



# PROGRESS REPORT



## BACKGROUND IN BRIEF

The North Dakota State Legislature established the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), a political subdivision, in 1991 to manage, operate and maintain the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). A 14-member board of directors is responsible for governing the SWA. Each county within the SWPP Service Area is represented by one director and the city of Dickinson is represented by two. The counties represented include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope and Stark.

The SWPP, a state-owned project, administered by the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) and operated and maintained by the SWA, transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson. There, the water is treated and delivered to customers throughout southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota.

For 23 years, the SWPP has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities, bringing southwest North Dakota a consistent quantity of quality water. To date, the pipeline serves 28 communities, more than 3,300 rural service locations, 14 contract customers, 13 raw water customers and Perkins County Rural Water.

## PHASED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Current Development Phase

Medora-Beach Phase  
West Zone

### Next and Final Development Phase

Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Phase  
North Zone

## VISION

*People and business  
succeeding with quality water.*

## MISSION

*Providing quality water  
for southwest North Dakota.*

## FUNDING

Directors Larry Bares, Ray Bieber and Don Flynn, along with SWA Manager/CEO Mary Massad, attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. While in the nation's capital, they also met with North Dakota's Congressional Delegation, members of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USDA-Rural Development (RD), including Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. Everyone was updated on project status, as well as current and future funding needs.

For the first time in nearly a decade, the SWPP was awarded \$3,936,000 for construction from the Garrison Diversion Municipal Rural & Industrial (MR&I) Program.

A \$3,005,000 loan and a \$1,995,000 grant, totaling \$5 million, were approved by USDA-RD to construct the Fairfield Service Area. Since funding was provided by USDA-RD for the Fairfield Service Area, other funds appropriated for the SWPP were used to complete the Medora-Beach Service Area.

A pilot study, funded through the SWC, began in August at the water treatment plant (WTP) in Dickinson. The purpose of the study will determine the optimal water technologies needed at the WTP to be located north of Zap. The study is scheduled to conclude early in 2009.

# PROGRESS

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

In April and May, the SWC awarded the following contracts for construction of the SWPP: Trotters Pocket, located in Golden Valley County; Fairfield Service Area, north of Belfield in Billings County; Killdeer Mountain Service Area, northwest Dunn County; Grassy Butte Service Area, located in southeast McKenzie County and the Fairfield Reservoir, located just north of Fairfield.

Construction on the South Fryburg Service Area has been completed and final inspection is anticipated for this fall.

Construction in the Trotters Pocket has also reached completion with the addition of 86 miles of pipeline and 78 new customers.

In September and October, 84 new users were added in the Fairfield Service Area and 174 miles of pipeline was installed. This contract consists of 206 miles of pipeline and 215 users.

Work began on the Killdeer Mountain Service Area in early July. This contract consists of 112 miles of pipeline and 111 users. Thirty-three miles of pipeline have been installed as of October 1.

Construction on the Grassy Butte Service Area began in late October. This contract is comprised of 82 miles of pipeline and 90 customers.

Substantial completion of these contracts is scheduled for summer of 2009. In all, these contracts will serve 494 customers through more than 480 miles of pipeline. Additionally, construction of the 197,300 gallon Fairfield Reservoir has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES CONTINUED

Construction on SWA's third satellite office and shop is complete. The shop is located in Sentinel Butte and will aid operators in serving customers in the Golva, Beach and Trotters Service Areas.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

In March, the Morton County Commission appointed George Saxowsky to the SWA board of directors. Saxowsky replaced Steve Tomac, who resigned. Directors Leonard Jacobs and Larry Ziegler did not seek reelection in 2008. Two new directors were elected in June; Jonathon Eaton, representing Adams County and Larry Stang, the city of Dickinson. The board of directors and staff extend their sincere appreciation to the past and present directors for their dedication and service.

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### Southwest Pipeline Project.

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