

## From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Mary Massad,  
Manager/CEO

For more than forty years, the American Water Works Association and its members have been celebrating **National Drinking Water Week** during the first week in May. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the vital role drinking water plays in our daily lives. This year's theme, "There When You Need It", was more appropriate than ever as we endure the COVID-19 pandemic. Southwest Water Authority's quality water has been a first line of defense for residents of southwest North Dakota for drinking, handwashing, and cleaning.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the coronavirus is a type of virus that is particularly susceptible to disinfection, and standard treatment and disinfectant processes are expected to be effective. The USEPA also states "the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. Americans can

continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual."

The term 'essential worker' is being used frequently in everyday conversations. SWA would like to reassure all of our customers and communities keeping the water flowing in southwest North Dakota is indeed essential. Some of you may have noticed the changes SWA has made to our daily operations, through closing our doors to the public, working remotely where possible, teleconference Board of Director meetings, and social distancing between employees. The 45 men and women working at the water treatment plants, throughout the distribution system in the office, or at home, are essential to ensure quality water continues to be "There

When You Need It." Keeping each of them safe and healthy remains a top priority in order to be successful in that goal. You can visit our website and click on "Thank an Operator" to let them know they are appreciated.

Construction during the summer of 2020 will include the Second Davis Buttes Reservoir and the Second Belfield Reservoir. Together, these reservoirs will increase the Projects' water storage capacity by 1.75 million gallons. Additional storage increases the capacity and redundancy to serve and may alleviate shortages during peak usage season. Preliminary design and easement acquisition are ongoing for Main Transmission Line Expansion from the Davis Buttes Reservoir, the Belfield Reservoir, and the New England Reservoir back to the Ray Christensen Pump Station in Dickinson. This expansion will further increase distribution capacity.

As always, SWA remains dedicated to its mission: **Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota**, because quality water matters.

***"The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low."***

***~ USEPA (2020)***

In an emergency,  
would we reach you?

**Notify SWA**

Update your phone number  
by contacting us at  
701.225.0241



## Hand Washing: Did You Know....

- Hand washing physically removes germs from your skin. The soap acts to reduce the surface tension of the water to remove things off the skin. It's not so much about the type of soap you're using as much it is about how hard you work to break those germs free from your skin and remove them. Try singing Happy Birthday or another 20 second song twice. Even the drying off process is vital!
- It's important to know that stored incorrectly, soap can actually put more germs on your hands than you already had. So, if that bar of soap is sitting in a puddle of water next to the sink, it can actually increase the number of bacteria involved. Dispensers of liquid soap may be better.
- While the palms of your hands need cleaning, turns out the dirtiest parts of your hands are often your fingertips and around your nails. Be sure to give your fingers and tips some extra attention and give both hands equal time!



## Outstanding Employee Retires After 22 Years



After 22 years with Southwest Water Authority (SWA), Sandy Burwick retired in May of 2020. Sandy began her career with SWA as an Accountant/Assistant Office Administrator and was promoted to SWA's Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Office Administrator in 2007.

Having always taken pride in her role of CFO/Office Administrator, her impact and influence could be seen in nearly every aspect of SWA's office operations. She was responsible for managing the numerous office functions of SWA, commendably planning, implementing, directing and coordinating activities required for financial planning and management, maintaining an accounting system, and budgeting. She was also the customer service department supervisor. It was no surprise her efforts earned her North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association 2019 Outstanding Office Employee Award as her deep knowledge and understanding of SWA's mission and vision was always evident in each of her projects and assignments. SWA wishes Sandy well in her new adventure. Sandy has promised to come back on a part-time basis after retirement.

## Bryce Awarded Patrick Denne Scholarship



Each year the Patrick Denne Memorial Scholarship is awarded by the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) to students of water system employees. Our congratulations to Bryce Mutschelknaus on being one of ten recipients of this scholarship's funds. His father, Bruce, currently works as a Water Distribution Operator for Southwest Water Authority out of the Elgin Office. Recipients of this scholarship are chosen based on their career goals in the water industry, leadership activities, and an essay on the importance of the water industry.

*Congrats Bryce! We are very proud of you and your family. Good Luck - from your friends at Southwest Water Authority.*

### Our Vision

People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water

### Our Mission

Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

**Water Works** is the Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Visit our website...from job postings to the latest pipeline and water news, it's all online!

[www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com)

Send address changes to:

Southwest Water Authority  
4665 Second Street Southwest  
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

**Phone:** (701) 225-0241

**Toll Free:** (888) 425-0241

**Email:** [swa@swwater.com](mailto:swa@swwater.com)

**Fax:** (701) 225-4058

## Award-Winning Water Exceeds Quality Regulations

The use of technologically advanced water treatment processes has become increasingly important with the regulation of more and more contaminants in surface water. That is why SWA uses state-of-the-art processes, such as ultrafiltration and advanced oxidation and ozone.

Ultrafiltration (UF) is a membrane filtration process using extreme pressure to force water through a semi-permeable membrane. This process removes contaminants such as viruses, bacteria, and cysts, like Giardia. Advanced oxidation adds the benefit of removing emerging contaminants, such as PFAS. Then before entering the water distribution pipelines, chloramines are added to provide the water with long-lasting disinfection abilities to keep it safe throughout its journey to customers faucets.

The EPA has established regulations with treatment requirements for public water systems preventing waterborne and related pathogens such as viruses from contaminating drinking water. It is all part of the Safe Drinking Water Act. In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, SWA annually presents a Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to those served by the treatment plant in Dickinson, three Morton County Service Areas, and those served by the OMND water treatment plant. These CCRs contain important information and are available 24/7 on SWA's website at [www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com). All of SWA's five water systems remain in compliance with all of North Dakota's and the EPA's regulations. The CCR's are in the June billing statements.



## Thank an Operator

No matter what's going on, during uncertain times like these, as well as more normal ones, a team of water operators are always on the job. For SWA, these are the 32 men and women that work the critical jobs involved in water treatment and distribution. They are the ones sustaining a reliable, safe supply of water round-the-clock, each and every day of the year. Visit our website at [swwater.com](http://swwater.com) and click on "Thank an Operator" and let them know how much you appreciate what they do for all of us 24/7, every day of the year.



## SWA Board of Directors



**Jonathon Eaton**  
Adams County  
jonathoneaton@swwater.com



**James Odermann**  
Billings County  
jamesodermann@swwater.com



**Rick Seifert**  
Bowman County  
rickseifert@swwater.com



**Glenn Eckelberg**  
Dunn County  
glenneckelberg@swwater.com



**Mark Begger**  
Golden Valley County  
markbegger@swwater.com



**Brian Roth**  
Grant County  
brianroth@swwater.com



**Don Schaible**  
Hettinger County  
donschaible@swwater.com



**Marie Johnson**  
Mercer County  
mariejohnson@swwater.com



**George Saxowsky**  
Morton County  
georgesaxowsky@swwater.com



**Mike Tietz**  
Oliver County  
miketietz@swwater.com



**Dave Juntunen**  
Slope County  
davejuntunen@swwater.com



**Steve Schneider**  
Stark County  
steveschneider@swwater.com



**Larry Bares**  
City of Dickinson  
larrybares@swwater.com



**Jason Bentz**  
City of Dickinson  
jasonbentz@swwater.com



**Bob Leingang**  
City of Mandan  
bobleingang@swwater.com