

Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

Water Works



Quality Water for
Southwest North Dakota

From Jenifer Murray, Manager/CEO



Jen Murray,
Manager/CEO

That's a wrap! Another construction season has come to an end, and just in time as much of southwest North Dakota is now covered in 13+ inches of winter wonderland.

The year has been one of progress as we added the 400,000-gallon Taylor Elevated Tank, which became operational in early November. Main Transmission Line upgrades to the first reservoirs outside of Dickinson in all directions were completed in October. SWA continued to collect sign-ups in the under-served Burt, Hebron Service Area and preliminary design is underway. Each of these projects align with SWA's strategic plan and three-pronged approach to building for the future.



Taylor Elevated Tank

The SWA Board of Directors participated in the biennial Board Retreat in early October. The Board of Directors, project managers, and consultants met to review and discuss, in-depth, the strategic plan to ensure it remains aligned with priorities, policy, and ultimately keeping SWA on its path toward the future. Throughout the two-day retreat, discussions centered on strategic planning, maintaining affordable water rates, promoting economic development, and enhancing communication and public information. The need for quality water across the region remains.

During the Special Session of the North Dakota Legislature in the Fall of 2021, \$75 million in State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) were secured for water infrastructure in North Dakota. In August, the State Water Commission (SWC) granted SWA \$4.5 million of the SFRF for the replacement of ductile iron raw water pipeline near the city of Taylor. The \$4.5 million is a 75% cost-share for the total replacement. SWA is grateful to the ND Legislature and to the SWC for the allocation of the SFRF.

Moving into the 68th Legislative Assembly, SWA would like to welcome all the new members of the ND Legislature and welcome back all incumbents. It is a great time of year to be thankful for all the support SWA receives from legislation, the SWC, a steadfast Board of Directors, and a dedicated staff. For without the funding and those that make it all work – we would not be able to reliably deliver award-winning quality water, 24/7/365.

SWA's Board of Directors approved the 2023 Budget at the November Board of Directors meeting. Rates did increase slightly due to an increased need in the Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance Fund and a high Consumer Price Index, which is the basis of the Capital Repayment paid by all customers. Water rates for 2023 can be found on page three of this newsletter.

On behalf of the Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors, Management, and Staff...

"Happy Holidays and thank you for being a SWA customer!"





Quickly Access Our Website

Quick Response (QR) codes give you quick access to websites without having to type or remember the address. To use the code, you only need a smartphone or tablet with a camera. Simply open the built-in camera app, then point the camera at the QR code and tap the banner that appears on your phone or tablet. It then pulls up the website. It's that easy. Try it with SWA's QR code shown here.



Transferring Service Accounts

If you are buying or selling a property with an existing SWA water connection, please contact our office at least seven (7) days prior to the property closing. To make the transfer, you will need to have signatures from the past and future owners to complete a transfer of the account. If you are utilizing a real estate agent, they can facilitate this process by bringing the account transfer paperwork to closing and returning it to us with both sets of signatures. Note, it is important for the previous owner to send a final meter reading and a forwarding address to enable SWA to send their closing water statement.



When requesting an account transfer, please have at least one of the following items about the property: previous owner's name, their SWA account number, or a legal description of property (section, township, range). This will make it easier to locate the correct account to transfer. It is a quick and easy process to transfer the account when it is requested and completed in a timely manner!

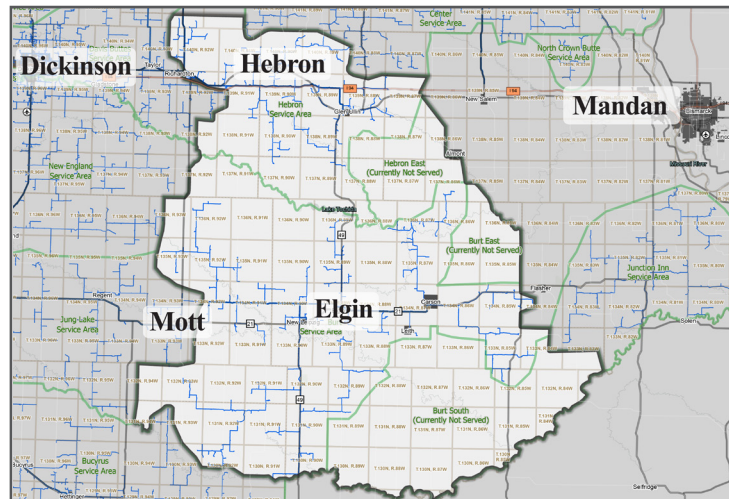
DWR Announces New Southwest Pipeline Project Manager



A North Dakota native, Jarrett Hillius is now working for the Department of Water Resources as the Project Manager for the Southwest Pipeline Project. An experienced Professional Engineer (P.E.), Jarrett holds a Bachelor of Science from North Dakota State University and an Associate of Science in Engineering Technology from Bismarck State University. His design experience includes a wide-array of infrastructure such as raw-water intakes, tanks, reservoirs, and water treatment plants. Welcome Jarrett.

Sign Up for Quality Water

SWA's Signup and Easement Department continues to collect signups for properties in Grant County and some surrounding areas. Currently, there are almost 600 property owners signed up in this area. If you or someone you know is interested in water service in this area, there is still time to sign up! With all campaigns, feasibility and design of the project are reliant on the number of people signing up. Contact SWA with any questions about getting your location signed up at 1-888-425-0241.



Avoid Freezing Pipes

Generally, it takes about six hours for water to freeze when exposed to temperatures at or below 32 degrees. Meaning, if you lose power at your home and the weather is reaching below freezing point, you have approximately 6 hours until the pipes will begin to freeze. The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, attics, and garages. But even pipes running through cabinets or exterior walls can freeze. The good news is there are some simple things you can do to keep your water flowing.

- Keep garage doors closed
- Let the cold water drip from a faucet
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors
- Keep the thermostat set no lower than 55 degrees
- Insulate water pipes and add insulation to crawl spaces



Snow Birding This Winter?

Remember to let us know how to contact you should you be gone for an extended amount of time. Also, be sure to set the thermostat to never go below 55 degrees to avoid returning to frozen or thawing pipes.

Rate Changes Effective in 2023

Each year, SWA's Board of Directors reviews current and forecasted financials to determine the need for any rate changes. During the November meeting, SWA's Board of Directors approved a small rate increase, effective January 1, 2023. The net effect of the decision was a 7-cent increase per 1,000 gallons of water to the rural customers. Rural rates per thousand gallons will go from \$6.40 in 2022 to \$6.47 in 2023, and the rural minimum will increase from \$52.01 to \$55.32 per month. Rural customers in southwest North Dakota continue to pay less than one cent per gallon of water, ranking just about average in comparison with other rural water systems across the state.



Our Vision

People and Business
Succeeding with Quality
Water

Our Mission

Quality Water for
Southwest North Dakota

Water Works is the Official
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Visit our website to learn
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Southwest Water Authority's Board of Directors



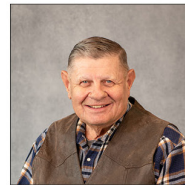
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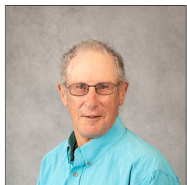
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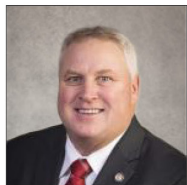
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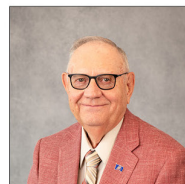
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