



# 2007



## Progress Report

### **Background in brief**

The North Dakota State Legislature established the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), a political subdivision, in 1991 to manage, operate and maintain the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). A 14-member board of directors governs the SWA. One director represents each county within the SWPP Service Area and two directors represent the city of Dickinson. The counties represented include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope and Stark.

The SWPP, a state-owned project, administered by the ND State Water Commission and operated and maintained by SWA, transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson where it is treated and delivered to customers in southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota.

For 22 years, the SWPP has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities, bringing southwest North Dakota an adequate quantity of quality water. To date, the pipeline serves 28 communities, more than 3,100 rural service locations, 12 contract customers, eight raw water customers and Perkins County Rural Water.

### **Phased Development Plan**

Current Development Phase  
Medora-Beach Phase  
*West Zone*

Next and Final Development Phase  
Oliver, Mercer, North  
Dunn Phase  
*North Zone*

### **Construction update Medora-Beach Service Area**

Progress continued in the Medora-Beach Service Area which included construction in Trotters, North Fryburg and Fairfield Areas. A total of \$10.3 million was secured from the North Dakota Legislature for Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) construction, in the current biennium. In 2007, the city of Medora converted their blended service to a sole-source agreement with the SWPP. With

Medora's decision, all communities receiving water from the SWPP do so via a sole-source contract. "We think this a testament to the quality of water produced and delivered by our system. . .at a reasonable price," said Mary Massad, SWA Manager/CEO.

### **Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area**

With construction nearing completion in the Medora-Beach Service Area, focus will move to final design of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Service Area. Southwest Water Authority asked cities in this area to decide by September 1, 2007, if they desired service from the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Doing so will assist engineers in creating the final project design. Hazen's City Commission voted unanimously in favor of the water, while Stanton and Center held special city elections. Residents of Stanton voted 103 to 18 and Center voted 122 to 93 in favor of receiving pipeline water. Rural residents were asked to sign up for rural water by November 30, 2007. Multiple public information meetings were held throughout the proposed service area in 2007 to discuss project plans and options.



# *happenings*

## **Water infrastructure critical to state's economic viability**

As federal funds decrease for water projects, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) continues to focus on state funding to complete the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). Working closely with the North Dakota Water Coalition has been key to success in recent years. The coalition was formed to bring statewide water interests together so a concerted effort for funding acquisition could be made through a unified approach. The collective goal: completing water infrastructure statewide. Recent accomplishments include completing the Devils Lake Outlet, Maple River Dam and Grand Forks Flood Control Project, progressing with construction on the Northwest Area Water Supply, the SWPP and many other smaller projects. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is now on the horizon and is in the process of completing its Environmental Impact Statement. They hope to secure funding and soon move forward with construction. A combination of federal, state and local money is being sought to fund the project. Working with the North Dakota Water Coalition, SWA helped secure \$31 million for water development statewide during the 60th Session of the North Dakota Legislature. Of this, \$10.3 million was allocated for SWPP.

## **Funding**

The United States Department of Agriculture granted a \$2.3 million loan and grant funding package for construction of the Southwest Pipeline Project. This funding will be used to complete construction in both Stark and Billings Counties, serving 81 customers in the south Fryburg Pocket. Also, included in this project is 3.3 miles of parallel pipeline in the Missouri West Water System accommodating the additional customers who signed up during construction in eastern Morton County.

**Vision Statement:**  
People and business  
succeeding with quality water.

**Mission Statement:**  
Providing quality water for  
southwest North Dakota.

## **Water rates**

Water Rates increased for the first time in five years. The constant flow contract customer rate is \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. The raw water contract rate is \$2.49 per 1,000 gallons of water. The demand flow contract customer rate is \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. The rural monthly minimum is \$39.45, an increase of \$1.20 from last year. The rural customer rate per 1,000 gallons is \$3.65, up \$ .05 from previous years.

## **Christensen honored**

Ray Christensen, former Manager/CEO of the Southwest Water Authority was recognized for his 21 year career in water development when the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) renamed its high service pump station in Dickinson the Ray Christensen Pump Station. Christensen logged 45 years of dedicated service to North Dakota's water industry, 21 of which were devoted to the SWPP in southwest North Dakota.

## **Changing of the guard**

Mary Massad became the third Southwest Water Authority Manager/CEO on July 1, 2007, upon the retirement of Ray Christensen. Massad says she is committed to seeing the vision of **"people and business succeeding with quality water."**