

# MEMORANDUM



To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors  
From: Jen Murray, Manager/CEO, SWA  
Subject: May 4, 2026, SWA Board of Directors Meeting  
Date: April 29, 2026

**The next Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors meeting will be on May 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. MDT at the Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office in Dickinson.**

A special guest at the SWA Board of Directors meeting in May is Wade Bachmeier and Jim Schmidt from the Missouri River Joint Water Board. The MRJWB Educate, Advocate and Engage program supports the mission to provide a coordinated effort to manage, conserve, protect, develop, and control the water resources in the Missouri River Basin. SWA continues to aid in the understanding and pursuit of Missouri River benefits for North Dakota through advocacy and financial means. A quorum of the Missouri West Water System's Board may be present.

National Drinking Water Week is May 3-9, 2026. Drinking Water Week is a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities we serve to come together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. The Proclamation is being brought forward for your approval. SWA will have a display set up at the Dickinson Public Library. This is a great opportunity to thank all of our water professionals for all you do for SWA, the SWPP, and all of southwest North Dakota. Thank you all! Happy Drinking Water Week!

The Manager/CEO internal report for Board Policy I. A. Aims/Ends-Mission Statement is under the decision-making section. Please review the proposed changes under the priorities for accessibility to water.

The Manager/CEO internal report for Policy II. H. Executive Limitations-Compensation for Annexation is included for your review and approval. This policy was utilized over the past year with the city of Dickinson. Amendment 2 to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation Water Service Agreement for the West Medora Campground is included under the decision-making section. This amendment would allow temporary service to Hotel 1883.

The updated Prioritization Matrix is before the Board for decision-making. SWA staff have called potential customers from the waiting lists to determine whether they are still interested in obtaining water at these locations and have updated the numbers. Selection of the next Strategic Hydraulic Improvement will be based on the matrix and available funding for the biennium.

The 2025 Board of Directors' Action Plan is included in the Board packet each month. The plan focuses on topics such as the Supplementary Intake and Raw Water Infrastructure, Outside Funding Sources, the Three-Pronged Approach, and SWPP Ownership.

Roosevelt Custer Regional Council hosted the State of Region 8 at Phat Fish Brewing on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The event brought together key decision-makers and local stakeholders to raise awareness of unique needs and identify actionable solutions to drive positive changes in Region 8. Board member reports are included in the Board packet.

The Rules and Regulations Subcommittee met on April 6, 2026, and recommended that the proposed changes be brought forward to the full board for their review. The 'clean' version of the changes is included in the Board packet. This item is covered under a separate memo.

The SWC Meeting was held on April 8, 2026. The agenda is included with the Board packet. SWPP items on the agenda include the Equipment Procurement for Existing Intake Improvements Funding Authorization, the SWTP Expansion Change Order, and the Metallic Pipeline Project near Dodge.

I have once again included the draft Regional Water Systems Financing and Governance Study. This study is scheduled for finalization by May 29, 2026. The study, along with the Cost-Share Policy Study, will be the focus of discussions at the State Water Commissioner-hosted meetings this summer. The meeting schedule is included in the Board packet. Due to the downturn in forecast revenue for the Resources Trust Fund, the study's outcomes could change the funding model for the SWPP. It is prudent that the Board remain informed and engaged in these discussions.

Justin Froseth will give an SWPP update on the status of current construction and various projects. Justin's memo is included for your review. The Hebron Rural Expansion was advertised for bids on April 10, 2026, and the bid opening is scheduled for May 5, 2026. If bids are received and responsive, the SWC will be asked to authorize the award at the June meeting. Construction has resumed on the North New England Strategic Improvements.

Project funding will be discussed. SWA, DWR and B&W reviewed deferred construction, prioritization matrix, and future projects. Proposed funding needs for the 2027-2029 biennium and beyond are included with the Board packet. This information was submitted to the Water Development Plan. Also included in the Board packet is the SWPP funding to date.

Decker will provide an update on SWA Construction and REM items. This includes developing a Specific Authorization to conduct a Closed Interval Survey of the metallic lines in the SWPP. The SWA Management team will provide an operations and maintenance (O&M) update for March. Items in this report include Distribution, Treatment, and Staff activities.

Misti Conzemius will give an update on subsequent customers, customer complaints and easement acquisition. The waiting list currently has 785 requests for service system-wide, and an additional 928 have signed up in the Hebron and Burt Service Areas for a total of 1,709 requests system-wide. This number will be reduced by more than 111 with the completion of the North New England Strategic Hydraulic Improvement.

The North Dakota Water Coalition will meet on May 11, 2026, with a primary focus on the Legislatively directed study of the SWC's Cost-Share Policy. This meeting will be virtual.

A schedule of the ND Water Education Foundation's Summer Water Tours is available. SWA is a sponsor of the tours and will host a tour on July 30, 2026. The SWA tour will feature a stop at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, Dakota Prairie Refinery, Phat Fish Brewery, and the Southwest Water Treatment Plant. Please let us know if you would like to attend any of the tours and we can get you registered.

The Board packet includes a memo on upcoming Partner Annual Meetings. Most of these meetings occur in June. If you would like to volunteer to attend one of the Partner Annual Meetings, please let Chairperson Odermann know.

The 25th Annual Make a Splash Water Festival was held April 9 and 10, 2026. The event is a collaboration with Project WET through the Department of Water Resources.

SWA has hired Graves Consulting to conduct a salary survey across all positions. The work is wrapping up. Laurie Graves will join us virtually to present survey results related to the Manager/CEO position.

Board Policy IV.C. Board Manager Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits policy is a decision-making item and will precede the Evaluation of the Manager/CEO.

The June Primary Election will be held on June 9, 2026. Legislative candidates in odd districts are up for election in 2026. SWA operates in Districts 31, 33, 37, and 39. The 2026 Primary candidates in all contests can be accessed on the [ND Secretary of State website](#).

**I look forward to seeing you on May 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. MDT at the SWA O&M Center Office in Dickinson, ND.**



# NAWS project anticipated completion for fall 2026

By [Kyona Rivera](#)

*Published: Apr. 11, 2026 at 2:14 PM MDT*

MINOT, N.D. (KMOT) - We're learning more about the progress of the Northwest Area Water Supply, or NAWS, project.

Once completed, the system would draw 90% of Minot's water from Lake Sakakawea.

The project has faced delays; it was supposed to be finished last year.

But this time, Minot Public Works is optimistic that residents will see the first drop of lake water this fall.

Utilities Director Jason Sorenson said the filter underdrain installed last year was defective, which took time to resolve.

Contractors are now on site removing it to prepare for the new ones arriving at the end of the month.

The Biota Water Treatment Plant in Max, along with the Snake Creek Pumping Plant in Coleharbor, are the two key facilities in treating lake water.

"We had a lot of delays on Snake Creek because of really long lead times for pumps and electrical gear, and some of that stuff. So now with the delay of the Max plant, that's kind of allowed Snake Creek to catch up or end up in the same time frame," said Sorenson.

Sorenson said both facilities should be completed by next month, with the overall project completed by September.



# MISSOURI

## Are Missouri and North Dakota in a water war?

A project to divert water away from the Missouri River in North Dakota has sparked a new fight in a decades-long conflict about how to manage the river's water in times of drought

by **Ceilidh Kern**

Freelance reporter

April 21, 2026

Author Mark Twain, a proud son of Missouri, once reportedly mused that “whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over.” Natural resources officials in Missouri and North Dakota would seem to agree.

In a [February opinion piece](#), Kurt Schaefer, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, wrote that, “for more than three decades, the state of Missouri has engaged in a water war with North Dakota.” The latest battle in that war, he said, is a series of projects in North Dakota that, once completed, will divert water out of the Missouri River to the Sheyenne River and Red River of the North, which run into Canada.

In an [opinion piece responding to Schaefer](#), Reice Haase, director of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, said that “North Dakota has never viewed Missouri River water as something to be won, but as a resource to be responsibly used.” “Putting our water to beneficial use is not an act of hostility toward downstream states,” he added. “Rather, it is a responsibility to the people we serve.”

But Schaefer and others in the lower basin say this could set a precedent for future out-of-basin diversions and put the river — and those who rely on it — at risk.

### Why is North Dakota diverting water?

The pipeline is meant to support municipal drinking water systems and irrigation in central and eastern North Dakota, Haase told The Beacon. When the U.S. dammed the northern Missouri River in the 1940s, the government promised North Dakota irrigation and municipal water supply projects in the Red River basin — home to the state's largest and third-largest cities, Fargo and Grand Forks, which experienced an “extreme shortage of water” in the 1930s, Haase said. Those projects never materialized, in part because of opposition from lower-basin states, he

said. While the Red River Valley has grown, he said that without the pipeline, another 1930s-like drought could put communities at risk. Unable to secure federal funding, the state took on the project itself and has spent \$400 million so far, Haase said, adding that it will probably spend another \$400 million to \$500 million. While state funding will cover most of the project, U.S. Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer of North Dakota secured \$158 million in federal funding for a portion of the pipeline. Schaefer said Hoeven is also seeking \$120 million to prevent invasive species from crossing into Canada via the pipeline, as well as \$400 million to expand the project. “This is part of a bigger picture, an upper-basin state really trying to lay the groundwork for a massive expansion of diversion of water out of the Missouri (River),” Schaefer said.

### **‘Robbing Peter to pay Paul’**

In his opinion piece, Schaefer wrote that “reductions in the amount of water available downstream will harm Missouri agriculture, utilities, public water supplies, power plants (and) navigation.” Shane Kinne, executive director of the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River, a group of lower-basin stakeholders, said that “when you start the process of moving water out of one basin into another, it comes back to robbing Peter to pay Paul.” “You may be solving one issue, but you’re exacerbating another issue in another basin that will have to be resolved,” he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has already limited releases from upriver dams in recent several years due to drought. Kinne said that hurts Missouri power plants, many of which rely on the river for cooling water and would shut down without it. “Often, those plants are measuring their access to water in inches,” he said. “That just highlights that even the tiniest amounts of flow are really critical.” Low river levels also have implications for the state’s businesses, Schaefer said. “A million tons of sand and gravel are shipped by barge in and out of the Kansas City region on the Missouri River every year, and up to 300,000 tons of soybeans make their way to the world on the river, as do nearly 270,000 tons of asphalt, cement (and) concrete,” he said. Lower water levels limit how much barges can carry, raising costs, Kinne said.

There are also implications for municipal water systems, including Kansas City and St. Louis, which draw most of their drinking water from the Missouri River. Dru Buntin, chief of water resources for Missouri DNR, said the current drought raises questions about sending water out of the basin.

“We have concerns about the precedent of sending water outside of the basin under what the Corps is saying is their ‘surplus water authority,’” he said. “How is there surplus water to send out of the basin when we’re already reducing releases downstream ... because of a lack of water in the reservoir?”

## Setting a precedent

The North Dakota pipeline will be able to transport 165 cubic feet of water — around 1,230 gallons — per second. Haase said it would run at or near full capacity during times of drought. Kinne said the concern isn't so much the impact of this project as what it might enable in the future. "If you look at the North Dakota projects by themselves, you can argue they don't have enough impact for us to be concerned," he said. "The concern is the precedent that it sets, and these projects writing the playbook for other states and western states to access this water."

As states in the western and southwestern U.S. struggle to reach an agreement on how to allocate water from the dwindling Colorado River, officials are increasingly concerned they may begin looking to the Missouri River to meet their needs. Even states within the basin have eyed Missouri River water as a potential solution to water shortages in other areas of their state, with Kansas and Army Corps officials studying the possibility of diverting the river to replenish the Ogallala aquifer.

"If you look at the North Dakota projects by themselves, you can argue they don't have enough impact for us to be concerned. The concern is the precedent that it sets, and these projects writing the playbook for other states and western states to access this water." If western states do divert water from the Missouri River, "it could be devastating," said Garrett Hawkins, president of the Missouri Farm Bureau. "We understand that out west, the water situation is dramatically different, but we shouldn't be looked at as the solution," Hawkins said.

In 2025, Missouri lawmakers passed a law requiring a permit to export water and prohibiting the export of water via pipeline more than 30 miles beyond state borders. Western "states are turning a thirsty eye to Missouri and other Midwestern states that are water-rich in order to get some of that water," Rep. Colin Wellenkamp, a St. Charles Republican, said during floor debate on the bill.

Ken Royse, project manager for the Missouri River Joint Water Board, agreed. He told a North Dakota state legislative committee that out-of-basin transfers to western states are the biggest threat to the Missouri River system. Missouri is "worried about the precedent being set, and we are too. I think North Dakota has the same concern," Royse told The Beacon. "But our theory is, we're a basin state. We contribute water, we contribute land. We should be able to take water out to the extent that we don't damage our downstream neighbors."

Schaefer said he remains concerned about both precedent and the impact of the current project, which is "using federal dollars to help one state really to the detriment of other states." "With North Dakota seeking over \$400 million to expand this project, we really don't know ... how much is going to be diverted," he said.

## Bringing the states together

Both sides say more discussion and coordination is needed. A number of organizations have formed over the years to bring basin states together to discuss river management, “but opportunities for meaningful, basin-wide dialogue have gone unrealized,” Haase wrote in his opinion piece. “On several occasions, we convened meetings of Missouri River basin states to pursue collaborative river management, invitations that Missouri declined,” he wrote. Schaefer denied those claims, telling *The Beacon* that “Missouri does attend those meetings,” as do Missouri agriculture and transportation groups. In his piece, Haase also wrote that “Missouri later withdrew from the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes, narrowing avenues for coordination.” Asked whether that was true, Schaefer didn’t appear to know what MoRAST was. “I know that the state of Missouri participates in multiple groups ... If there’s some group that at some point Missouri was no longer a part of, I don’t know that,” he said. But Missouri was never a part of the association to begin with, said Buntin, who was head of DNR before Schaefer. “Missouri didn’t pull out — Missouri never joined MoRAST,” Buntin said. “The upper-basin states formed MoRAST, and originally, Iowa and Nebraska joined, but then the 2011 floods happened, and Iowa and Nebraska dropped out of MoRAST because their governors felt like the organization wasn’t representing the interests of their states,” he added. Missouri didn’t join the association because “we wanted it to be a consensus-based organization, (but) North Dakota and other upper-basin states disagreed with that approach,” Buntin said. MoRAST is no longer active, and there aren’t any other active basin wide organizations aside from Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, which is focused on ecosystem restoration, Buntin said.

But the back-and-forth opinion pieces written by Schaefer, Haase, Kinne, Royse and others have started a new conversation. Stakeholder groups from North Dakota, Missouri and other lower-basin states, as well as DNR officials, met in Kansas City in March to “sit down and talk about this instead of just arguing in the newspapers,” Royse said. Buntin, who attended the meeting, said “it was a good first discussion,” adding that he’s since reached out to his “counterparts in North Dakota, who were not in attendance.” He said he’d like to see states agree to not transfer water outside of a basin state, but also develop a process for reviewing transfers — and their impact to downstream states — before they’re greenlit. “On the issue at hand here, of out-of-basin diversions, we’re just concerned about the precedent and where that ends and having some long-term protection in place,” he said. To reach an agreement, the states will also have to reckon with their fundamentally different water laws. Missouri follows eastern riparian water law, which allows landowners to use any water touching their property as long as it doesn’t harm downstream users. North Dakota, meanwhile, operates under western prior appropriation doctrine, where the “first in time” is the “first in right,” even during shortages. “Water within the borders of North Dakota belongs to the state of North Dakota,” Haase wrote in his opinion piece. “To suggest otherwise defies both common sense and the foundational principles of state sovereignty.” But Buntin said the river’s interconnected nature complicates that view. “We’re an eastern water law state, but we’re reliant upon rainfall that doesn’t fall in our state and is stored in lakes that aren’t in our state, (but) in western water law states,” he said.

**SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, May 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m. MDT**  
**Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office, Dickinson, ND**

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or call: 1-321-558-6608 ID: 190145978#

Flip Chart Recorder: Director Eaton

Process Observer: Director Engelhardt

Minutes: Wendy Serhienko

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | 1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Chairperson Odermann                                                                                                                                         |
| 9:05 a.m.  | 2. Agenda<br>A. Review Agenda<br>B. <b>Consent Agenda*</b><br><i>Official Minutes of April 6, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting, Draft Minutes of April 6, 2026, Rules and Regulations Subcommittee Meeting, Draft Minutes of April 28, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting, Accounts Payable &amp; Financial Reports and Return on Investment*</i>                                                   | Chairperson Odermann<br>Board of Directors                                                                                                                   |
| 9:10 a.m.  | 3. Missouri River Joint Water Board – Educate Advocate and Engage<br><br>4. Public Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Wade Bachmeier, MRJWB                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:25 a.m.  | 5. <b>Decision Making</b><br>A. <b>Drinking Water Week Proclamation*</b><br>B. <b>Policy I.A. Aims/Ends – Mission Statement and Manager/CEO Internal Report*</b><br>C. <b>Policy II.H. Executive Limitations – Compensation for Annexation and Manager/CEO Internal Report*</b><br>D. <b>TRMF West Medora Campground Water Service Agreement Amendment #2*</b><br>E. <b>Prioritization Matrix*</b> | Board of Directors<br>Board of Directors/Jen Murray<br>Board of Directors/Jen Murray<br>Board of Directors/Jen Murray<br>Board of Directors/Jen Murray       |
| 9:45 a.m.  | 6. Board Member Reports<br>A. Board Action Plan<br>1. SWA Strategic Plan Communications Video<br>B. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District<br>C. Roosevelt Custer Regional Council State of Region 8<br>D. Rules and Regulations Subcommittee                                                                                                                                                     | Board of Directors<br>Chelsey Jacobson<br>Director Begger<br>Glasoe/Schaible/Odermann<br>Director Engelhardt                                                 |
| 10:00 a.m. | BREAK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10:15 a.m. | 7. Incidental Information<br>A. SWC Meeting<br>B. Regional Water Systems Governing and Financing Study<br>C. SWPP Update<br>1. SWPP Funding/Water Development Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Justin Froseth<br>Jen Murray<br>Froseth/Decker/Murray<br>Murray/Froseth                                                                                      |
| 11:00 a.m. | D. Update from Manager/CEO/SWA Staff<br>1. SWA Construction and O&M Update<br>2. Easement/Signup Update<br>3. North Dakota Water Coalition<br>4. ND Water Education Foundation 2026 Summer Water Tours<br>5. ND Water 2026 Joint Summer Water Meetings<br>6. Partner’s Annual Meetings<br>7. Make A Splash Water Festival<br>8. Salary Survey                                                      | Decker/SWA Management<br>Misti Conzemius<br>Jen Murray<br>Jen Murray<br>Jen Murray<br>Wendy Serhienko<br>Wendy Serhienko<br>Laurie Graves, Graves Consulting |
| 11:30 a.m. | E. Perkins County Rural Water System Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ledeanna O’Shields                                                                                                                                           |
| 11:32 a.m. | 8. Review issues pending/Parking lot/Plan next agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Board of Directors                                                                                                                                           |
| 11:35 a.m. | 9. Board Policy Review and Monitoring<br>A. <b>Policy IV.C. Board-Manager/CEO Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits*</b><br>B. Evaluation of Manager/CEO                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Board of Directors<br>Board of Directors                                                                                                                     |
| 12:00 p.m. | Adjourn for Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                              |

**\*Items require Board action.**

**Minutes of Meeting  
Southwest Water Authority  
Board of Directors  
April 6, 2026  
Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office, Dickinson, ND**

**1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance - Introductions**

The Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors met on Monday, April 6, 2026, at Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office, in Dickinson, ND. Chairperson Odermann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MDT, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present at the meeting were: Directors James Odermann, Ryan Baumgartner, Mark Begger, Dave Burke, Jonathon Eaton, Bruce Engelhardt, Harold Gaugler, Curtis Glasoe, Bob Ingold, Bob Leingang, Don Schaible, Rick Seifert, Mike Tietz and Scott Tschetter. Also present were: Reice Haase, DWR, Sindhu S. Pillai-Grinolds, DWR, Justin Froseth, DWR, Tyson Decker, Bartlett & West, Jack Dwyer, Dwyer Law Office, Chelsey Jacobson, Odney, Inc., Bethany Cichonksy, Brady Martz & Associates, P.C., Mindy Piatz, Brady Martz & Associates, P.C., Brian Dschaak, SWA Customer, Jen Murray, SWA Manager/CEO, Andy Erickson, SWA Water Distribution Manager, Ledeanne O'Shields, SWA CFO/Office Administrator, Misti Conzemius, SWA Marketing Manager, Perry Grammond, SWA Water Treatment Manager, and Wendy Serhienko, SWA Executive Assistant.

Director Berg was absent.

**2. Agenda**

**2.A. Review Agenda**

Chairperson Odermann asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.

**2.B. Consent Agenda\***

*Motion by Director Leingang, seconded by Director Tietz, to approve item 2.B. Minutes March 2, 2026, Meeting, Official Minutes of March 2, 2026, Rules and Regulations Subcommittee Meeting, Accounts Payable, and Financial Reports and Return on Investment. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent.*

**3. Independent Auditor's Report for 2025\***

Mindy Piatz of Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C., reviewed the audit report for the year ending December 31, 2025. The Independent Auditor's Report shows a clean opinion which states the opinion of the financial statements does present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SWA for 2025. Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. did not identify any deficiencies in internal control they consider to be material weaknesses. Piatz stated a single audit was performed from the federal funds received from the NDDOT for the Chateau Road and Highway 85 projects to ensure SWA complied with the grant requirements. Piatz reported to the Board no concerns of fraud or theft were evident. She thanked SWA staff for their cooperation.

*Motion by Director Leingang, seconded by Director Tschetter, to accept the Independent Auditor's Report for 2025. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

**4. Public Comments**

Chairperson Odermann asked if there were any public comments not on the agenda. There were none.

## **5. Board Policy Review and Monitoring**

### **5.A. Policy III.C Board Governance Process – Chairperson’s Role**

Director Baumgartner reviewed the policy. Chairperson Odermann asked if there were any comments, questions or changes to Policy III.C. Board Governance Process – Chairperson’s Role. There were none.

## **6. Decision Making**

### **6.A. Policy II.C. Executive Limitations-Financial Condition and Manager/CEO and Internal Report\***

Director Tschetter reviewed the policy. Murray reviewed the Internal Report and stated the operating reserves are at 8.14 months as of February 28, 2026. Chairperson Odermann asked if there were any comments, questions, or changes to Policy II.C. Executive Limitations-Financial Condition and Manager/CEO and Internal Report. There were none.

*Motion by Director Glasoe, seconded by Director Ingold, to approve Policy II.C Executive Limitations-Financial Condition and Manager/CEO Internal Report. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

### **6.B. Policy II.E. Executive Limitations-Asset Protection and Manager/CEO Internal Report\***

Director Glasoe reviewed the policy. Murray stated all of SWA’s investments adhere to ND Century Code requirements. Chairperson Odermann asked if there were any comments, questions or changes to Policy II.E. Executive Limitations-Asset Protection. There were none.

*Motion by Director Gaugler, seconded by Director Baumgartner, to approve Policy II.E. Executive Limitations-Asset Protection and Manager/CEO Internal Report. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

### **6.C. Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance and Reimbursement Report\***

O’Shields reviewed a memo regarding reimbursement for the Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) fund for three separate items of work. The first item of work was for SWA Contract CP-2024-1 Cathodic Protection Improvements in the amount of \$567,165.24. The second item of work was for 119 RO Membranes at the OMND WTP in the amount of \$60,690. The third item of work was for the Coffin Butte VFD pumps and motor replacement in the amount of \$21,459.98. The total amount of reimbursement is for \$649,315.22.

*Motion by Director Tietz, seconded by Director Leingang, to approve the release of \$649,315.22 from the Reserve Fund for Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance for Cathodic Protection Improvements, OMND RO Membranes, and the Coffin Butte VFD pumps and motor replacement. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

## **7. Board Member Reports**

### **7.A. Board Action Plan**

Murray stated the Board Action Plan is included with the Board packet monthly as the Board works toward achievement of goals and action items.

Murray stated the updated Prioritization Matrix from Bartlett & West has been received, so the next Hydraulic Improvement can be selected, the Rules & Regulations Subcommittee has been meeting regularly, and the emergency response plan is being updated.

Chairperson Odermann mentioned a recent article regarding the ransomware incident at the City of Minot’s water treatment facility and what SWA is doing to keep all systems secure. Murray stated SWA maintains separation between operating

systems and the internet, robust firewalls and has reached out to the State of North Dakota Internet Technology for additional resources.

## **7.B. Manager/CEO Evaluation**

Director Tietz explained the Manager/CEO evaluation process and requested that the remaining evaluations be returned to him by the April 15, 2026.

## **7.C. Rules and Regulations Subcommittee**

Director Engelhardt stated the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee met on March 2 and 27, 2026, to review the redlined version of the Rules and Regulations. The March 27 meeting was held to discuss Poly Vs PVC specifically.

The next Rules and Regulations subcommittee meeting is April 6, 2026, after the Board of Directors meeting.

### **7.C.1. Poly Vs PVC Recommendation\***

Director Engelhardt stated the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee has reviewed the use of Poly (PE) in the SWPP. While the use of PVC will remain the standard recommended material, with specific conditions, and additional costs to customers for engineering, staff time, and materials, the use of PE could be considered. The Subcommittee also discussed drafting a liability waiver which holds the customer financially accountable if leaks occur or repairs are needed to the SWPP due to their PE connection. Murray stated that Bartlett & West is developing a standard detail for connection to poly. To maintain integrity and minimize additional inventory requirements, SWA would only consider 2" Cast Iron Pipe Size (SDR) Polyethylene compliant with AWWA C901/C906 poly pipe as a PE option for customers.

*Motion by Director Engelhardt, seconded by Director Baumgartner, to authorize staff to consider the use of PE for subsequent customer lines on a case-by-case basis under specific conditions and develop the standard operating procedure for responding to requests for the use of PE by subsequent customers. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

SWA and B&W will develop the standard operating procedures and draft the liability waiver over the month of April and bring back to the Board for their information at the May Board meeting.

## **8. Incidental Information**

### **8.A. SWC Meeting**

Froseth stated the SWC pre-commission meeting was held March 19, 2026, in Bismarck, ND. SWPP items on the agenda included the Equipment Procurement for Existing Intake Improvements Funding Authorization, the SWTP Expansion Change Order, and the Metallic Pipeline Project near Dodge. The SWC also held a joint meeting with the Water Topics Overview Committee (WTOC) on March 25, 2026, to hear preliminary reports from Deloitte on both the Cost-Share Policy and the Regional Water Systems Governance and Financing Studies.

The next SWC meeting will be on April 8, 2026, in Bismarck, ND and a special SWC meeting will be held on April 16, 2026, to review the cost-share policy report.

### **8.B. Strategic Finance and Governance Study**

Haase provided updates from the March joint WTOC and SWC meeting. Deloitte presented draft reports of both studies. It is expected that the WTOC will want to hear a recommendation on which option to pursue prior to the 2027 Legislative session. For the SWPP portion of the Regional Water System Finance and Governance Study three options were presented. The first option is to keep the current model with improvements to the collaborative process between the State and SWA. The second option is to keep current Governance structure but leverage Capital Repayment. The third option is to transfer ownership to SWA and leverage Capital Repayment to equip SWA with resources to own buildout/REM cost.

Murray questioned what the next steps are for SWA. Haase stated the DWR would like feedback from SWA and would attend future Board meetings. These reports will be discussed at the summer Commissioner Basin hosted meetings.

### **8.C. SWPP Update**

Froseth provided an SWPP update and a slide presentation on SWPP construction progress. His memo is on file with the official minutes.

Froseth noted DWR is working with BW/AECOM to finalize an amendment to the Specific Authorization that adds the following scope of work: discussion of the different contracting delivery methods for completing the construction of the supplementary raw water intake and the development of a plan for additional geotechnical exploration along the northern alignment.

Froseth stated Wagner Construction has indicated their intent to resume construction in mid-April for the North New England Hydraulic Improvements. Landowners are being contacted.

#### **8.C.1. Hebron Rural Expansion**

Froseth stated the Hebron Rural Expansion project will be advertising bids next week. This contract will have three bid schedules. SWA will continue acquiring easements for the project. The goal is to recommend contract award at the June SWC meeting.

Decker provided a map with the status of easements through March 2026.

#### **8.C.2. SWPP Funding/Water Development Plan**

Murray stated SWA, DWR and B&W have reviewed deferred construction, prioritization matrix, and future projects for project funding. Proposed funding needs for the 2027-2029 biennium and beyond were discussed. Funding needs include the Intake, Raw Water and Main Transmission Facility Upgrades, Rural Expansion, Hydraulic Improvements, and potential MIC Capital Projects. The DWR is requesting this information by April 30, 2026. The estimated future funding needs for the SWPP are \$435 million.

#### **8.C.3. Prioritization Matrix**

Decker stated the Prioritization Matrix has been updated. All service areas were added to the matrix. The weighted max values were adjusted to match the weighted percentages. The Signup and Easement Department will take the next steps to verify the waiting lists in the top service areas before identifying the next hydraulic improvement.

### **8.D. Update from Manager/CEO/SWA Staff**

#### **8.D.1. SWA Construction Update and O&M Update**

Murray noted SWA continues to work with the city of Medora and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF) to provide for their water needs on the west side of Medora. The city of Medora infrastructure to serve west of Medora is yet to be constructed. Once complete the city will serve the area. SWA is currently drafting a temporary contract with TRMF for water service to Hotel 1883. The temporary contract provides the hotel with 100 gpm and is proposed to run through September 2026. The flowrate is expected to be reduced after September 30. The TRMF West Medora campground contract will be amended to 20 GPM, storage will be installed, and their water rate will be changed from demand to contract.

Distribution, Treatment and Staff updates were provided.

#### **8.D.2. Easement/Signup Update**

Conzemius reviewed the sign-up and easement report. Subsequent cost quotes, customer complaints and waiting list numbers were reported. There are 781 requests for service system-wide plus 928 Burt Hebron Service Area Signups for a total of 1,709 requests system wide. Of the 774 waiting list requests, 111 have committed for service via intent forms once the North New England Strategic Improvements have been completed. Seven subsequent customers signed up in March. The department is focused on acquiring easements for the Hebron Rural Service Area.

### **8.D.3. Water Topics Overview Committee**

The Water Topics Overview Committee (WTOC) met on March 26, 2026, in Bismarck, ND. DWR Director, Haase, gave a presentation regarding information about the Department of Water Resources' recent activities. Deloitte presented the results and recommendations regarding the commission's cost share policy study and the regional water systems governance and finance study.

### **8.D.4. ND Rural Water System Rates**

Murray noted NDRWSA provides rural water rates for all rural systems annually. A comparison of SWA rates to other systems was presented.

### **8.D.5. Safe Drinking Water Act Certificates of Achievement**

Murray stated SWA received Certificates of Achievement for 2025 from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for achieving the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974. SWA continually strives to meet and exceed all requirements of both the NDDEQ and the EPA. Murray thanked SWA's team of dedicated Board and employees for their hard work in making this happen.

### **8.D.6. Southwest Lime Report**

Southwest Lime, LLC, is the company owned by Mr. Jon Wert that beneficially utilizes lime residuals produced in the water treatment process through land application. The permit held by Mr. Wert with the NDDEQ requires an annual report on his operations of land application of the lime residuals for soil amendments. Murray noted the relationship between Mr. Wert and SWA remains strong and mutually beneficial. In 2025, 4,637 tons of lime residuals were hauled.

### **8.D.7. Make A Splash Water Festival**

Serhienko reported SWA continues to host the annual Make a Splash Water Festival. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Make a Splash Water Festival will be held in April 9 and 10, 2026, and will educate 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from schools throughout the SWPP Service Area. The event is a collaboration with Project WET through the DWR.

### **8.D.8. State of Region 8**

Murray stated the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council will be hosting the State of Region 8 at Phat Fish Brewing on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The event will bring together key decision-makers and local stakeholders to raise awareness of unique needs and identify actionable solutions to drive positive changes in Region 8.

### **8.E. Perkins County Rural Water System Update**

O'Shields reported the Perkins County Rural Water System (PCRWS) provided minutes from their February 12, 2026, meeting, along with a copy of the agenda for the March 12, 2026. The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2026.

### **9. Review issues pending/Parking lot/Plan next agenda**

Director Leingang stated at least one petition has been taken out for the City of Mandan SWA Board position. Chairperson Odermann noted Director Begger would be attending the meeting for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD) on April 16-17, 2026, and will report back to the Board regarding Burleigh County's request to withdraw from the GDCCD.

There being no further business, Chairperson Odermann adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m. MDT.

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Jim Odermann, Chairperson

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Mike Tietz, Secretary/Treasurer

**Southwest Water Authority  
Rules & Regulations Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 6, 2026  
12:30 p.m. MDT  
Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office, Dickinson, ND**

**A. Call to Order**

The Southwest Water Authority Rules and Regulations Subcommittee met on Monday, April 6, 2026, at the Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office. Director Engelhardt called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. MDT.

Present at the meeting were: Directors Ryan Baumgartner, Bruce Engelhardt, Curtis Glasoe, Bob Ingold, and James Odermann. Also present were: Jen Murray, SWA Manager/CEO, Andy Erickson, SWA Water Distribution Manager, Misti Conzemius, SWA Marketing Manager Justin Froseth, DWR, Tyson Decker, Bartlett & West, and Wendy Serhienko, SWA Executive Assistant.

**B. Review Agenda**

Chairperson Engelhardt asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

**C. Decision Making – *Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2026, Subcommittee Meeting\****

Director Engelhardt noted the motion for the Poly vs PVC discussion did not include the following sentence: Motion carried by roll call vote.

*Motion by Director Glasoe, seconded by Director Baumgartner, to approve item C. Minutes of March 27, 2026, Subcommittee Meeting as amended. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent.*

**D. Review of redline version of administrative changes.**

Murray stated the redline version revisions were sent to the committee on March 9, 2026. The redlined version was reviewed by the Subcommittee.

**E. Rules & Regulations Discussion**

Murray noted the Board Action Plan specifically outlines three sections of the *Rules and Regulations* to review and clarify. The following three sections were discussed:

**IV.D.1. CONSTRUCTION – NEW PROPERTY OWNER OPTION**

This section had been discussed by the Subcommittee at previous meetings, and the changes have been made.

**VI.E. APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE**

The section that stated a cash bond would be accepted by developers has been removed.

**XVI.. EXTENSION OF TRANSMISSION – CURB STOPS-RELOCATIONS-WET TAPS**

The Subcommittee was presented the option of combining this section with XV and renaming it XV. Extension of Transmission or Distribution Lines – Curb Stops – Relocations – Wet Taps. Changes to this section include a clearer interpretation of transmission line extension for contract subsequent customers and distribution line extension for standard and high consumption customers.

The Subcommittee also reviewed the DWR's comment on ownership of subsequent lines.

*Motion by Director Odermann, seconded by Director Baumgartner, to support all changes to the Rules and Regulations and bring to the Board as redlined changes and recommend to approve changes at the June 1, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

**F. Schedule Future Meeting**

The Subcommittee agreed the next meeting will be determined after the full Board of Directors reviews the redlined version of the Rules & Regulations at the May 4, 2026, meeting.

**G. Adjournment**

Chairperson Engelhardt adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. MDT.

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Bruce Engelhardt, Chairperson

**Minutes of Meeting  
Southwest Water Authority  
Executive Committee  
April 28, 2026  
Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office in Dickinson**

**1. Call to Order**

The Southwest Water Authority Executive Committee met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Chairperson Odermann called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. MDT.

Present at the meeting were: Chairperson James Odermann, Vice-Chairperson Jonathan Eaton and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Tietz. Also present was Jen Murray, SWA Manager/CEO, Ledeanne O'Shields, SWA CFO/Office Administrator and Laurie Graves with Graves Consulting.

Chairperson Odermann noted that a change of approving the Executive Committee Meeting minutes would be added to the agenda.

**2. Agenda**

Odermann noted that the Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved at the Board level but needed to be approved at the Executive Committee level.

*Motion by Director Mike Tietz, Second by Director Eaton, to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent.*

**3. Manager/CEO Evaluation Review**

**3.A. Salary Survey**

Murray noted that the Board approved the hiring of a consulting firm to review all wages for SWA staff. The consulting firm that was hired is Graves Consulting.

Owner, Laurie Graves, discussed the intent of the compensation study along with the scope of the analysis. Data used for the analysis was collected from Payfactors, Comp Analyst and American Water Works Association. Each used the jobs related to SWA industry and regional location. The firm will be providing recommendations for pay structure, implementation, financial impact and ongoing structure maintenance. Emphasis on cost of labor is not equal to cost of living, and applying consistency across all roles within the company. Taking into consideration relevant and equivalent experience when placement is made within a pay range.

Graves reviewed the data related the Manager/CEO position, and noted that the recommended midpoint is an range increase of 11.5% from the current rage. It was also noted that pay within the range is the Executive Committee, and full Boards decision.

**3.B Policy IV.C Board-Manager/CEO Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits**

The committee discussed what options to include on the Policy IV.C Board-Manager/CEO Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits that will be brought to the SWA Board of Directors on May 6, 2026. Included for the SWA board will be prior year range increased by the Consumer Pricing Index, the AWWA 2025 Salary Survey aged by 3% and the Graves Consulting range. Staff will have available an alternative pay structure based on relevance 50% for AWWA, 25% from Payfactors and 25% for Comp Analyst.

### 3. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairperson Odermann adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m. MDT.

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Jim Odermann, Chairperson

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Mike Tietz, Secretary/Treasurer



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**Our Vision:** People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water    **Our Mission:** Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Jen Murray, Manager/CEO

From: Ledeanne O'Shields, CFO/Office Administrator

Subject: Financial, Administration and Customer Service – Incidental Information

Date: April 21, 2026

The financial statements included for your review are for March 2026. These include a summary income and expense statement that compares to budget, a detailed income statement of actual income and expenses for the year and the balance sheet. The balance sheet is a comparison of March 2025 to March 2026. Also included is a detailed statement of board expenses for the month of March.

The accounts receivable listing for rural customers is for March 2026 and the transmission accounts receivable listing is for March 2026. The checks written for the month are from March 24, 2026 to April 20, 2026.

Total rural usage for March 2026 was 18,493,500 gallons. By comparison, in March 2025 rural water sales were 24,274,700 gallons. This is a decrease of 31.26%. During the month of March, there were 2 hookups with one hookup in 7-1B, and one in 7-9D.

There are 2,396 customers using our Automatic Payment Plan, 386 paid online with a credit option and 355 paid online with a checking account. We had 38 spot checks (two months without a reading or the same reading). Currently there are 561 customers who are using the Customer Service Center to view their accounts.

Included with this memo are residual mill levy income and signup income for the month of March. SWA sold a total of 131,409,890 gallons of water in the month of March. The projection for the year 2026 is 2,430,122,000 gallons. A comparison of total usage through March is listed at the top of the next page. The difference shown in the first column is the difference between year-to-date for the year (2025) and 2026. This shows a historical year-to-date comparison. Also listed are the usage and the difference for the last two months. Sales through March were less than last year's sales through March by 4.72%. SWA had 7,857 active accounts with 3,070 subsequent users in March. As of March 31, 2026, SWA has 322 tenants.

Also listed below is O&M Income minus Capital Repayment and REM, along with percentages, through March 31, 2026.

Comparisons Through March	Listed in thousand gallons		
		February 2026	162,805,630
2017	150,995,130	March 2026	<u>131,409,890</u>
2018	154,313,220	Difference	(31,098,740)
2019	137,210,470		
2020	147,927,370		
2021	143,026,070		
2022	133,434,730		
2023	134,049,290		
2024	135,256,540		
2025	137,913,950		
2026	<u>131,409,890</u>		
Difference	(6,504,060)		

As of March 31, 2026	Amount	Percent
O&M Income	\$ 3,563,402	
Return on Investment Expense	(1,449,645)	41%
REM Expense	<u>(407,326)</u>	11%
Balance	<u>\$ 1,706,431</u>	48%

Water depot usage information is included with this memo.

Southwest Water Authority has taken the necessary actions to qualify for the Employer Based Wellness Discount program and have earned a 1% health premium reduction that will apply from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

A listing of Accounts Payables (aged trial balance) is included. In addition to the regular accounts payable, included in the listing are: Advanced Pump & Equipment, Inc for \$2,564.07 for a mechanical seal for RHF; Amazon Capital Services for \$6,471.74 which includes \$5,879.00 for a new file cabinet for Marketing; Baranko Bros, Inc for \$7,637.50 for a pipe relocation in Dunn County; Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc for \$21,398.19 which includes \$7,406.38 for the monthly meeting, \$7,254.74 for hydraulic and capacity studies; \$3,624.72 for Hwy 85, and \$1,840.05 for New England recoat; Brady Martz & Associates for \$14,159.40 for the audit; Dakota Supply Group for \$4,684.32 which includes \$3,412.72 for BPS repairs for N Crown Butte and Rhame; Informational Data Technology for \$3,795.00 for 759 air minutes; Ingersoll Rand for \$3,817.40 for the OMND WTP compressors; JK Excavation for \$23,800.00 for the pipeline relocation in Dunn County; Keane Hanson for \$3,112.50 to fix a leak at Dennis Rustans; Micro-comm, Inc for \$5,500.00 for a control board at Dunn Center BPS; Midco Diving & Marine Services, Inc for \$3,876.00 to clean the Fryburg reservoir; and ND Water Education Foundation for \$3,000.00 for the 2026 Summer Water Tours.



**North Dakota  
Public Employees Retirement System**

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 2 • PO Box 1657  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1657

Rebecca Fricke  
Executive Director  
(701) 328-3900  
1-800-803-7377

Fax (701) 328-3920

Email [ndpers-info@nd.gov](mailto:ndpers-info@nd.gov)

Website [www.ndpers.nd.gov](http://www.ndpers.nd.gov)

April 13, 2026

Org ID: 500063

JAMES ODERMANN  
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY  
4665 2ND ST SW  
DICKINSON ND 58601-7231

Dear Mr. Odermann:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that your agency has taken the necessary actions to qualify for the Employer Based Wellness Discount program. This means that you appointed a wellness coordinator, had a representative from your office attend the NDPERS sponsored Wellness Forum and submitted a wellness programming plan on the Discount Application for the upcoming year. The 1% health premium reduction will apply from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Your application indicated that you do not intend to request funding assistance from the Wellness Benefit Funding Program. As the funding program is optional, should you change your mind, you are still eligible to request funding assistance by submitting a revised Employer Based Wellness Discount Application and Wellness Benefit Funding Program Application. For additional information about the funding program, please review the information available on our website.

We wish to extend our congratulations to you for taking positive action towards encouraging a healthy worksite culture. As you know, the underlying causes for a significant amount of today's health care costs are lifestyle choices relating to diet, inactivity, smoking and use of alcohol. Your support in encouraging your employees to take control of their lives by encouraging participation in healthy activities and providing a healthy work environment is critical to this effort.

We look forward to your continuing support. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 701-328-3978.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Fricke  
Executive Director

Cc: LEDEANNA O'SHIELDS, Wellness Coordinator

Group Insurance	Retirement Plans	Other Programs
Health & Life	Public Employees	Flexible Spending Account (FlexComp)
Dental & Vision	Law Enforcement	Retiree Health Insurance Credit (RHIC)
	Public Safety	Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
	Judges	
	Job Service	
	Highway Patrol	

Southwest Water Authority  
Statement of Income & Expenses  
For 1/1/2026 To 3/31/2026

	Current Period	Current YTD	YTD 2026 Budget	YTD % of Budget	Budget total 2026
<b>Sales</b>					
Sales of Water	\$1,205,868	\$3,500,228	\$3,416,135	17.71%	\$19,759,956
Sales of Equipment	\$28,947	\$53,442	\$63,531	21.03%	\$254,125
Sales of Services	\$1,686	\$9,732	\$6,850	35.52%	\$27,400
<b>Gross Sales</b>	<b>\$1,236,501</b>	<b>\$3,563,402</b>	<b>\$3,486,516</b>	<b>17.78%</b>	<b>\$20,041,481</b>
O&M Expense --Transmission	\$568,981	\$1,625,112	\$2,253,848	17.77%	\$9,143,392
O&M Expense --Distribution	\$430,570	\$1,300,565	\$1,650,089	19.59%	\$6,640,757
O&M Expense -- Treatment	\$295,885	\$784,259	\$918,275	20.91%	\$3,750,100
Customer Service Expense	\$15,222	\$55,304	\$73,325	18.57%	\$297,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,310,658</b>	<b>\$3,765,240</b>	<b>\$4,895,537</b>	<b>18.99%</b>	<b>\$19,832,049</b>
<b>Gross Profit On Sales</b>	<b>(\$74,157)</b>	<b>(\$201,838)</b>	<b>(\$1,409,021)</b>	<b>(96.37)%</b>	<b>\$209,432</b>
<b>Other Income</b>					
Mill Levy Income	\$1,494	\$3,128	\$0	0.00%	\$0
Other Income	\$52,430	(\$41,924)	\$154,781	(6.77)%	\$619,125
Grant Income	\$0	\$0	\$15,500	0.00%	\$62,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$53,924</b>	<b>(\$38,796)</b>	<b>\$170,281</b>	<b>(5.70)%</b>	<b>\$681,125</b>
Board of Directors Expense	\$22,898	\$60,352	\$77,494	19.47%	\$309,975
Administrative Expense	\$105,758	\$317,147	\$361,675	22.60%	\$1,403,300
Signup & Easement Expense	\$50,761	\$145,595	\$162,737	21.67%	\$671,950
Depreciation Expense	\$42,394	\$124,909	\$165,516	18.87%	\$662,066
Gain/Loss on Asset Disposal	(\$129)	(\$1,304)	\$0	0.00%	\$0
<b>Net Income/Expenses</b>	<b>(\$242,171)</b>	<b>(\$889,941)</b>	<b>(\$2,006,162)</b>	<b>41.26%</b>	<b>(\$2,156,734)</b>
Replacement & EM Fund Expense	\$127,142	(\$29,950)	\$1,111,871	(0.67)%	\$4,447,485
<b>Net Income w/ Replacement &amp; EM</b>	<b>(\$369,313)</b>	<b>(\$859,991)</b>	<b>(\$3,118,033)</b>	<b>13.02%</b>	<b>(\$6,604,219)</b>

## Board of Directors Expenses

For 1/1/2026 to 3/31/2026

	Current Period	Current YTD	2026 BUDGET YTD	2026 BUDGET Budget
Board of Directors Expenses				
Per Diem -- Board of Directors	\$5,804	\$13,359	\$18,965	\$75,860
Group Life Insurance -- Board of Directors	2	4	4	15
Workers Compensation Expense -- Board of D	3	8	50	200
FICA - Social Security -- Board of Directors	418	975	1,550	6,200
FICA - Medicare -- Board of Directors	98	228	375	1,500
Professional Services -- Board of Directors	7,406	20,002	15,750	63,000
Office Supplies -- Board of Directors	0	40	50	200
Copies & Duplication -- Board of Directors	0	0	25	100
Public Relations & Development -- Board of Di	1,613	4,789	8,500	34,000
Development & Education -- Board of Director	0	1,005	1,400	5,600
Mileage Reimbursement -- Board of Directors	1,474	3,538	5,725	22,900
Lodging & Meals -- Board of Directors	1,019	1,324	6,025	24,100
Travel Expenses -- Board of Directors	16	16	2,000	8,000
Telephone/Internet -- Board of Directors	317	847	1,250	5,000
Postage -- Board of Directors	0	191	250	1,000
Dues & Subscriptions -- Board of Directors	3,052	8,996	8,750	35,000
Insurance - Liability -- Board of Directors	1,677	5,031	6,825	27,300
<b>Total Board of Director Expense</b>	<b>\$22,899</b>	<b>\$60,353</b>	<b>\$77,494</b>	<b>\$309,975</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,899</b>	<b>\$60,353</b>	<b>\$77,494</b>	<b>\$309,975</b>

## Comparative Balance Sheet

3/31/2026

	Through 3/31/2026	Through 3/31/2025
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash</b>		
Cash in Checking - O&M - Bravera	\$937,622	\$981,873
Cash in Checking - Payroll - Bravera	466,209	407,650
DDM - Reserve - O&M - Bravera	612,888	2,282,467
Cash in Checking - BMO Bank	86,320	68,919
Petty Cash	198	200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash	\$2,103,237	\$3,741,109
<b>Short-Term Investments</b>		
Short-Term Investment - O&M Fund	\$732,451	\$137,927
Short-Term Investment - General Fund	54,323	76,276
Short-Term Investment - Reserve Fund	1,056,428	75,854
Short-Term Investment - Escrow Fund	21,594	38,174
Short-Term Investment - Replacement	8,600,636	4,871,281
Cash Management Account - General Fund	23,776	22,866
Cash Management Account - O&M	1,270,084	1,225,486
Certificate of Deposit #18112	4,412,352	4,201,040
Certificate of Deposit #24572	1,074,577	1,050,739
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Short-Term Investments	\$17,246,221	\$11,699,643
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Accounts Receivable -- Distribution Prepayments	(\$65,349)	(\$54,298)
Accounts Receivable -- Transmission	654,952	652,978
Accounts Receivable -- Distribution	574,513	556,593
Accounts Receivable -- MWWS	12,192	20,911
Accounts Receivable -- Other	(649)	1,804
Grant Receivable	1,821,137	0
Allowance For Doubtful Accounts	(5,425)	(11,824)
Allowance For Doubtful Accounts -- MWWS	(497)	(2,168)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Accounts Receivable	\$2,990,874	\$1,163,996
<b>Interest Receivable</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Interest Receivables	\$0	\$0
<b>Inventory</b>		
Inventory Contributed Capital	\$99,797	\$99,797
Inventory -- User Spare Parts	686,773	756,440

## Comparative Balance Sheet

	Through 3/31/2026	Through 3/31/2025
Inventory -- WTP	96,458	160,470
Inventory -- SWTP	211,581	149,930
Inventory -- OMND WTP	136,802	120,530
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Inventory	\$1,231,411	\$1,287,167
Prepaid Expenses		
Prepaid Expenses	\$55,750	\$50,247
Prepaid Deposit	42,095	14,845
Prepaid Insurance	128,669	114,928
Prepaid Workers Compensation	1,811	2,973
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Prepaid Expenses	\$228,325	\$182,993
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	\$23,800,068	\$18,074,908
Long-Term Investments		
Long-Term Investment - O&M Fund	\$3,240,905	\$3,750,616
Long-Term Investment - General Fund	1,190,261	1,141,665
Long-Term Investment - Reserve Fund	429,262	1,362,342
Long-Term Investment - Escrow Fund	763,392	733,142
Long-Term Investment - Replacement	20,650,026	22,301,324
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Long-Term Investments	\$26,273,846	\$29,289,089
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	\$113,318	\$112,817
Buildings & Improvements	4,045,943	3,959,597
Office Furniture & Fixtures	290,706	290,706
Vehicles	1,190,022	1,190,022
Contributed Vehicles	46,093	46,093
Other Fixed Assets	25,301	4,011
Computer Equipment	99,565	92,163
Machinery & Equipment	3,010,227	3,010,227
Contributed Equipment	60,530	60,530
Computer Software	178,590	178,590
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	\$9,060,295	\$8,944,756
Accumulated Depreciation		
Accum Depr -- Buildings & Improvements	\$1,395,957	\$1,294,906
Accum Depr -- Office Furn & Fixt	282,184	277,724
Accum Depr -- Vehicle	729,917	543,600
Accum Depr -- Contributed Vehicles	46,093	46,093
Accum Depr -- Other Fixed Assets	4,724	4,011

## Comparative Balance Sheet

	Through 3/31/2026	Through 3/31/2025
Accum Depr -- Computer Equipment	93,603	85,413
Accum Depr -- Machinery & Equipment	2,247,890	2,059,139
Accum Depr -- Contributed Equipment	60,530	60,530
Accumulated Amortization	178,590	178,590
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	\$5,039,488	\$4,550,006
Other Assets		
Deferred Pension Outflows	\$1,179,947	\$1,628,277
Deferred OPEB Outflows	41,104	43,485
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Assets	\$1,221,051	\$1,671,762
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	\$55,315,772	\$53,430,509
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## Comparative Balance Sheet

	Through 3/31/2026	Through 3/31/2025
Liabilities and Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	\$1,156,927	\$1,230,142
Employee Benefits Payable	141,090	119,801
Deductions Payable	0	(60)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,298,017	\$1,349,883
Taxes Payable		
ND State Withholding Payable	\$4,012	\$4,472
Employer Matching FICA - Social Security	20,089	17,302
Employer Matching FICA - Medicare	4,698	4,047
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Taxes Payable	\$28,799	\$25,821
Other Current Liabilities		
Accrued Annual Leave Payable	\$245,106	\$200,247
Accrued Sick Leave Payable	232,062	183,067
Flex -- Medical Spending Payable	600	0
Flex -- Life Insurance Payable	8	0
Non-Flex -- Life Insurance Payable	38	0
Accrued Salaries Payable	328,636	282,735
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$806,450	\$666,049
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,133,266	\$2,041,753
Long-Term Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue	\$1,002,700	\$920,975
Tenant Rental Deposits	23,775	22,500
Tenant Rental Deposits -- MWWS	375	375
Customer Escrow Deposit	40,000	40,000
Deferred Pension Inflows	1,828,404	2,630,067
Deferred OPEB Inflows	57,117	50,389
Net Pension Liability	3,776,854	4,131,317
Net OPEB Liability	131,093	152,208
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$6,860,318	\$7,947,831
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	\$8,993,584	\$9,989,584
Equity		

## Comparative Balance Sheet

	Through 3/31/2026	Through 3/31/2025
Reserve Funds		
Reserve Account -- O&M Transmission	\$3,686,712	\$3,557,605
Reserve Account -- O&M Distribution	2,142,158	2,115,551
Reserve Account -- O&M Treatment	(2,168,685)	(2,177,681)
Reserve Account -- General Operating Fund	424,619	391,030
Reserve Account-Replace & EM -- Transmission	18,588,687	17,586,832
Reserve Account-Replace & EM -- Distribution	1,237,061	865,011
Interest Income -- Replace & EM	8,974,334	8,384,128
Dividend Income -- Replace & EM	481,590	431,688
Interest Income -- O&M Reserve	1,250	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Reserve Funds	\$33,367,726	\$31,154,164
Unappropriated Funds	\$13,247,786	\$12,395,677
Contributed Capital	566,665	566,665
Net Profit/(loss)	(859,993)	(675,582)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Equity	\$12,954,458	\$12,286,760
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$55,315,768</u>	<u>\$53,430,508</u>

**AGED TRIAL BALANCE**  
 Southwest Water Authority  
 Payables Management

Ranges:  
 Vendor ID: First - Last  
 Class ID: First - Last  
 Payment Priority: First - Last  
 Vendor Name: First - Last

Accts Payable: First - Last  
 Posting Date: First - Last  
 Document Number: First - Last

Print Option: SUMMARY  
 Age By: Document Date  
 Aging Date: 12/31/2026

Exclude: Credit Balance, Zero Balance, No Activity, Unposted Applied Credit Documents, Multicurrency Info  
 Sorted By: Vendor ID  
 Document Date

Vendor ID: AD8153	Name: ADVANCED PUMP & EQUIPMENT, INC		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$2,564.07
Vendor ID: AM1956	Name: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 12		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$6,471.74
Vendor ID: AM2682	Name: AMERICAN WELDING & GAS INC		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$5,539.15
Vendor ID: BA6154	Name: BARANKO BROS. INC.		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$7,637.50
Vendor ID: BA6742	Name: BARTLETT & WEST ENGINEERS, INC.		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 6		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$21,398.19
Vendor ID: BA7351	Name: BASIN AUTO PARTS		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$82.57
Vendor ID: BL1141	Name: BLACKBURN MFG CO		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,263.45
Vendor ID: BO6225	Name: BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 5		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,587.92
Vendor ID: BR1295	Name: BRADY MARTZ & ASSOCIATES		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$14,159.40
Vendor ID: CE5269	Name: C. EMERY NELSON, INC.		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$5,850.00
Vendor ID: DA4963	Name: DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 3		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$4,684.32
Vendor ID: DI1436	Name: DICKINSON HARDWARE		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$34.18
Vendor ID: DI1466	Name: DICKINSON PARKS & RECREATION		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$225.00
Vendor ID: DI6217	Name: DIRECTMED		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$40.32
Vendor ID: EI2566	Name: EIDO PRINTING		
<b>Voucher(s):</b> 1		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$48.00
Vendor ID: EL2177	Name: ELECTRO WATCHMAN, INC		

**AGED TRIAL BALANCE**  
 Southwest Water Authority

<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$383.40
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	FA1274	<b>Name:</b>	FARMERS UNION-BEULAH
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,247.70
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	FO6715	<b>Name:</b>	FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$150.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	GR1955	<b>Name:</b>	GRAYMONT (WI) LLC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	3	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$15,111.57
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	HA8435	<b>Name:</b>	HAWKINS INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	8	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$19,596.44
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	HA9253	<b>Name:</b>	HAZEN HARDWARE HANK
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	2	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$17.28
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	IN2566	<b>Name:</b>	INFORMATIONAL DATA TECHNOLOGIES L
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$3,795.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	IN3267	<b>Name:</b>	INGERSOLL RAND COMPANY INDUSTRIAL
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$3,817.40
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	JA1520	<b>Name:</b>	JACOBSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$94.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	JK2811	<b>Name:</b>	JK EXCAVATION & CONSTRUCTION, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$23,800.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	KE1523	<b>Name:</b>	KEANE HANSON PLUMBING & EXCAVATION
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$3,112.50
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	LE7268	<b>Name:</b>	LEE SERVICES, LLC dba NAKOTA CLEAN
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$2,989.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	LI1268	<b>Name:</b>	LIBERTY DOORS, LLC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$430.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	LO2243	<b>Name:</b>	LOFFLER COMPANIES, INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$991.18
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	LO3551	<b>Name:</b>	LOGO MAGIC, INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$394.90
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	ME2125	<b>Name:</b>	SANFORD HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL MEDI
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$225.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	ME6128	<b>Name:</b>	MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL LANDFILL
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$10.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	MI1651	<b>Name:</b>	MICRO-COMM INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$5,500.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	MI2153	<b>Name:</b>	MIDCO DIVING & MARINE SERVICES, INC

**AGED TRIAL BALANCE**  
 Southwest Water Authority

<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$3,876.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	MI2827	<b>Name:</b>	MIDWEST DOORS OF DICKINSON, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$189.40
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	MO7726	<b>Name:</b>	MOTT EQUITY EXCHANGE
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$48.84
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	NO6275	<b>Name:</b>	ND DIVISION OF MICROBIOLOGY
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	4	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$162.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	NO6301	<b>Name:</b>	ND DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL - CHEMIST
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	2	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,406.54
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	NO6727	<b>Name:</b>	ND WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$3,000.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	NO6739	<b>Name:</b>	NORTHWESTERN POWER EQUIP CO INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,830.43
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	OD5299	<b>Name:</b>	ODNEY
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	3	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$5,590.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	OL7558	<b>Name:</b>	OLSON'S SERVICE
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	6	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$598.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	ON2114	<b>Name:</b>	ONE CALL CONCEPTS
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$482.70
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	OU7111	<b>Name:</b>	OUTBACK LUMBER SUPPLY, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$1,162.50
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	PL7542	<b>Name:</b>	PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	2	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$199.43
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	PO8266	<b>Name:</b>	POWERFLEET, INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$474.81
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	PR2756	<b>Name:</b>	PRESORT PLUS, LLC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	2	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$5,312.51
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	QU1437	<b>Name:</b>	QUALITY QUICK PRINT, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	2	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$80.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	RO2530	<b>Name:</b>	RODNEY BATT
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	1	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$720.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	RR1775	<b>Name:</b>	R & R AUTO, FARM & ELECTRIC, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	3	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$212.97
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	RU5535	<b>Name:</b>	RUNNINGS SUPPLY, INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>	13	<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b> \$459.88
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	SH2683	<b>Name:</b>	SHERWIN-WILLIAMS/DICKINSON

**AGED TRIAL BALANCE**  
 Southwest Water Authority

<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$76.45
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	SM1671	<b>Name:</b>	SMART COMPUTERS AND CONSULTING
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$62.97
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	SO7739	<b>Name:</b>	SOUTHWEST LIME, LLC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$7,500.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	SO8901	<b>Name:</b>	SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$390.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	TE5663	<b>Name:</b>	TEMP RIGHT SERVICE, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$1,411.24
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	TF3517	<b>Name:</b>	T. FIN BUILDING SOLUTIONS
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$879.11
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	TK6500	<b>Name:</b>	TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$100.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	TO7143	<b>Name:</b>	TOTAL SAFETY US, INC
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
3			\$698.40
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	US1147	<b>Name:</b>	USA BLUE BOOK
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
2			\$492.12
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	VE7715	<b>Name:</b>	VESSCO, INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$1,009.95
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	VI4325	<b>Name:</b>	VIKING GLASS OF N.D., INC.
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
1			\$125.00
<b>Vendor ID:</b>	VI7111	<b>Name:</b>	VISA
<b>Voucher(s):</b>		<b>Aged Totals:</b>	<b>Due</b>
22			\$2,936.66
<b>Vendor Totals:</b>		<b>Vendor(s)</b>	<b>Due</b>
		63	\$194,739.09



2026 INDUSTRIAL SALES

CITY	*COMMENTS	*RATE/KGAL FOR INDUSTRIAL	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	TOTAL GALLONS	TOTAL ACRE FEET
BEACH	SELLS WATER TO FARMERS FROM CITY WELLS ONLY. DOES NOT SELL SWPP WATER						
BELFIELD	\$32.00/1,000 GALLONS, AS OF 5/21	\$32.00	8,600	10,230	15,170	34,000	0.10
CARSON	DO NOT SELL						0.00
CENTER	CURRENTLY NOT SELLING						0.00
DICKINSON	\$19.00/1,000 GALLONS, AS OF 5/ 21	\$19.00	34,700	63,000	57,100	154,800	0.48
DODGE	DO NOT SELL						0.00
DUNN CENTER	DO NOT SELL						0.00
ELGIN	DO NOT SELL						0.00
GLADSTONE	DO NOT SELL						0.00
GLEN ULLIN	DOES NOT SELL ON REGULAR BASIS ONLY TO FARMERS & CONSTRUCTION 12/25	\$15.00	900	1,000	1,100	3,000	0.01
GOLDEN VALLEY	SPRAYING & DUST CONTROL USE ONLY						0.00
GOLVA	DO NOT SELL SWPP WATER - USES CITY WELLS						0.00
HALLIDAY	SELLS WATER TO FARMERS FROM CITY WELLS ONLY. DOES NOT SELL SWPP WATER						0.00
HEBRON	USUALLY SELLS TO FARMERS, ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND BRICK YARD. CHARGES THE SAME FOR ALL USERS 12/25	\$10.35	99,000	94,000	108,000	301,000	0.92
HETTINGER	CHARGES THE SAME FOR ALL USERS 6/24	\$10.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
KILLDEER	CHARGES THE SAME FOR ALL USERS 10/18	\$35.71	116,800	105,490	97,920	320,210	0.98
MEDORA	DO NOT SELL						0.00
MOTT	SPRAYING/DOES NOT SELL TO OIL INDUSTRY 6/24	\$10.00	10,100	0	0	10,100	0.03
NEW ENGLAND	CHARGES THE SAME FOR ALL USERS 10/18	\$20.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
NEW HRADEC	DO NOT SELL						0.00
NEW LEIPZIG	DO NOT SELL						0.00
REEDER	DO NOT SELL SWPP WATER - USES CITY WELLS						0.00
REGENT	DO NOT SELL						0.00
RICHARDTON	ONLY SELL TO FARMERS						0.00
SCRANTON	SPRAYING USE ONLY/DOES NOT SELL TO OIL INDUSTRY 10/18	\$8.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
SENTINEL BUTTE	INDUSTRIAL SALES ONLY 8/15	\$22.47	0	0	0	0	0.00
SOUTH HEART	DO NOT SELL						0.00
TAYLOR	DO NOT SELL						0.00
ZAP	DO NOT SELL						0.00
<b>TOTAL GALLONS</b>			<b>270,100</b>	<b>273,720</b>	<b>279,290</b>	<b>823,110</b>	<b>2.53</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRE FEET</b>			<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>2.53</b>	
<b>CONTRACT</b>							
BAKER BOY			682,700	789,300	509,700	1,981,700	6.08
BILLINGS COUNTY DIST 3			0	0	21,300	21,300	0.07
SWA WATER DEPOT - RAW			25,700	8,960	4,630	39,290	0.12
DAKOTA PRAIRIE REFINING			849,600	982,400	486,100	2,318,100	7.11
ND ENERGY SERVICES			42,800	0	0	42,800	0.13
NET-ZERO RICHARDTON, LLC			16,288,000	17,356,000	14,960,000	48,604,000	149.16
STEFFES CORPORATION			95,900	160,600	149,100	405,600	1.24
<b>TOTAL GALLONS</b>			<b>17,984,700</b>	<b>19,297,260</b>	<b>16,130,830</b>	<b>53,412,790</b>	<b>163.92</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRE FEET</b>			<b>55.19</b>	<b>59.22</b>	<b>49.50</b>	<b>163.92</b>	
<b>TOTAL GALLONS COMBINED</b>			<b>18,254,800</b>	<b>19,570,980</b>	<b>16,410,120</b>	<b>54,235,900</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACRE FEET COMBINED</b>			<b>56.02</b>	<b>60.06</b>	<b>50.36</b>	<b>166.44</b>	<b>166.44</b>

# Southwest Pipeline Project

## Return on Investment

YEAR	RESOURCES TRUST FUND	BOND PAYMENTS	TOTAL
1991	\$ 11,166.00		\$ 11,166.00
1992	\$ 212,899.00		\$ 212,899.00
1993	\$ 195,973.00		\$ 195,973.00
1994	\$ 300,472.00		\$ 300,472.00
1995	\$ 504,179.00		\$ 504,179.00
1996	\$ 734,994.15		\$ 734,994.15
1997	\$ 389,111.41	\$ 468,801.59	\$ 857,913.00
1998	\$ 415,197.60	\$ 500,593.77	\$ 915,791.37
1999	\$ 349,574.05	\$ 676,423.19	\$ 1,025,997.24
2000	\$ 418,164.86	\$ 728,614.91	\$ 1,146,779.77
2001	\$ 475,021.15	\$ 833,246.78	\$ 1,308,267.93
2002	\$ 416,859.08	\$ 1,015,365.60	\$ 1,432,224.68
2003	\$ 458,780.10	\$ 1,122,504.11	\$ 1,581,284.21
2004	\$ 615,337.62	\$ 1,005,901.63	\$ 1,621,239.25
2005	\$ 661,099.95	\$ 1,045,858.38	\$ 1,706,958.33
2006	\$ 611,674.29	\$ 1,336,805.97	\$ 1,948,480.26
2007	\$ 856,597.12	\$ 1,451,468.74	\$ 2,308,065.86
2008	\$ 1,451,385.68	\$ 1,004,121.20	\$ 2,455,506.88
2009	\$ 1,504,429.59	\$ 1,114,558.52	\$ 2,618,988.11
2010	\$ 877,624.28	\$ 1,898,922.31	\$ 2,776,546.59
2011	\$ 1,793,563.59	\$ 1,282,852.85	\$ 3,076,416.44
2012	\$ 3,303,608.16	\$ 983,667.70	\$ 4,287,275.86
2013	\$ 3,080,405.43	\$ 1,441,235.41	\$ 4,521,640.84
2014	\$ 3,753,622.85	\$ 1,340,702.63	\$ 5,094,325.48
2015	\$ 4,776,377.17		\$ 4,776,377.17
2016	\$ 4,936,757.79		\$ 4,936,757.79
2017	\$ 5,258,182.90		\$ 5,258,182.90
2018	\$ 5,015,416.74		\$ 5,015,416.74
2019	\$ 5,079,128.39		\$ 5,079,128.39
2020	\$ 5,476,914.31		\$ 5,476,914.31
2021	\$ 5,566,425.98		\$ 5,566,425.98
2022	\$ 5,688,266.69		\$ 5,688,266.69
2023	\$ 6,227,003.19		\$ 6,227,003.19
2024	\$ 6,642,973.92		\$ 6,642,973.92
2025	\$ 6,803,226.19		\$ 6,803,226.19
2026	\$ 1,547,497.98		\$ 1,547,497.98
	<b>\$ 86,409,911.21</b>	<b>\$ 19,251,645.29</b>	<b>\$ 105,661,556.50</b>
Perkins County	\$ 5,459,000.00		\$ 5,459,000.00
	<b>\$ 91,868,911.21</b>	<b>\$ 19,251,645.29</b>	<b>\$ 111,120,556.50</b>
Jan	\$ 530,737.07		\$ 530,737.07
Feb	\$ 497,659.02		\$ 1,028,396.09
Mar	\$ 519,101.89		\$ 1,547,497.98

# Presentation to SWA Board Meeting



**Presented May 2026**

**Wade Bachmeier, Chair, Missouri River Joint Water Board**

# Our Discussion Today



Variety of News Articles now occurring in MO and KS



Our March 18 meeting with MO folks



What all this Means?

## Op-ed: It is time to take Missouri River water transfers seriously

- ▶ *‘ .... **It is time for the leaders of the lower Missouri River basin states to take this issue head on before it is too late. We stand ready to work with the governors of the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas and their Congressional delegations as they protect those who live, work, and rely on the Missouri River for life and sustenance....’***
- ▶ Shane Kinne, Executive Director of the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River

# Our Missouri River...Concerns in the Basin

**By Wade Bachmeier and Ken Royse**

- ▶ *... 'The challenge the Upper Basin and Lower Basin both have is to be diligently aware of efforts to export the river system water to the west, out of the states that make up our Basin. The states that contribute water to the system, and particularly the states that made the large land sacrifices for the Pick Sloan Act, should, without questions or challenge, have reasonable use of the river within their respective states...'*

# The Missouri Times

[Opinion: We can't afford to lose Missouri River water - The Missouri Times](#)

**Opinion: We can't afford to lose Missouri River water**

By Kurt U. Schaefer on February 3, 2026

- ▶ .... ***'Missouri must oppose any federal funding or other actions that divert water from the Missouri River, and work with members from Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska to seek protections resulting in a fair balance between the upper and lower basin. We want to prevent future diversion projects that may be on a larger scale than what North Dakota is currently building with federal support ... we need congressional champions in other lower basin states to join Missouri in protection the interests of downstream states ....'***

# Opinion: The Missouri River Is a Shared Resource, Not a Battleground

By Reice Haase, Director, North Dakota Department of Water Resources

- ▶ ‘... In a recent opinion column, (Missouri described their) ... relationship with North Dakota as a “water war”. That characterization reflects (Missouri's) opinion but does not reflect ours. North Dakota has never viewed Missouri River water as something to be won, but as a resource to be responsibly used. Our focus is on meeting water needs within a Missouri River system designed to serve many purposes within **its states, not a single interest or geography ....**’

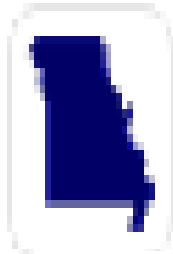
# ***Missouri River is Kansas City's lifeblood. Don't cut it off upstream | Opinion***

By **Kurt U. Schaefer** *Special to The Kansas City Star*

March 2, 2026 5:04 AM |  Gift Article

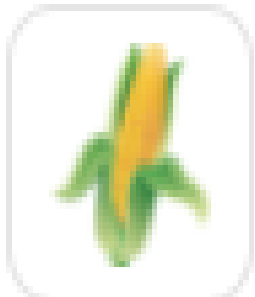
- ▶ ***‘ .... Missouri needs congressional champions in other lower basin states to join us in protecting the interests of downstream states. We must oppose federal funding or other actions that divert water from the Missouri River Basin, and work together to achieve a fair balance between the upper and lower basin ...’***
- ▶

# ND/MO Meeting March 18, 2025 ... From Missouri



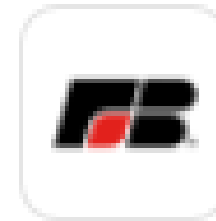
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

<https://dnr.mo.gov/water>



Iowa Corn

<https://www.iowacorn.org>



Missouri Farm Bureau

<https://mofb.org>



**Kansas City Power & Light District**

District in Kansas City

# ND/MO Meeting March 18, 2025 ...

From North Dakota



## Missouri River Joint Water Board

Wade Bachmeier, Chairman  
8315 Willow Road N Mandan, ND 58554  
Phone: 701-400-4251

Greg Lange, Secretary/Treasurer  
610 Sudbury Ave, Bismarck, ND 58503  
Phone: 701-880-1028



## Our Opening Slide

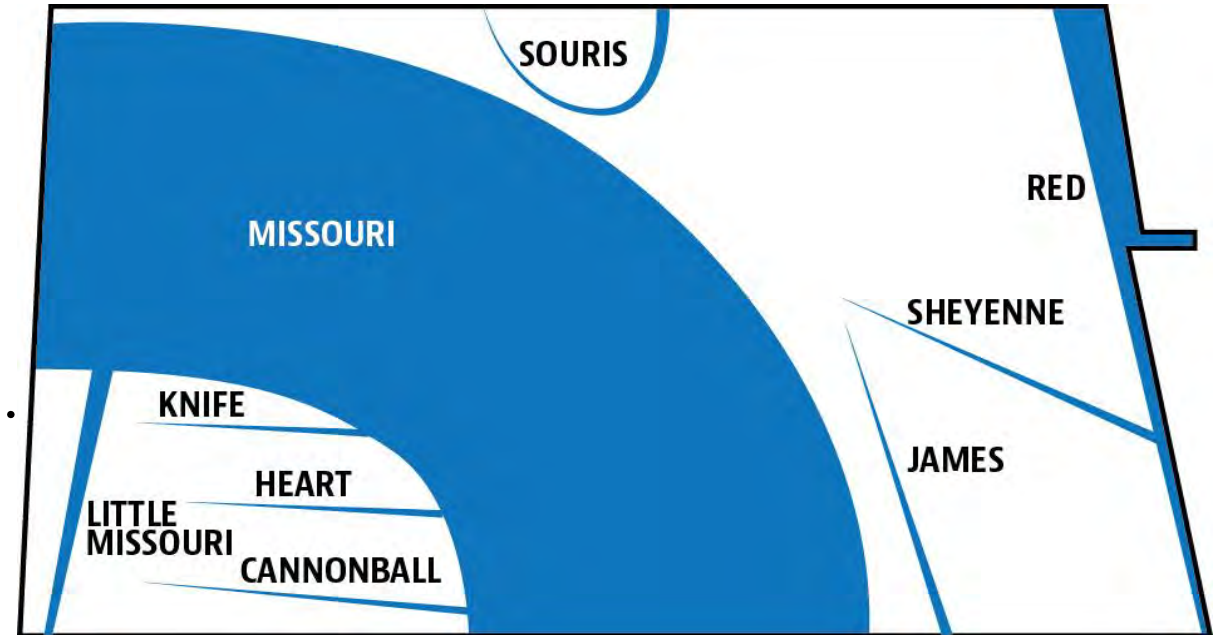
Thank you for this meeting. As a note, we represent the viewpoints of our shown organizations ... and do not intend to represent viewpoints or positions of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources or the State of ND.

# MISSOURI RIVER

## ONE OF NORTH DAKOTA'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCES

Accounts for 95% of North Dakota's surface water - we only utilize about 1% of the water flowing through our state

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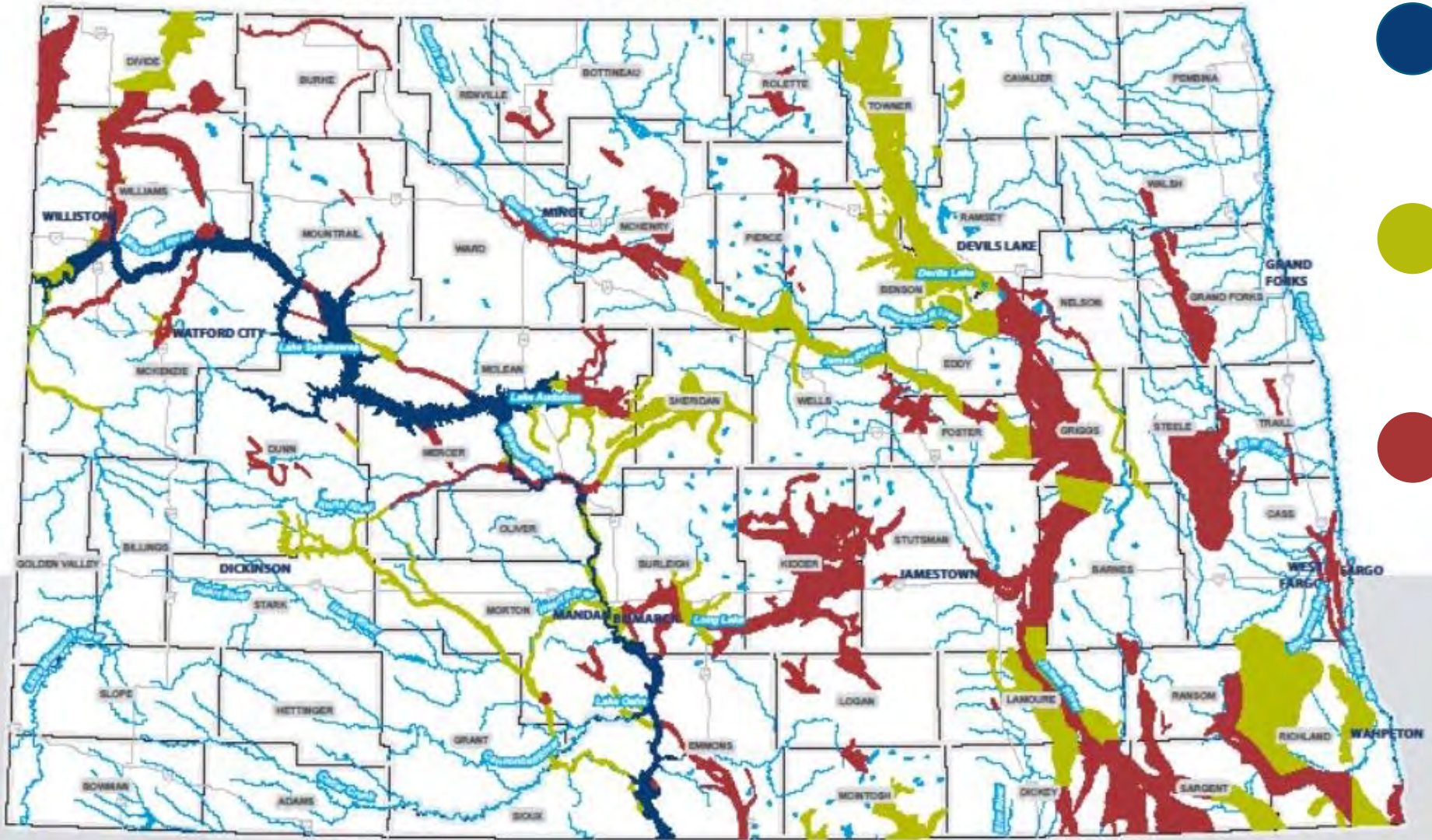




That's comparable to using  $\frac{1}{2}$  a **tablespoon** from **a whole gallon** of available water

# AVAILABILITY POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

ND WATER AVAILABILITY POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



-  **GOOD WITH LIMITATIONS / SURFACE WATER**
-  **POTENTIAL WITH LIMITATIONS / GROUND WATER**
-  **NEAR FULL APPROPRIATION**

# Our North Dakota Usage of the River ...

- ▶ Average annual Missouri River flows available in the Basin = 25 MAF
- ▶ ND Permits, Consumptive Use ..... 3.7 MAF
- ▶ 85% remains for other users
- ▶ ND Actual Consumptive Use ... .1 MAF
- ▶ 99.5% remains for other users

# What the Federal Government Said to North Dakota:

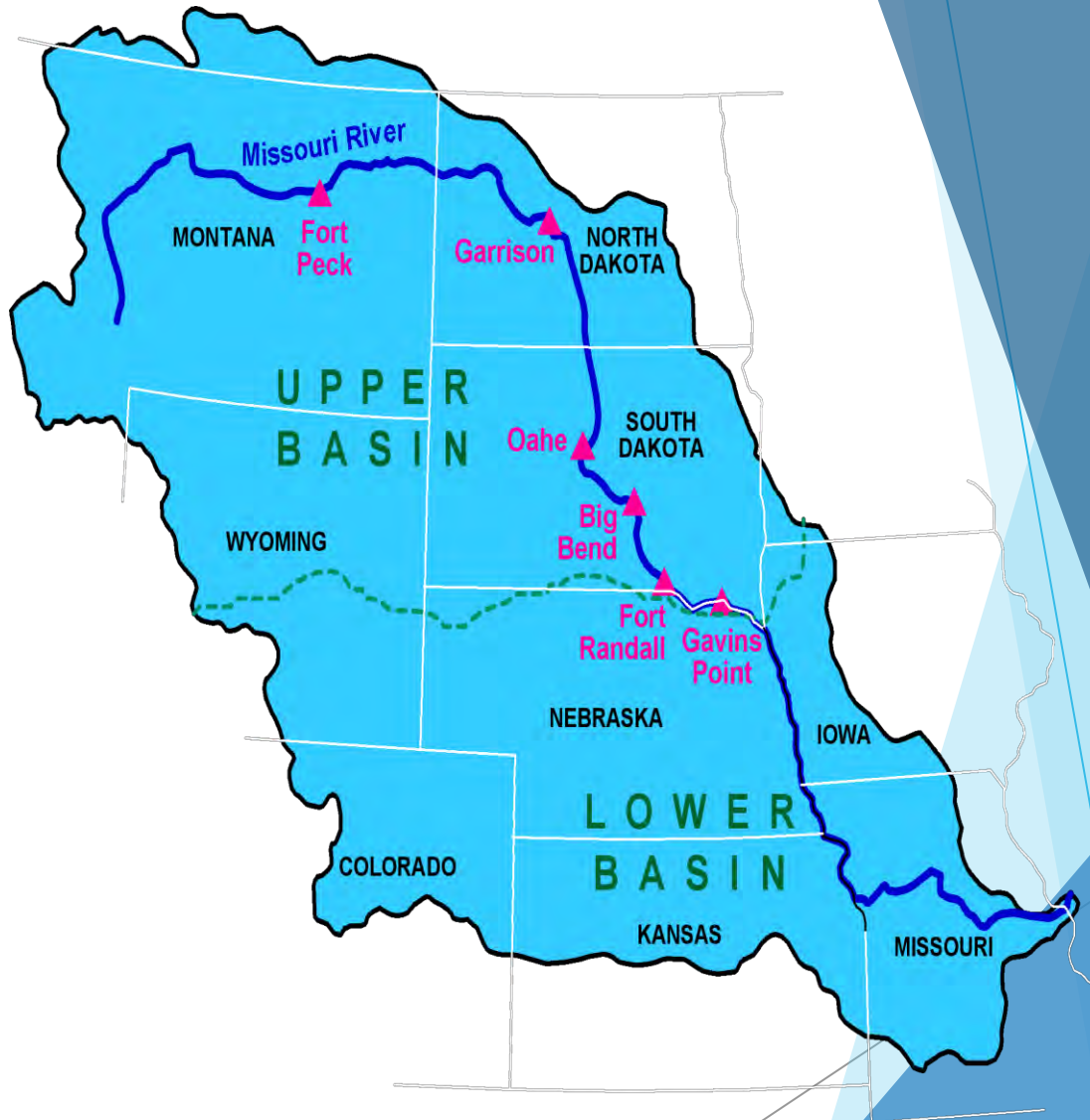
North Dakota is going to have 500,000-acre lake(s) in the middle of the State.

You will forever lose 75% of the free-flowing river.

We are going to flood permanently and forever good producing agricultural lands, timber lands, communities, churches, cemeteries, schools, roads and farm operations

- **We are going to displace forever 1000's of family farms**

- **But... we will then provide you a dependable and supported water supply for the entire State of North Dakota, for municipal, rural, industrial, and irrigation needs.**



# Garrison Dam, North Dakota

- ▶ Constructed 1946-53
- ▶ Lake is 308,000 acres
- ▶ 3rd Largest Reservoir in US
- ▶ Required 584,000 acres of land (500,000 of fee land)
- ▶ Holds 23,500,000 acre feet (1/3 of total system storage)
- ▶ Cost to Construct \$305.3M

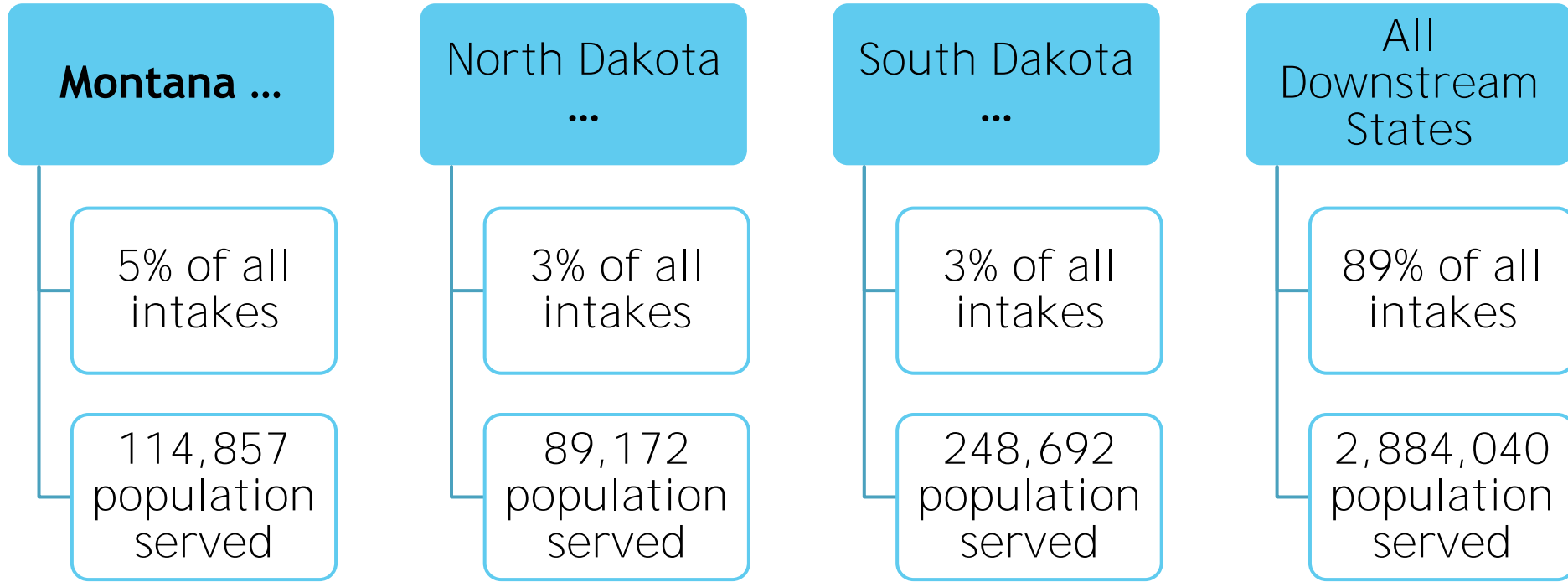


Missouri River Basin  
Mainstem Master Water Control Ma  
Garrison Project  
Reservoir, Embankment,  
Intakes, Powerhouse and Spillway  
U.S. Army Engineer Division, Northwest  
Corps of Engineers, Omaha, Nebraska  
November 2018

## The North Dakota Contribution ...

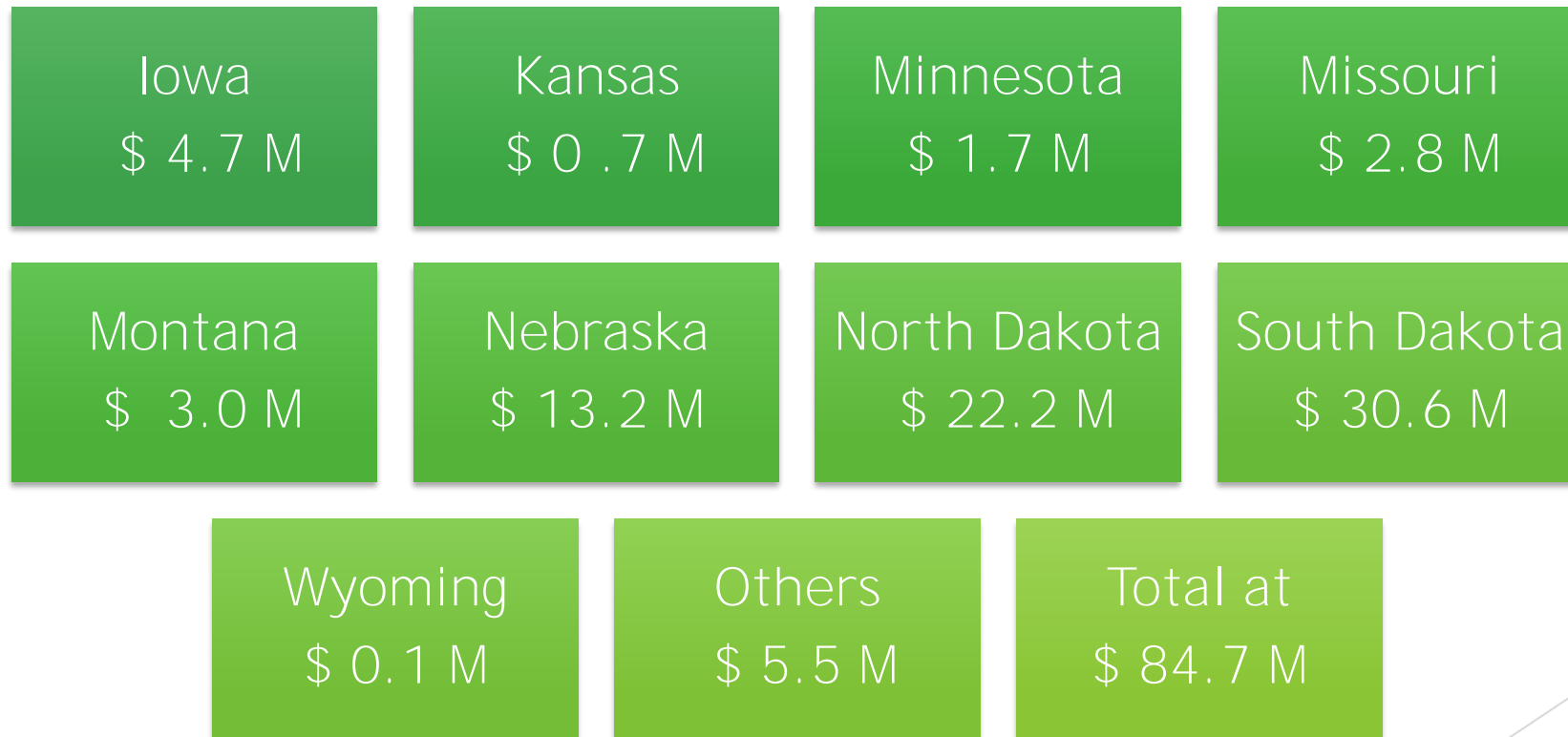
- ▶ Provided 584,060 Acres (34.2% of all the needed land)
- ▶ Provides near 7,000 cfs average annual flow (10.4% of total flow)
- ▶ Provides approx. 19.5% of System Power





System Water Supply Benefits: Municipal, Commercial, Industrial, Irrigation, Public, and Domestic;  
*Source: USACE*

Annual Average Recreational Benefits: Facility use, permits, food, lodging, gas, associated retail; *Source: USACE*



# Big Winners and Big Losers ...

Big Winners	Nebraska
Winners	Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas
Losers	Colorado, Wyoming
Big Losers	Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota

Hearne: Presentation Upper Missouri River Water Association 102720

# The ND Continental Divide ... the legal barrier it creates.



Moving water west to east across the continental divide is not unique. Other states do the same. In fact there are between 85-90 transfers just from the Missouri River Basin



*Every State In  
Our Basin  
Has a  
Continental  
Divide ...  
Except  
Nebraska*

# RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

**RRVWSP IS A LONG-TERM EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**



Our Premise  
to Missouri,  
and All the  
States, of  
**our Basin ...**

**All the Basin States Contribute Water ... All Basin States Have A Right to Use Such Water**

Congressional intent has always been to use Missouri River Water across our entire State.

All the States of the Basin, except Nebraska, have a continental divide.

The Upper Basin States made the sacrifices which allows Benefits to the entire basin.

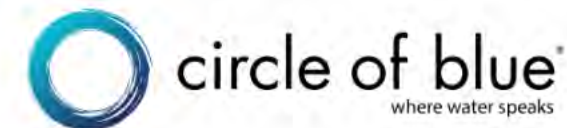
# Ongoing Issues in the South and West ...



## WESTERN WATER CRISIS

Article by Adam Thomas | Photo by Evan Krape | December 08, 2023

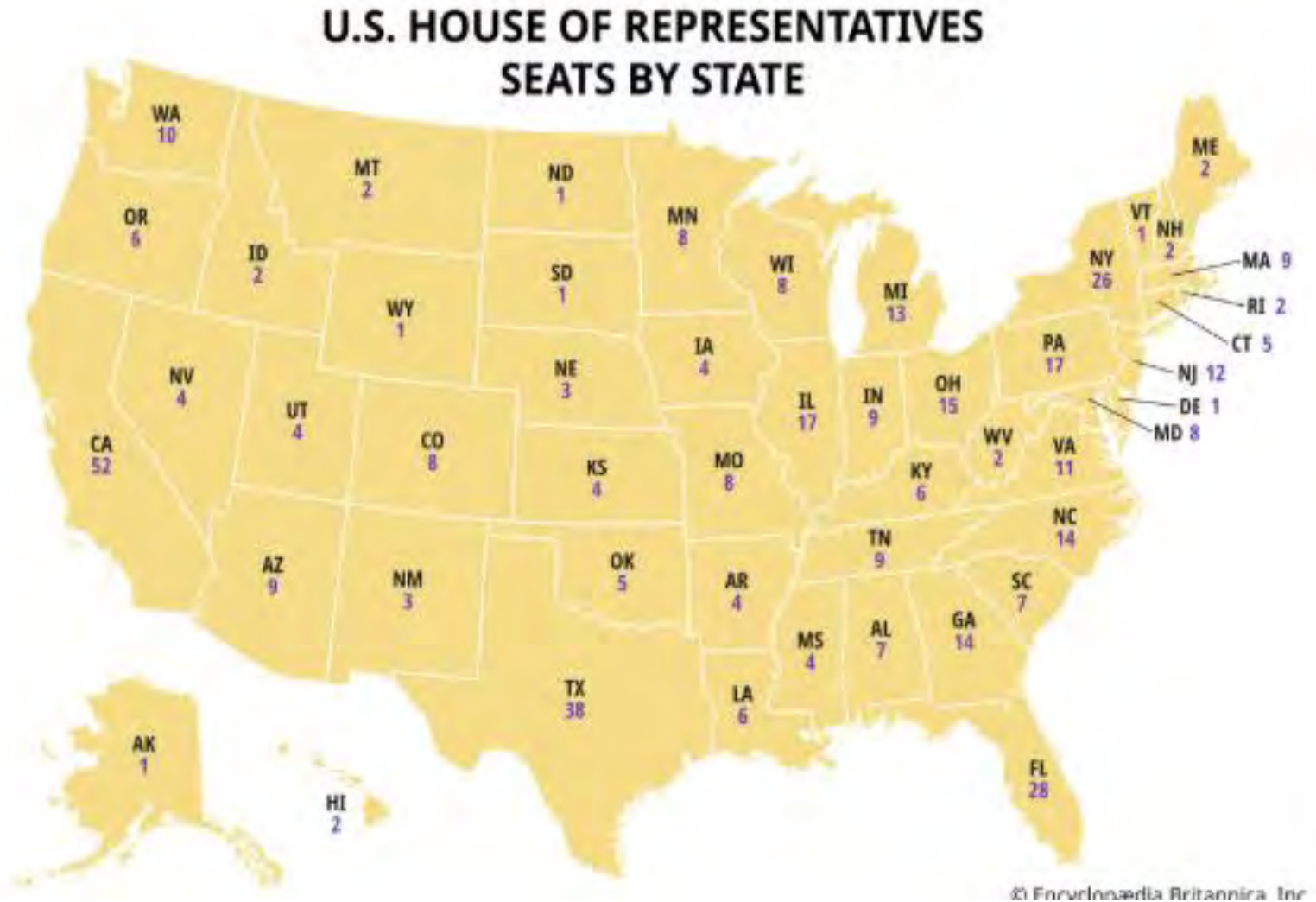
Study shows that planting less water-intensive crops in the western United States would help alleviate water scarcity



Drought is upon the American West — with major implications for human health, biodiversity, agriculture, food security, supply chains, cities, land use, and the most very basic of human rights.

# • The Political Strength In the West and South ....

- The Colorado Basin now in a 20 year drought.
- Many States are looking at 'import' options to solve their problems
- The West and South have political power
- The West and South can show desperate need for the unused water of the Missouri River.



# Do We Want the Federal Government to Dictate Water Usage in Our Basin.

## **Colorado, upper basin entities call for 'durable,' supply-driven management of Colorado River in federal comment period**

**The Bureau of Reclamation released a draft of options to manage Lake Powell and Lake Mead in January**

News | Mar 4, 2026



# Further and Finally ...

In North Dakota, and we believe, most of the other Basin States would agree, that

- ▶ The issue we all face is not the use of the Missouri River for all our Basin States, as each Basin State **may see fit to use, but...**
- ▶ The issue is large demands of the export of the Missouri River water, which we in the Basin might need now or in the future, to areas to the west and south.

# Take Aways From Meeting

They Understand the Need For water in Eastern ND

They appear not overly concerned about the volume needed for the Valley

Their concern is setting a precedent which out of basin interest may use for water diversion

They would like to continue discussions

They believe a basin coalition of the stakeholders would be useful.



## Be it resolved by the Board of Directors of Southwest Water Authority:

**WHEREAS**, water is our most precious natural resource; and Southwest Water Authority was authorized in 1991 to provide for the supply and distribution of water to the people of southwestern North Dakota and to provide for the future economic welfare and prosperity of the people of this state; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy communities and a vibrant economy rely on safe and reliable drinking water and tap water from the Southwest Pipeline Project delivers public health protection, support for our economy and the quality of life we enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, observing Drinking Water Week acknowledges the vital role tap water plays in daily life, the infrastructure that is required to deliver it, and the critical work that water professionals accomplish around the clock, and;

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project play a critical part in consumers' health, hygiene and hydration, and public awareness of the importance of safe tap water is essential to supporting and sustaining this resource, and;

**WHEREAS**, the dedicated staff of Southwest Water Authority who work every day to manage, operate and maintain the Southwest Pipeline Project deserve our gratitude for their tireless efforts to keep our water safe and flowing; and

**WHEREAS**, each citizen of southwest North Dakota can help sustain our water resources by educating themselves about their drinking water, by practicing water conservation, and getting involved in local efforts to protect our source waters from pollution and the Southwest Pipeline Project and Southwest Water Authority further promote **Drinking Water Week**;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Directors of Southwest Water Authority, hereby proclaim the week of May 3-9, 2026, as

## **DRINKING WATER WEEK**

and all residents of southwest North Dakota are encouraged to join us in this special observance.

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James Odermann, Chairperson  
Southwest Water Authority

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Jen Murray, Manager/CEO  
Southwest Water Authority

## I. POLICY TYPE: AIMS/ENDS

## A. POLICY TITLE: *MISSION STATEMENT*

Adopted 4/2/01 - Amended 5/3/04; 11/1/04; 8/6/07; 5/4/11; 6/6/11; 3/5/12; 4/7/14; 5/7/18; 5/3/21; 5/1/23; 5/6/24; 5/5/25

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GENERAL MISSION: Quality water for southwest North Dakota.

- A. Specifically, SWA exists so that there is high quality water for the health of southwest North Dakota. (Quality is defined as meeting the recommended levels in the SDWA- Safe Drinking Water Act), including its amendments. Refer to attached.

And

Also, there is an integration of both rural and urban accessibility to water. (Guideline for interpretation - feasibility criteria.) Refer to attached.

- B. The priorities for accessibility to water are:

### **2025–2027**

- Complete construction of the Southwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion to 18 MGD in preparation for decommissioning the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant
- Prioritize service to rural customers in the Burt–Hebron Service Area
- Focus on strategic hydraulic improvements system-wide to reduce the waiting list
- Expand main transmission facilities to increase raw and potable capacity
- Urge progress on the Supplementary Intake while addressing interim needs through the amended contract with Basin Electric and upgrading the pump station
- Develop a program to replace the main transmission lines affected by microbiologically induced corrosion
- Explore options for progress through partnerships with outside entities

### **Governance, Financing, and State Collaboration**

- Actively engage with the North Dakota Department of Water Resources and the North Dakota Legislative Assembly regarding the Regional Water Systems Financing and Governance Study to ensure outcomes support the long-term sustainability of the Southwest Pipeline Project
- Advocate for funding and governance structures that preserve the collaborative state–local partnership model while maintaining system reliability, affordability, and local operational control
- Evaluate and communicate the impacts of potential policy changes on capital repayment obligations, rate stability, eligibility for state cost-share programs, and long-term infrastructure responsibilities
- Identify and advance funding strategies that ensure continued project development while addressing declining state revenue sources and increasing infrastructure demands
- Coordinate with DWR leadership to align project priorities, timelines, and funding mechanisms in a manner that protects existing investments and supports future system expansion

### **2027 and Beyond**

- Expand the three-pronged approach to meet the ever-growing need for quality water
- Strengthen the partnership between the State of North Dakota and Southwest Water Authority to support continued investment in regional water infrastructure while adapting to evolving legislative and funding environments

- C. Water is available for support of both rural and urban economic development.
- D. Water is available and accessible at a reasonable and equitable cost now and in the future to the user.

Guidelines/values/philosophy for defining reasonable: explainable to the person on the street.

Guidelines/values/philosophy for defining equitable: fair, no preference within categories of users, same application of fees.

- E. A dependable supply of water now and in the future.
- F. Southwest North Dakota has a voice and influence in the statewide decision-making on water.

There will be favorable and adequate legislation for water in North Dakota. The Board will specify what legislation it will support during each legislative session, but will not be limited to this legislation. When necessary, the Board authorizes the Executive Committee to act on its behalf.

There will be state-wide, long-term coordination of water development.

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**MONITORING:**

*Method:* Manager/CEO Internal Report

*Frequency:* Annually

*Month:* May

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**ATTACHMENT TO**

**I. POLICY TYPE: AIMS/ENDS**

**A. POLICY TITLE: *MISSION STATEMENT***

**Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Summary**

**The Objective:**

The purpose of the SDWA is to protect the quality of drinking water in the United States, including all waters actually or potentially designated for drinking water use, whether from above ground or underground sources. It does not regulate private wells providing water for fewer than 25 people.

The SDWA is Title XIV of the Public Health Services Act, one of the early statutes for protecting public health and the environment. The SDWA was enacted by Congress in 1974 and amended in 1986, 1996, 1998 and 2002. The SDWA required EPA to publicize National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for contaminants that may have an adverse impact on public health. The 1986 Amendments required EPA to set maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for 83 contaminants deemed harmful to humans. The 1996 Amendments require actions to protect drinking water sources – rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, ground water, etc.

**Who must comply:**

SDWA applies to every public water system in the United States. There are currently more than 150,000 public water systems providing water to almost all Americans at some point in their lives. The SDWA does not apply to bottled water, which is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

**1974 Act:**

The SDWA was one of several pieces of environmental legislation in the 1970's. Discovery of organic contamination in public drinking water and the lack of enforceable, national standards persuaded Congress to take action. The SDWA was signed by President Gerald Ford on December 16, 1974.

**1986 Amendments:**

The 1986 Amendments required EPA to apply future NPDWRs to both community and non-transient non-community water systems when it evaluated and revised current regulations. The 1986 amendments were signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on June 19, 1986. In addition to requiring more contaminants to be regulated, the 1986 amendments included:

1. Setting standards for 83 contaminants by June 1989 and for an additional 25 contaminants every three years thereafter.
2. Designating best available technology for each newly regulated contaminant.
3. Disinfection of all public water supplies and criteria for mandating filtration of surface water supplies.
4. Monitoring for contaminants that are not regulated to determine if additional regulation is necessary.
5. Banning lead solders, lead flux, and lead pipe in water systems.
6. Implementing new programs for protecting wellheads and sole-source aquifers and preventing contamination of groundwater sources from waste-injection wells.

**1996 SDWA Amendments:**

In 1996, Congress amended the SDWA to emphasize sound science and risk-based standard setting, small water supply system flexibility and technical assistance, community-empowered source water assessment and protection, public right-to-know, and water system infrastructure assistance through a multi-billion-dollar state revolving loan fund. The amendments were signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 6, 1996. The main points that the 1996 amendments covered were:

1. Consumer Confidence Reports: All community water systems must prepare and distribute annual reports about the water they provide detailing detected contaminants, possible health effects, and the water source.
2. Cost-Benefit Analysis: EPA must conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis for every new standard to determine whether the benefits of a drinking water standard justify the costs.
3. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: States can use this fund to help water systems make infrastructure or management improvements or to help systems assess and protect their source water.
4. Microbial Contaminants and Disinfection Byproducts: EPA is required to strengthen protection for microbial contaminants including cryptosporidium, while strengthening control over the byproducts of chemical disinfection.
5. Operator Certification: Water system operators must be certified to ensure that systems are operated safely. EPA issued guidelines in 1999 specifying minimum standards for the certification and recertification of the operators of community and non-transient, noncommunity water systems.
6. Public Information and Consultation: SDWA emphasizes that consumers have a right to know what is in their drinking water, where it comes from, how it's treated and how to help protect it. EPA distributes public information materials and holds public meetings, working with states, tribes, water systems, and other groups to encourage public involvement.
7. Small Water Systems: Small water systems are given special consideration and resources under SDWA, to make sure they have the managerial, financial, and technical ability to comply with drinking water standards.

#### **Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002:**

On June 12, 2002, President George W. Bush signed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 to address a wide range of security issues including threats to water security.

Key provisions of the amendments:

1. Vulnerability Assessments: SDWA requires community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to conduct an assessment of the system's vulnerability to terrorist attacks or other intentional acts intended to disrupt the provision of a safe and reliable drinking supply. This amendment further required each community water system that falls within the requirements to prepare an emergency response plan incorporating the results of the vulnerability assessment.
2. Emergency Powers: Specified that the EPA has emergency powers to issue orders and commence civil action if a contaminant likely to enter a public drinking supply poses significant threat to public health, and if state or local officials have not taken adequate action.
3. Tampering with Public Water Systems: Provides for civil and criminal penalties against any person who tampers, attempts to tamper, or makes a threat to tamper with a public water system. This amendment also increased civil and criminal penalties for tampering, attempting to tamper, or making threats to tamper including a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and \$1 million maximum fines.
4. Emergency Assistance: Authorizes the EPA to provide technical assistance and to make grants to states and public water systems to assist in responding to and alleviating emergency situations.

#### **Other sources of information:**

1. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Washington, DC. "Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996". <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/sdwa/summ.cfm>
2. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Washington, DC. "The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Strengthening Protection for America's Drinking Water". <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/sdwa/theme.cfm>
3. American Water Works Association (2006). *Field Guide to SDWA Regulations*. Technical Editors, William C. Lauer, Mark Scharfenaker, John Stubbart.
4. Congressional Research Service. "Safe Drinking Water Act: A Summary of the Act and Its Major Requirements". [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31243\\_20080521.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL31243_20080521.pdf)

ATTACHMENT TO

POLICY TYPE: AIMS/ENDS

POLICY TITLE: MISSION STATEMENT




## North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 - BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850 - 701-328-2700  
TDD 701-328-2790 - FAX 701-328-3696 - INTERNET: <http://water.swc.nd.gov/>

### MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Governor Edward T. Schafer  
Members of the State Water Commission

**FROM:**  David A. Sprynczynatyk, State Engineer

**SUBJECT:** SWPP Feasibility Criteria

**DATE:** March 21, 2000

At its meeting on February 9, 2000, the Commission approved the revisiting of the Southwest Pipeline feasibility criteria by the Commission's MR&I subcommittee. These criteria were approved by the Commission at its July 2, 1993, meeting. As the Southwest Pipeline Project moves forward into the more remote, more sparsely populated areas it is becoming more difficult and expensive to provide rural water service to the users. The feasibility criteria were first approved in 1993 and it is appropriate to revisit them periodically to ensure that they are still suitable for use.

The Commission's MR&I subcommittee met jointly on February 22 with the Southwest Water Authority's Construction Committee. Also present were Loren Myran, Chairman of the Authority; Pinkie Evans-Curry, the Authority's CEO/Manager; Joe Bichler of Bartlett & West Engineer/Boyle Engineering Corporation; and staff members of the State Water Commission and the Authority.

After discussion at the meeting, the two committee's determined that the existing criteria are still appropriate for use and do not require modification by the Commission. The committee's agreed that pasture taps would be counted as one-half of a hookup and counted separately in determining the sign-up percentage. It was generally felt that the number of pasture taps would not amount to more than a few percent of the total signups and would not make a large difference in meeting the criteria, but could be considered by the Commission if the sign-up percentage is just under the required fifty percent. Attached is a set of guidelines for use in implementing the criteria.

DAS:JL:cg/1736  
Attachment

SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT  
GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING FEASIBILITY  
FOR A GIVEN SERVICE AREA

February 22, 2000

I. FEASIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A. Established in 1992 and adopted in 1993 by the SWA and SWC.
- B. Primarily based on need, in the same manner as the feasibility for the pipeline delivery system to cities is determined.
- C. Sign-up Percentage Requirements:
  - 1. Based on need.
  - 2. Fifty percent or more of potential hookups in a rural service area must have executed a water purchase agreement and paid the necessary sign-up fees.
  - 3. Potential hookups are defined as an occupied dwelling.
  - 4. Rural service area is defined as the hydraulic service area serviced by a given water storage tank
  - 5. Pasture taps will be counted separately and included in the determination of signup percentage.
  - 6. The determination of signup percentage is to be made after the final sign-up campaign and before final design is completed. The determination should be made before the effort to acquire rural easements.
- D. Maximum Cost Per User (ESU) Guidelines:
  - 1. Equivalent service units (ESU) determined by dividing capital repayment portion of minimum billing by that of a standard rural hookup.
  - 2. There is no maximum average cost per user/ESU for each service area, but the maximum cost for a single ESU will be applied to groups of users.
  - 3. Because federal and state funds are to be used wisely, a maximum limit of \$25,000 distribution system costs will be applied to a single ESU.
  - 4. The maximum cost for a single ESU will be indexed according to the CPI. The September 1992 CPI index shall be used as the Base CPI to adjust the maximum cost to current cost levels.
  - 5. The current maximum cost for a single ESU, based on the January 2000 CPI is \$29,850.
  - 6. Transmission and storage facilities will not be included in the determination of cost for a single ESU.

II. SIGNUP PERCENTAGE GUIDELINES:

- A. Service Area Boundary:
  - 1. The boundary determined for a particular service area is based on the potential ability of a water storage tank to serve that service area by gravity pressure.
  - 2. The boundary is primarily determined by the proposed location of the water storage

- tank, its height, geographical constraints, and the terrain within the service area.
3. Most service areas are bounded by rivers, streams, or creeks and high elevation locations.
  4. It is desirable to limit the number of stream crossings in a given service area due to higher construction costs, higher pressures, difficulty in construction, and potential leak areas which are hard to find and repair. Thus, major rivers or streams may become a boundary between adjacent service areas.
  5. Service areas previously identified in the SA 38 Preliminary Engineering Report may be incorporated into other adjacent service areas depending on the number of sign-ups. Examples of integration with other service areas include the Stony Butte service area, the East Rainy Butte service area, and the East Taylor service area.
  6. All portions of the SWPP will be included into a particular Service area. However, there may be areas located within a particular service area for which no capacity was allocated either due to system hydraulics or a lack of water needs in that area.

**B. Distribution Pipeline System Hydraulic Boundary:**

1. The “distribution pipeline system hydraulic boundary”, referred to as the pipeline hydraulic boundary, may not necessarily coincide with the Service Area Boundary.
2. The pipeline hydraulic boundary is primarily determined by the location and inclusion of potential hookups adjacent to a particular pipeline segment.
3. The pipeline hydraulic boundary generally will not exceed 2 ½ to 3 miles beyond a given distribution pipeline segment. Costs to serve an individual user located farther than this distance from the nearest pipeline typically exceed the maximum cost per user criteria.
4. The pipeline hydraulic boundary is also constrained by high elevation locations where a pneumatic booster may be needed or a substantial quantity of pipe would need to be up-sized to include adjacent high elevation areas with potential hookups.
5. Pockets of users may be excluded from the pipeline hydraulic boundary if the costs to serve users in that pocket exceed the maximum cost per user. Users in these areas are generally located at least 3 miles apart and/or are scattered throughout the targeted pocket area.
6. Areas which are identified as “No Capacity Areas” which are outside of the pipeline hydraulic boundary will be depicted as such on a map. “No capacity areas” include areas which demonstrate a lack of interest or need to service is limited due the system hydraulics (low pressures or capacity.) No potential hookups will be counted in these areas.

**C. Determination of Sign-up Percentage:**

1. Both the service area and the pipeline hydraulic boundaries are determined prior to identifying occupied dwellings, this will require a preliminary pipeline alignment.
2. Occupied dwellings are then identified by one or a combination of the following means:
  - a. County Highway Maps which show occupied dwellings. Current County Highway maps are of 1988-1990 vintage.
  - b. 911 Maps and associated residence lists which identify current occupants with a reported 1% accuracy.

- c. Local residents which identify vacant farmsteads in a given area during public meetings or as requested by the SWA.
  - d. Occupied dwellings may also be identified by SWC, SWA, and BW/BEC personnel familiar with the service area.
  - e. A field count of apparent occupied dwellings by the SWC and other designated representatives.
  - f. Up to date (less than 1 year old) county atlases.
3. A map is prepared to compare sign-ups and non-signed up occupied dwellings. The map also identifies the service area boundary and the pipeline hydraulic boundary. Hookups which obviously exceed the maximum cost per ESU will be deleted from the pipeline alignment.
  4. All standard or high consumption sign-ups are counted as occupied dwellings.
  5. The occupied dwellings located within the pipeline hydraulic boundary are counted and categorized as signed up or non-signed up dwellings.
  6. The percentage of occupied dwellings signed up for service is calculated and shown on the map.
  7. Pockets of users are not broken out separately from the pipeline hydraulic boundary area when determining the sign-up percentage except as provided for under II.B.5 above.
  8. In the event that the inclusion of pasture taps is needed to raise the sign-up percentage above fifty percent the State Water Commission will consider a deviation from the feasibility criteria before final design and construction proceeds.

III. MAXIMUM COST PER USER:

- A. The base maximum cost per user is \$25,000 based on the September 1992 (October 1, 1992) CPI of 141.3.
- B. The maximum cost per ESU shall apply to individual hook-ups and multiples of individual hook-ups.
- C. Pocket areas which have an average cost per ESU which exceeds the maximum cost per ESU criteria will be identified. The SWA and SWC will review the identified pocket areas.
- D. For low density segments of rural service areas other factors can be considered, including high sign-up percentage, need, type of usage, potential cost sharing by the user and other relevant factors.

## I. POLICY TYPE: AIMS/ENDS

### A. POLICY TITLE: *MISSION STATEMENT*

Adopted 4/2/01 - Amended 5/3/04; 11/1/04; 8/6/07; 5/4/11; 6/6/11; 3/5/12; 4/7/14; 5/7/18; 5/3/21; 5/6/24;

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GENERAL MISSION: Quality water for southwest North Dakota.

- A. Specifically, SWA exists so that there is high quality water for the health of southwest North Dakota. (Quality is defined as meeting the recommended levels in the SDWA-Safe Drinking Water Act), including its amendments. Refer to attached.  
*ND Department of Environmental Quality, which administers the rules promulgated by the EPA, recognizes SWA as being in compliance with all requirements of the SDWA for all five of our public water systems. (Letter and certificates of compliance were included in the Board information in April).*

Also, there is an integration of both rural and urban accessibility to water.  
(Guideline for interpretation - feasibility criteria.) Refer to attached.

*SWA serves approximately 58,000 residents in 33 communities, more than 7,850 farms, ranches, and small businesses, 25 contract customers, 25 raw water customers, 2 rural water systems and 1 raw water depot.*

*SWA has Transfer of Service Area Agreements with communities to determine service area boundaries for the Project and each community.*

*Feasibility Criteria was reviewed and adjusted in 2024.*

- B. The priorities for accessibility to water are:

2025-2027

Complete the construction of the Southwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion to 18MGD in preparation of decommissioning the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant - *ongoing*

Prioritize service to rural customers in the Burt, Hebron Service Area – *Hebron Rural advertised for bids*

Focus on strategic hydraulic improvements system-wide to reduce the waiting list – *Prioritization Matrix is being updated*

Expand main transmission facilities to increase raw and potable capacity – *West Zone Expansion ongoing, Raw Water Implementation Plan ongoing*

Urge progress on the Supplementary Intake while addressing interim needs through the amended contract with Basin Electric and upgrading the pump station – *Intake Pumpstation Upgrades in progress*

Develop a program to replace main transmission lines affected by microbiologically induced corrosion – *Specific Authorization for Close-Interval Survey expected soon*

Explore options for progress through partnerships with outside entities – *GEVO meetings on Raw water needs, an initial report has been provided to Dunn County on serving the customers within their boundaries*

2027 and beyond – Expand the three-pronged approach to meet the ever-growing need for quality water. *Suggested updates to the Aims/Ends Policy relating to the priorities for accessibility to water are included in the Board Policy for Board Review*

- C. Water is available for support of both rural and urban economic development.  
*SWA customers include communities and rural areas, as well as agricultural, manufacturing, and industrial operations. SWA works to maintain all three water permits issued by the NDSWC for the SWPP.  
Consideration for industrial water development is currently under review with an update to the raw water implementation plan.*

- D. Water is available and accessible at a reasonable and equitable cost now and in the future to the user.

Guidelines/values/philosophy for defining reasonable: explainable to the person on the street.  
*SWA is committed to keeping costs reasonable for its customers. The rate structure the Board approves carefully takes into consideration the expenses necessary for operating and maintaining a high-quality water system.*

Guidelines/values/philosophy for defining equitable: fair, no preference within categories of users, same application of fees.

*SWA maintains a set rate structure for various categories of customers, yet applies those rates consistently amongst the customers within those categories. The same is true with respect to signup fees.*

- E. A dependable supply of water now and in the future.  
*To meet the growing demand for water and maintain a dependable and sustainable water treatment facility, construction on the expansion of the Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) to 18MGD is underway. SWA manages, operates, and maintains the SWPP to a high standard. (Copies of O&M Reports are available at the office for direct inspection). A three-prong approach was adopted by the SWA Board of Directors and implemented by SWA and the SWC.  
The Supplementary Intake remains a priority and the Board is updated on the status as it is available.*

- F. Southwest North Dakota has a voice and influence in the statewide decision-making on water.  
*SWA is actively involved in community, regional, statewide and national activities, such as: American Water Works Association, Community Relations Committee, ND Rural Water Systems Association; ND Water Education Foundation; ND Water Users Association; American Water Works Association; National Rural Water Association; ND Pollution and Control Conference, Missouri River Joint Water Board EAE Program, and Upper Missouri Water Association.*

There will be favorable and adequate legislation for water in North Dakota. The Board will specify what legislation it will support during each legislative session, but will not be limited to this legislation. When necessary, the Board authorizes the Executive Committee to act on its behalf.

*SWA works with the Office of the Governor, the SWC, members of the ND Legislature, and the state's congressional delegation to ensure that any legislation affecting SWA's operation and activities is fair in scope and application.*

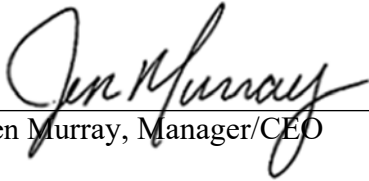
*SWA collaborates with other water entities in the state to protect the interests of SWA and the people we serve.*

*SWA is aware of and watching pending legislation affecting drinking water, and water related issues such as the introduction of the 2026 Dakota Waters Resources Act Amendments.*

There will be state wide, long-term coordination of water development.

*SWA seeks to maintain good working relations with the SWC, DWR, the Department of Environmental Quality, and other water entities in the state.*

*SWA is involved closely with the mandatory studies included in HB1020 related to Regional Water Systems Financing and Governance and the SWC Cost-Share Policy.*



Jen Murray, Manager/CEO

4/27/2026

Date

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**MONITORING:**

*Method: Manager/CEO Internal Report*

*Frequency: Annually*

*Month: May*

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**II. POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATION**

**H. POLICY TITLE: *COMPENSATION FOR ANNEXATION***

**Adopted 12/10/13**

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Regarding Compensation for Annexation for any particular request by a city, or other water service provider such as a rural water system, to serve an area or customers within SWA’s service territory. The Manager/CEO cannot fail to:

1. Develop an equitable formula which does not consider:
  - A. All costs incurred by SWA including engineering and legal fees, that are necessary and result from the transfer of service from SWA to the encroaching city or other water provider.
  - B. Lost income from existing and future customers:
    - (1) For existing customers within the service area, SWA shall project the difference in revenue it will receive over at least ten years if SWA provides water directly to the customers versus selling bulk water to the city.
    - (2) SWA shall compute a flat fee to be paid to SWA as future customers hook up to the city’s water services within the service area, which flat fee shall be based on the difference in projected revenue SWA would receive over the next five years if the customer had remained a direct customer of SWA versus the projected revenue SWA will receive by selling bulk water to the city, assuming that each future customer would use an average rate of water as other customers of SWA.
2. Consider, on a case by case basis, adjusting the foregoing formula based on the following factors:
  - A. SWA’s ability to repay its debt or capital repayment without raising its rates.
  - B. SWA’s contractual obligations to the service area or the city in question or elsewhere.
  - C. SWA’s ability to serve the service area in question.
  - D. Whether SWA serves water to the encroaching city or system.
3. Receive ratification from the Board of Directors and SWC before entering into any agreements.

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***MONITORING:***

*Method:*            *Manager/CEO Internal Report*  
*Frequency:*       *Annually*  
*Month:*            *May*

## II. POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATION

### H. POLICY TITLE: *COMPENSATION FOR ANNEXATION*

Adopted 12/10/13

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Regarding Compensation for Annexation for any particular request by a city, or other water service provider such as a rural water system, to serve an area or customers within SWA's service territory.

The Manager/CEO cannot fail to:

1. Develop an equitable formula which does not consider:

- A. All costs incurred by SWA, including engineering and legal fees, that are necessary and result from the transfer of service from SWA to the encroaching city or other water provider.

*Included in the Contract for Transfer of Service Area with all communities in Southwest Water Authority's Service Area is as follows: the City will reimburse the Authority for all costs incurred by the Authority as a result of transferring service from the Authority to the City, including, without limitation, construction costs for relocation or abandonment of the Project pipeline, facilities, or appurtenances, and engineering and legal fees.*

- B. Lost income from existing and future customers:

(1) For existing customers within the service area, SWA shall project the difference in revenue it will receive over at least ten years if SWA provides water directly to the customers versus selling bulk water to the city.  
*Contracts for Transfer of Service Area state the following with the 2026 rate: for each Project customer within the Service Area who will be disconnected from the Project and served directly by the City, the City shall pay to the Authority the projected difference in revenue the Authority would receive over 10 years, with the future years' projected revenue indexed at 4%. A rate of \$3,154.92 per customer has been calculated as the difference between the revenue the Authority would receive if the Project provides water directly to the customer and if the Project sells water in bulk to the City. The Authority shall adjust the projected difference in revenue for all existing direct customers annually based on the previous year's average usage for customers of the Project and based on the prevailing water rate at the time customers are disconnected from the Project, and with future projected revenue indexed at 4%. Payment is due to the Authority within 6 months of the date upon which the customer is first served by the City.*

(2) SWA shall compute a flat fee to be paid to SWA as future customers hook up to the city's water services within the service area, which flat fee shall be based on the difference in projected revenue SWA would receive over the next five years if the customer had remained a direct customer of SWA versus the projected revenue SWA will receive by selling bulk water to the city, assuming that each future customer would use an average rate of water as other customers of SWA.

*Contracts for Transfer of Service Areas state the following with the 2026 rate: for future customers who tie into City water infrastructure within the Service Area for which the Authority has the capacity to serve, the City shall pay to the Authority the projected difference in revenue the Authority would receive over five years, with the future years' projected revenue indexed at 4%. The projected revenue is the difference between the revenue the Authority would receive if the Project provides water directly to the customer and if the Project sells water in bulk to the City. The current projected difference in revenue is \$1,423.28 per customer. The Authority shall adjust the difference annually based on the previous year's average usage for customers of the Project based on the prevailing water rate at the time customers are served by the City, and with future projected revenue indexed at 4%.*

*Payment is due to the Authority within six months of the date upon which the customer is first served by the City.*

2. Consider, on a case by case basis, adjusting the foregoing formula based on the following factors:

A. SWA's ability to repay its debt or capital repayment without raising its rates.

*Contracts for Transfer of Service Area state the following with the 2026 rate: Transfer of Service Area shall not result in rate increases. For each and all direct customers of the Project within the Service Area who were disconnected from the Project and are now being served directly by the City, the City shall pay to the Commission, the difference in capital repayment rate between the rural customers and the contract rate customers for over a period of five years. The capital repayment rate that will be used for determining the compensation will be the prevailing rate at the time the customers are disconnected from the Project. The current projected difference for a five-year period is \$2,422.20. Payment is due to the commission within six months of the date upon which the City first serves the customer.*

B. SWA's contractual obligations to the service area or the city in question or elsewhere.

*For all instances in which the City intends on providing service to any of the Authority's current customers in the Transfer Area: The City shall notify all direct customers of the Project who will be transferred to City water service in writing at least 14 days prior to the date of transfer of service. The City must provide a Notice of Transfer of Service, via certified mail, to the Authority at least 14 days prior to the date of transfer of service. The Notice of Transfer of Service must describe the Project's customer(s) whom the City intends on serving, and the date of transfer of service to the City. The transfer of service must take place on the date of transfer of service as provided in the Notice of Transfer of Service received by the Authority. From the date of transfer of service forward, the City shall be responsible to provide water service to the customer(s).*

C. SWA's ability to serve the service area in question.

*The capacity of the Authority to serve the future customers shall be determined by agreement of the City and the Authority, on a case-by-case basis, at the time the City annexes or makes water service available to any portion of the Service Area. In order to have capacity to serve any disputed area, the Authority must have water infrastructure within or in close proximity to the disputed area and must be capable of providing water service to the disputed area within a reasonable time after a request for service occurs.*

D. Whether SWA serves water to the encroaching city or system.

*There are two cities within SWA service area to which SWA does not serve water and each have been looked at on a case by case basis as Contract for Transfer of Service Area agreements were being negotiated. These cities are Bowman and Beulah neither of which have an executed Transfer of Service Agreement.*

3. Receive ratification from the Board of Directors and SWC before entering into any agreements.

*SWA has 30 executed contracts with the Cities.*

*There are five cities within the SWPP service area who have not signed the contract. They are: Beulah, Bowman, Hazen, Stanton and Zap. If SWPP service area is encroached upon, litigation may be required in the future with these communities.*

  
Jenifer Murray/Manager/CEO

04/28/2026

Date

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**MONITORING:**

Method: *Manager/CEO Internal Report*  
Frequency: *Annually*  
Month: *May*

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Our Vision: People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water    Our Mission: Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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# MEMORANDUM

To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors

From: Jen Murray, Manager/CEO

Subject: ***TRMF West Medora Campground Water Service Agreement Amendment #2 – Decision Making***

Date: April 27, 2026

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF) has had a water service agreement with Southwest Water Authority for the West Medora Campground since May 2004. TRMF is in the process of constructing Hotel 1883 on the west side of the Little Missouri River west of Medora. TRMF has an agreement with the city of Medora that they will receive water from the city once the infrastructure is completed. The infrastructure is expected to be completed by early 2027.

SWA has been working with TRMF on their needs and has proposed to amend the West Medora Campground contract to also provide water service to Hotel 1883 under the contract.

Amendments to the contract include requiring storage at the West Medora Campground and reducing flow to 20 gpm at a constant flow with a minimum annual purchase of 1,200,000 million gallons.

Hotel 1883 will have a temporary contract for 100 gpm demand flow at the demand water rate of \$7.39 per 1,000 gallons. The temporary contract will be responsible for 40% of the total maximum flow through September 30, 2026. After September 30, 2026, the parties will address Hotel 1883's needs and determine an appropriate flowrate.

The Governor has issued an Executive Order in it is encouraged to utilize all available resources to reasonably prepare for and support the activities and events surrounding the USA 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This temporary agreement with Hotel 1883 aligns with this directive.

**I respectfully request the Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors approve the TRMF West Medora Campground Water Service Agreement Amendment #2.**



**WHEREAS**, on July 4, 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence, making it a significant milestone in American history; and

**WHEREAS**, many events, including the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum grand opening, are planned on this historic day and throughout the year; and,

**WHEREAS**, statewide events are anticipated to increase visitation, travel, and public activity, thereby impacting critical infrastructure and emergency service operations across multiple jurisdictions; and,

**WHEREAS**, mass gatherings elevate the risk of public safety incidents, including medical emergencies, heightened wildland fire risk, stress on infrastructure, traffic congestion, and potential safety or security threats; and,

**WHEREAS**, local emergency services will experience strained capacity and exceed resource capability to manage and support preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to maintain the safety and security of the community and travelers; and,

**WHEREAS**, conditions exist that warrant enhanced preparedness measures to ensure the State of North Dakota is ready to effectively respond to potential impacts; and,

**WHEREAS**, support services will perform and exercise necessary functions, powers, and duties that are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of life and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to utilize the available resources of the state and its political subdivisions as reasonably necessary to prepare for, respond to, and cope with the anticipated events and any emergencies that may occur.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Kelly Armstrong, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority vested under Article V, Section 1, North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 37-17.1, North Dakota Century Code, hereby declares a statewide disaster and activates the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) to ensure the readiness of state government to respond to potential or emerging threats that may



impact public safety, health or property. All state agencies, including the North Dakota National Guard, are directed to review and, as appropriate, implement preparedness and response plans, maintain high readiness levels to ensure personnel and resources are ready for deployment, and coordinate with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services in support of monitoring and preparedness activities. The Adjutant General may activate and make available North Dakota National Guard resources to support state agencies and local and tribal governments based on normal cost shares.

This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all state departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

This order is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect until December 30, 2026, or until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 7th day of April 2026.

A blue ink signature of Kelly Armstrong, Governor of North Dakota, written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Armstrong  
Governor

Attest:

A blue ink signature of Michael Howe, Secretary of State, written over a horizontal line.

Michael Howe  
Secretary of State



**SOUTHWEST PIPELINE PROJECT  
WATER SERVICE CONTRACT**

**Contract Number:** 1736-32

**Amendment Number:** 2

**User Entity:** Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (Campground and Hotel 1883)

Contract Number 1736-32 was executed by the North Dakota State Water Commission, Southwest Water Authority, and Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation on May 3, 2004. Contract Number 1736-32 provides for water service from the Southwest Pipeline Project to Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation under the terms, conditions, and covenants contained in Contract Number 1736-32.

This Amendment Number 2 to Contract Number 1736-32 is made to amend the maximum flow rate and water rate for water service to the West Medora Campground; to add Hotel 1883 as an additional water service location; and to provide the maximum flow rate and water rate for the new service location.

In consideration of the mutual covenants contained in this Amendment and in the original Contract, the parties agree to the following revisions to Contract Number 1736-32:

1. Replace **SECTION V, PARAGRAPH 2** with:
  2. Flow Rates and Service Type.
    - a. West Medora Campground Location.
      - i. Maximum Flow Rate. The maximum flow rate to be provided by the Authority to the User at its West Medora Campground location must not exceed 20 gallons per minute (gpm).
      - ii. Constant Flow Service. The User agrees to purchase and make payment for at least 1,200,000 gallons per year (minimum annual water purchase) during the term of the Contract. The User will pay the Water rate for capital costs.
    - b. Hotel Location.
      - i. Maximum Flow Rate. Until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the Authority will provide a maximum flow rate of 100 gpm. After September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the maximum flow rate will be reduced to an amount that will be agreed upon by the parties.
      - ii. Demand Service. The flow rate set forth is provided to meet the User's needs on a demand basis. As consideration for receiving this type of service, the User agrees to pay, as the Water rate for capital costs, an amount equal to two times the Water rate for capital costs. At a minimum,

the User will be responsible for 40% of the total Maximum flow rate through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

2. Replace **SECTION V, PARAGRAPH 3** with:

The Authority will furnish water to the User at a pressure range of 60 psi to 90 psi at a point near the existing west Medora campground office located in the SE1/4 of Section 22, Township 140, Range 102. If greater pressure than the range specified at the point of delivery is required by the User, the cost of providing such greater pressure will be borne by the User.

The Authority will furnish water to the User at a pressure range of 60 psi to 90 psi at a metered point within the hotel building located in the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 22 and the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 27, Township140, Range 102. If greater pressure than the range specified at the point of delivery is required by the User, the cost of providing such greater pressure will be borne by the User.

3. Replace **SECTION VI, PARAGRAPH 2** with:

The User's water service payment for each month shall be equal the sum of the following:

- a. The User's proportionate share of the operation, maintenance, and replacement costs (as described in Section VI, Paragraph 4); plus
- b. The User's payment for capital costs (as described in Section V, Paragraph 2).

4. All other terms, conditions, and covenants of Contract Number 1736-32 will remain in full force and effect.

**ND STATE WATER COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Reice Haase


Its: Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: James Odermann  
Its: Chairperson  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDORA FOUNDATION**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Clarence Sitter  
Its: CEO  
Date: 4/27/26



# MEMORANDUM

To:                Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors

From:             Jen Murray, Manager/CEO

Subject:          *Prioritization Matrix – Decision-Making*

Date:              April 27, 2026

The Prioritization Matrix presented is functioning as intended—objectively identifying areas of greatest system need based on established criteria. The Signup and Easement staff continue to call individuals who have requested to be placed on the waiting list. The list is very dynamic. Several have declined service, and yet several more have been added. Currently, the top-ranked service area is South Fairfield. As we contact those on the waiting list, this may change again.

In selecting the next Strategic Hydraulic Improvement, we must also consider that the highest-ranked area may require an investment level that exceeds current financial capacity in this biennium and, if pursued prematurely, could necessitate additional downstream costs related to main transmission system upgrades. Accordingly, the purpose of this item is not to commit to a specific project, but to seek Board approval of the prioritization methodology and matrix as the guiding framework for decision-making and to support proceeding with the development of a financially viable improvement project that aligns with both system needs and available resources. As of this memo, that project appears to be the South Fairfield Service Area.

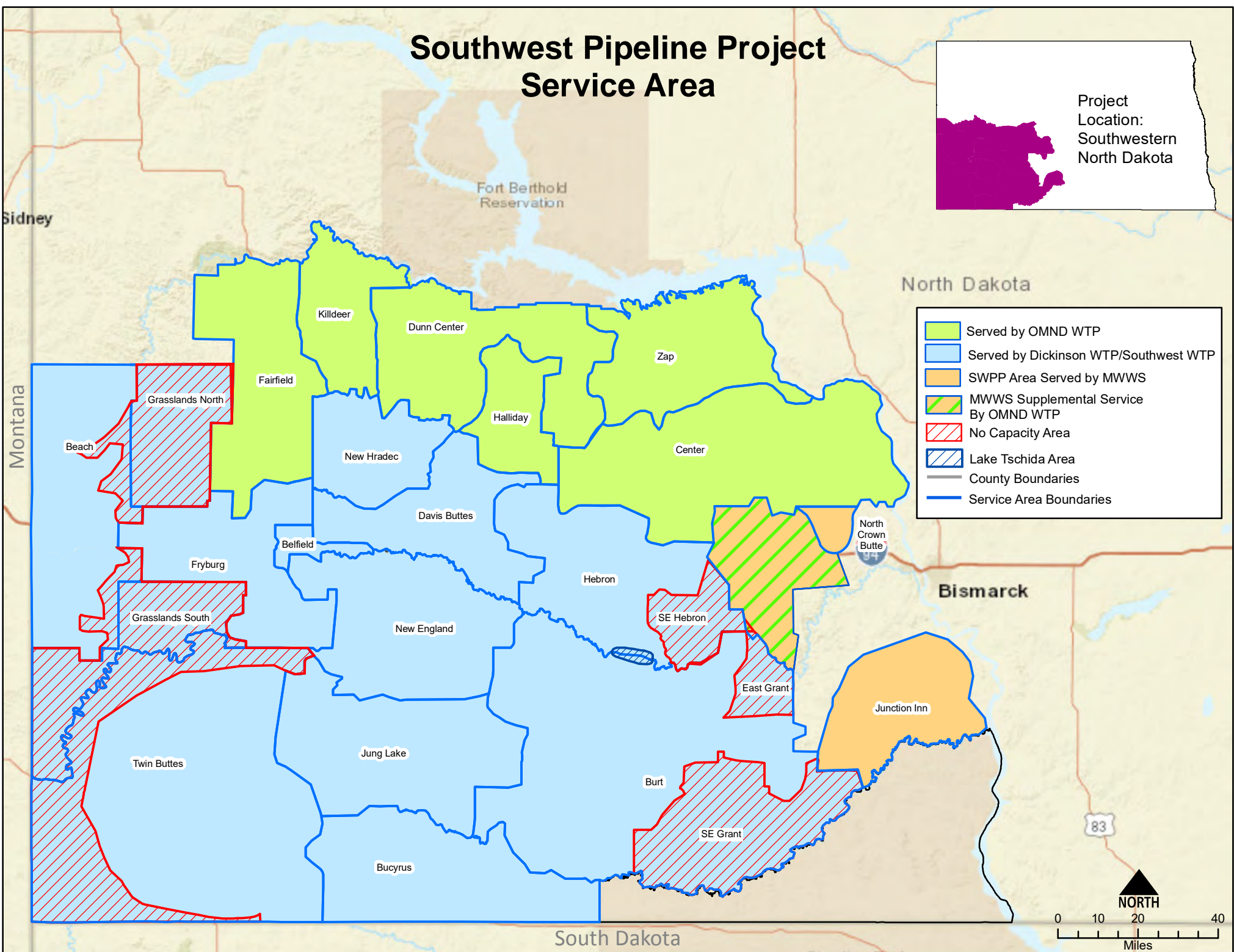
**I respectfully recommend that the Board approve the Prioritization Matrix methodology and support the development of a financially viable improvement project for the 2025-2027 biennium.**

SWPP Strategic Improvement Areas Prioritization (Updated April 28, 2026)

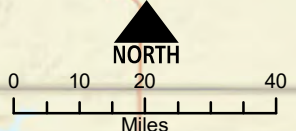
	Criteria 1		Criteria 2		Criteria 3		Criteria 4		Criteria 5		Criteria 6		WEIGHTED SCORE
CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	CONCENTRATION OF USERS Wait list Density (users/sq mile)		OVERALL DEMAND Current Waitlist Number		LONGEVITY OF WAITLIST Average age (years) of current waitlist users in Area		WATER SERVICE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF AREA Number of unserved 911 dwellings in Area		AGE OF SERVICE AREA SINCE CONSTRUCTION Age in Years (1)		POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTAL GROWTH OF AREA Ranking based on developmental growth plans in service area.		
WEIGHTED MAX VALUE	30		30		10		10		5		10		100
WEIGHT PERCENTAGE	30%		30%		10%		10%		5%		10%		95%
	Criteria 1 SCORES		Criteria 2 SCORES		Criteria 3 SCORES		Criteria 4 SCORES		Criteria 5 SCORES		Criteria 6 SCORES		
DESCRIPTION OF METRIC (sq.mile)	Percentage of highest SA Density		Percentage of highest SA Waitlist Number		Percentage of largest Average Age of Waitlist users		Percentage of Highest Unserved Potential SA		Percentage of oldest SA		Based on SWA staff input		TOTAL SCORE
	Users/sq.mile	Weighted Score	Number of waitlist users	Weighted Score	Average Age of waitlist users	Weighted Score	Number of Potential Unserved Dwellings	Weighted Score	Age of Service Area	Weighted Score	Weighted Score	Weighted Score	
South Fairfield	0.27	4.1	55	3.0	4.1	0.59	45	0.2	15	0.15	1	0.24	8.22
Dunn Center	0.12	1.8	80	4.3	3.2	0.46	127	0.6	8	0.08	3	0.73	7.93
Twin Buttes (West)	0.07	1.1	72	3.9	5	0.72	328	1.5	24	0.23	1	0.24	7.66
Beach/Golva	0.09	1.4	43	3.4	6.75	0.97	120	0.6	18	0.17	2	0.49	6.96
Junction Inn	0.16	2.4	55	3.0	5.3	0.77	91	0.4	20	0.19	1	0.24	6.93
South New England	0.19	2.8	38	2.0	5.4	0.78	59	0.3	30	0.29	1	0.24	6.42
Twin Buttes (East)	0.09	1.3	35	1.9	3.5	0.51	152	0.7	24	0.23	2	0.49	5.11
Tower Hill	0.19	2.9	16	0.9	5.6	0.81	17	0.1	21	0.20	1	0.24	5.06
Fryburg	0.05	0.8	24	1.3	6.2	0.90	13	0.1	21	0.20	1	0.24	3.50
South Jung Lake	0.10	1.5	25	1.3	5.7	0.82	42	0.2	28	0.27	1	0.24	4.37
Halliday	0.10	1.5	25	1.3	4.3	0.62	47	0.2	7	0.07	1	0.24	3.96
West Center	0.08	1.1	31	1.7	3.2	0.46	44	0.2	10	0.10	2	0.49	4.06
NE Davis Buttes	0.24	3.5	11	0.6	1.4	0.20	12	0.1	30	0.29	4	0.98	5.66
North Crown Butte	0.16	2.4	8	0.4	4	0.58	7	0.0	20	0.19	1	0.24	3.89
Buffalo Gap	0.08	1.3	9	0.5	0.5	0.07	45	0.2	21	0.20	3	0.73	2.97
North Jung Lake	0.02	0.3	11	0.6	5.1	0.74	81	0.4	28	0.27	1	0.24	2.52
Zap	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	250	1.2	13	0.13	2	0.49	1.77
East Center	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	187	0.9	10	0.10	2	0.49	1.45
Bucyrus	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	160	0.7	28	0.27	1	0.24	1.26
North Fairfield	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	112	0.5	17	0.16	1	0.24	0.93
New Hradec	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	98	0.5	31	0.30	1	0.24	1.00
Beffield	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	72	0.3	31	0.30	3	0.73	1.37
Taylor	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	30	0.1	31	0.30	2	0.49	0.93
NW Davis Buttes	0.00	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	17	0.1	30	0.29	3	0.73	1.10
North New England	Improvements project currently under construction											0.0	
Hebron	Improvements currently in development with service area expansion											0.0	
Burt	Improvements currently in development with service area expansion											0.0	
	2.00	30.00	558.00	30.00	69.25	10.00	2156.00	10.00	516.00	5.00	41.00		

Updated 1/30/2026

# Southwest Pipeline Project Service Area



- Served by OMND WTP
- Served by Dickinson WTP/Southwest WTP
- SWPP Area Served by MWWS
- MWWS Supplemental Service By OMND WTP
- No Capacity Area
- Lake Tschida Area
- County Boundaries
- Service Area Boundaries



# Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors Action Plan 2025-2027

## **Intake and Raw Water Infrastructure**

The last Close-Interval Survey (CIS) was conducted in 2014; Microbiologically Induced Corrosion (MIC) issues have emerged in multiple locations.

1. Proceed with CIS on Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) metallic lines (including raw water and potable pipelines that are either Ductile Iron or Steel).
2. Data from the CIS will be used to identify potential areas of concern regarding MIC on the Ductile Iron Pipe. The 2026 budget includes \$200,000 from Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance for this purpose.
  - Develop scope of work
  - Select vendor and schedule survey for metallic transmission lines
  - Incorporate findings into 5-year capital planning
3. Cross-industry outreach on MIC
  - Coordinate and consult with other industries/entities on MIC
    - ND Petroleum Council, Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC), NAWS, etc.
  - Revisit the SWPP Potential Indicators of MIC Matrix and update criteria with any new information
4. Remain engaged in discussions with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Commission regarding the Intake Construction.

## **Rules and Regulations and Outside Funding Sources**

As the SWPP evolves, outside funding becomes more prevalent. The SWA Board of Directors has discussed concerns about fairness, leapfrogging, implementation, interpretation, and alignment with prioritization. Sections of the *Southwest Water Authority's Rules and Regulations for Water Service from the Southwest Pipeline Project* require review.

1. SWA staff review and develop interpretations of existing *Rules and Regulations* and provide details on scenarios in which these *Rules and Regulations* may apply.
2. Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review interpretations and update *Rules and Regulations*
  - Conduct internal redline review, draft revisions if necessary, and provide recommendations to the SWA Board of Directors
    - Section IV.D. I Construction – New Property Owner Portion (Page 8)
    - Section VI. E. Application for Water Service (Page 10)
    - Section XVI.A. Extension of Transmission-Curb Stops-Relocations-Wet Taps (Page 20)
  - Present to the ND Department of Water Resources (DWR) for further discussions and collaboration.

3. Ad Hoc Committee to also consider outside funding as a criterion.
  - Outside funding score and weight, as well as the percentage of total project costs to be covered by such funding.
4. Draft a framework and pathway for customers that may contribute outside funding toward design or construction, taking prioritization into account.

### **Three-Pronged Approach**

The Three-Pronged Approach was adopted in 2019. 1) Main Transmission Line Capacity 2) Strategic Hydraulic Improvements 3) Rural Expansion. The SWA Board of Directors discussed revisiting each prong armed with the information and lessons learned over the past six years.

1. Remain engaged with the Main Transmission Line Capacity plans
  - SWC approved 25% + blue sky scenario for West Zone
  - Advocate for the same template for other zones
2. Amend the Strategic Improvement Prioritization Matrix to include all service areas
  - Consider outside funding as a criterion
    - Outside funding score and weight, as well as the percentage of total project costs to be covered by such funding.
3. Rural Expansion - Pocket Areas
  - Identify areas of the SWPP where Strategic Hydraulic Improvements are not possible because there is no existing infrastructure
  - Develop a list of these 'pocket areas' to be considered for potential rural expansion.
  - Identify rural expansion areas that are financially viable and hydraulically practical
4. Strategic Hydraulic Improvement vs. Rural Expansion
  - Any Service Areas that have existing pipelines should be included in the prioritization matrix for strategic improvements. Rural Expansions do inherently have longer design timelines than strategic improvements.

### **Ownership and Governance**

During the 2025 Legislative Session, House Bill 1020 included a requirement for a Regional Water Systems Governance and Finance Study. Deloitte is conducting this study.

1. Engage with Deloitte to provide feedback and stakeholder interviews.
2. Continue to support the existing position statement of remaining a state-owned entity with operations and maintenance management by SWA.
3. Review Deloitte findings as soon as available.

### **Operational and Organizational**

1. Emergency Response Planning – Identify strategic points of contact.



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**GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**  
**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- DATE:** April 16 & 17, 2026
- TIME:** 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16  
8:30 a.m., Friday, April 17
- PLACE:** Garrison Diversion Conservancy District  
401 Highway 281 NE  
Carrington, North Dakota

Garrison Diversion's regular quarterly board of directors meeting will be held at the district headquarters office as indicated above.

Agenda items include:

- I. Financial Report
- II. Officer Reports
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Financial Report
- V. MR&I Report
- VI. Bureau of Reclamation Report
- VII. Operations & Maintenance Update
- VIII. Irrigation Update
- IX. Red River Valley Water Supply Project Update
- X. General Manager's Report
- XI. Other

DD/las



April 26, 2026

To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors

RE: State of Region 8

At the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council's State of Region 8 event, lawmakers told local leaders that the state's future hinges on diversifying beyond oil while investing in value-added industries and keeping teachers in classrooms.

Sen. Greg Kessel, R-District 39, said North Dakota can no longer depend on oil revenue to balance its books. "Between 50 and 55 cents on every dollar comes from the oil and gas industry. That's not a sustainable path forward anymore," Kessel said, urging more development around natural gas and new power generation to support new industries and data centers.

Kessel pointed to a proposed natural gas pipeline from McKenzie County toward Fargo as part of that strategy. The challenge now, he said, is attracting industries that can turn that gas into long-term economic growth. "What do you do to utilize the gas? What are the other industries that need it, manufacturing that some of that stuff will take that gas and utilize it?" he asked, adding that western North Dakota has already proven it can shoulder large-scale development and "the whole state benefited from that." Kessel added that lawmakers must keep educating the public about the finite nature of oil and the need to build up other sectors now. "If you don't leave it alone and let it grow, you won't have it," he said of the state's long-term funds and the oil revenue that feeds them.

On education, Sen. Don Schaible, R-District 31, said teacher recruitment and retention remain among the Legislature's toughest assignments. "Being able to find teachers, recruitment and retention is a big problem," he said, noting the state has expanded loan forgiveness and "fast-tracked" pathways so classroom aides and other paraprofessionals can earn teaching degrees in as little as two years. He said "grow your own" efforts and dual-credit coursework are aimed at getting students interested in education careers before they reach college.

Sen. Dean Rummel, R-District 37, warned that even with a \$14 billion Legacy Fund, the state must temper expectations as oil production levels off. "We don't have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem," Rummel said, stressing that Legacy Fund earnings now underwrite popular property tax relief and highway funding. If North Dakotans treat the fund as cash-on-hand instead of a long-term endowment, he said, they risk crowding out investments in infrastructure and services that support economic diversification.

Three other speakers presented on Data Centers, Rural Health Transformation and Office of Management and Budget.

Martin Vega, marketing manager for Applied Digital out of Ellendale stated they will be constructing a million square foot building with 1,200-1,400 workers and then have 100-175 permanent people working there Their main business is credit card authorizations and bit coin programs. Cooling is major problem but with new liquid cooling that makes them economical in ND. They have a 15-year lease on the property with another 15 extension if needed.

Pat Traynor talked on spending \$199 million in the next year on many health problem areas in ND and the same amount in 2027. They are scrambling to get these projects to the entities that can reduce obesity (37% of ND) and diabetes (11% of ND). Both diseases percentages are slightly below national statistics. Mental Health programs are also in the mix for these dollars. Watch for any and all proposals to spend this money.

Joe Morrissette, ND OMB Director, stated ND is on pace with 2026 projections. Oil funds are about \$5 billion of the current budget. Iran war has helped out to stay the course. Future is clouded however, Education is at 43%, HHS is 36% and ND govt 9% for the big budget items. Governor is proposing for 2027-2028 no additional ND PFTs, no new fleet, hold Higher Ed to no increase, and advised budget cuts of 3% on \$10-\$20 million budget, 10% cut over \$20 million budget, with no cut if under \$10 million in 2025-2026 budget.

This event was well attended by local officials and area businesses.

Curtis W. Glasoe  
Stark County Director

April 23, 2026 -- Dickinson, ND

To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors

RE: State of Region 8, sponsored by Roosevelt Custer Regional Council

Nearly 100 regional stakeholders, legislators, and local government and business leaders from southwest North Dakota gathered in Dickinson to hear reports from area legislators, presentations on current opportunities for the region and a status report on the North Dakota budget outlook for the remainder of the current biennium. The State of Region 8 event was hosted by Roosevelt Custer Regional Council.

Southwest Water Authority attendees includes Stark County director Curt Glasoe, Hettinger County director Don Schaible, SWA manager/CEO Jen Murray and myself. Schaible was also a guest presenter to lead off the day's program. As the District 31 state senator, Senator Schaible joined District 39 Senator Greg Kessel of Belfield and District 37 Senator Dean Rummel of Dickinson on a special legislative panel.

The panel was the first presentation of the day. Each of the senators provided a synopsis from his area of expertise: Sen. Kessel on energy, Sen. Schaible on education and Sen. Rummel on taxes. The expertise of each was evident in presentations given.



**Senators Greg Kessel (R-39), Don Schaible (R-31) and Dean Rummel (R-37) were the legislators on the Region 8 panel.**

“We do not have a revenue problem (in North Dakota),” Senator Rummel said. “We have a spending problem.” His comments synopsized the general budget issues and was repeated by multiple speakers.

Also on the program were North Dakota Health and Human Services Director Pat Traynor, Applied Digital Director of Community Operations, and North Dakota Office of Management and Budget Director Joe Morrissette.

State revenue from minerals (oil, gas, and coal mainly) has grown from five per cent of the total state budget to 15% of the total state budget in the past 10 biennia and caution was noted that there needed to be a shift away from reliance on mineral revenue.

Senator Kessel said the Legacy Fund should really be considered as a “state endowment fund . . . (for the future) of our kids.” Senator Schaible spoke about teacher recruitment and retention. He spoke about pathways to fast-track completion of teaching degrees for classroom aides and other paraprofessionals, a process that could be done in two years.

Senator Rummel provided taxation statistics as follows:

- ❖ North Dakota ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation in income tax. The only states that have a lower income tax as those that have no income tax.
- ❖ 60% of North Dakotans pay no income tax.
- ❖ North Dakota lost \$130 million in revenue with federal elimination of taxes on tips and overtime.
- ❖ No state tax is due in North Dakota if married and making less than \$113,175 or if single and making less than \$64,575.

Traynor laid out a synopsis on the \$199 million Rural Health Transformation Program which the North Dakota Health and Human Services Department is coordinating. The federal program is designed to provide funding to improve rural health care and provide dollars for technology, overcome workforce issues, and create a healthier society.

He said North Dakota needs to obligate the \$199 million in funding by September 2026 and liquidate (spend) the money by September 2027. At the same time, another round of funding begins October 31, 2026 for the second year of the program. North Dakota is in line for nearly \$1 billion in funding from the federal program.

Traynor detailed the target dollars available for the four pillars of the RHTP:

- ❖ \$44.4M: strengthen and stabilize rural health workforce (22%)
- ❖ \$19.2M: make North Dakota health again (10%)
- ❖ \$33.9M: connect technology, data and providers for a stronger North Dakota (17%)
- ❖ \$101.4M: bringing high-quality health care closer to home (51%)

Traynor’s presentation detailed other health-related statistics:

- ❖ 106,000 North Dakotans are on Medicaid
- ❖ Movement is medicine
- ❖ Food is medicine
- ❖ 30 minutes a day of physical activity and a little strength training contributes to personal health and well being
- ❖ Walking 7,000 steps daily lowers death risk 47%

He said changing from a “screen-based childhood to a play-based childhood” would be helpful. Statistics show 36.8% of North Dakotans are obese and 10.6% suffer from diabetes.

Morrisette detailed the state budget outlook for the remainder of the biennium and provided attendees a preliminary glimpse at the 2027-2029 biennium.

Vega provided a glimpse of the impact of data centers. In his presentation, he dispelled the myth that data centers are going to be larger water users. AI centers have “billions of dollars” of highly sensitive equipment which will be operated off of a closed loop system.

The closed loop system, Vega said, is treated water-and-propylene-glycol mix brought in once and continually recirculated, similar to a vehicle radiator. “The liquid never leaves the system,” he said. He referenced the data center at Ellendale, noting municipal water allocation for break rooms, toilets and hand washing is modest.

Vega said North Dakota’s climate (“super windy, super cold”) and energy profile (“North Dakota generates 50% more power than they actually consume”) are reasons why Applied Digital wants a relationship within North Dakota.

He detailed the impact of the data center in Ellendale eliciting the following statistics:

- ❖ When complete, roughly 350 full-time employees at the Ellendale campus
- ❖ In 2025 along, Applied Digital paid:
  - \$944,000 in property taxes to Dickey County
  - \$1.2M in property taxes to the local Ellendale school district
  - \$1.4M in property taxes to the City of Ellendale
- ❖ In the first four months of 2026, Applied Digital has paid \$1.3M in sales taxes (Ellendale had typically budgeted \$400,000 in the past)

Respectfully submitted,

James Odermann, director  
Billings County



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**Our Vision:** People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water    **Our Mission:** Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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# M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors

**FROM:** Jen Murray, Manager/CEO, SWA

**SUBJECT:** Rules and Regulations Subcommittee

**DATE:** April 29, 2026

The Rules and Regulations Subcommittee met on April 6, 2026, to review the redlined version and to discuss the three sections specifically outlined in the Board Action Plan.

The Subcommittee made the following motion at the meeting: *Motion by Director Odermann, seconded by Director Baumgartner, to support all changes to the Rules and Regulations and bring to the Board as redlined changes and recommend to approve changes at the June 1, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

[Click here](#) to review the redlined version of the *Rules and Regulations*.

Included with this memo is the draft version of the *Rules and Regulations* without any markups for easier review.

## **IV.D.1. CONSTRUCTION – NEW PROPERTY OWNER OPTION**

Changes to this section include integrating this information into Section IV.D. Construction and cleaning up the language related to customers wanting to be connected to the SWPP during construction.

## **VI.E. APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE**

The section that stated a cash bond would be accepted by developers has been removed.

## **XVI. EXTENSION OF TRANSMISSION – CURB STOPS-RELOCATIONS-WET TAPS**

The Subcommittee combined this section with XV and renamed it XV. Extension of Transmission or Distribution Lines – Curb Stops – Relocations – Wet Taps.

Changes to this section include a clearer interpretation of transmission line extension for contract subsequent customers and distribution line extension for standard or high consumption customers.

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*Adopted June 1, 1990 ~ Last Revised June 1, 2026*

**Mission Statement: Quality water for southwest North Dakota**

**Vision Statement: People and business succeeding with quality water**

*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.*

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Southwest Water Authority (hereinafter referred to as SWA), the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) hereby adopts the following Rules and Regulations. The Board may, from time to time, amend and revise these Rules and Regulations as it deems necessary to continue the efficient operation and management of the system which is owned by the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) and administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

## I. OBJECTIVES

- A. To conduct the business affairs of SWA in a manner that will result in a successful and efficient operation.
- B. To treat all customers alike with respect to recurring situations.
- C. To provide high-quality service to the customers of SWA at lowest possible cost, consistent with sound business practices.
- D. To make available to the customers the Rules and Regulations of SWA.
- E. To create a favorable image among the customers and general public.
- F. To promote maximum beneficial utilization of water among the customers by providing additional services desired by customers within the design parameters of the system.
- G. To represent at all times the interests of the customers in a fair and equitable manner.

## II. DEFINITIONS

**Constant Flow:** Uniform delivery of water throughout a twenty-four (24) hour period by using a flow restrictor device. Storage must be provided by the customer.

**Customer Connection Point:** The point at which the customer's private system is connected to the curb stop or meter pit.

**Cross Connection:** Any actual or potential connection between the SWA water supply and any other source or contamination or pollution. This includes any other water source. The five devices that can be used to correct a cross connection:

1. **Air Gap:** the physical separation of the potable and non-potable system by an air space. The vertical distance between the supply pipe and the flood level rim should be two times the diameter of the supply pipe, but never less than 1". The air gap can be used on a direct or inlet connection and for all non-potable water substances.
2. **Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers:** may be used only on connections to a non-potable system where the vacuum breaker is never subjected to back-pressure and is installed on the discharged side of the last control valve. It must be installed above the usage point. It

cannot be used under continuous pressure. Hose connection vacuum breakers may be used on sill cocks and service sinks.

- 3. Pressure Type Vacuum Breakers:** may be used as protection for connections to all types of non-potable systems where the vacuum breakers are not subject to back-pressure. These units may be under continuous supply pressure. They must be installed above the usage point. Back-flow preventers with intermediate atmospheric vent may be used as an alternate equal 1/2" and 3/4" pressure type vacuum breakers and in addition, provide protection against back pressure.
- 4. Dual Test Type Meter-Double Check Valve Assembly:** may be used as protection for all direct connections through which foreign material might enter the potable system in concentration which would constitute a nuisance or be aesthetically objectionable, such as air, steam, food or other material which does not constitute a health hazard.
- 5. Reduced Pressure Zone Device:** may be used on all direct connections which may be subject to back-pressure or back-siphonage, and where there is the possibility of contamination by the material that does constitute a potential health hazard.

**Demand Flow:** The system will provide storage and service on a demand basis.

**Distribution Pipeline:** Pipelines that provide service to rural and/or individual customers.

**Domestic Use:** The utilization of water exclusively for personal, household, or residential purposes, rather than livestock, commercial, industrial, or business applications.

**Expansion Tank (Thermal Expansion Control):** Whenever a check valve or back-flow prevention device is installed, which prevents the expansion of water from a water heater to the building water service, a device for controlling thermal expansion must be installed.

**Hydraulic Study:** Perform hydraulic analysis of proposed additional customers and/or for requested increases in capacity to estimate the probable effect on service to other customers in the designated service area.

**Livestock Use:** The use of water for stock watering. The system design is based upon spreading such use uniformly throughout a twenty-four (24) hour period. Stock tanks will be used for watering of livestock. SWA discourages the use of "on-demand" water fountains since such equipment does not provide storage or allow the water use to spread over a twenty-four (24) hour period. Stock water devices must be equipped with atmospheric vacuum breakers or a dual test type backflow preventer. Installation of bottom type fill livestock waters or other devices that may allow back siphoning into the Southwest Pipeline distribution system are considered cross connections and are strictly prohibited unless the customer arranges to have a dual test type backflow preventer installed by the SWA. SWA has dual test type backflow preventer/meter combinations that can be purchased and installed to meet this requirement.

**Pressure Reducing Valve:** An automatic valve designed to reduce the higher inlet pressure to a steady lower downstream pressure regardless of changing flow rates and/or varying inlet pressures.

**Service Pipeline:** The pipeline running from the transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline to the curb stop or meter pit that serves a customer.

**Temporary Disconnect:** Any interruption of water service not of permanent nature.

**Tenant:** A person paying the water bill for a water service location on property not owned by that person. Tenants desiring service will need written authorization from their landlord. The landowner must be a co-signer and is responsible for the terms of the “Water Customer’s Information and Agreement.”

**Transmission Pipeline:** Pipelines that serve cities and distribution pipelines.

**Yard Area:** The area of a farmstead, rural residence, cabin, place of business, commercial feed lot, house lot, or other accepted and approved service location which contains buildings, fences, wells, windmills, buried pipes, buried wires, sewers, or other obstructions such that the installation of buried waterline by large high production trenching equipment is rendered impractical or very difficult.

### **III. TYPES OF CUSTOMERS**

Customers will be classified according to the type of water customer sign up. All changes in customer type must be processed through SWA’s office. The types of customers will be classified as follows:

**A. Pasture Tap Customer:** A customer sign up restricted to livestock use. These will be located along transmission lines or distribution lines, not to exceed 325’, which are there to serve other customers. Where a livestock sign up cannot be serviced because of location, SWA may offer to serve the site as a “Standard Customer” provided that the customer who exceeds 325’ agrees that the sign up designation will remain “Standard” for five (5) years; or provided the customer agrees to pay the cost of installing the line from the transmission line or distribution line to the service location; or customer agrees to move the sign up to a location which meets the distance restriction for a pasture tap before construction. Standard customers who use water for livestock purposes only may at the end of five (5) years request conversion to a pasture tap customer. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis with no assurance such customer may convert to a pasture tap customer. Pasture tap customers will have restricted flows. **See Section IX Item B.**

## **B. Seasonal Customer:**

**Type 1. Cemeteries:** A sign up restricted to seasonal use. The sign up will only be located along transmission pipelines or distribution pipelines, not to exceed 325', which are there to serve other customers. Where the sign up cannot be served because of location, SWA may offer to serve the site as a "Standard Cemetery Customer" provided that the customer who exceeds 325' agrees to sign up as a standard cemetery customer, and agrees that the sign up designation will remain "Standard Cemetery" for five (5) years; or provided the customer agrees to pay the cost of installing the service pipeline from the transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline to the service location. Standard customers who use water for cemetery purposes only may at the end of five (5) years request conversion to a cemetery customer. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis with no assurance such customer may convert to a cemetery customer.

**Type 2. Parks, Recreation Areas, Golf Course and Seasonal Cabins:** A water customer sign up located at a cabin, trailer, parks, recreation area, golf course, or place of business or other approved service location which is occupied seasonally and which is within a recognized resort area. Water use at said sign up will be restricted to household and limited lawn watering.

### **See Section VIII Item D**

**Type 3. Seasonal Cabins:** A customer sign up in a platted and recorded subdivision, considered a high-density area in the vicinity of a lake or reservoir within a recognized recreational area. Structures will be limited to a mobile home, double-wide or smaller, single-story building. Water use will be seasonal single family household use with limited yard watering. This type of service will have restricted flow.

**C. Standard Customer:** A customer sign up located at a dwelling or trailer or place of business or other approved service location. Water use at said sign up will be primarily used for domestic uses, and limited livestock, irrigation, industrial, or recreation uses.

**D. High Consumption Customer, Standard Meter:** Any standard customer sign up which uses more than 25,000 gallons/month typically due to watering of livestock or as authorized by SWA for other uses. High consumption customers should subscribe for an adequate number of service units not to exceed four (4) service units (100,000 gallons per month). A customer who exceeds 100,000 gallons per month or 1.2 million gallons per year will be required to change from high consumption to small business contract. The sign up fee and minimum monthly water service charge will increase based on each additional service unit. Customers may be subject to restrictions, additional conditions and/or additional charges if they exceed their allocated capacity. High consumption customers have the responsibility of spreading their use uniformly over a major portion of the twenty-four (24) hour day.

- E. Small Business:** Any customer sign up which can be adequately served by a standard (5/8" x 3/4") meter assembly but places special demands on the system will be provided service based on a water purchase contract. Examples include recognized NDDOT rest areas, feed lots, motels, car washes, filling stations, dairies, laundromats, restaurants, multiple housing facilities, mobile home and trailer courts, factories, schools, colonies or other similar high demand customers. The water service contract will specify minimum annual water purchase, maximum flow rate, point of delivery, pressure and whether the customer will be a Demand or Constant Flow customer.
- F. Contract Customer:** Any customer sign up which cannot be adequately served by a standard (5/8" x 3/4") meter assembly or that places special demands on the system will be provided service based on a water purchase contract. The water service contract will specify the contract users minimum annual water purchase, maximum flow rate, point of delivery and pressure. The system will provide storage and service on a demand basis for Demand customers. A Constant Flow customer will be required to install storage facilities for water use and will receive water service which is uniformly delivered over a twenty-four (24) hour period. An organized community with a municipal distribution system must serve at least 50% of its potential connections in order to be served as a contract customer.

#### **IV. CLASSES OF APPLICANTS**

Applicants for service will be classified according to the date and circumstances surrounding their application for service as follows:

- A. Initial:** An applicant who makes an application for service in the initial stage of a sign-up campaign prior to the Board-determined cutoff date to begin design of the service area.
- B. Final:** An applicant who makes application for service prior to the "final design" cut off date. During this time, design of the rural service area is ongoing.
- C. Late:** An applicant who makes application for service after the "final design" cut off date and prior to the "bid opening" date. During this time the rural service area contract is in the stage of preparing bid documents and advertising for bids.
- D. Construction:** An applicant who makes application after "bid opening" and prior to completion of construction for a specific contract will be referred to as a "construction" sign-up and may be eligible for service under a said contract provided that the sign up meets the cost criteria, that capacity is available, and construction dollars are available to install the service line. This also applies to new property owners who purchase property within a service area and apply for service after the cut off date. The following guidelines would apply:

1. Such applicants must pay double the late sign-up fee charged prior to contract bid date.
2. The good intention portion of the sign up fee will be forfeited by the applicant if for some reason they cannot be served. The remainder will be returned to the applicant.
3. Applicants must agree to the terms of the “Water Customer’s Information and Agreement” if service is provided.
4. Cost of adding a construction applicant must not exceed the total allowable construction cost for each equivalent service unit, unless specifically approved on a case-by-case basis by DWR & SWA management.
5. If a customer’s service line exceeds the allowable construction cost limit due to distance or other factors, all applicants may have the option to pay the additional cost for the portion of the service line from the distribution line connection to the edge of the yard when a Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) rural construction contract is active in the area. Eligibility for customer financial participation will be based on the following conditions:
  - a. The location must be hydraulically feasible to serve.
  - b. The service line route will be determined by the project engineer.
  - c. The construction contractor must agree to install the service line during the active construction project.
  - d. The service line cost will be calculated using the contract unit prices. The difference between the eligible portion of the service line and the portion that exceeds the eligible cost limit will be calculated, and the customer will remit that amount to SWA prior to installation.
  - e. The customer is responsible for all costs associated with the service line from the curb stop or meter pit at the edge of the yard to the residence, in accordance with these SWA Rules and Regulations.
  - f. Installation is contingent upon the acquisition of all necessary easements.
  - g. Priority will be given to those applicants with the lowest construction cost based on the engineer’s estimate.

**E. Subsequent:** An applicant who makes application for service after construction has been completed for a service area. Eligibility for service will be based upon the following conditions:

1. Must be hydraulically feasible to serve location. Hydraulic study cost to be included in the sign-up fee.
2. In addition to sign up fees, subsequent customers are also responsible for furnishing, installing and maintaining the portion of the service line from the transmission line or distribution to the meter, including the curb stop and box. Each service requires a meter pit located on the customer’s property. Such facilities will be installed to SWA’s

requirements and will be completed by a contractor acceptable to SWA. Should it be necessary to extend a transmission or distribution line to provide service to a subsequent user, **please review Section XV.**

3. Acquisition of all necessary permits and easements.

## **V. FEES AND WATER RATES**

Fees for all types of service will be set by the Board and subject to change.

- A. SWA** reserves the right to install meter pits at any customer hookup location to facilitate operation and maintenance of the system, depending upon construction bids received and funds available, as determined by the Board.
- B. Good Intention Fees** will not be refundable. If a good intention fee has been paid by a customer to an existing rural water cooperative within the service area, it will be accepted in lieu of a good intention fee to SWA.
- C. Hookup Fees**, once paid, will be non-refundable unless the water system does not become a reality or it is determined by the Board that the sign up cannot be served. If the water system does not become a reality, the prorated share of expenses may be subtracted from any refund. Refunds will not include interest.
- D. Partial Payments of Sign up Fees** are not allowed.
- E. Hydraulic Study Fees** will not be refundable.
- F. Water Rates** will be determined and established by the Board, and may be increased or adjusted by the Board from time to time as it deems necessary to meet the financial obligations of the project. Water rates are subject to approval by the SWC, project owner.

## **VI. APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE**

- A.** The customer will make application for service, in person, or in writing, at the office of SWA or at a place designated by SWA.
- B.** SWA may reject any application for service not available under the standard rate, or which involves excessive service cost, or which may affect the supply of service to other customers, or for other sufficient reasons which will be specified to the applicant.
- C.** SWA may reject any application for service when the applicant is delinquent in payment of bills incurred for service previously supplied at any location. If the premises of the owner has been served water, and water bills for such service have not been paid, SWA will not be

required to render service to anyone at said location, until said water bill has been paid, or until satisfactory arrangements have been made.

- D.** For violation of any of the provisions of these rules relating to application for service, SWA may at the expiration of seven days after mailing a written notice to the last known address of the customer, remove the meter and disconnect service. If the customer is a tenant, SWA will also give notice to the landowner, and provide an opportunity to correct any past due accounts for such service location. If the customer thereafter requests that the meter be reinstalled, the customer will first pay SWA a minimum service charge plus actual expenses, including mileage and installation charges. The installation charges will be an hourly rate set by SWA plus current service call rates.
- E.** Contract Customers will be required to sign a water service contract prior to the final design cut-off or bid opening date. New Contract Customers will be considered if capacity is available after construction.
- F.** “Subsequent” applicants may be subject to water use or other restrictions.
- G.** Customers who request changes to an existing water service contract will be required to sign a new water service contract under the terms and policies currently in effect.
- H.** Customers who signed up as high consumption in order to receive water service must continue as high consumption customers. However, these customers may request a change to standard service if excess cost to provide service is paid in full. Such a change is subject to review and approval of SWA and DWR.

## **VII. METER DEVICES**

- A.** Metering devices provided will include a meter pit. Each initial, final, standard or high consumption customer of SWA will receive a 3/4 inch x 5/8 inch meter, a 3/4 inch pressure reducing valve, and a 3/4 inch back flow preventer and an automatic meter reader. Metering devices for contract customers will be dependent on system design and consumptive use. A tenant deposit will be required of tenants applying for service. This charge will not apply to those tenant customers who paid the initial/final sign up fees. The deposit is not negotiable, does not accrue interest, and can be redeemed only at the SWA office, provided all amounts due and owing SWA are paid in full and service is discontinued to that customer. SWA reserves the right to investigate the validity of such requests for a refund and to require the applicant requesting the refund to produce the necessary documentation and proper identification.
- B.** Subsequent Customers will be responsible for the entire cost of the meter pit and installation.

**C.** Combination Dual Test Type Backflow Preventer, Reduced Pressure Zone device, and meter can be purchased through SWA to customers who choose to maintain a cross connection in their system. Customers must pay the difference in cost between a regular meter and this device. These devices must also be tested annually and customers will be charged a fee for annual testing.

## **VIII. NUMBER OF SERVICES PER METER - METER INSTALLATION**

**A.** A permanent residence, business facility, or similar building will require one sign up, have one meter, and pay one monthly minimum charge. All other customers will be metered separately, except as follows:

1. Customers who have their homes on the same premises as their commercial establishment and who receive service through the same meter and service line.
2. In the case of person or persons living in separate dwellings on the premises of the customer and in a joint farming or business operation, receiving half or more of their subsistence from the customer or from direct relief, old age assistance, social security or other social welfare funds and receive service through the same service line, service may be included for both on the same meter. In this case the customer will file with SWA a statement to the effect that such is the case.

**B.** A permanent residence, which may be a mobile home or other dwelling, not associated with a farming operation, will be required to establish a separate sign up and have a separate curb stop and meter as if it were a single permanent residence, except as may be otherwise exempted under these policies. Two or more permanent dwellings on a farm including manufactured homes placed on a permanent foundation, will be considered as multiple housing units requiring separate signups.

**C.** Trailer courts and multiple housing units will be required to have a separate sign up as a “contract” customer and pay one monthly minimum. All units can be served by one meter, however, a separate storage facility may have to be installed by the customer in cases where there may be an excessive demand for water. Each case will be reviewed by SWA on an individual basis.

**D.** Seasonal dwellings of part-time residents, and range operations, which are separated and/or independent of a farm or ranch location will be required to have a sign up and to pay in advance one year of monthly minimum rates.

**E.** When two or more meters are installed on the same premises for different customers, they will be closely grouped and each clearly designated to which customer it applies.

F. SWA reserves the right to refuse service unless the customer's line or piping are installed in such a manner as to prevent cross-connection, or back flow, and all connections from other sources are disconnected.

## **IX. SWA'S RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY**

- A. Depending on the type of customer, SWA will install a service line from its transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline to a point convenient to SWA at or near the edge of the yard area of the household, at which point SWA will install a meter pit.
- B. For pasture tap and other seasonal customers, SWA will install a service line and meter pit assembly adjacent to the transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline. If the pasture tap customer sign up is not located adjacent to the system's transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline, the service line will be installed to a point convenient to SWA just within the property line described in the customer agreement, but not to exceed 325 feet of service line.
- C. SWA will maintain the pressure reducing valve at a setting of not greater than 45 psi.
- D. For "contract" customer sign ups, the details of the connection will be described in the water customer agreement.
- E. SWA will not be liable for damage whatsoever resulting from leaks or the use of water on customer's premises unless such damage results directly from negligence on the part of SWA. SWA will not be responsible for any damage done by or resulting from any defects in the piping, fixtures, or appliances on the customer's premises. SWA will not be responsible for negligence of third persons or forces beyond the control of SWA resulting in any interruption of service. SWA will not be liable for damage of any kind whatsoever resulting from snow melt or rain water run off.

## **X. CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Piping on the customer's premises must be arranged so that the connections are conveniently located with respect to SWA's transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline. The customer will furnish, install, and maintain the portion of the service line from the connection point to the point of delivery. Installation of each of these items will be a responsibility of the customer and must be installed in accordance with specifications furnished by SWA. SWA will furnish metering equipment at the customer's expense as noted in **Section VII**.
- B. "Subsequent" customers are also responsible for furnishing, installing, and maintaining the portion of the service line from the transmission or distribution line to the meter, including the curb stop or a meter pit. Such facilities will be installed to SWA's requirements and will be

completed by a contractor acceptable to SWA. A “Subsequent Customer Installer Approval Form” and “Verification of Rural Water Service Connection” must be submitted to SWA before water service will be turned on. Should it be necessary to extend a transmission pipeline or distribution pipeline to provide service to a subsequent water customer, **please review section XV.**

- C. If the customer’s piping on customer’s premises is so arranged that SWA is called upon to provide additional meters, each place of metering will be considered as a separate and individual sign up.
- D. The customer must provide a suitable place, acceptable to SWA, for a meter on the customer’s premises. It must be unobstructed and accessible at all times for reading.
- E. The customer’s piping and apparatus will be installed and maintained by the customer and at the customer’s expense, in a safe and efficient manner and in accordance with SWA Rules and Regulations and in full compliance with the sanitary regulation of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. The customer’s private piping will be installed in such a manner as to prevent cross-connection or back flow, and all connections from other sources will be disconnected. Failure to comply can result in termination of services and places liability of cross-contamination on the customer.
- F. The customer will guarantee that the metering equipment be placed on the customer’s premises and the customer will permit authorized SWA representatives to access it as necessary.
- G. In the event that any loss or damage to the metering equipment or any accident or injury to person or property is caused by or results from the negligence or wrongful act of the customer, his agent, or employees, the cost of the necessary repairs or replacement will be paid by the customer to SWA and any liability otherwise resulting will be assumed by the customer. The amount of such loss or damage or the cost of repairs will be added to the customer’s bill and if not paid, services may be disconnected by SWA.
- H. Water furnished by SWA will be used according to the classification of the customer. The customer will not sell water to any other person. Water will not be used for irrigation and automatic sprinkler systems nor other purpose, except that when water is available in sufficient quantity, without interfering with the regular classified use, in the area served, the water may be used for other lawful purpose. Disregard of this rule will be sufficient cause for the refusal or discontinuation of service.
- I. In regard to watering livestock, the customer may be required to provide a flow restrictor or other device, acceptable to SWA, so that water will be more uniformly delivered to the livestock throughout a twenty four (24) hour period. This policy may also be applicable to customers using water for spraying and other high water usage other than domestic use which

may cause undue hardship to other customers of SWA. Stock watering devices must be equipped with atmospheric vacuum breakers or a dual test type backflow meter combination to replace existing meter. Cost and installation of these devices, as well as annual required testing, are the customer's responsibility. **See Section VII.**

- J.** Installations of bottom type fill livestock waters or other devices that may allow back siphoning into the Southwest Pipeline distribution system are strictly prohibited unless the customer arranges to have a dual test type backflow preventer installed by the SWA.
- K.** Those customers who use more than the units purchased will be required to pay for the amount of extra units required to service the gallons used. Such usage patterns will be reviewed by SWA during the peak use months of May through September as well as over a twelve (12) month period and will be subject to additional fees per the over-allocation policy. These customers will also be required to pay for a hydraulic study to determine if the usage can be maintained on an ongoing basis without impacting the usage of other customers. If other customers are impacted, a flow restrictor will be installed.

## **XI. METER READING - BILLING - COLLECTIONS**

- A.** Minimum payments are due monthly, in advance. Each customer will read their meter the first week of each month and remit the reading monthly along with payment due indicated on the bill to the office of SWA. If an Automatic Meter Reader is installed, the customer does not need to remit a monthly reading. Pasture taps and seasonal customers must pay their minimum billing for the upcoming year on an annual basis, on November 1 of each year.
- B.** During the construction of the system, each customer will be notified in advance of the time service will be available. The charge for service commences when water is available at the customer connection point whether used or not. The customers notified between October 1 and April 15 will have two options of connecting to service.
  1. Connect to service between October 1 and April 15 and begin paying the monthly minimum upon connection.
  2. Wait until May 1 to connect to service and begin paying the monthly minimum. Payment of the monthly minimum will be made by the customer on May 1 whether or not the connection for service has been made.

Once water becomes available from SWA, the customer will pay for such water service for a minimum of five (5) years, and the customer will pay liquidated damages of an amount equal to the minimum billing for five (5) years if the customer fails to pay for water service after water is available. If water is available for less than a complete billing period, the minimum service charges will be prorated for pasture taps and seasonal customers. An Automatic Meter

Reader device will be installed, however, in the event that a difference occurs in the amount of water use recorded by the Automatic Meter Reader versus the meter, the reading on the meter will govern.

- C.** Bills will be declared delinquent after the 20th day of the month for services billed monthly and November 20 for services billed annually. Thereafter, service may be discontinued by SWA with notice to the customer, and to the landowner if the customer is a tenant. Upon receipt of payment water will be restored. This will occur during normal business hours, within 24 hours of payment. All delinquent bills are subject to a late charge.
- D.** Readings from different meters will not be combined for billing, irrespective of the fact that said meters may be for the same or different premises, or for the same or different services. Monthly minimums will continue to be rendered for customers who fail to submit a meter reading when required. A charge will be applied to customer's billing for each time that a meter reading is not provided in a timely manner.
- E.** By the 20th of the 2nd consecutive month, if there is no meter reading received, the meter will be read by SWA personnel, for which there will be a charge added to the next bill.
- F.** SWA will verify meter readings randomly. SWA will also obtain readings as often as it feels necessary. If the meter reading reported has been falsified and has more than 10% water use difference, that is, more water use than recorded, a penalty will be assessed. The penalty will be determined by the average water usage for the previous twelve (12) months.
- G.** Hi-lo pressure gauges may be installed in service lines to assist systems management to monitor system hydraulics.
- H.** SWA will use whatever means available to recover payment for bad checks received for payment of water bills, materials and supplies, or any other services performed by SWA. Such accounts will be treated as delinquent accounts and the charges applicable to such accounts will be charged. Additional expenses incurred by SWA to make payment good will be borne by the customer. There will be a charge on all checks returned from the bank.
- I.** SWA may refuse personal checks for payment of amounts due from customers who have established an unreliable payment record; or SWA may require a security deposit (which will not accrue interest) in an amount sufficiently equal to three month's average bills. SWA reserves the right to check credit references before accepting application for service, renewing service, or continuing water service.
- J.** SWA will implement appropriate collection measures to collect accounts over 60 days past due.
- K.** Any necessary court action will take place in the appropriate court (Small Claims, District Court or other) so that a lien may be placed against the property where the unpaid connection is located.

- L. Any expenses incurred in the collection of past due accounts will be added to the service location account.
- M. Once water service is permanently disconnected it can only be restored after all unpaid minimums are paid, all expenses incurred in the collection of past due amounts and a reconnect charge is paid; or a new hookup fee is paid; whichever is less. The cost to reconnect service will never be more than a new hookup fee. A new hydraulic study may be required. Additional materials may be required to reconnect a disconnected service and the material and installation cost for these materials will be the responsibility of the customer.

## **XII. CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY/TRANSFER OF SERVICE**

- A. Not less than seven (7) days' notice will be given by the customer to SWA's office in person or in writing, to discontinue service or change occupancy. A "Transfer of Service" form must be completed.
- B. There will be a fee applied to those customers who transfer their sign up after construction is complete and the service area is turned over to SWA. Any transfers done prior to construction will not be charged.
- C. The outgoing party will be responsible for all water consumed up to the time of departure or the time specified for departure, whichever period is longest.
- D. In the case of property being sold, or transferred, SWA service and water sign up will remain with the property. A customer selling property on which a service connection is located will relinquish his or her service for that location. A customer is not entitled to transfer his or her service to a new property location except prior to construction.
- E. If the transfer or sale of property occurred before construction, the transfer fee will be waived. Evidence of the date of sale or transfer must be presented to SWA.

## **XIII. ACCESS TO PREMISES - EASEMENTS- CROP DAMAGES**

- A. **Access.** Duly authorized representatives of SWA will have access, at all reasonable hours, to the premises of the customer for the purpose of installing or removing SWA's property, inspecting piping or equipment, reading or testing meters or for any other purposes in connection with SWA's service and facilities.
- B. **Easements.** Each customer will grant or convey, or cause to be granted or conveyed, to SWA a permanent easement and right-of-way across any property owned or controlled by the customer wherever said permanent easement and right-of-way is necessary for SWA water facilities and lines.

- C. Refused Easement.** This policy applies to any parcel of property on which SWA needs an easement to construct its system and on which the owner refuses to grant an easement. For each such parcel, the construction cost increase caused by the refused easement will be calculated and recorded in the records of SWA. If water service from SWA system is desired on said parcel or any other property owned by a person who has refused to grant an easement, such person, if the applicant, will be required to pay for the construction cost increase due to such refused easement, in addition to any regularly applicable signup fees and charges for water service.
- D. Crop Damage.** SWA will pay a one-time crop damage reimbursement resulting after the project feature is constructed and is in operation, and the warranty period covered by contract documents has ended. Compensation will be based upon the actual average yield for the field in question and the price of the product at the time the damage occurs. The Marketing Manager of SWA is authorized to negotiate a settlement with the property owner, and is authorized to accomplish a settlement provided the total of settlement does not exceed \$500. If the proposed settlement is in excess of \$500, approval is required by the Manager. No crop damage will be paid when the crop exists within road right-of-way.
- E. Miscellaneous Damage.** Request for miscellaneous damage reimbursement will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If damage is in excess of \$500, reimbursement approval is required by the Manager.
- F. Pipeline Trench Filling and Settling.** The contractor is responsible for filling areas where soil has settled in the pipeline trench during the warranty period covered by contract documents. After the warranty period has expired, SWA will pay a one-time reimbursement or payment to repair settling of soil in the pipeline trench where such settling of soil makes the crossing of the pipeline trench hazardous or impassable. SWA will not reimburse a landowner for any repair located within a road right-of-way. The area where the soil in the pipeline trench has settled must be inspected by SWA prior to repair, and repair must be completed and inspected prior to reimbursement.

#### **XIV. TEMPORARY SERVICE**

SWA will supply service for temporary purposes, provided SWA has water available in excess of regular needs and provided SWA has available material and equipment necessary to supply said service. Each applicant for such service may be required to pay in advance to SWA the cost of a hydraulic study, labor, mileage, and materials, (less salvage value on removal), for installing and removing such service at the rates established by SWA. Payment for water usage will be billed on a monthly basis.

## **XV. EXTENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OR TRANSMISSION PIPELINE – CURB STOPS – RELOCATIONS – WET TAPS**

Any customer wanting water service along the transmission or distribution pipeline must submit an application to SWA. SWA will determine if the service requires an extension of a transmission or distribution pipeline. Each application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The customer must pay all expenses connected with receiving service.

The following conditions will prevail for Subsequent applications involving extension of transmission or distribution pipelines. Transmission Pipelines will only be extended for Contract customer hookups. Distribution pipelines will only be extended for Standard and High Consumption hookups. SWA reserves the right to approve or deny applications for service, involving the extension of transmission or distribution pipelines.

- A.** SWA's determination for transmission or distribution pipeline extension will be based on review and recommendation of SWA staff and project engineer. Items to be reviewed will include availability of water, hydraulics, potential customers, easement acquisition, and cost.
- B.** In those cases where extension of transmission or distribution pipelines proves to be too costly, or capacity is not adequate, SWA may authorize service on a reduced "constant flow" basis. In this case, the applicant will be responsible for all costs to provide such service as determined by the SWA.
- C.** Request for relocation of SWA's facilities to accommodate the needs of customers or others will be done only if there is an agreement entered into which provides that the cost of such relocation is borne by the beneficiaries of such relocation.
- D.** Any new connection to be made to SWA's water pipelines, where there is not an existing curb stop, or the previously installed water pipeline and curb stop was not kept serviceable due to a termination of service, will be termed a wet tap hookup. All customers requiring this procedure will in addition to the sign up fee and good intention fee, be responsible for all costs for the wet taps and for construction.
- E.** The applicant will be charged a wet tap fee and application fee which include the tapping saddle, meter assembly, and curb stop assembly. The customer is responsible for all other expenses involved in the connection of the new sign up.
- F.** If the customer provides someone to perform the wet tap, and requires SWA service personnel on site there may be a charge for a service call plus an hourly rate if the wet tap is not ready when SWA service personnel arrive. If SWA does the wet tap, the customer will be charged

the minimum for a service call plus a wet tap fee. If SWA hires someone to do the wet tap, the customer will be charged actual expenses.

- G. Prospective customers requesting service from an existing service line may not proceed until it has been determined by SWA that an adequate supply and capacity of water is present.

## **XVI. COMPLAINTS - ADJUSTMENTS**

- A. If the customer believes his meter reading to be in error, he will present his claim at SWA's office before the bill becomes delinquent. Such claim, if made after the bill has become delinquent, will not be effective in preventing discontinuance of service. The customer may pay such bill under protest and said payment shall not prejudice his claim.
- B. Meters will be tested at the request of the customer upon payment of a meter testing fee to SWA, however, if the meter is found to over or under-register beyond three percent of the correct volume, no charge will be made.
- C. The customer will not break the meter seal. SWA may test a meter with a broken seal. The customer will be subject to pay the actual cost to SWA of making such test and subject to penalties. **See Section XVIII Item G.**
- D. There will be a minimum charge as set by SWA for service calls. If the problem is with SWA pipelines or facilities, the customer will bear no expense. If the problem is with the customer's service line or equipment, the customer will be charged mileage and actual expense in addition to the minimum charge.

## **XVII. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SERVICES**

- A. When services are permanently discontinued and all bills paid, the tenant deposit, if any, will be refunded.
- B. Upon discontinuance of service for non-payment of bills, the deposit will be applied by SWA toward settlement of the account. Any balance will be refunded to the customer. If the deposit is not sufficient to cover the bill, SWA may proceed to collect the balance in the usual way provided by law for the collection of debts.
- C. Service discontinued for non-payment of bills will constitute a disconnection and will be restored only after bills are paid in full provided water capacity is still available. Payment should include the accumulated monthly minimum bill since the date service was discontinued, any requested deposits, service charge, and installation charge for each meter reconnected.

- D.** When water service is disconnected at the request of the customer, the customer waives his/her rights to water service at the meter location in question. Any application for water service at a later time will be considered a new sign up and will only be served if it is determined that water capacity exists to serve the location, the customer agrees to pay the cost to determine if water capacity exists, and agrees to pay a reconnection cost or minimum bill accumulated since the time of disconnection of the meter at the location plus actual reconnection costs, whichever is less. This rule also applies to customers who paid the required minimums stipulated in their contract.
- E.** SWA reserves the right to discontinue its service without notice for the following additional reasons:
1. To prevent fraud or abuse
  2. Customer's wilfull disregard of SWA's rules
  3. Emergency repairs
  4. Insufficiency of supply due to circumstances beyond SWA's control
  5. Legal processes
  6. Direction of public authorities
  7. Strike, riot, fire, accident, or any unavoidable cause
  8. To prevent system contamination through an unintentional or intentional cross-connection.
- F.** Interruption of service to the customers will be planned whenever practical so that it will be of the least inconvenience to the customers, and when possible, will be planned far enough in advance so that the customers may be notified.
- G.** SWA may, in addition to assessment of penalties or prosecution by law, permanently refuse service to any customer who tampers with the system, including a meter or any other equipment.
- H.** SWA may assess a penalty to any customer using water without permission.
- I.** The provisions of these rules governing the suspension of services may be applied by the Manager as deemed appropriate.
- J.** Cross connections are considered a very serious violation of the rules and regulations because of the serious potential to contaminate the Southwest Pipeline distribution system. Customers found to have cross connections during random system spot checks are subject to immediate termination of service. Cross connections that are not adequately protected will not be tolerated. Customers who have questions concerning cross connections should contact SWA.

## **XVIII. TRANSFER OF SERVICE – SPECIAL RULES**

A customer may be allowed to disconnect service at one location in order to transfer water service to another location under the following circumstances:

- A.** The customer is located in an area that has no additional capacity.
- B.** The new location will be a subsequent customer; however, the customer will have to sign a five-year agreement.
- C.** This transfer of service will be looked at on a case-by-case basis as are all subsequent customers.
- D.** The type of customer will be considered in the switch. If the customer is a standard customer at the current location, they will remain a standard customer at the new location.
- E.** The new signup will be hydraulically feasible to serve the location.
- F.** The customer will be required to sign up for water service at the new location and pay the current subsequent customer signup fee.
- G.** No refund of the signup fee will be given if unable to serve the customer at the new location or if the customer changes their mind and does not want service at the new location.
- H.** If the customer cannot be served at the new location or decides they do not want service at the new location, the original contract and term must be fulfilled and will be enforced.
- I.** If it is determined that there will be O&M issues due to the change, either the change in service will not be allowed or the costs for such issues will be borne by the customer.

**State Water Commission Meeting**  
**#238 Lewis and Clark Room, Bank of North Dakota**  
**1200 Memorial Hwy., Bismarck, ND**  
**Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 1:00 p.m. CT**

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**AGENDA**

- 1:00 – 1:02    A. Roll Call
1. Pledge of Allegiance
  2. Conflict of Interest
- 1:02 – 1:03    B. **Consideration of Agenda**
- 1:03 – 1:04    C. Consideration of Minutes
1. **Draft Minutes for the February 12, 2026, SWC Meeting**
  2. **Draft Minutes for the March 19, 2026, Pre-Commission Meeting**
- 1:04 – 1:10    D. SWC Secretary Update (Reice Haase)(no attachment)
- 1:10 – 1:15    E. Financials (Chris Kadrmas)
- 1:15 – 1:30    F. Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) (Justin Froseth)
1. **Contract 1-1B – Equipment Procurement for Existing Intake Imp. Funding Auth.**
  2. **Contract 3-2H – Southwest WTP Expansion – Change Order Authorization**
  3. Metallic Pipeline Project near Dodge – Replacement and Upgrade
- 1:30 – 1:40    G. Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) (Brandon Hicks)
1. **REM Projects Approval**
  2. **Contract 7-2A/4-1A – Biota Water Treatment Plant – Change Order Authorization**
- 1:40 – 1:50    H. Four-Year Progress Report Updates (Abigail Franklund)
- Bottineau County WRD – Stone Creek Lateral B Project**
  - Maple River WRD – Davenport Flood Risk Reduction Project**
  - City of Portland – Water System Improvements**
  - City of Garrison – Water Supply Treatment and Transmission Line**
- 1:50 – 2:00    I. General Water (Abigail Franklund)
1. **Pembina County WRD**                      **Olga Dam Feasibility Study**                      **\$142,200**                      **PC**
  2. **Maple River WRD**                      **Buffalo-Lynchburg Channel Imp. Ph.3**                      **\$1,617,173**                      **C**

2:00 – 2:05 J. Water Supply (Rural) (Julie Prescott)  
**1. Northeast Regional WD User and Reservoir Expansion \$1,048,260 \$1,974,352 C**

2:05 – 2:35 K. Water Supply (Municipal) (Julie Prescott)  
Projects Considered Based on Cost-Share Prioritization Framework and Available Funding  
**1. City of Minot 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NW Watermain Replacement \$2,080,211 C**  
**2. City of Minot Dacotah Homes & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW Watermain Repl. \$1,928,527 C**  
**3. City of Jamestown Lime Sludge Filter Press and Recycle/Reuse \$2,600,400 C**  
**4. City of Cando Lead Service Line Replacement \$922,592 C**  
**5. City of Dickinson 2026 Utility and Street Improvements \$2,031,151 C**  
**6. City of Wahpeton Well Field and Transmission Line \$9,129,761 C**

2:35 – 2:40 L. Water Supply (Municipal) (Julie Prescott)  
Projects Deferred Pending Available Funding  
**1. City of Casselton Downtown Improvements Project \$525,218 C**  
**2. City of Bismarck WU152 2026 Watermain Replacement \$2,440,567 C**  
**3. City of Steele Water Main Replacement Phase I \$124,200 PC**  
**4. City of Grafton Water System Replacement Phase I \$2,556,064 C**  
**5. City of Regent Main Avenue Reconstruction \$644,705 C**  
**6. City of Watford City 2026 Water Main Replacement \$2,130,923 C**  
**7. City of West Fargo 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue E Reconstruction \$1,001,351 C**  
**8. City of West Fargo Meadow Ridge Reconstruction Phase I \$1,120,118 C**  
**9. City of Williston 2026 Williston Square Improvements \$1,026,030 C**  
**10. City of Williston West Broadway Improvements \$395,962 C**

2:40 – 2:45 M. Western Area Water Supply (WAWS) Update – Chris Barke


2:45 – 2:50 N. Legal Updates (Matt Sagsveen)

2:50 – 3:25 (5 min each) O. Project Updates (Presentations if time allows)  
 1. Devils Lake (Yaping Chi)  
 2. Red River Basin (Yaping Chi)  
 3. Mouse River (Laura Ackerman)  
 4. Missouri River (Clay Carufel)  
 5. NAWS (Brandon Hicks)  
     a. Lake Water Delivery to Minot Update (Houston Engineering)  
 6. SWPP (Justin Froseth)

P. Adjourn

**BOLD ITEMS REQUIRE  
 SWC ACTION**

- PC Pre-Construction
- C Construction
- L Legislative
- CI Cost Increase
- O Other

**TO:** Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden  
Members of the State Water Commission   
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Secretary  
**SUBJECT:** SWPP – Contract 1-1B – Equipment Procurement for Modifications to Existing Intake Project - Funding Authorization  
**DATE:** March 25, 2026

Plans and specifications for the Modifications to Existing Intake Contract (Contract 1-1C) are under development. To support this effort, an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for equipment necessary for the modifications was posted through the Office of Management and Budget's State Procurement Online system from January 23, 2026, to February 20, 2026.

The purpose of the IFB was to procure equipment with long-lead delivery times in advance of advertising Contract 1-1C for bids, which is the installation contract. This proactive procurement ensures timely availability of critical equipment and supports the overall project schedule.

The IFB included three distinct bid schedules to address the project's equipment needs:

**1) Bid Schedule 1 - Vertical Turbine Pump Procurement Package, consisting of:**

Vertical Turbine Pumps and Motors

**2) Bid Schedule 2 - Electrical Gear Procurement Package, consisting of:**

Pad-Mounted Transformers  
Low-Voltage Switchboards  
Variable Frequency Drives  
Automatic Transfer Switches  
Surge Protective Devices

**3) Bid Schedule 3 - Valve Procurement Package, consisting of:**

Process Butterfly Valves (300-psi valves only)

SWPP - SWPP – Contract 1-1B – Equipment Procurement for Modifications to Existing Intake Project - Funding Authorization

Page 2 of 3

March 25, 2026


Bids for the equipment were opened February 20, 2026. The bid tab for Contract 1-1B is included. At the February State Water Commission meeting, the Commission authorized the Secretary to award Contract 1-1B Bid Schedules 1, 2, and 3.

Based on the bid results, funding authorization needed for the award of Contract 1-1B Bid Schedules 1, 2, and 3 is \$1.4 million which is calculated by including 5% contingency to the lowest responsible bids.

**I recommend the State Water Commission allocate \$1,400,000 to the Southwest Pipeline Project from funds appropriated in the 2025-2027 biennium for the SWPP Contract 1-1B – Equipment Procurement for Modifications to Existing Intake project.**

RH:JF/1736-99

ENR CCI =		14131.61		Proj. No. 3033.A41		
PROJECT:		SWPP CONTRACT 1-1B, SWPP EXISTING INTAKE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT				
<b>BID TABULATION</b>						
DATE:		February 20, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. CT				
LOCATION:		NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES				
DESCRIPTION	ENGINEERS ESTIMATE	Trillium Flow Technologies	Denny's Electric	Edling Electric	Enek, LLC	Fergusson Waterworks
	BID AMOUNT	BID AMOUNT		BID AMOUNT	BID AMOUNT	BID AMOUNT
<b>BID SCHEDULE 1</b>						
<b>Base Bid</b>						
<i>Furnish one 200 hp vertical turbine pump (PA-1) as specified in Section 432150.</i>		\$ 351,314.00				
<i>Furnish one 600 hp vertical turbine pump (PB-1) as specified in Section 432150.</i>		\$ 249,132.00				
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 600,446.00</b>				
<b>BID INFORMATION</b>						
Indicate Anticipated Lead Time of Vertical Turbine Pumps from Acceptance of Shop Drawings to delivery to the site.		SUBMITTALS- 10 WEEKS DELIVERY- 32 WEEKS				
<b>BID SCHEDULE 2</b>						
<b>Base Bid</b>						
<i>Furnish one Pad Mounted Transformer as specified in Section 261219</i>			<b>NON-RESPONSIVE</b>	\$ 172,400.00	\$ 108,231.59	
<i>Furnish Low Voltage Switchboard as specified in Section 262913</i>				\$ 65,000.00	\$ 143,936.37	
<i>Furnish Two Variable Frequency Drives as specified in Section 262923</i>				\$ 295,800.00	\$ 288,531.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 533,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 520,698.96</b>	
Indicate Anticipated Lead Time of Electrical Equipment from Acceptance of Shop Drawings to delivery to the site.					40 WEEKS	30-40 WEEKS
<b>BID SCHEDULE 3</b>						
<b>Base Bid</b>						
<i>Furnish Four (1) 24" Class 300 Full Body Butterfly Valves as specified in Section 400520 (Type 230).</i>						\$ 33,500.00
<i>Furnish four (4) 16" Class 300 Full Body Butterfly Valves as specified in Section 400520 (Type 230).</i>						\$ 46,000.00
<i>Furnish two (2) 8" Class 300 Full Body Butterfly Valves as specified in Section 400520.</i>						\$ 13,000.00
<i>Furnish one (1) 8" Class 300 Silent Check Valves as specified in Section 400520 (Type 790).</i>						\$ 5,000.00
<i>Furnish one (1) 16" Class 300 Silent Check Valves as specified in Section 400520 (Type 790).</i>						\$ 19,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 116,500.00</b>
<b>BID INFORMATION</b>						
Indicate Anticipated Lead Time of Electrical Equipment from Acceptance of Shop Drawings to delivery to the site.						32-34 WEEKS

**TO:** Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden  
Members of the State Water Commission   
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Secretary  
**SUBJECT:** SWPP – Contract 3-2H – Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP)  
Expansion - Change Order Authorization  
**DATE:** March 25, 2026

The State Water Commission authorized the Secretary to execute change orders up to \$1,000,000, not to exceed 20 percent of the total contract amount, on Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) contracts at the October 2016 State Water Commission meeting. This action item has been interpreted as cumulative change orders on a contract up to \$1,000,000.

To date, Contract 3-2H, SWTP Expansion Project, has two approved change orders incorporating 17 work change directives (WCDs), with an additional nine WCDs pending formal change order development. The approved change orders to date represent a total increase of \$141,223 and an extension of 22 working days. The nine pending WCDs amount to \$179,045 and an additional 18 days of project extension.

A change order, currently under development, would add approximately \$540,000 and 43 calendar days to the contract. This adjustment addresses a differing site condition claim from the contractor due to concrete encountered during excavation and foundation construction. The concrete encountered has required additional effort and time from the contractor to accommodate construction around it. The approved change orders, pending WCDs, and pending change order would result in a cumulative change order cost of \$860,000 and 83 days of schedule extension.

While this represents a notable adjustment, changes of this nature are generally expected when considering the project's scope and magnitude. The original contract price for Contract 3-2H is \$86,382,500 with a three-year construction period. The contract's funding authorization approved at the December 2024 State Water Commission meeting included a 5% contingency, totaling approximately \$4.3 million, primarily intended for contract adjustments such as the change orders described.

Based on the magnitude of the SWPP Contract 3-2H, authorization for the Secretary to

Contract 3-2H – Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) Expansion - Change Order  
Authorization


Page 2 of 2

March 25, 2026

approve change orders up to the approved contingency amount of \$4.3 million is requested. Summary of change orders approved on the contract will continue to be included in the project update memo for Commission's information.

**I recommend the State Water Commission authorize the Secretary to approve cumulative change orders up to \$4.3 million on SWPP Contract 3-2H, Southwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion.**

RH:JF/1736-99

**TO:** Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden  
Members of the State Water Commission   
**FROM:** Reice Haase, Secretary  
**SUBJECT:** SWPP – Metallic Pipeline Project Near Dodge – Replacement and Upgrade  
**DATE:** March 25, 2026

Department of Water Resource staff, in coordination with Southwest Pipeline Project's (SWPP) consulting engineer, Bartlett & West/AECOM (BW/AECOM) and Southwest Water Authority (SWA), continue development of plans and specifications for the metallic pipeline replacement project to address Microbiologically Induced Corrosion (MIC) on the existing 30-inch raw water pipeline near the City of Dodge. The replacement project near Dodge was identified based on assessment and evaluation of the pipeline including exploratory excavation. The replacement project comprises of two segments measuring approximately 2,000 ft and 400 ft with approximately 2,300 ft distance between the two segments. This effort is being conducted alongside the ongoing updates to the 2014 Raw Water Implementation Study. BW/AECOM has recommended evaluating the replacement project not only to address immediate MIC concerns but also to proactively meet long-term system capacity needs.

Based on the 2014 Raw Water Implementation Study, and the ongoing updates to the study, installation of approximately 18 – 20 miles of parallel pipeline between Dodge and Richardton is necessary to meet the planned 18 Million Gallons per Day water delivery to the water treatment plants at Dickinson. The current pipeline replacement project due to MIC is within the Dodge and Richardton segment. The identified 2000 ft replacement segment traverses low-lying areas with abundant groundwater, which amplifies constructability concerns.

Given the constructability concerns and the need for installation of parallel pipeline in the future to meet the increased raw water transmission capacity needs, the project team proposes replacing the 2000 ft of the 30-inch pipeline with a 42 -inch pipeline. One 42-inch pipeline provides hydraulic capacity comparable to two 30-inch pipelines with cost for 42-inch pipeline installation expected to be 40-60% higher than 30-inch pipeline installation. So installation of 42-inch pipeline will eliminate the need for installation of parallel pipeline in this challenging area in the future to meet the increased transmission capacity needs, at a more efficient cost for the increased hydraulic capacity.

DWR staff, SWA, and BW/AECOM have met to review the potential upsizing of the pipeline and other design considerations. BW/AECOM provided the attached memo following the discussion. Aside from the pipeline upsizing described above, there are other design considerations and discussions included in the memo which are described below.

### **Cost allocation for upsized pipe**

The August 2022 State Water Commission (SWC) action that approved guidance for SWPP's Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance (REM) fund, noted the REM fund will provide a portion of the replacement costs for Capital Projects, which includes metallic pipeline replacement projects. It is understood that the portion to be funded by the REM fund is the local cost-share expected for similar projects under the SWC's cost-share policy, which currently for regional water systems like SWPP is 25%.

At the February 2025 SWC meeting, SWC approved a policy whereby the DWR would be the lead agency for managing replacement of Capital Projects with SWA reimbursing DWR, the REM fund's share for the replacement project. With the proposed upsizing of the pipeline, costs attributable to upsized pipeline, necessary for long-term hydraulic capacity improvements, would be 100% funded by SWC. The project team will develop an estimate of the incremental cost difference for the upsized pipeline installation without designing and bidding both pipe sizes which could be used for determining cost responsibility between REM fund and funding from the SWC.

### **Disposition of the existing pipe**

The project will involve installation of the new pipeline parallel to the existing pipeline due to the need to keep the existing pipeline in service for the 2000 ft segment. Consideration was given to keeping the existing pipeline in service after the new pipeline installation is complete. However, doing so would require installation of expensive valves, and the current pipe condition indicates imminent failure. The consensus is to abandon the existing pipeline.

### **Intermediate pipe segment between MIC replacements**

Approximately 2,300 feet of pipeline lies between the two identified MIC replacement sections. While paralleling this segment could provide additional long-term hydraulic benefits, project costs would nearly double to do this. DWR staff recommends not pursuing construction of the pipeline segment between the two identified replacement segments at this time.

February 25, 2025

Justin Froseth, SWPP Project Manager  
ND Department of Water Resources  
1200 Memorial Highway  
Bismarck, ND 58504-5262

Justin:

A preliminary set of Plans for the Raw Water Main Transmission Pipeline Replacement, Dodge to Richardton, SWPP Contract 2-2I were emailed on February 9, 2026. A meeting was held on February 13, 2026 to discuss the project items that require decisions so BW/AECOM can continue to proceed with the design efforts on this project. During that meeting, this letter was requested to summarize the decision items that require DWR or SWA input.

### **New Items for Review and Further Discussion**

This project is intended to replace 2,000 feet of existing 30" Ductile Iron Pipe that was installed originally bid under SWPP Contract 2-2C in 1986 and was substantially completed in December 1988.

Southwest Water Authority conducted exploration excavations of this area in the fall of 2023 and 2024 and found Microbiologically Induced Corrosion (MIC) in two areas, one of them being a 2,000-foot segment between stations 492+25 and 509+02. The extents of the MIC for this segment are believed to have been found with no pitting observed at 511+40 and 491+85. The proposed tie-ins are planned at stations 491+85 and 511+40. This segment of pipeline was delayed by the 2-2C Contractor due to environmental challenges. The 2-2C contractor did perform dewatering efforts and waited for frozen ground conditions, which is an indication that this project will require both considerations again. The second area of MIC was observed between stations 464+80 and 468+21. The extents of MIC in this area were not found however the tie-ins are proposed at stations 464+40 and 469+80 which is 160 feet beyond the westernmost observed MIC. It is anticipated that the eastern tie-in may need to be located 20-40 feet further east of the observed MIC at 464+80 so there is some merit to ordering additional pipe in the event that MIC continues past the known extents from the excavations.

The following were discussed in the February 13, 2026, meeting.

1. For the area between stations 492+25 and 509+02, this area is a maintenance concern given the environmental conditions in the area, specifically the high groundwater observed. This area will likely require dewatering and frozen ground conditions for equipment access and that warrants that this replacement section be a parallel section to provide the contractor with ample time to install the replacement pipe given the challenging site conditions. As such, discussions between DWR, SWA, and BW/AECOM have revolved around the best long-term approach for this area given the challenging conditions. The options discussed include installing a 30" parallel segment and then replacing the existing ductile iron pipe once the parallel section is installed. The other option is to upsize this replacement section of piping. The Raw Water Implementation Plan Update that is currently in development does not specifically require this segment to be paralleled but significant lengths of pipe upstream and downstream of the Dodge Pump Station are required to be paralleled to increase capacity. Considering that the costs to parallel this section later would include another dewatering system, the most economical approach would be to replace and parallel or upsize this section of piping at the same time. Under the second option, upsizing the parallel section from 30" to 36" is would not

be hydraulically equivalent to two (2) 30" pipeline segments and as a result, a 42" segment has been discussed if a single pipeline is installed to replace and upgrade this segment. With the upsizing of the pipe, the pipeline profile and depth of bury will change to account for differences in the allowable joint deflections which are 5 degrees for 30" pipe, 4 degrees for 36" pipe, and 3 degrees for 42" pipe.

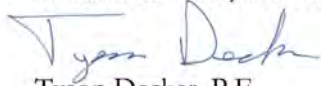
2. If this project is considered a replacement project as well as an improvement project, there is some concern how the costs will be separated between the SWWP's REM fund (replacement) and state funding as a capital improvement. Doing bid alternates for each option, in a material procurement, would require two full designs due to differences in required restrained lengths, pipeline profiles due to different allowable joint deflections, and tie-in details for each option. This effort would only provide material cost differences and installation costs would remain unknown and would need to be projected. The deflection angles of different sized pipes will result in different pipeline profiles and excavation depths. Considering this, it seems logical to bid the upsized option and calculate the replacement cost to be a percentage of the total installation cost. This percentage could be determined by obtaining quotes for material cost differences from suppliers and quotes from the awarded installation contractor.
3. The conceptual cost estimate for the replacement project is estimated at around \$3,000,000 if the project replaces 2400 feet of 30". It is estimated that the cost difference to install 42" is 40-60% higher than the cost of the 30" ductile iron. These costs are conceptual in nature and do not consider the additional environmental costs such as dewatering efforts and cold weather construction nor do they account for valves, fittings, blowoffs, air releases, and pipe weight appurtenances. This estimate does however indicate some potential capital savings when considering one 42" pipeline vs two 30" pipelines.
4. One existing CAV will require replacement with this project. The CAV details were discussed at the February 13, 2026 meeting, and the BW/AECOM intent is to use the CAV detail from SWPP 2-3I/2-5C/2-7D. SWA to review and provide guidance if this is acceptable.
5. Three existing blowoffs will need to be replaced with this project. The details were discussed in the February 13, 2026 meeting which considered using either the detail from Contract 2-1B or SWA PP-2022-1 (2-3A Replacement). SWA followed up after that meeting indicating a preference to use the 2-1B detail. SWA also requested that a second valve be added to this detail to allow for throttling of the flow.
6. The current plan set does not include any isolation valves. This is in part due to the unknown preference of continuing to utilize the existing 30" pipeline in this stretch or if the existing pipeline would be abandoned. This was discussed in the meeting and if the existing pipeline were to continue to be utilized, the project should include isolation valves to allow the existing pipeline to be isolated. It was also noted in discussion that the valves are not considered a long term solution and when the existing pipeline were to be isolated and put out of service, an abandonment project would be needed to cut and cap the pipeline at each valve since the valves are unlikely to hold in the closed position long term without some development of leaks. SWA preference from this discussion was to limit the installed valves and if a 42" pipeline is installed, the existing pipeline would be decommissioned. This would also require the existing pipeline surface features to be abandoned and reclaimed as well.
7. The discussion also included another option to consider paralleling an additional 2300 feet between the two replacement sections. Conceptually, this would nearly double the cost of the project but would install approximately 4800 feet of 30" or 42" piping. This would increase the hydraulic benefit of the project and would essentially reduce the amount of parallel pipe needed between Dodge and

Richardton as part of the Raw Water Implementation Plan. While the implementation plan does not require this specific area to be paralleled, there is some merit to the thought of paralleling the ductile iron pipe considering the MIC corrosion in the area.

We look forward to continued discussion of the above items.

Sincerely,

**Bartlett & West/AECOM**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyson Decker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tyson Decker, P.E.

Project Manager

cc: SWA - Jen Murray, Andy Erickson (electronic)  
File: Existing Intake Modifications 1.0



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**Our Vision:** People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water    **Our Mission:** Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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## 2026 Commissioner-Hosted Basin Meetings

These meetings provide an opportunity for local stakeholders, water managers, and members of the public to hear updates on water development activities and share input on water issues within their basin.

**June 17, 2026, Mouse River Basin** – City Hall, Council Chambers, 10 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW, Minot, ND at 3:00 p.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Jason Zimmerman

**June 18, 2026, Lower Missouri River Basin** – Bank of North Dakota, Lewis and Clark Room, 1200 Memorial Hwy, Bismarck, ND at 3:00 p.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Jay Volk

**June 29, 2026, Little Missouri, Upper Heart, & Cannonball Basin** – Stark-Billings NDSU Extension Office, 2680 Empire Rd, Dickinson, ND at 3:00 p.m. MDT – Hosted by Commissioner James Odermann

**July 8, 2026, James River Basin** – City Hall, Lower-Level Conference Room, 102 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE, Jamestown, ND at 10:00 a.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Steve Hansen

**July 8, 2026, Upper Red River Basin** – Dr. James Carlson Library, Community Room, 2801 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Fargo, ND at 3:00 p.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner April Walker

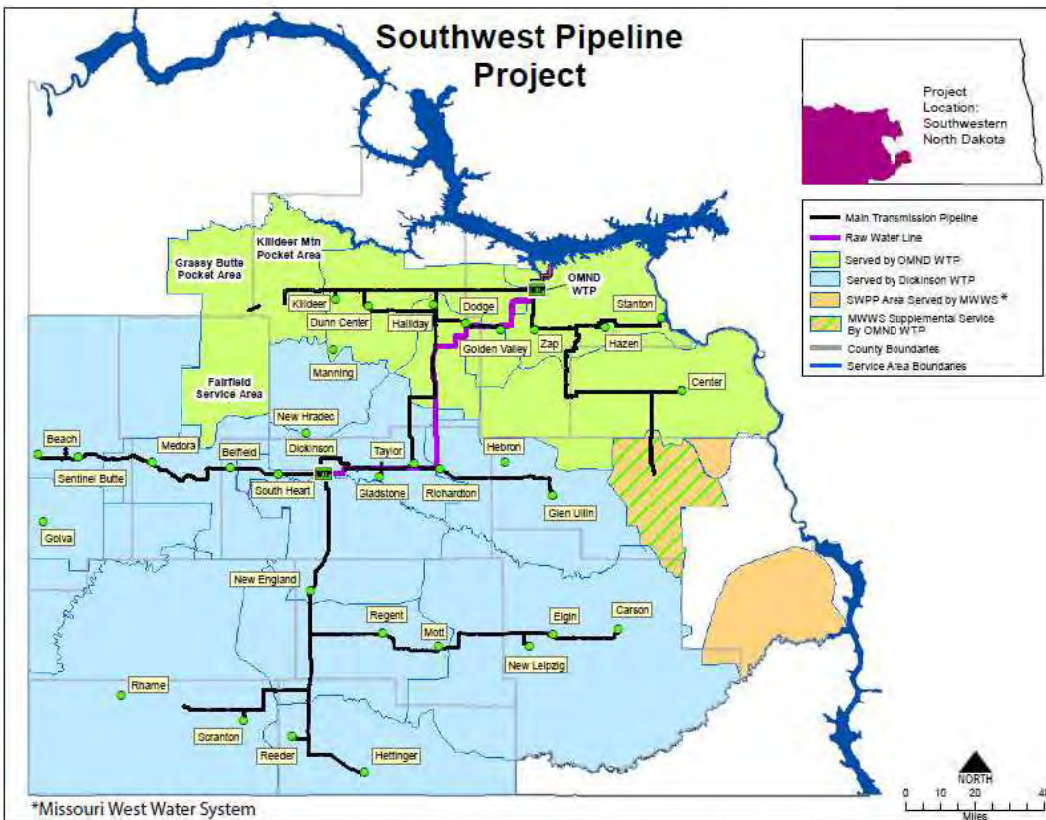
**July 9, 2026, Lower Red River Basin** – City Hall, Council Chambers, 255 N 4<sup>th</sup> St, Grand Forks, ND at 9:00 a.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Michael Anderson

**July 9, 2026, Devils Lake Basin** – Lake Region State College, Chautauqua Gallery, 1801 College Dr N, Devils Lake at 3:00 pm. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Jeff Frith

**July 15, 2026, Upper Missouri River Basin** – Rouch Rider Center (in coordination with Joint Summer Water Meeting), 2209 Wolves Den Pkwy, Watford City, ND at 2:30 p.m. CDT – Hosted by Commissioner Gene Veeder

# Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) Overview

SWPP is a regional water supply initiative intended to address chronic water supply constraints in southwestern North Dakota by developing a pipeline transmission and retail delivery system to supply water for domestic, rural, industrial, and municipal uses. **The project's total estimated cost is ~\$761.4M, per the 2025 water development plan.**



Category	Challenges to Address
<b>Governance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limited local control over build out decisions</li> <li>2. Need for a clear and strategic long-term build out and financial plan</li> </ol>
<b>Finance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. RTF short-term resource constraints pressured by 100% upfront funding</li> <li>4. Incentive mismatch in buildout decisions due to no upfront local investment</li> <li>5. REM reserves may not be sufficient</li> <li>6. Perpetual capital repayment obligation limits ability to reinvest those funds back into project if ownership transferred</li> </ol>

## SWPP Recommended Options Overview



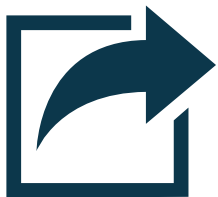
1

Keep Current Model with Improvements to Collaborative Process Between the State and Southwest Water Authority



2

Keep Current Governance Structure but Leverage Capital Repayment



3

Transfer Ownership to Southwest Water Authority and Leverage Capital Repayment to Equip SWA With Resources to Own Buildout/REM Costs

## SWPP Recommended Options – Option 1

### OPTION 1:

KEEP CURRENT  
MODEL WITH  
IMPROVEMENTS



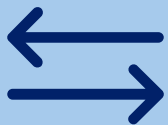
#### Key Actions:

- Establish two- and six-year planning process
- Co-develop a long-term financial plan
- Create plan for remaining system buildout



#### Benefits:

- Increases alignment on build out decisions
- State retains capital repayment stream



#### Tradeoffs:

- State remains responsible for full upfront cost
- Does not address cost-effectiveness incentive misalignment



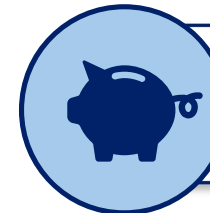
#### Asset Ownership:

- Remains with the State



#### Operations & Maintenance:

- Remains with SWA



#### Financing:

- Develop long-term financial plan

## SWPP Recommended Options – Option 2

### OPTION 2:

KEEP CURRENT  
GOVERNANCE  
AND LEVERAGE  
CAPITAL  
REPAYMENT



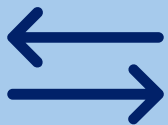
#### Key Actions:

- Implement actions from Option 1
- Reinvest Capital Repayment into SWPP
- Pledge stream as collateral to backstop financing



#### Benefits:

- Reduces upfront RTF investment
- Provides more long-term funding certainty



#### Tradeoffs:

- Eliminates capital repayment to RTF until financing is paid off
- Relatively complex to implement
- Adds interest expense



#### Asset Ownership:

- Remains with the State



#### Operations & Maintenance:

- Remains with SWA



#### Financing:

- Develop long-term financial plan
- Leverage Capital Repayment

## SWPP Recommended Options – Option 3

### OPTION 3:

#### TRANSFER OWNERSHIP TO SWA AND LEVERAGE CAPITAL REPAYMENT



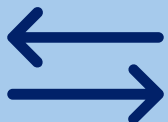
##### Key Actions:

- Transfer ownership to SWA
- Reinvest Capital Repayment into SWPP
- Pledge stream as collateral for financing



##### Benefits:

- Incentivizes efficient expansion decisions
- Reduces upfront RTF investment
- Increases clarity and certainty for SWA



##### Tradeoffs:

- Requires expansion of SWA capacity/budget
- Eliminates capital repayment to RTF
- Loss of state control over project
- Relatively complex to implement



##### Asset Ownership:

- Transfers to SWA



##### Operations & Maintenance:

- Remains with SWA



##### Financing:

- Develop long-term financial plan
- Leverage Capital Repayment

## SWPP Recommended Options – Summary

	Option 1: Keep Current Model with Improvements	Option 2: Keep Current Governance and Leverage Capital Repayment	Option 3: Transfer Ownership to SWA and Leverage Capital Repayment
<b>Key Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish two- and six-year planning process</li> <li>Co-develop a long-term financial plan</li> <li>Create plan for remaining system buildout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement actions from Option 1</li> <li>Reinvest Capital Repayment into SWPP</li> <li>Pledge stream as collateral for financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer ownership to SWA</li> <li>Reinvest Capital Repayment into SWPP</li> <li>Pledge stream as collateral for financing</li> </ul>
<b>Asset Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains with State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains with State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfers to SWA</li> </ul>
<b>O&amp;M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains with SWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains with SWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remains with SWA</li> </ul>
<b>Financing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop long-term financial plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop long-term financial plan</li> <li>Leverage capital repayment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop long-term financial plan</li> <li>Leverage capital repayment</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases alignment on build out decisions</li> <li>State retains capital repayment stream</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces upfront RTF investment</li> <li>Provides more long-term funding certainty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incentivizes efficient expansion decisions</li> <li>Reduces upfront RTF investment</li> <li>Increases clarity and certainty for SWA</li> </ul>
<b>Tradeoffs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State remains responsible for full upfront cost</li> <li>Does not address cost-effectiveness incentive misalignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates capital repayment to RTF until financing is paid off</li> <li>Relatively complex to implement</li> <li>Adds interest expense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires expansion of SWA capacity/budget</li> <li>Eliminates capital repayment to RTF</li> <li>Loss of state control over project</li> <li>Relatively complex to implement</li> </ul>

## MEMORANDUM

To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors, Staff  
From: Justin Froseth, PE, Southwest Pipeline Project Manager  
Subject: SWPP Project Update  
Date: April 28, 2026

### **Contract 1-2A Supplementary Raw Water Intake:**

With the mediated settlement complete for Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) Contract 1-2A, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) team is fully focused on developing a project needed to complete the supplementary intake for the SWPP. BW/AECOM is working on a Preliminary Design Report (PDR) for completing the supplementary intake.

As part of the PDR effort, multiple intake alignments within Renner Bay are being evaluated to identify the option that carries the least risk while remaining cost-effective. The project team continues discussions with the US Army Corp of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, and ND Game and Fish during the PDR development for best understanding of permitting responsibilities. The PDR includes alternatives through the existing caisson as well as alignments to the north.

DWR is working with BW/AECOM to finalize an amendment to the Specific Authorization that adds the following scope of works: discussion of the different contracting delivery methods for completing the construction of the supplementary raw water intake and the development of a plan for additional geotechnical exploration along the northern alignment.

### **Existing Intake Improvements:**

The pumps, electrical equipment, and valves needed for the existing intake improvement construction were procured directly by DWR ahead of the issuance of the construction contract completing the improvements to the existing intake. The funding authorization for the equipment bid was approved at the April SWC meeting.

With a successful bid opening of the equipment, the project team has been focused on the bid documents for the installation contract. The installation contract advertisement for bid was posted on April 24<sup>th</sup> for a bid opening of May 19<sup>th</sup>. With favorable bids, the plan is to bring a recommendation of approval to the June SWC meeting.

## **Distribution Upgrades – Strategic Plan**

### **Prong 1 Transmission Improvements**

#### **West Zone Main Transmission Expansion:**

At the October 2024 SWC meeting, the SWC approved proceeding with bid-ready documents for the highest capacity design, estimated at \$40.4 million, following the recommendation of DWR staff. The SA with BW/AECOM has been amended to include a topographical survey of the pipeline route. Bid-ready documents will be segmented to accommodate construction and budget constraints.

Upon receiving the West Zone PDR, DWR staff is moving forward with phase I improvements. Phase I improvements are a collection of projects that partially benefit all segments of the West Zone for roughly half the cost of the full build out identified. All phase I projects are ultimately needed for the full build out as well. DWR is currently focused on executing SAs with BW/AECOM to accomplish the phase I projects.

#### Buffalo Gap Tank:

The Buffalo Gap Tank was put into service in early December and has been performing as expected. The instrumentation and controls work is expected to commence in mid-May. Other miscellaneous items to complete and correction items are anticipated to start up soon. The substantial completion date for the project is June 15, 2026.

#### Ray Christensen Pump Station (RCPS) Preliminary Design Report (PDR):

BW/AECOM is working on the PDR that will identify the main components that will be needed for the capacity upgrades identified during the West Zone preliminary engineering. At the same time, projected future needs for the North and East Zone as well as the South Zone is determined in order to make sure that planning for future needs in those zones with near-term improvements to the West Zone capacity is accomplished. The draft report of the needs analysis of the South, North and East zones is under review by DWR and SWA. The review of this report will determine the design capacity for the South, North and East zone improvements.

### **Prong 2 Strategic Improvements**

#### North New England Strategic Hydraulic Improvements

In the fall of 2025, Wagner, the contractor, was able to install about 7,600 feet of pipeline on the project. They were also able to install most of the bored crossings. Winter weather required them to pause work until this spring.

Wagner was able to start back up with 2026 work beginning on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Pipeline installation will be the focus for the coming weeks. The booster stations will need to be installed later this year, after manufactured.

### **Prong 3– Expansion into Under-Served Areas**

Burt-Hebron Service Area:

The Hebron Rural Service Area Distribution Project Advertisement For Bid was first published on April 9<sup>th</sup> with an advertised bid opening date of May 5<sup>th</sup>. The advertisement appears to have generated a good amount of interest. Following the opening, the intent is to bring to June's SWC with a request to award if we received good bids.

SWA staff continue to work on acquiring the easements necessary for the project. The most recent update from SWA staff on easement progress for individuals is as follows:

Sent: 808

Obtained: 691(86%)

Refused: 42(5%)

Remaining: 75(9%)

The acquisition of easements has been a focus for SWA easement staff. In conjunction with SWA's work, the project team has been meeting weekly to discuss the specific landowner concerns. The effort will continue after bid opening but with the level of easement that have been acquired, the contractor will be able to install a lot of pipeline while the remaining easements are worked on.

**Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) Expansion:**

The current focus is on the elevated slab concrete. The elevated slab will essentially create the ceiling for the basement and the floor for the ground level. Two large elevated slabs have been poured to create a floor for the ground level for roughly the north 1/3 of the building. The elevated slabs also include coordination with the mechanical and electrical trades to ensure that conduit, plumbing, and other concrete penetrations are installed in accordance with the plans.

DWR has approved 28 WCDs to date at a total amount of about \$350,000. This includes the 17 WCDs under change order #2. The number and scope of these WCDs are within expectations for a project of this scale. 5% of the contract amount, about \$4.3M, was reserved as contingency for the unforeseen, such as these work changes that have been deemed necessary. SWC took action at the April meeting to preauthorize Director Haase to approve of project change orders up to a cumulative amount of the \$4.3M that was reserved in contingency.

SWTP project picture below taken on April 27, 2026



### **Metallic Pipeline Replacement:**

BW/AECOM is proceeding with final design of the metallic pipeline replacement project. This effort has included significant study of the pipe and protective cover along with dewatering needs in a wet environment. The bid advertisement is planned for later this year with the pipeline replacement planned to be ahead of the 2027 year peak water usage, in the summer season. The segments prioritized for this final design are those most affected by Microbiologically Induced Corrosion near Dodge, ND. The pipeline needed for this project will be owner procured separately, ahead of the construction bid.

DWR staff has directed BW/AECOM to design with the 42 inch pipe upsizing. The upsized portion would be fully funded by the state's capital improvements fund. This decision was covered in a memo to the SWC at the April SWC meeting.

### **Raw Water Implementation Study:**

BW/AECOM is making progress on SA 246, which includes an update to the raw water upgrades implementation plan completed in 2014; an alternative service study to Net-Zero, the Richardton ethanol facility; and a study of the expansion of SWPP raw water conveyance infrastructure. The draft report of the implementation plan was reviewed and discussed by DWR and SWA at a review meeting. BW/AECOM have made revisions based on the collaborative review.

Gevo is a partner in this study and the implementation plan was shared with Gevo as well. The monthly meetings with Gevo continue and more collaboration with them is expected

now the the alternatives will become more of the focuse with the study in the coming months.

**Dunn County Hydraulic Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report (PER):**

DWR and SWA completed an initial review of the PER and DWR then shared the draft with Dunn County. DWR and SWA staff welcome a meeting to discuss the draft when it works for any Dunn Co. staff or official.

# Project Funding

## Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) Funding Sources

### State Funding (in millions of dollars)

Resources Trust Fund .....	\$327.20
Water Development Trust Fund .....	\$8.55

#### Bonds

USDA – Rural Development .....	\$15.81
Public Revenue Bonds .....	\$7.05
ND Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund .....	\$1.50

**Subtotal .....** **\$360.11**

### Federal Funding

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District – Municipal Rural & Industrial (MR&I) Fund (ARRA Funding \$11.90) .....	\$105.63
USDA – Rural Development (RUS) .....	\$15.36
Natural Resources Conservation Service PL566 ..	\$0.93
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>\$121.92</b>

**Total Funding: \$486.53**

(As of March 31, 2026)



### Capital Replacement Funding

State Fiscal Recovery Fund .....	\$4.50
Replacement & Extraordinary Maintenance ....	\$2.14
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>\$6.64</b>

## Southwest Pipeline Project Funding Needs

Type of Project	Description	Detail	Estimated Project Cost
<b>2027-2029 Biennium Projects</b>			
Hydraulic Improvements	Strategic Hydraulic Improvements - Rural Needs	Prioritization Matrix	\$5,000,000
Rural Expansion	Rural Service Expansion	Rural Customers in either the Hebron or Burt Service Area	\$25,000,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	North and East Zone MTL Upgrade Design	Design of Upgrades to MTL	\$1,200,000
Raw Water	Raw Water Main Transmission Line Upgrades or Supplementary Intake		\$40,000,000
			<b>\$71,200,000</b>
<b>Proposed For 2029-2031 Biennium</b>			
Raw	Raw Water Upgrades		\$40,000,000
Intake	Supplementary Intake Pump Station		\$13,000,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	North and East Zone MTL Upgrades		\$10,800,000
Hydraulic Improvements	Strategic Hydraulic Improvements - Rural Needs		\$5,000,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	Southern Hebron Service Area Elevated Tank		\$2,400,000
Rural Expansion	Rural Service Area		\$16,600,000
			<b>\$77,000,000</b>
<b>Future Needs</b>			
Raw	Raw Water Upgrades	\$185,000,000 minus \$40,000,000 from previous funding	\$145,000,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	South Zone MTL Upgrades		\$20,000,000
Hydraulic Improvements	Strategic Hydraulic Improvements	Hydraulic Improvements and Rural Service Area Expansion Projects from the Prioritization Matrix	\$40,000,000
Rural Expansion	South Lake Tschida		\$8,300,000
Rural Expansion	Burt VFD Pocket Area		\$11,200,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	Ray Christensen Pump Station Upgrades East and South Zone Pump Improvements		\$4,000,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	Burt Elevated Tank and Mainline Booster		\$3,800,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	West Zone Ultimate Capacity		\$22,700,000
MTL Facility Upgrades	Service to Missouri West Water System for Flasher Area (MTL and Pump Upgrades)	Conceptual	\$20,800,000
			<b>\$275,800,000</b>
			<b>\$424,000,000</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$424,000,000</b>



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# MEMORANDUM

To: Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors  
From: Jen Murray, Manager/CEO  
Subject: SWA Construction and O&M Update – Incidental Information  
Date: April 29, 2026

This memo updates the SWA Board of Directors on ongoing and upcoming SWA Construction and O&M activities.

## SWA Construction:

The contract for relocating SWPP infrastructure along US Hwy 85 from the junction of Hwy 200 to the Long X Bridge was substantially completed on October 31, 2025. SWA and B&W continue to work with the NDDOT on final quantities for reimbursement.

The final punch list items have been completed and approved for the OMND WTP Roof Replacement. The final pay application will be generated soon.

Maguire Iron, Inc., was awarded the contract for the New England Tank Recoat and Rehabilitation. These contract documents have been executed. The substantial completion date on this project is October 31, 2026.

Corrosion on a portion of the floor panels of the New Hradec Tank were observed. SWA plans to repair it in 2026. Proposals have been requested from two separate vendors.

Bartlett & West (B&W) is working on a recommendation to remedy the unadhered interior coating of the surge chamber at the Richardton Booster Pump Station, which was observed in March 2026.

The metal sheeting around the perimeter of the first Dickinson Raw Water Reservoir has been a continued maintenance item due to wind lifting the sheet metal coping cap. SWA has requested recommendations from B&W for securing the coping cap.

B&W is drafting a Specific Authorization to begin work associated with conducting a Closed Interval Survey on the metallic line in the SWPP system. The CIS will look for anomalies in the Ductile Iron Pipe, which may indicate areas affected by MIC. This work was budgeted for REM in 2026.

## Treatment:

SWA returned the claim resolution letter to Evoqua on April 21, 2026. The resolution letter notes a 6-month special warranty period to evaluate performance of the fabricated plate hangers for the shifters on the press at the Residuals Handling Facility. SWA received confirmation that the components are on order. The castings will have a 12–16-week lead time.

Kurita continues to work on the replacement computer system and software program for the Southwest Water Treatment Plant. The project lead time was 26-30 weeks and was authorized in late September 2025. The water treatment plant manager contacted Kurita regarding the computer and programming on April 16, 2026. Kurita stated they are still working on the SCADA programming.

On April 7, 2026, the mixing pump for sludge basin #2 at the Residuals Handling Facility started leaking oil. New oil seals and mechanical seals were ordered and installed on April 30, 2026.

On April 8, 2026, the wind blew off a skylight and damaged a small portion of the membrane roof at the Finished Water Pump Station. A temporary cover has been placed over the opening until the new skylight arrives. The membrane roof was repaired on April 21, 2026. While the repair contractor was on site several holes in the mechanical curbs and pitch pans on the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant were repaired.

On April 17, 2026, the water treatment plant manager opened proposals for water treatment chemicals. A total of ten proposals were received and open. The bid award letters were sent out on April 28, 2026.

On April 24, 2026, the fence surrounding the emergency sludge ponds was repaired. Extra posts were added to prevent the wind from blowing down the fence.

#### Distribution Operations:

On April 1, 2026, staff responded to fail alarms at the Intake that prevented pumps from running. When Intake PB1 was tested it began to throw sparks from the PB1 motor openings and caused electrical power failures on the other pumps. Pump 1 was tagged out/locked out. Pump 2, 3, and 4, run as intended. Intake PB1 was removed and taken to Great Plains Technical Services (GPTS) for repair. GPTS reported that the motor would need to be rewound and provided a cost estimate of \$29,000. GPTS is hoping to have Intake PB1 motor repaired by mid-May of 2026. The Intake PB1 motor/pump will be replaced with the Intake pump station upgrades in the Spring of 2027.

On April 14, 2026, staff provided access and ran pumps for GPTS technicians so that they could vibration test motors and pumps at the Ray Christensen Pump Station, Fryburg, Beach, Jung Lake, Bucyrus, Scranton, and Burt BPS.

On April 15, 2026, staff cleaned the Contract 3-1B and 3-1A Zap Raw Water Reservoirs. Several small Aquatapox repairs were made in both reservoirs, and some rust was noted on the roof beams. Overall, both reservoirs were in good condition.

On April 16, 2026, staff ran Intake pumps off 4160 Volt generator power in response to Roughrider Electric Cooperative planned power outage so that Coteau Mine could move their shovel. Once utility power was restored the Intake pumps went back to running off utility power.

On April 22, 2026, staff cleaned the 1<sup>st</sup> Richardton Reservoir and removed 3” – 5” of sediment. The reservoir was in good condition with only a few Aquatapox repairs made to the interior coating of the tank.

On April 24, 2026, staff ran south zone pump 2 at RCPS under generator load as part of a 4-hour run under load as recommended by Butler Cat. Staff shut the generator down after ¾ of an hour when they noticed radiator coolant from the overflow tube on the floor. Staff ran South zone pump 3 under generator load for an hour and then added pump 2 to the run which caused the generator to overheat and spill coolant onto the floor. The generator was shut down and locked out/tagged out until Cummins mechanics can look at it when they are on-site for the scheduled maintenance inspection on May 6, 2026.

On April 24, 2026, staff responded to a request from BEK Consulting (BEK) for assistance with finding the 4” Yelomine that Cordova Construction relocated by directional drill method for the Chateau Road improvement during the 2025 construction season in Medora, ND. BEK had already installed the 2” Yelomine for the subsequent Demores State Historic Site. The search for the 4” Yelomine continued with BEK’s mini excavator and SWA staff assistance throughout the morning of April 27, 2026. BEK chose to hire a hydrovac to resume the search with SWA’s assistance on April 28, 2026, as BEK’s mini excavator could not dig deeper than the present depth of 15”. The depth of the 4” Yelomine that Cordova installed was found six inches deeper than what BEK had dug with their mini excavator.

#### Lead Service Line Inventory:

SWA staff continue to collect information for the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) for the NDDEQ. SWA has collected inventories from 5,069 accounts, or 64.5% of all connections. The survey link remains active on the SWA website, and O&M staff continue to collect the information during routine operations and new connections.

## Staff

Congratulations to Grace Dailey, Billing Representative, on her 5-year work anniversary!

Congratulations to Deana Carstens, Signup and Easement Assistant, on her 10-year work anniversary!

Grammond hosted a Water Treatment Plant tour on Monday, April 13, 2026, for college students from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

In April, Misti Conzemius and Andy Erickson attended the Southwest Area Safety Association monthly meeting with guest speaker Ryan Schmaltz from North Dakota One Call.

SWA will be in attendance for the Southwest Career and Technical Education Academy Expo on Thursday, May 7, 2026. This Expo is an opportunity to connect with the future workforce of Southwest North Dakota.

Ledeanna O’Shields attended the NDIRF HR Collaborative Conference in Bismarck on April 22 and 23, 2026. The conference covered a multitude of topics such as building company culture, recruitment and selection, navigating health issues in the workplace, and key functions of government HR systems and public processes.





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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jen Murray, Manager/CEO, Southwest Water Authority  
**FROM:** Misti Conzemius, Marketing Manager, Southwest Water Authority  
**SUBJECT:** Report for April, 2026  
**RE:** Marketing Manager's Incidental Information  
**DATE:** April 23, 2026

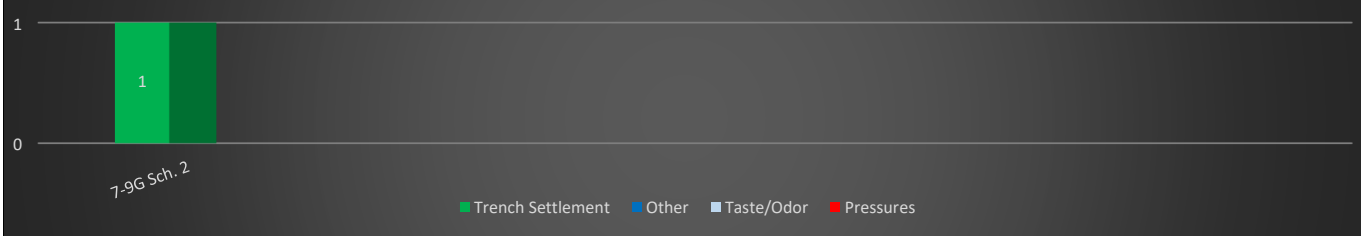
**APRIL 2026 SIGN-UP REPORT**

**SUBSEQUENT CUSTOMERS**

NAME	TYPE OF CUSTOMER	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
Ryan Kilwein	Standard	7-2 New England	139-96-8
Ryan Kilwein	Standard	7-2 New England	139-96-8
Ron Buckman	Standard	7-2A Belfield	139-98-3
Kim & Dawn Thiel	Standard	7-2A Belfield	139-97-7
Erik Jolliffe	Standard	7-1B Davis Buttes	140-96-9

Five (5) subsequent customer signed up in April and 21 subsequent customers have been added year-to-date. A total of 45 customer quotes have been given year-to-date. SWA had a total of 3070 active subsequent users in April.

**2026 COMPLAINTS**



Zero (0) complaints were called in during the month of April.  
 Zero (0) complaints were closed during the month of April.  
 Open complaints are shown above by area and type.  
 Open complaint numbers may not include landowner/customer concerns handled in the field.

**WAITING LIST UPDATE**

Four (4) water requests have been added to the waiting list during the month of April.  
 There are currently 785 requests system wide.

**BURT, HEBRON SERVICE AREA**

To date 3148 sign up packets have been mailed. Of the 3148 packets, 2707 are Rural and 441 are Lake Tschida. 928 signups have been returned. Of the 928 signups, 629 or 68% are Rural and 299 or 32% are Lake Tschida. 488 are Hebron Rural including North Lake Tschida, and 440 are Burt Rural including South Lake Tschida.

**SYSTEM WIDE SERVICE REQUESTS**

There are currently 785 waiting list requests and 928 Burt Hebron Campaign Signups for a total of 1,713 requests system wide

**HEBRON RURAL & MAIN TRANSMISSION LINE EASEMENTS**

To date a total of 687 easements have been mailed for the Hebron Rural Area. A total of 584 easements or 85% have been signed and returned.

To date a total of 115 easements have been mailed for the Main Transmission Line. A total of 101 easements or 88% have been signed and returned.

**WAITING LIST REQUESTS BY CLASSIFICATION**

SERVICE AREA	WAITING LIST START DATE	STD	PT	HC	OTHER	TOTAL
7-1B DAVIS BUTTES	10/3/2022	13	2	0	0	15
7-1B NEW HRADEC		0	0	0	0	0
7-2 NEW ENGLAND*	3/6/2012	140	29	5	0	174
7-2A BELFIELD	3/6/2013	1	0	0	1	2
7-3 JUNG LAKE	3/1/2016	25	7	2	0	34
7-4 BUCYRUS		0	0	0	0	0
7-5 HEBRON**	5/30/2017	3	1	0	0	4
7-6 BURT**	3/15/2012	58	30	1	0	89
7-7 BOWMAN	6/13/2012	77	38	7	1	123
7-8 BEACH	10/5/2011	33	33	2	0	68
7-8 FRYBURG	6/20/2016	7	6	1	3	17
7-8C TOWER HILL/JUNCTION INN/ NORTH CROWN BUTTE	TOWER HILL-7/29/2015 JUNCTION INN-12/1/2015 N. CROWN BUTTE-1/20/2021	43	33	3	0	79
7-8 FAIRFIELD/GRASSY BUTTE POCKET	10/17/2016	18	44	2	1	65
7-9B KILLDEER MOUNTAIN		0	0	0	0	0
7-9E WEST CENTER	7/24/2019	16	17	0	0	33
7-9G DUNN CENTER	10/20/2017	37	39	1	2	79
7-9G HALLIDAY	1/3/2021	1	2	0	0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>		472	281	24	8	785

\*Intent forms signed for hydraulic improvement project in this area will decrease waiting list numbers by a total of 111.

\*\*Current signups from Burt and Hebron service areas will decrease waiting list numbers by 93.

Updated through April 23, 2026



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<b>County</b>	<b>Waiting List Locations</b>	<b>Standard Service</b>	<b>Pasture Tap Service</b>	<b>High Consumption</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Adams</b>	25 locations	12	12	1	0
<b>Billings</b>	73 locations	20	49	2	2
<b>Bowman</b>	81 locations	50	26	4	1
<b>Dunn</b>	86 locations	46	37	1	2
<b>Golden Valley</b>	70 locations	33	33	2	2
<b>Grant</b>	54 locations	43	11	0	0
<b>Hettinger</b>	51 locations	32	16	3	0
<b>Mercer</b>	31 locations	16	15	0	0
<b>Morton</b>	106 locations	57	46	3	0
<b>Oliver</b>	1 location	1	0	0	0
<b>Slope</b>	61 locations	36	20	5	0
<b>Stark</b>	146 locations	126	16	3	1
<b>Grassy Butte (McKenzie County)</b>	0 locations	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Waiting List</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>

Other: Subdivisions, Additional Capacity, or Higher Usage

Updated through April 23, 2026

# North Dakota WATER COALITION

PO Box 2254  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 223-4330  
FAX (701) 223-4645

Barnes Rural Water District  
Cass County Government  
Cass County Joint Board  
City of Bismarck  
City of Devils Lake  
City of Fargo  
City of Grafton  
City of Grand Forks  
City of Lisbon  
City of Minot  
City of Valley City  
City of West Fargo  
City of Williston  
Department of Environmental  
Quality  
Devils Lake Basin Joint Board  
East Central Regional Water  
District  
Fort Berthold Rural Water  
Garrison Diversion  
Conservancy District  
Lake Agassiz Water Authority  
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water  
Mercer County Water Resource  
District  
Missouri River Joint Water  
Board  
Morton County Water  
Resource District  
North Dakota Association of  
Counties  
North Dakota Irrigation  
Association  
North Dakota League of Cities  
North Dakota Public Finance  
Authority  
North Dakota Rural Water  
Systems Association  
North Dakota Water Resource  
Districts Association  
North Dakota Water Users  
Association  
North Dakota Weather  
Modification Association  
North Prairie Regional Water  
District  
Northwest Area Water Supply  
Red River Joint Water Board  
Souris River Joint Board  
South Central Regional Water  
District  
Southwest Water Authority  
Stutsman Rural Water District  
Western Area Water Supply

## North Dakota Water Coalition Membership Meeting

May 11, 2026

2:30 p.m. CT  
ZOOM

*The North Dakota Water Coalition is an organization of organizations.  
Its mission is to complete North Dakota's water infrastructure  
for economic growth and quality of life, by achieving  
consensus on both water funding and water policy issues.*

- 
- I. Call to order**
  - II. Legislatively directed study on the State Water Commission's cost share policy**  
*Reice Haase, ND Department of Water Resources*
  - III. Discussion on presentation**
  - IV. Approval of minutes**  
*December 10, 2024*  
*March 11, 2025*
  - V. Other Business**
  - VI. Adjourn**

### **ZOOM Information:**

Topic: North Dakota Water Coalition  
Time: May 11, 2026 02:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84485782320>

Meeting ID: 844 8578 2320

One tap mobile: 1-253-205-0468



April 7, 2026

Jen Murray  
Southwest Water Authority  
4665 2nd St. SW  
Dickinson, ND 58601

Dear Jen:

On behalf of the North Dakota Water Education Foundation (NDWEF), thank you for your past sponsorship of the Summer Water Tours. Tour participation in 2025 was excellent, and many positive reviews were received.


The water tours in 2026 will showcase interesting water stops in Carrington, Watford City, Dickinson, Belcourt, and Bismarck. *Your continued support of these water tours with a \$3,000 contribution to the 2026 water tour program would be greatly appreciated.*

As you know, our water tours offer a firsthand look at North Dakota's critical water challenges and opportunities. Through these tours, we offer a chance for policy makers and interested citizens to learn more about how North Dakota manages and develops our water resources across the state. Tour participants visit locations throughout the state and learn from a variety of speakers about critical water issues.

With your sponsorship, the NDWEF can continue to offer tours at an affordable rate for all participants. As a sponsor, you and/or your representatives are welcome to participate in any of the tours. A description of the tours planned for 2026 is enclosed.

For your convenience, an invoice is enclosed for the requested amount. Please contact me at 701-425-0074 or [jellingson@ndwater.net](mailto:jellingson@ndwater.net) if you need additional information. The NDWEF appreciates your past sponsorship and hopes to continue this partnership in 2026.

Sincerely,



Julie Ellingson  
Events Director

# North Dakota Water Education Foundation

## Summer Water Tours 2026

*North Dakota Water Education Foundation tours offer a firsthand look at North Dakota's critical water issues and initiatives. Visit sites across the state in a series of one-day tours which include a variety of professionals and local leaders representing different viewpoints. Tour participants learn about water supply, fish and wildlife conservation, water quality, flood protection, water conservation, irrigation, and beneficial water use. Individual registration is \$40 per person per tour and includes tour transportation, lunch, refreshments, informational material, and a digital subscription to the North Dakota Water magazine.*

### **Carrington – Tuesday, June 30**

#### **Meeting Water Supply Needs in Central North Dakota and the Red River Valley**

Learn how the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District is working to secure a stronger future by providing a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit North Dakotans. Visit Cows & Co Creamery, a family dairy where gelato, cheese, yogurt, and milk is made fresh from farm ingredients. Tour Dakota Growers Pasta Company, the third largest pasta manufacturer in North America, where wheat from North Dakota's farmers is transformed into premium quality dry pasta products in more than 150 shapes. Learn about a local collaborative water management project, Kittleson Crossing. This tour begins and ends in Carrington.

### **Watford City – Thursday, July 16**

#### **Industry Growth Fueled by Water**

In the last 15 years, the population in northwest North Dakota has increased by more than 57%, and meeting the needs of a growing population is paramount. The tour will highlight how the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWS) is tapped to meet critical municipal, rural, and industrial water needs. Learn about the region's growth impacts from the Keene Fire Department. Tour a natural gas processing plant. Visit Meadowlark Acres, a local farm-to-table produce farm. Find out how irrigation enhances agriculture in western North Dakota. This tour begins and ends in Watford City.

### **Dickinson – Thursday, July 30**

#### **Bully! For a Sustainable Future**

Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> year and be one of the first to visit the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, which opens July 4, and learn about its commitment to sustainability. Enjoy a fresh brew and tour of Phat Fish Brewing in Dickinson. Visit the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant and learn about the Southwest Pipeline Project and its impressive 35-year impact on the region. Get an inside look at industry with a tour of Marathon Petroleum's renewable diesel facility. This tour begins and ends in Dickinson.

### **Belcourt – Monday, August 3**

#### **A Tribal View of Water**

Nibi (water) is sacred and vital to all life within the environment. Learn how the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa views water and uses this vital natural resource for drinking, agriculture, and environmental health. Travel to the United States-Canada border and enjoy the International Peace Garden, a living monument to the ideals of friendship and cooperation among nations (*passport or birth certificate and photo ID required*). This tour begins and ends in Belcourt.

### **Bismarck – Wednesday, August 12**

#### **Protecting and Regenerating for a Positive Outlook**

Learn how North Dakota's second biggest city is planning on protecting its citizens with its flood control project. Visit Lake Oahe and learn how sedimentation impacts the lake. Tour Menoken Farms and discover how it is leading the way in soil regeneration. Learn about innovative irrigation practices in the area. This tour begins and ends in Bismarck.

**North Dakota  
Water Resource  
Districts Association**

JACK P. DWYER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
701-730-5469 (c) • jack@ndwaterlaw.com  
P.O. Box 2254 • Bismarck, North Dakota 58502  
701-223-4615 (o) • staff@ndwater.net

MEMO: April 8, 2026  
TO: North Dakota Water Leaders  
FROM: Harold Gaugler, President  
RE: 2026 Joint Summer Water Meeting

The 2026 North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association and North Dakota Water Users Association Joint Summer Water Meeting is scheduled for **July 15-16 at the Rough Rider Center in Watford City.**

Please see the attached draft agenda for full details on what will be included during this year's conference. Highlights include a Department of Water Resources update, including an update on the proposal to adjust the State Water Commission's cost share policy; a presentation on the future of the oil industry, which directly ties to available state water funding; and a panel discussion on the connection between water and energy. The sessions fulfill water manager training requirements.

The Upper Missouri River Basin State Water Commission Commissioner-hosted meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference. The conference will conclude with a tour of the Watford City area.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at MainStay Suites, Roosevelt Inn & Suites, Little Missouri Inn & Suites, and Teddy's Residential Suites. Room reservation deadlines are **June 12 or 14**, so book early! Complete hotel booking information is available at <https://ndwater.org/events/2026summermeeting/>.

If you have any questions, contact Julie Ellingson at 701-223-4615 or [jellingson@ndwater.net](mailto:jellingson@ndwater.net).

We hope that you will make plans to attend this informative event.

# Joint Summer Water Meeting

ND Water Resource Districts Association and ND Water Users Association

## July 15-16, 2026

### Rough Rider Center | Watford City, ND

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration – *Corridor*

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Water Users Association Board Meeting – *Classroom*

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Updates from the Department of Water Resources  
– *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

- Reice Haase, Director, Department of Water Resources

11:15 a.m. – Noon

The Future of the Oil Industry – *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

- Justin Kringstad, Director, Pipeline Authority

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch – Welcome from Watford City Mayor (invited) – *Silver/Gold Rooms*

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Water and Energy Nexus Panel – *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

- Commissioner Gene Veeder, State Water Commission, Moderator
- Senator Dale Patten, District 26
- Joel Brown, McKenzie County Commissioner
- Kyle Hartel, Co-Founder and Owner, Elkan Water
- Chris Barke, Executive Director, Western Area Water Supply Authority

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

State Water Commission's Commissioner Hosted Basin Meeting  
– *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Social – *Silver/Gold Rooms*

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

#### THURSDAY, JULY 16

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Missouri River Joint Water Board Meeting – *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Souris River Joint Board Meeting – *Classroom*

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Water Resource Districts Association Board Meeting  
– *Diamond/Opal/Emerald Rooms*

10:00 a.m.

Load Bus for Watford City Tour – *Front entrance of Rough Rider Center*

4:30 p.m.

Tour ends



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Jen Murray, Manager/CEO

**From:** Wendy Serhienko, Executive Assistant

**Subject:** Partner Annual Meetings – Incidental Information

**Date:** April 20, 2026

Grand Electric's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026, with registration at 5:00 p.m. and the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. MDT. It will be held at the West River Cooperative Telephone Company Warehouse, 801 Coleman Ave, Bison, SD.

West River Telephone's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday June 5, 2026, with registration and lunch starting at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting starting at 1:00 p.m. CDT. It will be held at the Hazen High School Gymnasium, 520 First Ave NE, Hazen, ND.

Roughrider Electric's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026, CDT, with registration starting at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. It will be held at Hazen High School, 520 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE Hazen, ND.

Slope Electric's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026, with registration starting at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. MDT. It will be held at the Amidon Fairgrounds in Amidon, ND.

McKenzie Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the McKenzie County Ag Expo, 12880 25<sup>th</sup> St NW, Watford City, ND. Registration and dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. CDT.

Consolidated's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, with registration and dinner starting at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. MDT. It will be held at Trinity High School, 810 Empire Road, Dickinson, ND.

Goldenwest Electric's Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15, 2026, with registration and dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. MDT. It will be held at the Wibaux County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 7900 Highway 7, Wibaux, MT.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Mandan Service Center, 2719 34<sup>th</sup> St NW, Mandan, ND, with registration starting at 4:00 p.m., the business meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m., and supper at 6:00 p.m. CDT.

A director normally attends these meetings to represent SWA. I would request that a director volunteer or be appointed by Chairperson Odermann to attend these annual meetings.



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**Our Vision:** People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water    **Our Mission:** Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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# M E M O R A N D U M

**To:** Jen Murray, Manager/CEO, SWA

**From:** Wendy Serhienko, Executive Assistant, SWA

**Subject:** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “Make A Splash” Water Festival – Incidental Information

**Date:** April 21, 2026

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual “Make a Splash” Water Festival was held Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, 2026, at the West River Ice Center. There were 12 schools from six towns with a total of 516 fifth graders in attendance. We had eight educational stations with eight presenters. Project WET Facilitators were coordinated by Tina Harding-Iken, North Dakota Department of Water Resources. The Dickinson High School Science Club provided volunteers for the educational sessions.

Family Night, which is free and open to the public, returned this year with free swimming along with water education materials. This took place at the West River Community Center on March 7, 2026, with approximately 75 families in attendance.

Sponsors for this year’s event were: Dunn County, Stark and Billings Soil Conservation Districts and Dickinson Parks and Recreation.

Thank you to the Department of Water Resources, Project WET facilitators, SWA staff and sponsors for making this event a great success.

5.4.26



## Compensation Study Overview

SOUTHWEST WATER  
AUTHORITY



# About Us

Graves Consulting is a Human Resources consulting firm specializing in the Public Sector. We work with organizations throughout Colorado, North Dakota, Wyoming and Oklahoma on a variety of projects, including compensation, employee retention, organizational culture, leadership development and performance management.

# Project Overview – Comp Study

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## Intent

- Allow the Authority to continue to recruit and retain top talent
- Ensure employees are paid competitively to market

## Scope

- Gather current compensation data from valid survey sources that reflect the Authority's labor market
- Provide recommendations to revise the Authority's pay structure and place all positions based on current market value
- Provide recommendations for implementation of pay structure and ongoing structure maintenance

# Data Sources

- 
- Data was gathered from three data sources:
    - PayFactors (ND cut of the data, includes public and private sector entities)
    - CompAnalyst (ND cut of the data, includes public and private sector entities)
    - AWWA (Water Industry specific data cut to the Authority's size and region)
  - Data collected represents actual wages being paid to other employees doing similar work
  - Data was scrubbed to reflect the specific nature of the work at the Authority

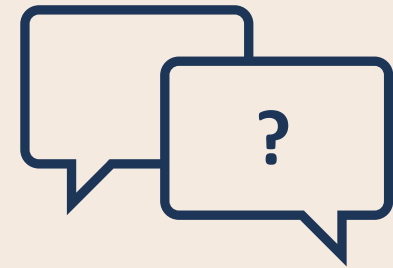
# Results

- 
- A new pay structure has been designed, and each position has been placed in the grade that aligns with the market value of that role
  - Employees will be placed in their pay range based on their years of experience and performance (preventing/relieving pay compression)
  - Based on this implementation, pay increase percentages for employees will vary
  - The budget impact of the pay adjustments will be factored into the budgeting process
  - The structure will be adjusted in the future as labor rates increase and Graves Consulting will continue to support the Authority in making those adjustments

# Manager/CEO Data

- Blended Market Average is \$190,255:
  - PayFactors: \$176,846
  - CompAnalyst: \$213,931
  - AWWA: \$179,988
- Based on this, we have placed this position in the following pay range:
  - Minimum: \$151,900 (~~\$142,089\*~~)
  - Midpoint: \$189,875 (~~\$170,064\*~~) ← *\*Current Pay Range*
  - Maximum: \$227,850 (~~\$200,329\*~~)
- Increase in Range of 11.5%
- Actual pay within the range is typically based on years of experience with 8-10 years of experience falling around Midpoint

# Questions & Discussion



**AGENDA**

**Perkins County Rural Water System Board Meeting**

**Date: April 9th, 2026 Time: 4:30 PM**

**PCRWS Office, Bison, SD**

- 1. Call to Order.....President
  - A) Additions and Approval of Agenda\*\* .....Board
  - B) Minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026\*\* .....Board
- 2. Financial Report.....
  - A) Approve paid and unpaid bills\*\* .....Board
  - B) Financial Reports\*\* .....Board
- 3. Delegations
- 4. Bartlett & West.....Nathan Danner
- 5. Managers Report.....Staff
- 6. Directors Reports.....Board
- 7. All Other Matters.....Board

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting**

**Date: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Time: 4:30 pm**

**\*\*BOARD ACTION NECESSARY**

Perkins County Rural Water System, Inc.  
104 West Main Street PO Box 160 Bison, SD 57620-0160  
Tele: (605)244-5608 Fax: (605)244-5926  
E-MAIL: [pcrws@sdplains.com](mailto:pcrws@sdplains.com) WEBSITE: [www.pcrws.com](http://www.pcrws.com)

March 12, 2026

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by President Don Melling at **4:40** PM MT at the Perkins County Rural Water Sys. Inc. boardroom in Bison, SD. Other directors present were Brian Morris, Pat Dalzell, Lynn Frey and Luke Clements (4:58 pm). Board members absent were none. Also in attendance were Nathan Danner, Bartlett & West, Shiloh Baysinger and Brandi Baysinger, staff.

#### **Agenda**

Motion by **Pat Dalzell**, seconded by **Lynn Frey**, to approve agenda, motion passed.

#### **Minutes**

Motion by **Lynn Frey**, seconded by **Brian Morris**, to approve the February 12th, 2026, minutes, motion passed.

#### **Financial Report**

Motion by **Don Melling**, seconded by **Pat Dalzell**, to approve paid and unpaid bills, motion passed.

Motion by **Don Melling**, seconded by **Brian Morris**, to approve financial reports, motion passed.

#### **Delegations**

None.

#### **Bartlett & West**

Nathan Danner was present to report on where we stand. USDA RD has reviewed our project but still keeps coming back with comments and for the current funding cycle they do not have much grant money available but could get the loan portion at a potentially lower rate. Task Order for the evaluated tank and pipeline replacement was presented with plans ready for November 2026.

Motion by Luke Clements to sign task order, seconded by Don Melling, motion passed.

#### **Managers' Report**

Shiloh Baysinger reported on direct power installed to Prairie City generator and get things going to the border meter pit again. MicroComm service contract for 2026/2027 \$6,725 was received. BOR has another grant application open that Shiloh is interested in applying for future work. We have had a few service location requests come in. Grand River Township reached out regarding the graveling of Lyle Rd and if we would be interested in assisting as we do not pay property taxes and the main pump station is located along the road. Discussion was held and no action was taken.

Motion by Luke Clements, seconded by Lynn Frey to approved MicroComm service contract, motion passed.

#### **Director's Report**

Lynn Frey reported on the next meeting in April. He also shared an article about the need for water around the world and a few of the interesting items he has noted.

#### **All Other Matters**

None

Meeting adjourned at **5:29** pm MT

Next meeting April 9th, 2026, at 4:30 pm MT.

**Southwest Water Authority  
Board of Directors**

**Parking Lot  
May 4, 2026**

Item

Date put on Parking Lot

Agenda Date

# Planning Agenda

DATE: Monday, June 1, 2026 TIME: 9:00 A.M. MDT LOCATION: SWA O&M Center Office  
 ASSIGNMENTS

- |                                                |                                                     |                                |                                |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Director Eaton</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Wendy Serhienko</u>     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| Scribe/Flip Chart                              | Minutes                                             | Reporter                       |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Director Engelhardt</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| Timekeeper                                     | Process Observer                                    | Warm-up                        |                                |

MEETING OBJECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_

PLAN		ACTUAL CLOCK	AGENDA ITEMS	WHO	METHOD	DESIRED OUTCOMES
TIME	CLOCK START					
			Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance			Meeting readiness
			Review Agenda			Additions, focus meeting
			Consent Agenda		Voice Vote	Meet legal requirements
			Policy III.B. Board Governance Process-Board Job Description		Monitoring	
			Review issues pending / Parking Lot / Plan next agenda			
			Monitoring			
			Adjourn			

**IV. POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RELATIONSHIP**  
**C. POLICY TITLE: *MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS***

**Adopted 12/6/99 - Amended 3/4/02; 3/3/03; 3/1/04; 2/7/05; 2/6/06; 2/5/07; 8/6/07; 5/5/08; 5/4/09; 5/3/10; 5/4/11; 5/7/12; 5/6/13; 4/7/14; 5/4/2015; 5/2/16; 5/1/17; 5/7/18; 5/6/19; 6/3/19; 5/4/20; 5/3/21; 5/2/22; 5/1/23; 5/6/24; 5/5/25**

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The SWA Board will pay its manager/Chief Executive Officer fair market value for services within the context of fiscal responsibility to the organization. Comparable compensation and benefit packages will be researched by the Executive Committee. The Board will review benefits and adjustments to the range annually.

1. Based on AWWA 2021 Compensation Survey for the average of all water systems serving a population of 10,000 to 50,000 and board operated water systems, which is adjusted yearly by the Consumer Price Index, the salary range is:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2023-CPI-8.25%</u>	<u>2024-CPI-3.66%</u>	<u>2025-CPI 2.53%</u>
Beginning	\$ 117,577	\$133,690	\$138,583	\$ 142,089
Mid	\$ 140,725	\$160,011	\$165,867	\$ 170,063
End	\$ 165,768	\$188,487	\$195,385	\$ 200,328

2. The Executive Committee will research and determine need for third-party review of compensation.

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**MONITORING:**

*Method: Board of Directors Internal Report*  
*Frequency: Annually*  
*Month: May*

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**IV. POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RELATIONSHIP**  
**C. POLICY TITLE: *MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS***

**Adopted 12/6/99 - Amended 3/4/02; 3/3/03; 3/1/04; 2/7/05; 2/6/06; 2/5/07; 8/6/07; 5/5/08; 5/4/09; 5/3/10; 5/4/11; 5/7/12; 5/6/13; 4/7/14; 5/4/2015; 5/2/16; 5/1/17; 5/7/18; 5/6/19; 6/3/19, 5/4/20, 5/3/21; 5/2/22; 5/1/23; 5/6/24; 5/5/25**

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End	\$ 165,768	\$188,487	\$ 195,385	\$200,328

	<u>2026-CPI 2.91%</u>	<u>2026 - AWWA</u>	<u>2026 - Graves</u>
Beginning	\$ 146,238	\$156,190	\$151,900
Mid	\$ 175,028	\$179,988	\$189,875
End	\$ 206,177	\$215,980	\$277,850

- The Executive Committee will research and determine need for third-party review of compensation.

**MONITORING:**

*Method: Board of Directors Internal Report*  
*Frequency: Annually*  
*Month: May*

**Minutes of Meeting  
Southwest Water Authority  
Executive Committee  
April 28, 2026  
Southwest Water Authority O&M Center Office in Dickinson**

**1. Call to Order**

The Southwest Water Authority Executive Committee met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Chairperson Odermann called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. MDT.

Present at the meeting were: Chairperson James Odermann, Vice-Chairperson Jonathan Eaton and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Tietz. Also present was Jen Murray, SWA Manager/CEO, Ledeanne O'Shields, SWA CFO/Office Administrator and Laurie Graves with Graves Consulting.

Chairperson Odermann noted that a change of approving the Executive Committee Meeting minutes would be added to the agenda.

**2. Agenda**

Odermann noted that the Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved at the Board level but needed to be approved at the Executive Committee level.

*Motion by Director Mike Tietz, Second by Director Eaton, to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent.*

**3. Manager/CEO Evaluation Review**

**3.A. Salary Survey**

Murray noted that the Board approved the hiring of a consulting firm to review all wages for SWA staff. The consulting firm that was hired is Graves Consulting.

Owner, Laurie Graves, discussed the intent of the compensation study along with the scope of the analysis. Data used for the analysis was collected from Payfactors, Comp Analyst and American Water Works Association. Each used the jobs related to SWA industry and regional location. The firm will be providing recommendations for pay structure, implementation, financial impact and ongoing structure maintenance. Emphasis on cost of labor is not equal to cost of living, and applying consistency across all roles within the company. Taking into consideration relevant and equivalent experience when placement is made within a pay range.

Graves reviewed the data related the Manager/CEO position, and noted that the recommended midpoint is an range increase of 11.5% from the current rage. It was also noted that pay within the range is the Executive Committee, and full Boards decision.

**3.B Policy IV.C Board-Manager/CEO Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits**

The committee discussed what options to include on the Policy IV.C Board-Manager/CEO Relationship – Manager/CEO Compensation and Benefits that will be brought to the SWA Board of Directors on May 6, 2026. Included for the SWA board will be prior year range increased by the Consumer Pricing Index, the AWWA 2025 Salary Survey aged by 3% and the Graves Consulting range. Staff will have available an alternative pay structure based on relevance 50% for AWWA, 25% from Payfactors and 25% for Comp Analyst.

### 3. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairperson Odermann adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m. MDT.

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Jim Odermann, Chairperson

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Mike Tietz, Secretary/Treasurer