

## From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



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 Manager/CEO

This past summer proved to be one of the driest on record for all of North Dakota, with southwest North Dakota being no exception. According to the National Weather Service, by mid-July of an average year, the southwest region normally receives about ten inches of precipitation. This year the region has only received about half of its normal average of precipitation. With this drought came increased water usage and greater demands of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). During the summer the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Dickinson was operating up to 20 hours per day, while the OMND WTP, north of Zap, was been operating up to 12 hours per day. Both WTPs were realizing large increases in demand for water.

In addition to the drought conditions, the southwest region continues to grow in population and thus the demand for water has been increasing. It has been keeping SWA's staff busy with the operations and maintenance of the SWPP. It is important to recognize the operators that constantly monitor water quality as the unsung heroes. In this newsletter edition, there is an article about what SWA's operators do to keep the waters flowing and safe, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays.

The critical construction of the second raw water Dickinson Reservoir and the second raw water Richardton Reservoir for water storage are well underway. Construction of the Supplemental Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson is moving ahead toward completion.

Also in the news is the State Water Commission (SWC) has a new Commission as the Governor has appointed seven new members. Newly appointed Commissioner, Dr. Leander "Russ" McDonald, attended SWA's October Board meeting, speaking about the importance of working together as one voice for North Dakota's water resources. This is an important time for North Dakota's water industry, which is why SWA's Board of Directors, Management and Staff are looking forward to working with the newly appointed members of the SWC.

Recently, we reached a milestone in the progress of the SWPP and stopped for a moment to celebrate having reached the geographical extent of the Project. Read more about the rural water celebration inside this newsletter. Yet, as we celebrated how far we've come with the Project, we also must recognize that we are far from being done. We must continue to support the people and businesses in the southwest who still wait for quality water and those moving here in the future.



The second Dickinson Reservoir is 160 feet in diameter with each vertical foot holding a volume of 150,405 gallons.



The reservoir will store up to 4.8 million gallons of raw (untreated) water and have 32 feet of height before overflow.



The reservoir's concrete wall will be 30 inches thick and will rest on top of the floor slab without any rebar connections.

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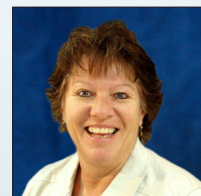
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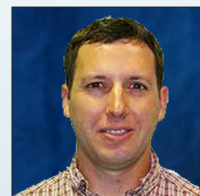
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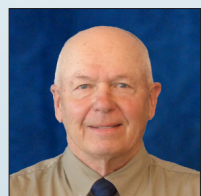
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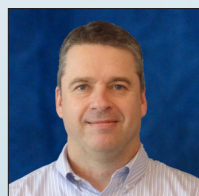
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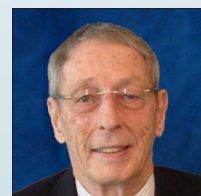
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## Rural Water Celebration Marks Milestone



On September 28, 2017, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) and rural water residents, along with Garland Erbele, State Engineer, ND State Water Commission and representatives from the North Dakota congressional offices, came together to celebrate quality water service for Oliver, Mercer, and North Dunn (OMND) Service Area. They had a reason to celebrate as the OMND Service Area is now receiving SWPP’s quality water. Held at Flemmer’s Farm in Golden Valley, the event was blessed with warm weather and the amazing hospitality of John and Leona Flemmer.

While the event signified the remaining geographical extent of the Southwest Pipeline Project’s (SWPP) service area, it also signifies the importance of SWA’s mission of quality water for southwest North Dakota and its vision of people and business succeeding with quality water. Said Mary Massad, SWA Manager/CEO, “The project has reached a milestone now having nearly 5,300 miles of pipeline in the ground. There are many still waiting for quality water, communities needing to grow, and thankfully people moving to the southwest.”



## Staying Within Allocation is Essential

Especially in a drought, it is understandable people need to maximize their water usage. Going above one’s water allocation can be detrimental to other customers’ water allocations. Thus, to be fair to all of SWA’s rural customers, it is important that everyone stay within their allocated amount of water. For the same reason, any on-going water usage cannot be guaranteed. That’s the reason SWA implemented a policy that any customer going over their allocated amount must pay double the rate per thousand gallons of water over their allocation and the respective monthly minimum rate.

**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.

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SWA 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.

## About Your Operators

Every day, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, our operators treat, monitor the system and the water quality and test for an entire list of possible contaminants, which SWA provides through the Consumer Confidence Report (water quality) sent to every rural customer. The report can also be viewed on SWA’s website at any time.

Helping to ensure water quality, SWA’s team of water treatment and distribution operators are working and on-call 24-hours a day, even on holidays.



## A Splashing Success



The 18th Annual “Make a Splash” Water Festival was held in September at the West River Ice Center. Each year they just get better as there were 18 schools from 14 towns with a total of 544 fifth graders in attendance.

## Return on Investment

A political subdivision, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) was established by the legislature to manage the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). SWA was set up to facilitate, not only the oversight of the SWPP, but the “paying back” program through its collection of rates.

From the beginning, funding for the construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) was not a loan. In fact, it was funded with the requirement that the water users, those benefitting from the SWPP, would repay to the state for the cost of the project’s construction as a set amount of their monthly water bills.

So, today rural households pay a base rate for quality water of about \$40 per month. All of that, except for a few dollars, goes back to the North Dakota’s Resources Trust Fund (RTF). Communities also pay back for the water they distribute. What is important to know is that eventually, SWA’s customers, the people who have benefited from the quality water, will have paid back the state’s funding to construct the SWPP.



## Stay in the Know

If you haven’t done so already, be sure to register your email and phone number with us by visiting our website or calling us. Then should there be a water emergency or important information, you will be informed.

