.com

Increasing Water Rates to Offset Mill Levy Loss

The population in southwest North Dakota has grown since 1991 and so have the property values. The income SWA has relied on to buffer administrative expenses has also grown. In fact, the one mill levied covers 46% of the General Fund Budget. Property owners in each of the 12 counties served by the SWPP will see a reduction in property taxes after the 2020 tax year due to the sunset of the SWA mill levy. At the same time the need for the funds generated by the levy will not have diminished.

In the past, collection of the one mill has enabled SWA to keep rates stable. With the mill levy income no longer available, SWA will need to offset revenue loss by increasing water rates an estimated \$0.32 per 1,000 gallons to cover its General Fund expenses. It is important to know the net effect to customers is projected to be the same.

Today, there are hundreds of potential customers on SWA's waiting list and critical infrastructure yet to be installed to ensure quality water throughout southwest North Dakota. When the mill levy sunsets in 2020, however, the taxing authority granted to SWA will once again be shifted back to the joint water resource board. The need for quality water in southwest North Dakota is expected to only continue to grow. This is why we are not done.



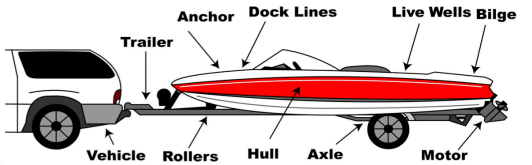
Help Stop Zebra Mussels

It's hard to imagine that something so small can cause so much damage! Zebra mussels remain one of the most notorious invasive species in North America, causing millions of dollars in damages to utility pipes annually, and altering natural habitats by competing with fish for food. Prevention is the best defense against these pesky creatures, and by thoroughly inspecting and cleaning your water equipment, you can help stop their spread.



1. Inspect your boat and remove debris before launching into the water.
2. Drain all water after boating and before leaving the shore.
3. Remove visible species and plants and dispose in the trash.
4. Double-check problem areas to make sure you don't miss any mussels.
5. Dispose of bait and empty bait buckets in an approved location.
6. Properly clean, drain and dry your boat.

Inspect and clean boats and equipment thoroughly



About Our Progress



Since 1986, the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) has been constructing an efficient network of water pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, and treatment facilities to bring quality water to the region. To date, 33 communities, more than 7,100 rural service locations, 23 contract customers, 21 raw-water customers, two rural water systems, three crew camps and two raw water depots are served by the SWPP. The cost for the remaining construction is estimated at \$206,331,000. This includes a new 12 MGD water treatment plant to replace the original water treatment plant in Dickinson.

Online Bill Pay



You can use a credit card or checking account to make a payment to SWA using a secure internet-based payment service. Do note there is a convenience fee for credit card processing. Please visit our website at www.SWwater.com or contact a customer service representative at 701-225-0241 for additional information or to set up a secure on-line bill pay account.

Taking the H₂O Tour

Nothing is more important than water itself, but a close second is seeing how it all comes together. That is why Southwest Water Authority (SWA) was pleased this year to again have sponsored the North Dakota Water Education Foundation's (NDWEF) summer water tours. The Southwest North Dakota Water Tour was held on June 27th. Being the hosts of the tour, it begins and ends at the SWA Operation and Maintenance Center's office. This year's tour attractions include the Ray Christensen Pump Station, Amber Waves, Baker Boy Bake Shop, Dickinson State University's Theodore Roosevelt Center, ConocoPhillips and Assumption Abbey. New this year, however, was the new Southwest Water Treatment Plant and the Residuals Handling Facility. If you've never had the chance to attend this annual event, you'll want to attend next time as it's truly worth doing.

Over Allocation Water Available

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) was designed to allow each customer to utilize up to a specific allocation of water each month. Customers using more than their design allocation sometimes affects other customers and the Project. That is generally not the case. Water is available for existing customers who use more water than their allocation. We will not shut off a customer's water due to using more water than they are allocated to use. This is good news as we head into summer when the water is most needed at higher usages. To be fair to all our customers, water usage over a customer's allocation does need to be billed at an increased rate. With availability of award-winning water, the increased rate is well worth the price!

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

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.

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**

A Report on Water Quality

Every year, as required, SWA provides what is called a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). If you are a direct Southwest Water Authority (SWA) customer, you have already received a copy in the mail. It is an annual water quality report based on the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the right-to-know provision of that Act. The CCR was created to help people make informed decisions about the water they drink. While the CCR's are mailed out once a year, they are available for your review 24/7 on our website.

