

Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

# Water Works



Mary Massad,  
Manager/CEO

As Southwest Water Authority (SWA) celebrates its 30th anniversary of existence as a political subdivision and 30 years of quality water service to southwest North Dakota, I am looking back at all we have accomplished.

Over four decades ago, the forefathers of both SWA and the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) had the idea to bring water to our region from the Missouri River. It took much vision and forethought. As first chairperson of SWA's Board of Directors, Alfred Underdahl, fondly said, "If you want to build a water project in your lifetime, you must start when you are a young man or woman." The vision of quality water for southwest North Dakota actually started in the 1970's.

We are all connected by water and our water stories. I have my own and over the years have heard stories from many of you. Indeed, our very lives and livelihoods depend upon it each and every day. Everything in life relates to water.

As SWA recognizes its 30th anniversary, I am also celebrating being an employee of SWA for 25 years with nearly the last 15 years as its Manager/CEO. It has been a privilege to work for SWA. The time has come for me to step down; I am retiring at the end of this year. It is my pleasure to announce Jen Murray, SWA Executive Assistant, as the next Manager/CEO.

With this being my last newsletter, I want to say thank you to SWA's staff, its Board of Directors, trusted consultants and my water friends and colleagues near and far. Thank you to our local, regional, state, and national supporters. You have made my job both enjoyable and rewarding. I always knew I could count on you 24/7 to be sure we were the best at what we do – *quality water for southwest North Dakota*.

SWA has and will continue serving its award-winning, best-tasting, quality drinking water every time you turn on the tap! Yes, we have accomplished so much over these last decades. Yet there is still much to do. Rest assured, as Jen Murray takes the helm this coming year, SWA will continue to do great things for southwest North Dakota.

One of my favorite poems reminds me of Alfred. It is called the *Bridge Builder*. I would like to leave you with this as I say farewell.

## **The Bridge Builder,**

*by Will Allen Dromgoole*

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening cold and gray  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The rapids held no fears for him.  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You're wasting your time in building here.  
Your journey will end with the closing day;

You never again will pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide;  
Why build you this bridge at even-tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There follows after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This stream, which has been as naught to me,  
To that fair youth may a pitfall be.  
He too must cross in the twilight dim  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."





# 30th Anniversary Edition

## Key Milestones in Southwest Water Authority History

It has been 30 years since Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) inception. Over the years, SWA has taken its initial vision people and business succeeding with quality water and made it an on-going reality. It has not only stayed dedicated to its mission of providing quality water for southwest North Dakota, it has been recognized internationally for being the third best-tasting water in the U.S and best in the state. Please raise a glass of SWA's award-winning, quality tap water and join us in celebrating 30 years of success!

1991 Southwest Water Authority was authorized by the ND State Legislature and the City of Dickinson was the first community to receive water.



1996 The State Water Commission transferred the management, operations and maintenance of the Southwest Pipeline Project to Southwest Water Authority.



2001 Mott Elgin Service Area construction completed and construction begins on the Twin-Buttes Service Area.

2004-2006 Medora Beach Phase I and II construction complete bringing Lake Sakakawea water to Beach, Sentinel Butte, Medora and Golva.

2012 OMND Water Treatment Plant came online with state-of-the-art Reverse Osmosis and Ultra Filtration equipment and technology.

2017 Completion of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Service Area.

2018 Six million gallon per day Southwest Water Treatment Plant came online in Dickinson.



2021 Signup campaign begins to return to Burt, Hebron Service Area.

# SWA Announces New Manager/CEO



Upon the retirement announcement of current Manager/CEO, Mary Massad, a succession plan for her replacement began in March of 2021. The involved process began with SWA's Board of Directors selecting members for a succession planning subcommittee including five board members, legal counsel, a member of the SWC (DWR), SWA's project engineer and Massad for the next SWA Manager/CEO.

The subcommittee reviewed the job description, planned their recruitment timeline, and determined the hiring process. More than 40 applications were received. The subcommittee then held two rounds of interviews and recommended Jenifer (Jen) Murray for the position which was ratified by SWA's Board of Directors at SWA's October Board meeting.

Jen is currently Mary Massad's Executive Assistant and has served in the position for the past eight years. Jen will be the new Manager/CEO effective January 1, 2022.

Massad stated, "It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Jen Murray, my replacement as the next Manager/CEO for SWA. During her time as Executive Assistant, Jen has shown her dedication to SWA, the Southwest Pipeline Project, and those we serve. I know with Jen at the helm of SWA, we continue to be in good hands. She is our leader into the future. Best of luck Jen!"

## Distinguished Service Recognized

Every year, the Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA) chooses a deserving recipient from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming for its Distinguished Service Award. This year, the award for North Dakota was awarded to SWA's Manager/CEO, Mary Massad. Mary was recognized for her distinguished service in the field of water resource development and a quality environment.



## New Customer Service Center on Website



SWA now offers an online customer service center which makes it easy to manage your account. You can now view your water usage history, see your bill, and make payments all at one convenient location.

Not registered? Visit [www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com) and click on the Customer menu to set up an account.

## Connect to Quality Water - Signup Today

Southwest Water Authority's current construction efforts include the Burt, Hebron Service Area. If you or someone you know owns property in this region, contact SWA to signup today!



## Our Vision

People and Business Succeeding with Quality Water

## Our Mission

Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota

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Visit our website to learn about everything from job postings to the latest pipeline and water news. [www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com)

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## 2022 Rate Changes

At SWA, we strive to stabilize the cost of quality water and keep it affordable. During the past year, SWA has experienced rapidly rising costs in nearly every aspect of providing service to our customers. These costs include such items as power, labor, chemicals, and maintenance. To cover the increase in these costs, SWA's Board of Directors approved a rate increase. Rural users will see an increase of \$2.01 to the monthly minimum. Cost per 1,000 gallons will be \$6.40, an increase of four cents per thousand gallons. Water rates for communities and contracts will be \$5.71 per thousand gallons, an increase of eleven cents per thousand gallons.



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