

From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



This year is proving to be one of the wettest on record for all of North Dakota, and the southwest region of ND is no exception. For example, 4.3 inches of rain was recorded in Dickinson in September, making it the second wettest September. The runoff in the Upper Missouri River Basin was 200% above normal for September on record. Current estimates predict this year will end with record runoff in the 121 years of record-keeping. Although the higher rainfall has meant less water-usage overall, it does not change the fact that Southwest Water Authority (SWA) continues to receive requests to connect to the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). In many cases, continued development is waiting for Project water, and people are increasingly reluctant to move forward with plans to build without being able to realize a connection to quality water.

With the system capacity and projected demands, the current cost of construction of the SWPP is currently estimated at \$206.3 million. Proposed projects for the 2019-2021 biennium include upgrades to SWPP's existing infrastructure, with increases in storage capacity, increases in main transmission line capacity, and system improvements. Anticipated funding for SWPP's 2019-2021 Biennium Planned Projects is \$25.5 million, covering projected construction.

While funding is still needed for building the Project, SWA has also lost its ability to collect one mill to offset general fund costs. Raising water rates gradually, starting January 1, 2020, will be required to replace SWA's lost revenue. More information is inside this newsletter.

SWA remains dedicated to adding customers to the system. Many of SWA's current customers are ones who signed up for the SWPP post-construction. SWA currently serves 2,300 subsequent customers systemwide, and they represent about one-third of SWA's existing rural-customer base. They are the fortunate ones as there are many who are waiting to become subsequent customers.

SWA celebrated the 20th year of hosting the "Make a Splash" Water Festival. This worthwhile event helps educate our youth and the public about our most precious resource, water. Be sure you read all about it inside this newsletter.

Yet, we are not done. It just makes sense, considering the hundreds of people still waiting for their connection to the SWPP, to gain the same quality of life as others. For those still waiting and for those already connected, it's important to know SWA remains strong in our mission of *Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota* and continue to be dedicated to the vision of *People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water*.

Avoid Frozen Pipes

As the weather turns cold – it's time to winterize

The same natural forces that trigger cold-weather breaks in Southwest Water Authority's nearly 5,000 miles of underground mains can cause pipes to burst in your own household. Don't wait for Mother Nature to do any damage to your water pipes, protect them before a deep freeze occurs.

Protect
cold air exposed pipes
by wrapping them
with insulation

Keep
the temperature
inside your home
set to above 55
degrees

Seal
any openings that
allow cold air
inside your home

Remove
drain and store all
water hoses

Shutdown
and winterize the
irrigation systems



Toilet Leaks Are Costly

Toilets account for the largest number of indoor leaks. An undetected toilet leak could waste as much as 5-gallons of water per minute. To test for a leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank. Do not flush. Wait for about 15 minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a leak. It is probably located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These leaks are easy to fix with parts from your hardware or home store.



All year long, but especially during this season, we are grateful for wonderful customers like you! Happy Thanksgiving.



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

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Keeping Quality Water Flowing

Since its inception in 1991, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) has collected a one mill levy in each of the 12 counties in its service area. This one-mill has assisted SWA in keeping rates stable, using the mill levy for administrative costs as stipulated in state law. Legislation to extend the mill levy was voted down during this last session. The SWA mill levy will sunset in 2020, putting a large gap in SWA's budget. This gap must be offset by increasing water rates.

With the mill levy income no longer available, SWA will need to offset revenue loss by increasing water rates to cover its general fund expenses. It is important to know the net effect to SWA's customers is projected to be the same if you are a land owner in North Dakota and pay property taxes. When the mill levy sunsets in 2020, however, the taxing authority granted to SWA will once again be shifted back to the joint water resource board's authority. The need for quality water in southwest North Dakota is expected to only continue to grow. This is why we are not done.

Focus on Cybersecurity

October was National Cybersecurity Awareness month, and that is why Southwest Water Authority (SWA) is recognizing the importance of continually updating cybersecurity and risk management information. Using the industry's newly-revised Water Sector Cybersecurity Risk Management Guidance, and supporting Assessment Tool, SWA continues to evaluate and improve its cybersecurity risk management. While cybersecurity was the focus in October, SWA remains dedicated to its importance throughout the year.

Water Festival

The 20th Annual "Make a Splash" Water Festival was held in September at the West River Ice Center in Dickinson. More than 500 fifth-grade students participated in the educational sessions this year. During the two-day curriculum, all fifth-grade students located within Southwest Water Authority's 12-county service area in southwest North Dakota were invited and had an opportunity to learn a variety of unique topics related to water, first-hand.

Events included activity stations with facilitators from State certified Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and other water resource professionals. Together with volunteer high-school students, they helped students better understand the many aspects of why water is so important to agriculture and people's lives.

Southwest Water Authority hosted this year's 20th Annual Make a Splash Water Festival. We know children are the future. Water is our most precious natural resource. The more people know about water, the more they realize the importance of SWA continuing with its vision of people and business succeeding with quality water.





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