

Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

# Water Works



Mary Massad,  
Manager/CEO

Thank you to our 67th North Dakota Legislators! It is because of their dedication and leadership water issues and water funding have fared very well in this past session. Most especially I would like to thank Governor Burgum, legislative leadership, southwest North Dakota Legislators and all who worked diligently for water infrastructure during this legislative session. Funding for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) looks especially bright. The funding for the Project is in the Capital Asset bucket for water which includes up to \$43.5 million for the SWPP. We at SWA and all those we serve and most especially those who are waiting for water service say, "Thank you!" The support both SWA and the SWPP have received is commendable.

As always, SWA's top priority remains providing quality water that is not just clear, refreshing, and award-winning but safe to drink. Safe water is essential which is why we continually test and monitor water quality for over 200 contaminants. With certified water treatment, distribution operators and a qualified staff, we are pleased to report again all five of SWA's water systems' water quality met and often exceeded the state's strict water quality standards. If you are a SWA customer, you should receive the water quality results of your location's water systems during the month of June. For the hundreds of people still wanting to be connected, be assured, "we are not done" and have not lost sight of our mission.

In SWA's effort to meet the current and projected future demand for quality water, we have developed a three-pronged approach to its strategic planning. The first prong includes increasing the main transmission line capacity to ensure transmission capacity does not become a limiting factor to connecting future customers. The second prong includes strategic hydraulic improvements which will allow users on SWA's waiting lists to be added as subsequent customers. The third prong is the expansion of the system into under-served areas. As part of the plan, SWA is currently canvassing the Hebron and Burt Service Areas, to include Lake Tschida, for people's interest in being served by SWPP.

This year, we celebrate SWA's 30th anniversary. The effort of providing a reliable supply of high-quality Missouri River water to southwest North Dakota has been a monumental undertaking. Yet the success of the SWPP has been mirrored in the economic growth and quality of life that many residents, from all 12 counties of southwest North Dakota, now enjoy. Currently, SWA distributes quality water to more than 7,300 rural water customers and serves 56,000 people.

Today, please raise a glass of SWA's quality tap water and join us in celebrating 30 years of staying on mission of *quality water for southwest North Dakota*.

## Southwest Pipeline Project

"For the past 35 years, the SWPP has been, and continues to be, a successful water development project for the State of North Dakota. The success of the SWPP results from the teamwork, dedication, and devotion of many, including the Governor's Office, Legislature, Water Commission, SWA, and the citizens of southwest North Dakota. It represents a shining example of what can be accomplished with collaboration, hard work, and determination."  
(Source: State Water Commission's Newsletter, April 2021.)



- Quality drinking water is SWA's top priority 365 days a year, 24/7
- All operators are certified by North Dakota's Department of Environmental Quality
- SWA's water has received international awards for its taste and clarity
- All of SWA's water systems remain state certified for providing quality water
- Hundreds of people are on SWA's waiting list to be connected to quality water



According to Adnan Akyuz, Ph.D, North Dakota Climatologist, 100% of North Dakota is now in a drought. The National Drought Monitor's map of North Dakota published on April 1, 2021, shows that eighty-five percent of the state is in at least a Severe Drought category, and 47% of the state is in an Extreme Drought category, which is trending upward. At the end of March, the Drought Severity and Coverage Index reached a historical-high value, exceeding the previous high value recorded on August 8, 2006, by two points. This also marks the most extensive Extreme Drought coverage on record since 2000, exceeding the previous most extensive coverage on August 15, 2017. To webinars being offered, like how to prepare can visit North Dakota State University's website.



The North Dakota State Water Commission Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program (Program) is now available. The Program provides cost-share assistance to qualifying livestock producers with water supply shortages caused by drought. To learn more about who is eligible or to apply, contact [swc.nd.gov](http://swc.nd.gov).

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 North Dakota's and the EPA's regulations. The CCR's will be in the June billing statements.



During the months of April and May, SWA will be canvassing the Hebron and Burt service areas including Lake Tschida, for interest in receiving Southwest Pipeline Project water. The initial questionnaire cards were mailed out in April and are to be returned to SWA by June 1.





# Certified Water Quality Operations

SWA operators are certified through North Dakota's Department of Environmental Quality. They are licensed to operate SWA's state-of-the-art treatment processes, such as ultrafiltration and advanced oxidation and ozone for water purification. Ultrafiltration 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. Then, with advanced oxidation, the treatment process removes emerging contaminants, such as PFAS. After the water is treated, chloramines are added to provide the water with long-lasting disinfection abilities to keep it safe throughout its distribution journey to customers faucets.

## Saxowsky Retires from SWA Board



George Saxowsky represented Morton County on Southwest Water Authority's Board of Directors since 2008. George announced his retirement at the April 2021 meeting. Thank you George from all of us at

SWA for your dedication and professionalism to the Southwest Pipeline Project. A successor will be appointed by the Morton County Commission at an upcoming meeting.

## Gerald Mostad Retires from SWA



Gerald parked his work truck for the last time on February 26, 2021. Gerald has been with Southwest Water Authority since 2013 and worked out of the Elgin office. Gerald's work ethic and

dedication have been greatly appreciated over the years and we wish him and his family much luck and all the best in their future endeavors.

## Southwest Water Authority's Board of Directors



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## 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  
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**www.swwater.com**

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## Celebrating Southwest Water Authority's 30th Anniversary

It was October of 1991 when then Governor of North Dakota, George Sinner, ceremoniously opened the main valve filling the water lines for the residents of Dickinson – Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) initial customers. It was the first water service line to exist in SWA's dedicated service area of 15,000 square miles representing 12 counties in southwest North Dakota. During the past 30 years, SWA never lost sight of its vision of people and business succeeding with quality water.

Today, the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) reaches throughout the geographic boundaries of SWA's service area. SWA is now serving more than 56,000 people through over 5,000 miles of pipeline to 7,330 rural locations, 33 communities, 24 contract customers, 24 raw water customers, two rural water systems, and two raw water depots. Yet, there are hundreds still waiting to connect to the SWPP. That's why SWA has never wavered and continues on its mission of quality water for southwest North Dakota.

**Celebrate with SWA by holding up a glass of its award-winning quality water... Cheers to Turning 30!**

