

Water Works

SOUTHWEST WATER
AUTHORITY

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Manager's message

By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer



Mary Massad
SWA Manager/CEO

The September Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board of directors meeting was held in Beach, North Dakota. The board meets monthly to discuss management, operations and maintenance, as well as funding and construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). Over the past year, the board has met quarterly in communities within the 12-county service area of the SWA. This gives local officials and citizens the opportunity to learn more about both SWA and the SWPP without having to travel too far. It also allows SWA to hear and address concerns from those we serve. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with each of you and discuss the current and future plans of the SWPP.

Following the meeting in Beach, many board members and personnel stopped in Sentinel Butte to see the new SWA office and shop. It looks great and was completed in October. This is SWA's third remote office and shop, located outside of the Dickinson area. It is much more effective, both in time and resources, for staff members to be located in the region they are servicing. We look forward to becoming more of a part of the Sentinel Butte community.

Construction is moving forward this season. To date, SWA has received all of the customers from the Trotters Area, located north of Beach in Golden Valley County. This includes 78 rural customers able to receive water from the SWPP. The Fairfield Service Area had 84 customers turned over as of mid-September. As always, construction depends on weather and the future of the current contracts will depend on Mother Nature.

I am pleased to report that the pilot study for micro filtration at the future water treatment plant (WTP) in Mercer County is underway at the WTP in Dickinson. Two water-softening processes will be piloted during this study, lime softening and reverse osmosis. These will produce softened water similar to the water currently being produced at the WTP in Dickinson. The objectives of this study are threefold.

They include:

- 1) demonstrate how membrane technology will produce treated water to meet all applicable federal and state standards both now and for the foreseeable future;
- 2) determine the physical design parameters and
- 3) demonstrate the ability of this system to provide verification of membrane integrity.

The physical design parameters include flux, recovery, backwash frequency and cleaning frequency. The membrane integrity will be checked daily. The pilot study officially started on August 21, 2008, and will last approximately six months.



A pilot membrane skid produces softened water.

Koppinger, Meduna and Turner join SWA team

Southwest Water Authority recently hired Bruce Koppinger as the new marketing coordinator. Bruce replaces Glenn Eckelberg who retired in August. Robert Meduna and Toby Turner were also hired to fill two water distribution maintenance worker II positions.



Bruce Koppinger
Marketing
Coordinator

Koppinger's responsibilities include signing up new customers, working cooperatively with area farmers and ranchers to acquire easements for construction and the development and implementation of public information and education activities for SWPP. Koppinger and his wife, Shelly, have three children and reside in Dickinson. His outside interests include golfing, fishing and attending sporting events.

Meduna will work at the SWA Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Center in Dickinson. He will assist the team at SWA in maintaining the operations of the SWPP throughout southwest North Dakota. Outside of work, he enjoys landscaping, gardening, woodworking, baking and watching football. He and his wife, Shirley, reside in Dickinson. They have two grown children and one grandson.



Robert Meduna
Water Distribution
Maintenance
Worker II



Toby Turner
Water Distribution
Maintenance
Worker II

Turner will also be based at the SWA O&M Center in Dickinson. Along with Meduna, he will assist the team in maintaining the operations of the SWPP throughout southwest North Dakota. Prior to joining SWA, Turner worked as a licensed journeyman plumber. Outside of work, his interests include hunting, fishing and waterskiing. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Dickinson with their son, Wyatt, and two dogs.

Cindy's water notes

By: Cindy Miller, Customer Service Representative



Cindy Miller
Customer Service
Representative

Connections to SWPP without receiving written authorization to make these connections from SWA are a serious violation of SWA policy, and such violations can lead to a penalty and permanent termination of service. Installers place themselves and customers at risk of potentially receiving water that is not safe for human consumption. These service connections may also interfere with the project contractor's ability to pressure test, disinfect, flush and take bacteriological tests to determine the water is safe for human consumption, all requirements of the contractor prior to making water available to customers. During the disinfection process the water lines are spiked with a high concentration of chlorine that could be harmful to your health. We simply can not take any chances of this potentially happening.

It is noted that installers who connect your service line must be licensed water and sewer installers and/or licensed plumbers who must certify, in writing, that your service connection complies with State Plumbing Code requirements. To clarify, licensed water and sewer installers may perform all work from the curb stop or meter pit to the first joint inside the residence. A licensed plumber is required beyond the first joint. However, a licensed plumber may do both. We will not provide service without this written certification. These installers must hold current licenses issued by the North Dakota State Plumbing Board.

2008 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.

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 the SWA Manager/CEO Mary Massad, attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. While there, 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 are being 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.

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 in 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 the fall of 2008.

Installation of pipeline and service connections in the Trotters Pocket have also been completed with the addition of 86 miles of pipeline and 78 new customers.

September and October brought the addition of 84 new users in the Fairfield Service Area and 174 miles of pipeline installation. 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.

The substantial completion of these contracts is scheduled for summer of 2009. In all, these contracts will serve 494 customers through more than 486 miles of pipeline. Additionally, construction of the 197,300 gallon Fairfield Reservoir has begun and is to be completed in 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 for 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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Phased development plan

Current Development Phase
Medora-Beach Phase
West Zone

Next and Final Development Phase
Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Phase
North Zone

Southwest Water Authority 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.