



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

Southwest Water Authority Mill Levy Information

- Promise of quality water for southwest North Dakota started in 1970's
- Promise grew into construction in 1980's
- Promise of water to southwest North Dakota has changed – region has grown exponentially – promise must change too
- Southwest Water Authority currently has the ability to tax at one mill
- Provides local and regional support for Southwest Water Authority and water development
- Is southwest North Dakota's "Skin in the Game"
- Provides future economic welfare and prosperity of the people of southwest North Dakota
- All of southwest North Dakota benefits from Southwest Water Authority so those benefitting in the region are supporting – not just those receiving water
- Mill levy established with a sunset - sponsors felt creation of Southwest Water Authority would not pass with a permanent mill levy
- Sponsors felt it was essential Southwest Water Authority be created so passed with a temporary mill levy
- Mill levy has been extended three times
- Some suggest it was intended only for construction - not the case
- State and Federal Government contributed more than \$382 million for construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project – mill levy shows local support for the Project
- Every city, private landowner, business owner, and resident, pays as a local contribution for extensive federal and state dollars spent on project
- All property owners pay mill levy - users pay for water they use through water rates
- Pays ongoing administrative expenses, including expenses of directors, administration, sign up, easement, engineering, surveying, legal and other related expenses
- Mill levy pays for 46% of administration expenses – the balance is paid by water rates
- Does not pay any expenses for operation, maintenance and repayment

- Counties receiving benefits from Southwest Water Authority should pay same local contribution as 28 counties receiving benefits from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District project and facilities
- Each county wants representation for water and water projects
- Mill levy will shift back to joint water boards (will not go away)
- Assures Southwest Water Authority will continue
- Benefit in other areas outside of water supply
- Supports statewide water development
- Provides board representation
- Helps keep rates stable - rates would increase 30¢ per 1,000 gallons of water

Reasons city of Mandan should be included:

- In 2009, a representative of City of Mandan was added to Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors – direct benefit to city
- Southwest Water Authority purchases water from Missouri West Water System, who purchases water from city of Mandan
- Missouri West Water System did not want to wait for Southwest Pipeline Project to bring water to Morton County
- Southwest Pipeline Project gave up funding so Missouri West Water System could build
- Southwest Pipeline Project customers in Morton County shop in city of Mandan, creating more demand for businesses and boosting local sales tax revenue
- Sales tax revenue in city of Mandan is used for property tax reduction, economic development, street, water and sewer improvements and municipal debt reduction
- Overwhelming indirect benefits to city of Mandan by spending money in Morton County
- Benefits to trade areas benefit cities in service area

Southwest Water Authority is a proponent and an advocate for water in the region and in the state. This includes supporting water in the city of Mandan. It is in the best interest of all to make the mill levy permanent.