

Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

# Water Works



Quality Water for  
Southwest North Dakota

## From Jenifer Murray, Manager/CEO



Jen Murray,  
Manager/CEO

As we bid farewell to 2023, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support. It has been a remarkable year, with water sales exceeding two billion gallons.

SWA is happy to announce water rates will remain the same for 2024. The SWA Board of Directors approved absorbing the annual adjustment to the capital repayment portion of the rural minimum and the contract rate along with reallocating a portion of the water rate to the Replacement and Extraordinary Maintenance Fund.

Project development included progress in the Amidon, Grassy Butte, New Hradec, and Killdeer Mountain areas, where pipelines for hydraulic improvements were successfully installed. Though

the winter season brought this phase of the project to a close, work will resume in the spring, starting with the installation of water booster pump stations.

SWA continues to collect signups from property owners throughout Grant County, including Lake Tschida. Over 700 locations have committed to connecting to quality water, yet more are needed. Every connection counts and the sooner property owners can commit to connecting, the more feasible the project becomes. SWA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) are in the final stages of discussions on preliminary design and cost estimates. It is anticipated that the State Water Commission (SWC) will decide on feasibility of the Project in the upcoming months. Construction for the Project, if approved, will move forward in a phased approach. Residents in the area should also watch for SWA's upcoming public meetings regarding the campaign in the early spring.

System-wide, our waiting list continues to grow with more than 750 people wanting to connect to SWA's award-winning drinking water. Many of these locations have been unable to receive quality water because of location or lack of capacity. Hydraulic improvements are being reviewed, prioritized, and designed as funding allows. As the location of the next proposed improvement, waiting list customers in the North New England Service area will soon be receiving Intent to Become a Subsequent Customer Forms in the mail. SWA continues to plan for the future and remains dedicated to the mission of *Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota*.

On behalf of the Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors, Management, and Staff, Happy New Year!



## Water Rates Remain Stable



SWA is pleased to announce there will be no anticipated increases in water rates in 2024. After reviewing a comprehensive financial analysis, SWA's Board of Directors voted to maintain the current water rates, demonstrating a commitment to providing affordable, reliable, and safe water to SWA's customers. The rural water monthly minimum will remain the same. Water usage rates will be maintained at \$6.47 for rural and \$5.87 for contract customers.

In an emergency,  
would we reach you?

### Notify SWA

Update your phone number  
by contacting us at  
701.225.0241

## Own Property in Grant County?

If you own property in Grant County or its surrounding areas, SWA is still gathering signups. At present, over 700 property owners have signed up in the Burt, Hebron Service Area. Those who are interested in acquiring water services in this area are still able to sign up, and the feasibility and design of the project depend upon the number of individuals who sign up. Should you or someone you know have any queries about the signup process, please feel free to contact SWA at 1-888-425-0241. Don't miss this opportunity to sign up your property.



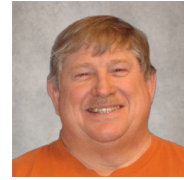
## Dan Roller Retires



Dan Roller began his water industry career in 1994 as a Maintenance Worker for the Southwest Pipeline Project (Project), which was then under the jurisdiction of the

State Water Commission. When the Project's management, operations, and maintenance were transferred to SWA in 1996, Dan seamlessly transitioned into employment with SWA. Throughout his tenure at SWA, Dan worked diligently to earn important certifications. His hard work and dedication paid off as he rose through the ranks to become an Operations Specialist, a role in which he proved to be an invaluable asset to SWA's team. Retiring at the end of 2023, Dan is now able to spend more time indulging in his favorite outdoor activities, which include camping, motorcycle riding, and flying remote-controlled planes and drones.

## Leo Miller Retires



Leo Miller's career took a 180-degree turn in September 2007, when he landed a job as a Water Distribution Operator with SWA. Despite lacking any

previous experience, Leo's talent shone through as he quickly learned the ropes and became an indispensable member of the team. His dedication paid off when he earned a Class I Water Distribution Certification in March 2010, followed by a Class II two years later and a Class III in April 2013. During the years, he solidified his reputation as an expert in operating and maintaining the Southwest Pipeline Project's water distribution system. Retiring at the end of last year, Leo is happy to now be spending quality time with his wife, Debbie, indulging in their shared passions of hunting and gardening.

## What is PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that have been used since the 1940s for their heat, water, and oil resistance. These compounds can be found in various products such as non-stick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics, and firefighting foams. However, their persistence and tendency to accumulate over time in the environment and our bodies pose a problem. Prolonged exposure to PFAS can lead to negative health effects. Despite stringent monitoring and enforcement of water quality under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the state of North Dakota, PFAS contamination remains a growing national concern. Currently, SWA's source water is of good quality, but we will maintain close cooperation with regulatory agencies at both state and federal levels to ensure our drinking water remains compliant with all PFAS regulations. In 2024, SWA will be conducting quarterly PFAS detection tests at its OMND water treatment plant. The samples will be analyzed at an independent laboratory and included in SWA's water quality reports.



## 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 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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## Operating into the Future

SWA has managed and operated the Southwest Pipeline Project for over 30 years. The certified water treatment and distribution operators at SWA have dedicated themselves to ensuring the delivery of high-quality water, around the clock, every day of the year. They are the cornerstone of SWA's reputation for dependable, safe drinking water. Currently, SWA has a team of 35 certified operators. Though two of them retired in 2023, their replacements have received comprehensive training and are ready to continue the legacy of exceptional customer service and award-winning water quality that SWA is known for.

## A Strategic Approach to Expansion

Today, SWA faces challenges in providing service to additional subsequent customers in almost every region of the Southwest Pipeline Project (Project). That is why SWA, and the state, developed a three-pronged strategy to address the need for expansion of the Project. Each of the growth approaches below can certainly be accomplished separately and at different time intervals, but SWA expects its mission and vision will best be realized from this methodology.



- Expand Transmission Facilities:** The first of the three prongs for SWA to meet the quality water needs of southwest North Dakota involves expanding transmission facilities to increase water distribution capacity of the Project. This prong is only for expanding transmission pipeline capacity.
- Strategic Hydraulic Improvements:** The second prong in SWA's expansion plan is to implement system hydraulic improvements to address areas where economic growth is limited by the SWPP's current capacity. This effort is to address the waiting list of users and the areas where growth is limited by the Project's capacity.
- Canvassing Targeted Service Areas:** The third part of the approach is to canvass targeted services areas for potential connections to the Project. The goal of this effort is to discover other potential customers, rather than just those on SWA's waiting list asking to be connected to the Project. To do this, SWA is looking to expand in under-served areas.

## Every Property's Lead Survey Matters

To effectively combat the hazardous lead contamination in household water, a lead service line survey was created. This survey helps to identify the locations of lead service lines. The adverse health effects of lead are well known, especially for children. Thus, numerous efforts have been made to reduce exposure through drinking water. Usually, lead enters the drinking water when it leaches out of lead pipes or plumbing materials within the home, particularly in homes built before 1950. Although many customers have filled out the survey, some still have not. If you are a SWA customer who has not filled out the survey, please take the time to complete one for each of your accounts by visiting our website, scanning the QR code, or contacting us directly.



## Lead Survey Completion Winners

Each month, 10 winners were drawn to receive a \$100 credit on their water bill, with the Grand Prize receiving a \$500 credit on their water bill. Congratulations to those who won!

Denise Aide	Leslie & Joyce Fleck	Vern Kaye	Edmund Renner
Spencer & Lacy Allion	Dale Gasho	Mark & Stephanie Kelner	Jeffrey Renner
Marvin & Charlene Barth	Scott & Beth Gaugler	Ron & Brooke Kessel	Larry Sabo
Randy & Sarah Becker	Victor Goetz	Alan Krebs	Brian Sadowsky
Larry Behm	Eugene & Tammy Greenfield	Randy Kudrna	Thomas Sailer
Billings County	Monte Greenup	Scott & Gayle Kudrna	Delmar Schaible
Leonard Bornemann	Donald Haag	Maurice Lardy	Todd Schweitzer
Justin & Tina Bradley	Landry Haich	Jeremy Locken	Justin Sickler
Lesly Buchmann	Rachelle Hanson	Tammy Luhman	Lucas & Kristen Smillie
Cynthia Burgess	Betty Hausauer	Alvin & Amy Morman	Greg Steckler
Jeff & Jacklyn Carlson	Donna Havelka	Brock Nelson	Warren Tormaschy
Jon & Dorothy Carlson	Christ & Ilene Heiser	Stuart Nielsen	Joseph Vuolo
Dennis Clapper	William Hourigan	Northridge Development	Arlene Walch
Brad & Nicole Collins	Scott Hutzenbiler	Leland & Jennifer Opp	Weinreis Brothers
Holly Dalen	Kevin & Linette Irwin	Tanner Parizek	Duane Wolfe
Kelly Dolyniuk	Barry Jensen	Perhaus Brothers	Clayton Zacher
Vern Erickson	Bryan D. Jirges	Dale Reindel	Barbara Zins
Jess & Sarah Flath	Travis Jirges	Casey Renner	



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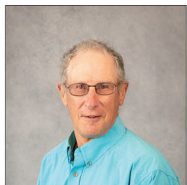
**Rick Seifert**  
Bowman County  
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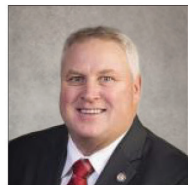
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