

From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Happy New Year! 2018 was a year of progress for Southwest Water Authority (SWA) full of accomplishments, construction, and project completions. Progress continues on the raw-water main transmission pipeline, two raw-water reservoirs, and the Residuals Handling Facility. The new Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) in Dickinson helps serve the growing demands for quality water. While any new treatment plant must be inspected, we are pleased to announce that when the North Dakota Department of Health surveyed the SWTP and various portions of the

distribution system, it resulted in a successful inspection with no defects or corrective actions being required. Thank you to our staff who continually work to keep the water in compliance and the treatment and distribution facilities operating efficiently and successfully.

In addition to all of our construction progress, we are pleased to welcome our newest Board Member, Mark Begger, elected to represent Golden Valley County. Director Begger brings a solid understanding of the importance of water to the Board of Directors.

Nothing is more important than the safety of your drinking water, which is why at the November Board of Directors' meeting, the water rates were carefully reviewed to determine if changes were needed to maintain operations. Due to rising costs, rate changes were approved (details on page 3). Effective January 1, 2019, rates for standard rural customers will increase 87 cents to \$5.91/thousand gallons and contract customers will see an increase of 80 cents to \$5.23/thousand gallons.

Even though the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) has existed for over 30 years, there is still so much to accomplish. There are still hundreds of people waiting to be connected with quality water. People waiting know the importance of quality water to their quality of life.

Quality water is important. The Southwest Pipeline Project is important. And the quality of life for those it serves is important. That's why all of us at Southwest Water Authority continue on our mission: *Quality Water for Southwest North Dakota.*

"Water is essential to the well-being of the residents we serve and to our economy. They are the reasons the Southwest Pipeline Project and Southwest Water Authority exist."

~ Larry Bares, Chairman, SWA Board of Directors

About Our Progress

Since 1986, the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) has been constructing an efficient network of water pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, and treatment facilities to bring quality water to the region. To date, 33 communities, more than 7,177 rural service locations, 23 contract customers, 21 raw-water customers, two rural water systems, three crew camps and two raw water depots are served by the SWPP.



Construction of the Second Dickinson Reservoir

Winterize Pipes



When temperatures fall below freezing, exposed pipes on the exterior of your home are vulnerable. Protect exposed pipe by wrapping them with insulation. Insulate hot and cold-water pipes in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Use a heated reflector lamp in a dry enclosed space. Always disconnect your water hose from your outdoor spigot in the winter or before the temperature in your area drops below freezing. Locate the main water shut off in case you need it.

Have a Plan

When you're away, have a plan to keep your thermostat at 55 degrees or higher. If you plan on not being home for an extended period of time, have a plan so you don't return to broken water pipes!



New Facility - New Opportunities

At the water treatment plants in Dickinson, the water is softened using lime. The lime settles out along with other solid byproducts of the treatment process. SWA has historically sent the lime to ponds to dry out. While there are many different methods to manage the residual products created from water treatment, farmers have found that using the lime sludge can improve soil health. A Residuals Handling Facility (RHF) utilizing the latest technology will come online this year. The RHF will make the byproduct easily accessible to be hauled and be taken away by farmers or contractors for any number of beneficial uses. If you are interested in hauling or procurement of SWA processed lime, please contact Grace Rixen-Handford at (701)225-9147 or gchandford@swwater.com.

Massad Awarded Water Wheel

Mary Massad, Manager/CEO of SWA, was honored with the 2018 Water Wheel Award at the 55th Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop in Bismarck on December 6, 2018. Mary received the Water Wheel Award for her on-going commitment to protecting and managing North Dakota's water resources. Congratulations Mary!



Back Row: Sindhu Pillai-Grinolds, Brian Roth, Jim Lennington, Rick Seifert, Jason Bentz, Bob Leingang, Larry Bares
Front Row: Grace Rixen-Handford, Dave Juntunen, Jen Murray, Mary Massad, Jack Dwyer, George Saxowsky, James Odermann

Online Bill Pay!

You can use a credit card or checking account to make a payment to SWA using a secure internet-based payment service. Do note there is a convenience fee for credit card processing. Please review our website at www.SWwater.com or contact a customer service representative at 701-225-0241 for additional information or to set up a secure online bill pay account.

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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SWA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or disability in employment or the provision of services.

2019 Rate Changes

Each year, Southwest Water Authority's (SWA) Board of Directors carefully reviews current financials to determine the following year's budget and any need for rate changes. Board members and management continuously strive to stabilize the cost of water. In 2019, SWA customers will see an increase in water rates for both communities and rural water users. SWA is not a profit making entity, and rates are set to reflect actual expenses necessary to assure continued water quality and reliable quantity to all SWA's customers. It is important to know SWA does not take any rate changes lightly and has reduced any unnecessary expenses to remain cost efficient. However, fixed and variable costs continue to rise such as power costs, insurances, salaries, vehicle and fuel expenses, system maintenance and equipment replacement.



Rural users will see a \$5.00 increase to the monthly minimum. Cost per 1,000 gallons will be \$5.91, an increase of 87 cents per 1,000 gallons. Rural customers in southwest North Dakota continue to pay less than 2 cents per gallon of water and rank just about average in comparison with other rural water systems across the state.

Water rates for communities and contract customers will be \$5.23 per 1,000 gallons, an increase of 80 cents per 1,000 gallons. Rural customers may ask why their rates are going up more than the contract rates. Simply, it costs more to deliver water to rural individuals than to the cities. However, once the water is delivered to the city, the city charges the necessary costs to distribute the water to individual homes and businesses.



2019 Schedule of Board of Directors Meetings

The public is always welcome to attend our monthly Board of Director's meetings. Contact our office if you have questions. Call 701-225-0241 or email swa@swwater.com. All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. MT and will be held at the SWA O&M Center Office, Dickinson, ND (unless otherwise noted).

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| Monday, January 7 | Monday, July 1 |
| Monday, February 4 | Monday, August 5 |
| Monday, March 4 | Tuesday, September 3 |
| Monday, April 1 | Monday, October 7 |
| Monday, May 6 | Monday, November 4 |
| Monday, June 3 | |

Tuesday, December 3 - 10:00am MT, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives Building, Mandan, ND



Raw Water Parallel Pipe from Intake to OMND



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