

## From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Mary Massad,  
Manager/CEO

Happy Spring!

Winter brought freezing temps, driving the frost into the ground.

The Southwest Water Authority Service Area had frozen pipes and

problems due to the freezing this season. This will continue, so please be cautious and check your water faucets and pipes to make sure you do not have any problems.

Construction season will be starting soon and we have a lot going on. This season's construction includes tanks, reservoirs, main transmission pipeline and rural pipeline construction. The Finished Water Pump Station and preliminary development for the new Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson are also planned for this year.

The tanks include New Hradec, Killdeer Mountain and Dunn Center. The reservoir under construction is the Zap II reservoir. The main transmission pipeline from the OMND Water Treatment Plant to Halliday ceased construction this winter with 50% completion and will start again

soon. The second leg of the main transmission pipeline that reaches from north of Halliday to northwest of Killdeer has been bid, awarded and construction will start this spring.

The East Center Service Area in Oliver County has been bid, awarded and will begin construction this spring. This contract includes 230 miles of pipeline ultimately connecting more than 250 rural customers.

SWA is working on the West Center Service Area which includes Oliver, southern Mercer and the northern tip of Morton county. Easements have been sent to property owners and need to be returned before construction can move forward. Talk to your neighbors about getting their easements signed and returned. Do not forget to sign the easements in front of a notary and return them to SWA as soon as you can.

In the West Center Service Area there are potential high cost customers who can affect the construction. Additional sign ups in these high cost areas will ensure your water service becomes a reality. If you do not take action and sign up soon you may not receive water.

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## Spring Cleaning

### Put your Quality Water to Use

Spring is a perfect time to assess your home's water system. Read through these helpful tips which could save you time and money.

- Check your water meter at night and again in the morning. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
- Pour a bucket of water into your sump pit to make sure your pump activates quickly, removes the water and shuts off properly.
- Check all your faucets to make sure water flows freely and are not leaking. If there is a leak, you may have a pipe that froze during the winter and cracked.
- Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank and wait for a half hour. If the color seeps into the bowl, you should get your toilet repaired.
- Check the supply hoses to your dishwasher and washing machine for any signs of weaknesses.
- Flush your water heater by slowly draining it. This will remove any corrosion causing sediment that can shorten the life of the heater.
- Locate your water supply valve. Turn it on and off to prevent it from sticking.



## Guy Mischel Awarded 2014 Outstanding Water Works Employee

Guy Mischel, Southwest Water Authority's Water Treatment Plant Operator IV, has been recognized as the 2014 Outstanding Water Works Employee by the North Dakota Rural Water System Association at the annual EXPO on February 18, 2014, in Fargo, North Dakota. The award is given once a year to a water operator or rural water system manager with outstanding leadership abilities and extraordinary accomplishments in water operations beyond the normal requirements of the job.

Mischel was nominated by the Southwest Water Authority Manager/CEO Mary Massad and Water Treatment Manager Grace Rixen-Handford. Massad said, "Guy has worked in water treatment for more than 24 years. His hard work, dedication, and positive attitude make him an excellent candidate to receive this award." Rixen-Handford said, "Guy's patience and knowledge of the plant makes him an excellent trainer for new operators in both maintenance and operations. He is a valuable asset to Southwest Water Authority with exceptional quality of work and dedication to the water industry."



Guy Mischel with Mary Massad

Congratulations Guy! Thank you for all you do for Southwest Water Authority, the Southwest Pipeline Project and those we serve. It is because of dedicated individuals like you, we are successful.

### Employment Opportunities:

The Southwest Pipeline Project anticipates unprecedented population growth for the foreseeable future. The Southwest Water Authority expects a number of new positions to become available this year in a variety of areas including administrative, operational and technical operations.

Military Veterans are encouraged to apply. Re-training, if needed will be provided to qualified veterans. SWA posts all job openings on Hero 2 Hero at [www.h2h.jobs](http://www.h2h.jobs).

Check out the job openings page online at [www.swwater.com](http://www.swwater.com) under the "About Us" tab for current positions and to fill out an application.



**Our Vision:**  
People and Business  
Succeeding with  
Quality Water

**Our Mission:**  
Quality Water for  
Southwest  
North Dakota

**Water Works** is the Official Publication of the Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project.

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## Manager's Message cont'd

It is important to sign up for water prior to bid date to secure a lower sign up cost to you and a greater possibility you will receive service. Now is the time to sign up for an additional location and to talk to your neighbors about signing up for SWA water service.

The Finished Water Pump Station in Dickinson is currently being advertised for bids. When finished it will bring more pumping capacity for the city of Dickinson and the Southwest Pipeline Project. The future Water Treatment Plant in Dickinson is currently working on preparatory construction that includes membrane procurement and lime softening. Together, the Finished Water Pump Station and the future Water Treatment Plant will accommodate the growing needs of our region.

Monthly meter readings are vital to SWA and to you, our customers. Accurate readings help us monitor your water consumption and keep your bill stable. In the instances of any meter fluctuations, we are able to alert you of probable leaks.

Please let us know if you have questions. We are here to serve you.

### Get Connected:

Contact the Southwest Water Authority office to get connected to the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Please note customers are not allowed to turn on their water by themselves or by their water and sewer installer or licensed plumber. This must be done by SWA. It is a safety concern for our customers. The line must be flushed and tested to be sure it is safe to drink. If a customer turns on their own water, it will result in a fine and/or termination of water service.



Stay connected with Southwest Water Authority for the latest news, tips, alerts and job postings. Visit us at [www.facebook.com/swwater](http://www.facebook.com/swwater)

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## SWA Places Fourth for Best Tasting Tap Water



The Judges of the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Contest recently declared Southwest Water Authority fourth for best tasting tap water. The 24th Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Contest was hosted Thursday, February 20 through Saturday, February 22, 2014 in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

The best tap water in the world hailed from Clearbrook, BC, Canada, followed by the best in the USA which was Santa Ana, CA. Hamilton, OH, placed second and Greenwood, BC, Canada, placed third. Southwest Water Authority tied for fourth place with Montpelier, OH. This was the second time Southwest Water Authority has entered the contest, moving up two places from sixth place in 2013.

During the contest, ten media judges spent hours tasting and selecting from among nearly 100 waters sourced from six continents including 18 states, three Canadian provinces, and 12 foreign countries. The judges rated the waters on each

attribute including appearance, aroma, taste, mouth feel and aftertaste. "It was another wonderful year for the longest running and largest water tasting in the world," remarked perennial watermaster, Arthur von Wiesenberger. "Berkeley Springs is the granddaddy of them all."