

2010 Progress Report

Background

Southwest Water Authority (SWA), a political subdivision, was established by the North Dakota State Legislature in 1991 to manage, operate and maintain the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). SWA is currently governed by a 15-member board of directors representing the following counties: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope and Stark, as well as the cities of Dickinson and Mandan.

SWPP was established to bring a reliable source of quality water to the people living and working in this region. The project is responsible for transporting raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson. There, the water is treated and delivered to customers throughout southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota.

For the past 25 years, the project has been constructing a network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities. SWPP proudly provides service to 28 communities, approximately 4,000 rural service locations, 14 small businesses, 15 raw water customers and Perkins County Rural Water System in South Dakota.

Construction

With completion of the Medora, Beach Regional Service Area portion of the Southwest Pipeline Project, construction focus and efforts shifted entirely to the final phase of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Regional Service Area. This phase includes a new water treatment plant, three communities, more than eight contract users and over 1,000 rural users. The first segment of pipeline taking water to Hazen has been installed, pressure tested and will be chlorinated in the near future.

Main Transmission Line (MTL) contracts for Stanton, Center Tank and Zap Potable Reservoir were awarded in July. Substantial completion dates are scheduled for June, 2011. The MTL to Center, the Killdeer Mountains, OMND Water Treatment Plant Concentrate Discharge Facility, Center Elevated Tank and Zap Rural Service Area have received specific authorizations and are currently under design.

Rates

The Southwest Water Authority (SWA) Board of Directors and Management continuously work to stabilize the cost of water. Annually, they review the rates and determine if changes are needed. For 2010, the rural monthly minimum remained the same at \$41.10 and includes 2,000 gallons of water with a monthly meter reading. The rural monthly minimum includes capital repayment (\$31.65), meter fee (\$5.00), and operations and maintenance (\$4.45). The capital repayment amount is tied to the Consumer Price Index and adjusted annually by the North Dakota State Water Commission. Capital repayment was decreased by \$0.48.

The rural customer rate per 1,000 gallons increased to \$3.70 up to 10,000 gallons and over 10,000 gallons increased to \$2.70. The Beulah Interim Service Area will not receive the volume discount of \$2.70 until service can be provided to the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Regional Service Area from the OMND Water Treatment Plant.

The rate increased for contract and demand customers. The demand contract customer rate is \$4.20 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. The contract customer rate is \$3.17 per 1,000 gallons of potable water. Treatment was increased by \$0.05 for demand and contract customers. The raw water contract rate remained the same at \$2.54 per 1,000 gallons of water.



Vision

People and business succeeding with quality water.

Mission

Providing quality water for southwest North Dakota.

Highlights

Annual Water Quality Reports

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) presented the Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports (a.k.a. Consumer Confidence Reports) to customers served by the Southwest Pipeline Project. These reports contain important information about the quality of the drinking water delivered each and every day. SWA works tirelessly to ensure the water is fresh, clear and good tasting. Drinking water safety is our highest priority and our system continues to meet all drinking water regulations established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The reports can be found on our Web site www.swa.swc.state.nd.us.

SWA Wins Water Fluoridation Quality Award

The North Dakota Department of Health announced that Southwest Water Authority (SWA) has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay.

"The staff at the Water Treatment Plant takes water quality very seriously," said SWA Manager/CEO, Mary Massad. "Helping customers prevent tooth decay, by maintaining optimal levels of fluoridation, is another benefit of water from the Southwest Pipeline Project."

SWA Staff is Recognized

The North Dakota Department of Health presented "Certificates of Compliance" to area water operators who fully complied with the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. Lee Messer, Water Distribution Manager, was recognized and received commendation.

Celebrating Water

In June, the city of Hazen, welcomed state dignitaries and water supporters to celebrate water. The event was hosted by Southwest Water Authority to recognize the completion of the Medora, Beach Regional Service Area and construction in the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Regional Service Area – two definite reasons to celebrate!

The theme for the event was "One small step for water and one giant leap for the people North Dakota" representing overall water development and the challenges overcome to continue construction.

Celebration guests were honored with an appearance from the Honorable John Hoeven, Governor of North Dakota. In his speech, Governor Hoeven recognized the many water supporters who, over the years, have contributed to the success of the SWPP. Many who attended the celebration played vital roles in bringing the SWPP closer to achieving "mission critical," providing an adequate supply of quality water to the residents of southwest North Dakota.

Demand for Water Increases

The oil impact in southwest North Dakota has increased the demand for a consistent supply of quality water. The number of operating drilling rigs in this region continues to break records.

Southwest Water Authority (SWA) recognizes economic development is important for growth throughout the region. Thus, the SWA Board of Directors appointed an Oil Subcommittee to explore the opportunities available for water through the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP). SWA is working diligently to ensure service continues to progress in the rural areas, as well as meet the recent demands for water by the oil industry.

One of the ways to meet this demand was to construct a water depot near the city of Dodge. The depot is the first large-scale use of the SWPP for the oil field industry and is a cooperative effort between oil and water.

To ensure rural residents receive service as originally promised, the Phase Development Plan remains priority. SWA will continue to look at new and innovative ways to serve the growing oil industry, as well as rural areas.

Southwest Water Authority Newly-Elected Officers

- Larry Bares – Chairperson
- James Odermann – Vice-Chairperson
- Steve Schneider – Secretary/Treasurer

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