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Manager's message

By: Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer



Mary Massad
SWA Manager/CEO

Here's wishing each and every one of you a happy and safe summer. By the time you are reading this newsletter, construction for 2008 on the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) is well under way for the final phase of the Medora Beach Service Area. The number of signups for both current construction and for subsequent users this year speaks volumes to the need for having a consistent quantity of quality water.

In April, Directors Larry Bares, Ray Bieber and Don Flynn, along with myself, attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. Besides attending the national events, we met with our congressional delegation. We also met with members of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USDA-Rural Development including Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. We truly appreciate everyone taking the time to meet with us and for their past and present support of the SWPP. We were able to update everyone on project status, as well as current and future needs.

The June Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors meeting was held in Center. Members of the Oliver County Water Resource District and the Center City Council were in attendance. We thank them for their time and interest in the SWPP. Updates for present and future construction were provided. Future construction will continue in the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area. The preliminary engineering report for this service area is currently being prepared. A pilot study for the future water treatment plant in Oliver County should begin in August of this year. This study will include the use of membrane technology and should last approximately six months. Once again, SWA thanks the communities of Center, Hazen and Stanton for voting to become a part of the SWPP.

Their support is essential in being able to provide service to the rural areas in these counties, as well as these communities in need of a quality supply of water for their citizens.

June also saw the last board meeting for Directors Lenny Jacobs and Larry Ziegler. These directors did not seek reelection on the June primary ballot. They have both served tirelessly for many years. Director Jacobs represented Adams County and he has served on the SWA Board of Directors since 1991. Director Ziegler represented the city of Dickinson and has served since 1994. Their dedication to both the SWA and SWPP are remarkable and need to be commended. On behalf of all of us, we thank them both for their service to southwest North Dakota, the SWA, the SWPP and all our citizens. They have both contributed immensely to the growth of the SWPP, which in turn has meant economic development for our region. We wish them all the best in the future.



The June primary election resulted in the election of two new directors to the SWA Board of Directors. They are Jonathon Eaton, representing Adams County and Larry Stang, representing the city of Dickinson. We would like to welcome these new directors to the SWA Board and thank them for their willingness to serve. They were sworn in at the July SWA Board of Directors meeting.

Closed for the holiday

Southwest Water Authority will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

Labor Day - September 1

Verification of rural water service connections required

Service connections to the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) must be done in accordance with North Dakota State Plumbing Codes and SWPP Rules and Regulations. An expansion tank must be properly installed, as required in accordance with North Dakota State Plumbing Codes. The service connection shall be physically discontinuous from all existing and previous water supplies, in accordance with North Dakota State Plumbing Codes. Cross connections are considered a very serious violation because of the potential to contaminate the SWPP Distribution System.

A Verification of Rural Water Service Connection form must be completed, including signatures of all installers and/or inspectors and submitted to SWA prior to turning on your water. The customer is also responsible for contacting the SWA Office to schedule their water service connection.

All plumbing installations performed by the homeowner and/or resident must be inspected and certified. Licensed plumbers are authorized to inspect the entire installation. Licensed water and sewer contractors are authorized to inspect the exterior (underground) installation. Homeowners should be advised that these contractors/inspectors will not certify any work that is not visible and/or accessible via Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) approved trenches. All underground installations must be inspected prior to burial.

SWA's Certified Operators are authorized to inspect homeowner installations beyond the curb stop or meter pit installed during construction. These inspections will only be performed at the scheduled time for hookup, so all work must be complete, visible and accessible via OSHA approved trenches. If the installation does not pass inspection, water service will not be turned on, the homeowner will be charged for a service call and will need to reschedule the hookup with the SWA Office when corrections have been completed.

Construction update

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) construction is well underway. The following are updates for several service areas.

In Medora Beach Phase III, work has begun in the Fairfield Service Area, West Killdeer Mountain Service Area, Trotter Pocket and Grassy Butte Pocket. Contractors are optimistic and hope to finish these projects this year. Work has also started on the Fairfield Reservoir, a 197,300 gallon stainless steel structure.

In the South Fryburg Service Area, over 100 acres of land were seeded.



Primary elections result in new SWA Board Directors

The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors welcomes Jonathon Eaton as the new representative for Adams County and Larry Stang as a new representative for the city of Dickinson.



Larry Stang
City of Dickinson Director

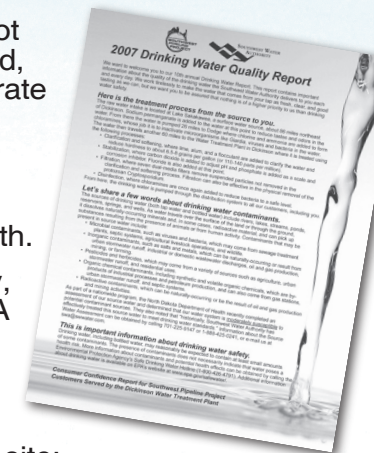


Jonathon Eaton
Adams County Director

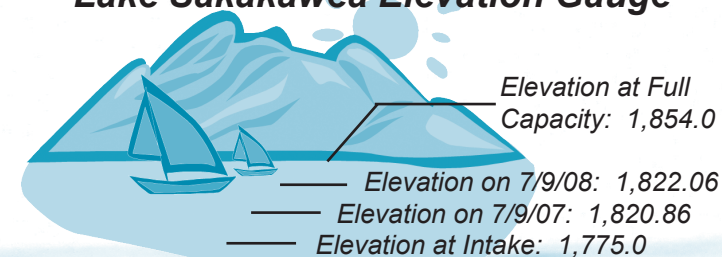
2007 Consumer Confidence Reports available

The 2007 Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) are available. This year, SWA has published five separate CCRs - one for the customers served by the Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson, one for customers served by the city of Beulah and three separate reports for residents of eastern Morton County. Because these five service areas are not physically connected, each requires separate testing, monitoring and reporting as determined by the North Dakota Department of Health.

To obtain your copy, please contact SWA at 701-225-0241 or toll-free 1-888-425-0241 or download them from the SWA Web site: www.swa.swc.state.nd.us/resources.



Lake Sakakawea Elevation Gauge



Call before you dig!

With summer weather, construction projects will be in full swing. Protect yourselves and your property against underground utility damage and liability. Find out where the underground utility lines are buried before you dig. The person who is doing the work (property owner or hired contractor) is responsible for calling North Dakota One-Call at least 48 hours before you dig. This service is free of charge. It's the law and it could save your life.

North Dakota One-Call - 1-800-795-0555 or 811

Cindy's water notes

By: Cindy Miller, Customer Service Representative

Here are a few tips on detecting water leaks in your home. First, listen for the sound of running water. Many leaks can be detected by sound, as well as sight.

Pay close attention to your toilet plumbing, where leaks are often the hardest to detect. A quick check can be made by pouring laundry bluing or food coloring into the toilet's tank after it has filled and quieted. Then, simply watch for the appearance of color in the toilet bowl. If color appears in the bowl, you may want to have the toilet checked. If no leak is detected the first time, the test should be repeated, as such leaks are often intermittent.

If you should leave your home empty for any length of time - on vacation, for instance - it would be a good idea to shut off your water valve so that any serious leak that may develop while you're away will not flood the premises or run up a large water bill for you.

Interested in other ways water may be leaking in your home? Visit www.savingwater.org for more tips on water conservation, including avoiding and detecting leaks. Also, feel free to contact our office at 701-225-0241 or toll-free 1-888-425-0241.

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Cindy Miller
Customer Service Representative