



News from
Southwest Water
Authority

April 2003

Water works

Volume 6 # 1 Issue 2

Manager's Message # by Ray Christensen, Manager/CEO

MR&I funding in jeopardy

We recently learned that federal funding for Municipal, Rural & Industrial (MR&I) water supply projects in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming is being eliminated from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) budget for fiscal year 2004 and beyond. The BOR provides funding for drinking water, hydropower, irrigation water, conservation water and other water supply purposes. Rural water supply projects are a significant component arising out of the Pick-Sloan Act to meet the obligations promised to the Upper Missouri Region in meeting its water quality and supply needs. This is a payment obligation owed to North Dakota by the federal government. Rural water is a function the BOR should embrace.



Ray Christensen
Manager/CEO

Many of us in the water community were very excited and enthused when the Dakota Water Resources Act (DWRA) was passed in November of 2000. The DWRA authorized \$200 million for Indian MR&I and \$200 million for rural MR&I water projects statewide. Without funding, passage of DWRA, which we all

(See MR&I funding, page 4)

Drinking Water Week-May 4-10, 2003 The Wonder of Water

Ever wonder why . . .

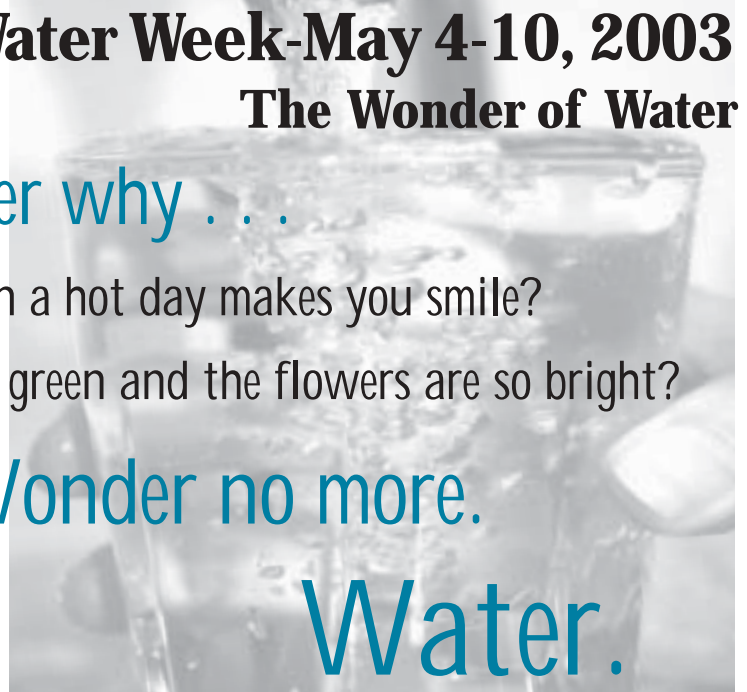
A cool drink on a hot day makes you smile?

The grass is so green and the flowers are so bright?

Wonder no more.

Water.

Celebrate the
Wonder of
Water!



NDRWSA honors Ray Christensen



Larry Schultz, NDRWSA past president, right, and Stuart Carlson, NDRWSA Executive Director, center, present Ray Christensen, left, with the "Outstanding Water Works Employee" award.

Ray Christensen, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Manager/CEO, received the "Outstanding Water Works Employee" award by the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) at a banquet held February 5 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The award is given each year to those individuals who have demonstrated superior performance, dedication, and leadership in their endeavor to provide quality water to North Dakotans.

Ray has been with the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) since ground breaking in 1986. He has over 40 years experience working on various water related projects statewide.

According to Loren Myran, SWA Chairman of the Board, "Ray has been a cornerstone of and advocate for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) since groundbreaking. During those 16 years, his levelheaded, common-sense approach, advice and leadership have guided the project through some sensitive and sometimes difficult crossroads. One of his most recent accomplishments was tightening the pipeline's security with a disaster recovery manual, which outlines best practices in the event of a terrorist attack, break or contamination."

Congratulations Ray!



The Southwest Water Authority would like to thank Pat Lynch, mayor of Beach, and Justin Kohanes, rural Beach, for testifying at the House and Senate Appropriations hearings during the 2003 Legislative Session. They have both taken time from their jobs and families to share the desperate need for water in the Beach/Medora area with our state legislators. Your dedication and commitment to the Southwest Pipeline Project are sincerely appreciated!



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY AND
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Providing clean, quality water for southwest North Dakota

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News

from the SWA office

Staff receives training

Southwest Water Authority encourages its employees to participate in a variety of courses and seminars that will enhance their abilities both professionally and personally. Sessions attended include:

- Electrical Continuing Education, National Electrical Code: Todd Gordon and Lee Messer
- Water Distribution Operator Training: Dan Roller, Andy Erickson, Todd Gordon, Dale Binstock, Ken Kudrna, Russ Kostelecky, Shawn Bilquist and Lee Messer
- Grade 03 Water Distribution Operator Certification: Dan Roller
- Grade 02 Water Distribution Operator Certification: Shawn Bilquist
- Grade 01 Water Distribution Operator Certification: Andy Erickson and Russ Kostelecky
- Trenching, Competent Person Training: Dale Binstock, Allen Hecker, Shawn Bilquist, Russ Kostelecky, Andy Erickson, Todd Gordon and Ken Kudrna
- Operator Math Seminar: Russ Kostelecky, Todd Gordon, Andy Erickson, Dan Roller, Dale Binstock, Ken Kudrna, Allen Hecker and Shawn Bilquist
- North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association Expo: Ray Christensen, Mary Massad, Glenn Eckelberg, Todd Gordon, Ken Kudrna, Lee Messer
- Water Storage Teleconference: Dale Binstock and Allen Hecker
- Herbicide Application Recertification: Ken Kudrna
- Business Writing Class: Dan Roller
- CPR/First Aid Training: Mary Massad, Sandy Burwick, Jim Dworshak, Roger Dick, John Nadvornik, Guy Mischel, Shawn Bilquist, Allen Hecker, Ken Kudrna, Dale Binstock, Dan Roller, Russ Kostelecky and Lee Messer
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Training: Entire staff



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livestock
profits
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phone call!

Call Southwest Water Authority
today at 1-888-425-0241

Out-of-service situations may arise this spring

One Call
1-800-795-0555
Call 48 hours before you dig!

The coming of spring brings bright sunny skies, green pastures, colorful flowers and budding trees. It also often brings leaks in the piping structure of the Southwest Pipeline Project. When leaks do occur, it becomes necessary to temporarily stop service in the area. The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) does everything possible to inform area residents of a temporarily out-of-service situation with public service announcements over area radio stations and personal phone calls if time allows. Rest assured the operations and maintenance staff at SWA will repair the problem as quickly as possible to restore service. Thank you for your patience.

MR&I funding

(Continued from front page)

worked very hard for, becomes meaningless. Our leadership in the water community will be working very hard with leaders at both the state and federal level to have MR&I funding restored.

Many of our current and future customers have written letters to state and federal key leaders urging restoration of MR&I funding for fiscal year 2004 and to re-establish a firm rural water supply function of the BOR for fiscal year 2005 and beyond. A special thank you to all who contributed to this effort. Zero funding for the MR&I program is simply unacceptable.

The BOR funding for rural water is critical for economic growth and quality of life in North Dakota. Without continued funding for MR&I water supply projects in North Dakota, completion of the Southwest Pipeline Project as well as many other projects statewide, including development of water on our American Indian Reservations, will be very difficult. We thank you for your past support and urge you to support us in our effort to restore this very important funding. Because of current world affairs, this could be a very difficult task.



Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) Y2K plan proved useful when power went out in the Scranton area recently. For the first time since 1991, electricity was out for more than 48 hours in one location. Using the quick response plan, SWA secured generators and restored power to the Scranton Booster Station within eight hours. All customers in the area continued to receive water service during the power outage.

Don Flynn, Bowman County representative on SWA's Board of Directors and president of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association, was among a delegation of North Dakotans who recently attended the National Rural Water Association's annual Fly-In in Washington, DC, to discuss various funding issues with our Congressional leaders.

The Operations and Maintenance staff recently received Certificates of Compliance for completing all the required microbiological, fluoride and turbidity-residual disinfectant monitoring and maintaining satisfactory levels in Southwest Pipeline Project water.

SWA Board members Larry Ziegler, Larry Bares, City of Dickinson representatives; and Don Flynn, Bowman County representative, recently attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC. While there, they met with North Dakota's Congressional delegation to discuss the progress of the Southwest Pipeline Project and future funding needs.

Vickie's Water Notes # by Vickie Franchuk, Customer Service

Customers whose water became available after October 1, 2002, will receive their first bill in May 2003. This bill will show a credit of 1,000 gallons to be used to flush your system. When customers are hooked up and using water, they will receive 2,000 gallons monthly as part of their monthly minimum payment.

The monthly minimum is broken into four components which include capital repayment, meter fee, operations and maintenance, and reserve. The capital repayment amount, set to the Consumer Price Index and adjusted annually by the ND State Water Commission, covers construction costs of the Southwest Pipeline Project based on the ability to pay. The meter fee goes to capital repayment for the first two years of the customer's contract. After this time, the fee is paid to the operations and maintenance fund, covering capital costs and regular operations and maintenance. The operations and maintenance portion of the minimum



covers fixed costs. The final portion of the monthly minimum, the reserve fund, is the result of a rate study conducted in 1998. The study concluded that to meet current costs, SWA needs to increase revenue from water sold, or continue to finance operating costs through the use of reserves.

Contact our office at 225-0241 or toll free at 1-888-425-0241 with any questions.

Coffee Shop # by Glenn Eckelberg, Marketing Coordinator

Once again spring has sprung. The warm spring days we have been so patiently waiting for all winter have arrived. It is also the time of the year when ranchers and farmers make plans for the coming season. As you plan for this year, I hope you will consider the added value service the Southwest Pipeline Project can provide your operation.

In past publications, we have stressed the importance of the declining block rate for standard or high consumption customers. The reduction in rate for these customers is reduced from \$3.60 per thousand gallons to \$2.60 when they exceed 10,000 gallons. However, did you know that pasture taps also receive a discounted rate? Pasture taps are billed annually, on November 1 of each year. The yearly rate is presently \$229.50 and includes 12,000 gallons of water. The good news is when pasture tap customers reach 60,000 gallons of water consumption, the cost per thousand gallons decreases. The current rate is \$3.60 per thousand up to 60,000 gallons when the rate drops to \$2.60.

The declining block rate was implemented in July of 2002 for a three year trial basis. The concept of this rate reduction is to encourage customers to increase their water usage and save money in the process. Studies have proven quality water provided to livestock creates substantial gains (see insert). If you have not connected to a pasture tap yet, this is the time! Call toll free 1-888-425-0241 or 225-0241 if you are interested in making the connection.

Best wishes for a profitable year and be safe during this busy season.

Connect to a pasture tap today! Increase water usage and save money! What a great deal!

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors

To obtain information in your area regarding SWA, contact your county or city representative.

Adams

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401 Highway 22 North
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Bowman

Don Flynn (2006)*
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Dunn

Emanuel Stroh (2004)
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Golden Valley

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Dickinson

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Larry Bares (2006)

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Dickinson, ND 58601
225-2030

*Executive Committee Members

**Chairperson

Updated October 2, 2002