

Water Works



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Water Infrastructure Critical to States' Economic Viability

As federal funding continues to shrink for water projects, our focus has been on state funding to move projects forward including the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). Working closely with the North Dakota Water Coalition has been key to success in recent years. The coalition was formed to bring statewide water interests together so a concerted effort for funding acquisition could be made through a unified approach. The collective goal: completing water infrastructure statewide. Recent accomplishments include completing the Devils Lake Outlet, Maple River Dam and Grand Forks Flood Control Project, progressing with construction on the Northwest Area Water Supply, the SWPP and many other smaller projects.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is now on the horizon and is in the process of completing its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). They hope to secure funding and soon move forward with construction. This will be a major undertaking by the water community as project costs are expected to be nearly \$700 million. A combination of federal, state and local money is being sought to fund the project.

With rapid growth being experienced in the Red River Valley, a reliable source of water is critical to their economic viability. A drought comparable to the 1930's would be devastating to those who live in the Red River Valley and the economic stability of our entire state. The Red River Valley has waited far too long (fifty plus years) for their fair share of Missouri River water. North Dakota simply must secure a fair share of this most valuable resource or stand by and allow others to stake claim.

While we collaborate for funding the completion of SWPP, we must also

support our neighbors in the eastern part of North Dakota. Without their support the SWPP would not have become reality.

Now, we must return the favor. We ask southwest North Dakota residents to support this project as it is critical to the future of North Dakota.

I am pleased to report SWPP was treated quite well in the Governor's proposed budget and the legislative leaders seem to be very supportive of water infrastructure needs. I'm quite certain that we will receive the necessary funding to complete the Medora-Beach Service Area and continue construction for the Oliver-Mercer-North Dunn Phase, our last service area.

Grassroots support of water projects including SWPP contribute heavily toward project success. We thank you for your loyalty and look forward to your continued support in bringing quality water to those in need.

Did you know? Fifteen times more water evaporates from Lake Sakakawea every year than what would be used annually by the proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

- Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

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Southwest Water Authority vies for state funding Medora-Beach Completion in Sight

Construction of the Medora-Beach Service Area should be complete by 2009, thanks in part to the amount of funding the North Dakota Legislature designated for water infrastructure this legislative session. During the session, Terrald Bang of Killdeer, Ruth Julson of Zap and Tiffanie Smith of Beach each shared their unique water stories with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Excerpts of their testimonies follow:

Bang: "We depend on an in-house treatment system to remove the color and hardness from our well water...we signed up for water in the early 1990's, thinking that this would be the answer to our problems. We have been waiting quite a while and would really like to see the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) [built] in our area."

Julson: "After moving back to North Dakota from the Twin Cities, we purchased a small property six miles north of Zap. The hardness level in our water is 20 times the maximum recommended level. It leaves a crusty film on the washing machine and its buildup stops our kitchen faucet from turning... please support SB2020 so rural water projects statewide can reach out to citizens who patiently wait for quality water."

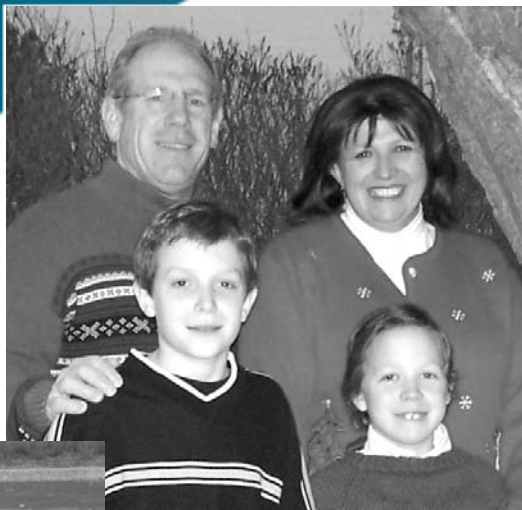
Smith: "For the past five years, we have raised our family in a home without water...thankfully,

SWPP arrived early last fall, making our dreams come true. The need for quality water still exists in southwest North Dakota. Please support SB2020 and bring quality water to those who are still waiting."

In addition to testifying before the legislature, Southwest Water Authority hosted a legislative social January 21, providing an opportunity for board members and representatives to network with legislators and communicate the need for a reliable source of quality water statewide, as well as thank them for their past support.

These efforts helped secure adequate funding for the 2007-2009 biennium, enough to complete the Medora-Beach Service Area and advance construction of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area.

Randi Julson
Family, Zap



Smith kids, Beach



Terrald and Carol Bang, Killdeer

Groundwork underway for construction in Oliver, Mercer and Dunn Counties

Representatives of Southwest Water Authority (SWA) met with the cities of Stanton, Hazen, Center, Pick City and Beulah this spring to discuss Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) construction plans and sign up deadlines for the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Service Area.

"SWPP's Medora-Beach Service Area is nearly complete, so our focus now shifts to OMND, the final area to be constructed," said SWA Manager/CEO, Ray Christensen. SWPP design plans are moving forward, thus cities interested in contracting water from SWPP must sign up for service before September 1, 2007.

Service to rural residences

After the September 1 deadline for city sign-up, SWA will host public information meetings to discuss rural sign-up and construction.

Approximately 600 rural customers are currently slated for service in Oliver, Mercer and Dunn Counties. Christensen says construction to these customers will be more feasible if cities sign up for the project. "That's not to say construction wouldn't proceed into the rural areas if cities do not participate. It would just be more difficult to meet

the ND State Water Commission's construction and system operation requirements," he said.

Those requirements state that a construction area must achieve a 50 percent sign-up rate among rural customers and construction costs cannot be more than \$36,000.00 per user. "When a large group of users, such as a city, participates, construction cost per user drops considerably," said Joe Bichler Project Engineer with Bartlett & West/Boyle Engineering Corp. A Joint Venture, Bismarck.

To date, all of the cities in OMND that had signed up for service are currently purchasing water from the SWPP," said Christensen. Dunn Center, Golden Valley, Dodge and Halliday began receiving water from the pipeline in 1994 and Zap in 2006.

"Service to Zap was made possible through a unique agreement between SWA and the city of Beulah," noted Christensen. Under the agreement, SWA purchases water from Beulah and delivers it to residents of Zap, Country Club Estates near Beulah and several rural customers.

"We are looking forward to completing OMND as it is the final area awaiting service," said Christensen.

Vickie's Water Notes **Remittance Slip Explained**

By: Vickie Franchuk

Each month our Customer Service Department receives calls regarding water bills and the correct amount customers need to remit for payment.

SWA customers will see three dollar amounts listed on their monthly water bill: the Net Amount, the Late Fee and the Gross Amount. Here's a quick explanation on each:

Net Amount: is the amount to be paid if you send your bill in before the 20th of the month.

Late Fee: is the additional amount to be paid if you failed to send your payment before the 20th.

Gross Amount: is the Net Amount plus the Late Fee, which is the total amount due if you send your payment after the 20th of each month.

If you have further questions regarding your statement please call the office at 225-0241 or toll free at 1-888-425-0241.

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People and business
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