

Statement of Bob Schempp at the Public Scoping meeting held in Bottineau, ND on September 13, 2010.

I'm Bob Schempp. I'm appearing on behalf of the NAWS Advisory Committee.

I've been Chairman of the Advisory Committee since its' inception 23 years ago and I was an employee of the City of Minot during all of Minot's 40 year history with the Bureau of Reclamation.

We moved to Minot in 1958. At that time, the Minot City Council was considering construction of a multi-million dollar pipeline to the Garrison Reservoir. But, rather than build the 47 miles of what was then thought to be a very expensive pipe, the City Council accepted a consultants recommendation to develop well sites upstream in the Souris River valley.

That recommendation failed and the City continued to mine and over develop the Minot aquifer.

In the late 60's, the Sindre aquifer was discovered and in 1972, the City contracted with the Bureau for construction of an "interim" transmission line from the Sindre as a part of the Garrison Diversion project. That system was designed to connect to an irrigation canal and a man made lake that would provide water to Minot.

In 1986, our water supply direction was again changed by adoption of the Garrison Reformulation Act. So, we again began looking south for our ultimate water supply solution.

In 1987, an advisory committee was formed to plan for the delivery of Missouri river water. This group was designated as the NAWS Advisory Committee by the North Dakota State Legislature in 1991.

In 1999 Minot and the ND State Water Commission approved an agreement for payment of the local share of the cost of the current NAWS project. And, on April 5, 2002 ground was broken.

Now, 53 years after Minot first considered tapping the abundant water supply which could be provided by the Reservoir, pipe is in the ground and water is flowing to a portion of the area to be served by NAWS. But,

because of an extended and, in my opinion, abused environment process, that water is not Missouri River water, it is a portion of Minot's 38 year "interim" supply.

The environmental process for NAWS has been underway for about 12 years, with at least another 2 years to be added to complete this Supplemental EIS. And, to further complicate matters, the process is engaged in trying to satisfy objections posed by the Province of Manitoba which, based on their past actions and statements will never be satisfied.

We are told that approval, design and construction of the biota treatment plant will take another 6 years, after the Bureau receives permission to proceed.

I have sometimes wondered if delivery of a clean, abundant domestic water supply is worth the years spent and the frustration encountered.

It is. Our future depends upon it.

So, we ask that The Bureau complete the Supplemental EIS in record time and that The Bureau answer the questions of the Court in complete, concise, and easy to understand language

The NAWS Advisory Committee asked that I thank The Bureau for this opportunity, and that The Bureau also be thanked for what it has done and what it will do to bring Missouri River water to north central North Dakota.

Testimony for the Supplemental EIS for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project
Week of September 13, 2010

Michelle Klose, PE
North Dakota State Water Commission
NAWS Project Manager

My name is Michelle Klose and I am speaking as the NAWS Project Manager of the State Water Commission.

It is difficult to fully describe the care taken by the State Water Commission, the NAWS Advisory Committee, the City of Minot, and the cities and rural water systems in the region under trying circumstances. Because of the ongoing litigation over the project, all parties have carefully striven to balance the environmental review with continuing development of the project. First, and most important, we have encouraged the federal government to do everything in its control to satisfy the edict of the Court so that the injunction could be lifted completely. Second, we have cautiously, but consistently, sought relief from the Court to allow construction to continue in a phased approach that allows work to proceed, while the supplemental environmental review is completed in an open and fair manner and in full compliance with the Court's Order.

Even when the Court has found elements of the project environmental review to be lacking, it also has confirmed what we all know – that the project is essential for the public health and safety for north central North Dakota. The Court has allowed construction to continue so long as the specific project elements do not foreclose water treatment options. The Court has also recognized that Reclamation had taken a hard look at reasonable in-basin alternatives, and concluded there is a need for transferred water from the Missouri River for this project.

The NAWS Project is in its 8th year of construction. Since 1991, the State Water Commission has invested \$81.8 million of federal, state and Minot cost share on the NAWS project.

Construction on the pipeline between Lake Sakakawea and Minot began in the spring of 2002. In October 2002, the Province of Manitoba filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington D.C challenging the FONSI issued for the Project and requested that federal funds and construction on the project be halted. The State Water Commission worked through several layers of the injunction and has continued construction on portions of the project as allowed by the Court.

We completed construction on the 45 miles of water line between Lake Sakakawea and Minot was completed in spring 2008. The Berthold Segment, which included 25 miles of pipeline, 3 pump stations, and 2 reservoirs from the Minot treatment plant to Berthold, was completed in August 2008. Berthold was the first community to receive interim flow from the NAWS project.

We worked on the joint project with All Seasons Water Users District for the 13 miles pipeline between All Seasons water treatment plant near Bottineau to Gardena, which was operational by September 2009. The Kenmare Segment, which included 52 miles of pipeline and one pump station, started providing water service to Kenmare and the Upper Souris Water District in December 2009. The million-gallon tank near Kenmare is near completion today and has been put in use. The Mohall, Sherwood, All Seasons Segment, which includes 62 miles of pipeline along Highway 5 and north, is currently under construction and will provide water to these communities and rural water systems this fall.

We should be clear: the history of this project reflects adaptations to address many of the concerns expressed by Manitoba over the control of invasive microscopic biota. In particular, the project has advanced from an open canal diversion to a closed pipeline, with water treatment evaluated in the EIS to disinfect and radiate the water to kill bacteria and viruses.

The construction on the NAWS pipelines and facilities has closely followed the requirements of the original Environmental Assessment completed in 2001. The Impact Mitigation Assessment Team continues to field review each project during design and construction stages to confirm work has proceeded to address environmental commitments. During the design reviews, the best pipeline routes are reviewed from various perspectives including wetland avoidance and crossings for rivers, intermittent streams, and coulees. The National Wetland Inventory data has been incorporated onto contract documents to aid in the avoidance of wetland basins, whether the land is in Wetland Easement status or not. The result being project avoidance of hundreds of dry wetland basins identified on the Inventory.

For pipeline corridors proposed to occupy lands with US Fish and Wildlife Service permanent wetland easements, communication and cooperation between the applicable wetlands management office, whether Audubon, Upper Souris, or J.Clark Saylor, we have been successful in pipeline design around protected wetland basins. In a few instances, permits were obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to excavate through dry wetland basins.

The following rivers and coulee crossings on our northern project used horizontal directional drilling methods and restrained joint pipe to minimize potential for erosion and minimize impacts to wetlands, wildlife, aquatic life, and vegetation: Gassman Coulee, Larsons Coulee, Lloyds Coulee, Lonetree Coulee, Des Lacs River, and the pending crossings at Mouse River at the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, and Cut Bank Creek.

Contract specifications and contractor construction methods have been successful in ensuring the conservation of existing topsoil and landowner complaints are rare.

Class I, II and III archaeological surveys have been completed on all segments to protect Historic Properties. The State Paleontologist has been consulted on all project segments to protect potential impacts to paleontology resources.

The pipeline between Lake Sakakawea and Minot was designed and constructed for containment and reduction of risk for transfer of biota. The system was designed and constructed to address a wide range of issues from normal operation, loss of power or SCADA, to excessive flow which signals a potential pipeline break, and even conditionals with unexpected pressure changes.

The NAWS Project will alleviate serious water quality and water quantity problems in the area to be served by the project. These areas have been in need of a new source of water to provide good quality drinking water not only to improve human health and comply with federal drinking water standards, but also for the positive economic and social impacts good water will have on individuals and communities.

Some of the drinking water sources within the project area pose health problems because they contain high levels of sodium, sulfates, and chloride. For example, the town of Berthold was the first community to receive an interim water supply from Minot through the NAWS pipeline - starting in August 2008. Berthold's local water supply had Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) at 2300 mg/L, far above the Safe Drinking Water Act's secondary TDS standard of 500 mg/L. Berthold was a community where people were trucking/hauling in water for their drinking water. The city's well water system was used for flushing toilets, but not for drinking, not for watering gardens or lawns, and not for washing white clothes. The attached articles from the Minot Daily News by Jill Schramm, Berthold Rates to Reflect Better Quality Water and NAWS Celebrates Water Delivery to Berthold, provides the local perspective on the value and need of a new water supply.

Further, naturally occurring arsenic is present in some area water supplies. The arsenic standard for drinking water is a primary standard under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The maximum contaminant level for arsenic is 0.010 mg/L. Arsenic levels in the drinking water of two communities served by NAWS – Kenmare and Upham – violated the federal arsenic standard. Kenmare was facing the situation of investing funding in a separate reverse osmosis water treatment plant or seeking an interim water service connection through NAWS. Connecting to the NAWS Project gave these communities the best opportunity at the time to address arsenic. The attached articles from The Kenmare News by Caroline Downs, Kenmare Turns on the Tap for NAWS Water and Donnybrook and Tolley Area Water Users Now Hooked Up to NAWS, provides the local perspective on turning on water service after the Kenmare-Upper Souris segment of the pipeline was completed in December 2009. Also attached are articles from the Minot Daily News by Jill Schramm, discussing the connection of water service to Burlington and West River Water District this summer. They are entitled Water Flows West and NAWS Water Flows to Burlington.

Issues still being faced in this area are wells going dry, routinely hauling water to local cafes, and difficulties getting home loans due to a lack of reliable water is highlighted in the attached articles from the Minot Daily News by Jill Schramm, Carpio-area Residents Need Money to Connect to NAWS and Carpio sees Opportunity for NAWS Water.

It is very difficult with the water supply needs of this region to draw a line of where the connection to an interim supply will end. It was precisely this difficult decision that was made with care by the State Water Commission and the City of Minot, in consultation with the NAWS Advisory Committee, and the communities and rural water districts in the region. The interim supply was agreed to by Minot to supply limited water to meet immediate drinking water needs for a portion of the region while work proceeded on the Environmental Impact Statement.

Now with Reclamation starting a supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement to address the Court's Order, the interim supply will be relied on longer than hoped. Loss of the interim supply would take the quality of water being experienced by these communities back to conditions prior to the pipeline construction. No one would want to see that day.

The consequences of biota transfer in the Hudson Bay Basin from this project will be evaluated by Reclamation and disclosed to the public. But so too it should be recognized that there are consequences of the unmet and ever increasing need for a safe and reliable source of water for our communities. The long-term benefits in public health and safety, economic development and community stability need to be met.

We firmly stress the need for Reclamation to conduct a meaningful review of potential biota transfer impacts, as opposed to a worse case scenario or hypothetical analysis of the issue. We urge Reclamation to advance past the risk based analysis that formed the basis of the previous EA and EIS to attempt to assess actual impacts should certain biota not be treated successfully and find their way into the Hudson Bay watershed. But having said that, the analysis has to be limited by some notions of reality. In many ways, the analysis will be qualitative, seeking ways to tie potential impacts to other experiences in the same or different watersheds. The State supports a full and fair analysis of this issue consistent with the Court's order, but cautions against engaging in a series of speculative, unsupported studies or theoretical modeling. The biota of concern are all now present in the Hudson Bay basin. If there is a problem, one may never, ever know from where the organisms originated. But we can use past problems, how they were addressed, the short term and long term impacts, etc., to get a sense of what the impacts may look like. The agency's study should and must be bounded by the notions of the NEPA "rule of reason" and not try to track down hypothetical and uncertain theories.

In the area of Missouri River depletions, we are confident of Reclamation's and the COE's ability to clearly address this issue through the prism of NAWS, just as they completed the work through the prism of Red River Valley Water Supply.

Again, we thank you for your continued work on this project and respectfully encourage you to do everything in your control to satisfy the edict of the Court so that the injunction could be lifted.

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Kenmare turns on the tap for NAWS water

Posted 12/09/09 (Wed)

By Caroline Downs

With the thermometer shivering at 6 degrees below zero, the valves were opened Monday between the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) and the city of Kenmare water distribution lines.

Kenmare now receives its water supply from the city of Minot and will continue to do so until the NAWS system has the capability of treating and distributing water from the Missouri River at Lake Sakakawea through its lines.

"This is the day we've been waiting for," said Kenmare mayor Roger Ness. "This is one more step for us."

He added that Kenmare still has to build a new water tower and install a pressure regulating system to complete the upgrade to the city's municipal water system. Those projects will likely be bid in January or February 2010. "We're planning a celebration next year when everything's done," he said.

Many residents may want to celebrate now, knowing the water coming from their taps, filling their toilets or rinsing loads of laundry no longer contains the tannins and other solutes that have characterized Kenmare's water for decades.

However, don't fill that coffee pot at the kitchen sink just yet. "It's not something you're going to notice today," said Ness.

The entire Kenmare system has to be flushed. City employee Mike Thompson and city engineer Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold Engineering in Minot already started that process, but it's going to take some time.

Ness said the water pipes throughout town hold about 80,000 gallons of water, the tower holds between 25,000 and 30,000 gallons, and businesses and residences serve as another storage site for water. City employees drew down the city's cistern and tank as much as they could to maintain service before the valves were opened to the NAWS line, but the lines are still filled with old Kenmare water.

On Monday, Ackerman and Thompson discussed a strategy for flushing hydrants around town. They were concerned about creating sheets of ice for drivers, given the week's forecast of single digit high temperature readings.

"We'll attempt to divert any water away from the streets," said Ackerman. "We want to develop a flushing program to minimize impact to streets and properties."

Michelle Klose, NAWS project manager from Bismarck, recommended that homeowners do their part to flush their own lines. "Citizens should run their taps for a few minutes extra," she said. "It will take a little time, but you'll see the water clear up once you run it a while."

She emphasized the change to Minot city water could take several days, a prediction supported by Ackerman. "The city will start flushing right away, but these transitions always take a little bit longer than you expect," said Klose.

Ackerman said residents should not notice any changes in their home water pressure over the next few days. "This will be no different than the regular flushing process," he said.

Perry Weiner, water resource senior manager with the State Water Commission, cautioned residents and businesses who own older hot water heaters. "That clean, clear water acts like flushing a radiator," he said, "and you could see leaks. We've seen that a lot in the Southwest Area Water Supply project."

New water, new billing rates

The new water comes with an increased billing rate that went into effect December 1st. The basic monthly fee remains \$23, but the rate per 1000 gallons has been raised from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

"People will see that on their December billing," said city auditor Mary Brekhus. Those statements will be printed later this month. "You have to pay by January 10th."

That new rate may require further adjustment as the project continues. "We're going to have to take a look when the project gets done and re-evaluate," Ness said.

Ness and Brekhus noted that approximately 75 water meters still need to be replaced at locations around town. The new meters will allow remote readings to be taken. According to Brekhus, the city has about 550 meters in service throughout town.

Kenmare uses an average of 116,000 gallons of water per day. The city of Minot will provide 120,000 gallons of water to flush the system.

Judge reviewing NAWS lawsuit

While Klose was in Kenmare on Monday, she informed Ness about the status of the lawsuit filed by the province of Manitoba and joined by the state of Missouri to stop the NAWS project. An injunction was imposed on any design and construction work on the treatment plant for Missouri River water until the suit is resolved, but the judge has allowed construction of the pipeline itself.

Final documents were submitted on behalf of NAWS in mid-November. Klose noted the judge filed an order last Thursday requesting more information regarding the placement of pipe in one particular location. The explanation must be given to the court by Friday, December 11th.

"It's good she has responded to what we submitted earlier," Klose said.

Now in compliance for arsenic standard

The city of Kenmare has had an adequate supply of water for years from the city's two deep wells. However, the quality of the water has been less than satisfactory for many local residents, who often purchase water for drinking and resign themselves to discolored garments, towels and bedding after a few rounds through the washing machine.

When federal regulations went into effect in 2006 to reduce arsenic levels in municipal water supplies from 50 to 10 parts per billion, Kenmare water was found to be in violation. Samples showed arsenic levels at 11 to 14 ppb. "It wasn't dangerous, but it was out of compliance," Ness explained.

After examining several plans to bring the city's water supply into compliance with the arsenic standard, the city council agreed to purchase water from the city of Minot for delivery through the NAWS system.

"In any strategic planning session we've ever had, water quality is the key issue," Ness said. "This is going to be great for the future of Kenmare, to have water that's high quality. Water is one of the most important commodities."

Klose joined Ness in celebrating completion of this part of the NAWS project. "The community has been looking at different options," she said. "There's been so much effort for construction, funding, communities working together, to keep this project going."

Minot is currently supplying water through the NAWS system to Berthold, with Kenmare in service and the Upper Souris Water District scheduled to come online within the next few weeks. Pipeline construction to Sherwood, Mohall and the All Seasons Water District should be finished next summer. "Next year, we'll have a couple more communities coming on," said Klose.

Alan Walter, Minot city public works director, has predicted Minot has enough water to fulfill the needs of the entire system during off-peak usage in the fall and winter months, with the outlying systems prepared to blend Minot water with their current sources for peak usage months.

Ness said Kenmare will consider blending its water, but the city council may also look at restricted use of water for yards and gardens during the summer months to reduce or eliminate the need for blending.

He praised the city of Minot and the State Water Commission for their cooperation on the NAWS project through the years and the commitment made to residents and communities of the northwest corner of the state.

"The stars must have been aligned just right to get this many entities working together in such a short time," Ness said. "I give credit to Alan Walter and his department in Minot. They have been key to this project. And to the city of Minot and the Magic Fund for paying for much of this, and supplying this region with water until we can get water out of Lake Sakakawea."

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Donnybrook and Tolley area water users now hooked up to NAWS

Posted 12/31/09 (Thu)

By Caroline Downs

Approximately 150 water hook-ups in the Donnybrook and Tolley areas were connected Tuesday to water supplied by the City of Minot through the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) pipeline.

Gary Hager, general manager of the Upper Souris Water District met with Perry Weiner from the State Water Commission and engineers on the NAWS project to oversee a smooth transition as valves between the two systems were opened.

Hager said customers in Plain, Ivanhoe, White Ash, Roosevelt, the eastern half of Sauk Prairie and the western half of Callahan townships would start receiving the new water in their taps, as well as residents in the towns of Donnybrook and Tolley.

"We have about 90 rural hookups and about 35 each in Tolley and Donnybrook," said Hager.

The area served by the new water supply represents a portion of the Upper Souris Water District System I, with customers along the rest of that system scheduled to receive the new water after construction on the pipeline is completed to Sherwood and Mohall during the summer and fall of 2010.

Customers of the Upper Souris Water District System II will have to wait until NAWS pipeline construction is finished north of the Minot Air Force Base. "We're shooting for 2011," Hager said.

The city of Kenmare connected to the NAWS system two weeks ago, purchasing water from Minot so the municipal water supply would comply with federal arsenic standards. For the Upper Souris Water District, the change to the new supply will assist with the issue of water quantity. "We needed more gallons," said Hager.

He noted the current sources for both systems on the water district meet all federal regulations for quality. "We're even better than some places," he said.

However, some customers along the line have lost water service during times of peak demand. "Our plant is designed to provide 150 gallons per minute," Hager said. "At peak times, the demand can be 250 gallons per minute."

Much of the water flowing during those peak demands goes toward agricultural use. Hager noted an increased demand for water in Systems I and II with recent changes in farming techniques. Forty to forty-five percent of the total water usage in the Upper Souris Water District goes toward agricultural application.

"Ten years ago, we sold 47 million gallons a year," he said. "With the increase in spraying, by 2008, we sold 61 millions gallons. Our average use per month is 3.6 million gallons on System I, but that goes up to six million gallons ~~a day~~ during the spraying season. That's when this will help."

Hager did not anticipate a need to blend the new water with that from the district's current supply at this time. "But we will blend during the peak time if the demand out there requires it," he said.

Initial flushing of the affected portion of System I took place Tuesday, with more flushing scheduled over the next few days.

"People should be patient," Hager said. "This may take a week to ten days. We're flushing as fast as we can."

He also noted the disinfectant used in the Minot water supply is the same as that used by the Upper Souris Water District.

The cost for the new water will be shared among all System I members at this time. The contract with NAWS and the city of Minot calls for a charge of \$2.20 per 1000 gallons purchased. "Everyone [on System I] will benefit," Hager said. "This frees up more gallons at our Kenmare water treatment plant for use during peak times."

For now, Hager estimated an increase of \$3.50 per month for most customers. The rates may be re-evaluated and adjusted after more customers are added along the line, and then again after water can be supplied by the Missouri River, treated, and distributed throughout the NAWS system.

Hager emphasized that Upper Souris Water District customers would continue seeing the same service and attention to water quality matters they've been experiencing.

"We're doing everything right now the same as we've been doing, plus buying water," said Hager. "When we can use Lake Sakakawea water, that will supply 100 percent of our needs, and we may see a cost savings at that point."

U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota sent his congratulations for another successful NAWS connection. Dorgan serves as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, with a total of \$25.84 million approved in the past three years specifically to fund construction on the NAWS project.

"The funding we've been able to direct to the Garrison Diversion and NAWS has allowed us to make some exciting progress on the rural water supply in North Dakota," Dorgan said. "The completion of this latest component of NAWS will be a great benefit for those who live in the Donnybrook and Tolley area. This is an investment in the region that is welcome news during Christmas week.

The connection between NAWS and the Upper Souris Water District provided another visible sign of progress for the project. In addition to the pipeline segment completed between Berthold and Kenmare earlier this year and the connection to NAWS established for the municipal supply in Kenmare, a million gallon NAWS storage tank was under construction east of Kenmare at a cost of \$1.841 million, and several miles of pipeline were laid on the Mohall-Sherwood-All Seasons segment at a cost of \$5.114 million and on the All Seasons-Upham segment at a cost of \$680,000.

Once those segments are completed next year, water from the city of Minot will flow through the entire northern tier of the system until Lake Sakakawea water is available. Design and construction of a water treatment plant for the NAWS project is on hold until a lawsuit filed by the Province of Manitoba and the State of Missouri is settled in federal court. Currently, the judge assigned to the case is reviewing final statements and additional information regarding placement of pipeline in specific areas.

Hager told his customers to expect to see clearer water flowing from their taps within the next few days. "I'm told it will even make good coffee," he said.

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NAWS water flows to Burlington

By JILL SCHRAMM Staff Writer jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: August 12, 2010

BURLINGTON Burlington residents will be seeing a positive change in the water coming out of their taps soon.

On Wednesday, the Northwest Area Water Supply project and City of Burlington turned the valve that will bring Minot's treated water to the 1,300 residents of Burlington.

Clint Cogdill, Burlington's public works director, said residents could notice the difference by next week, once the city finishes flushing lines and draws down the existing water level in the reservoir. The water will be blended initially during the switch-over.

Gov. John Hoeven joined Mayor Jerome Gruenberg shortly after 1 p.m. in turning the valve located near Speedway, between Minot and Burlington along U.S. Highways 2 & 52.

"We have been waiting for this for a long time," Gruenberg said. "We were one of the first ones to sign up for this."

Gruenberg said the city built a treatment system to handle the high iron and magnesium that left its water supply brown. However, the water still contains other minerals that have prompted many residents to acquire water softeners or buy drinking water.

"We have really bad water," Gruenberg said. "We have made it so it's usable but this will be better water for us."

Burlington had shared its water with the neighboring West River water system, which includes some housing developments between Burlington and Minot. NAWS turned on water to West River in June. Burlington waited to get an electronic water monitoring system set up.

Burlington will receive up to 170,000 gallons a day from Minot through the NAWS line. The city will maintain its existing water supply and treatment plant to provide fire protection and a supplemental supply in times of heavy usage.

Sherwood and Mohall are next in line to receive Minot's water through NAWS. That is expected to occur in October or November. All Seasons Water Users District also will get water at that time to serve the rural area north of Minot, including residents of Newburg, Antler and Russell.

Article Photos



Jill Schramm/MDN --
Burlington Mayor Jerome Gruenberg, left, visits with Northwest Area Water Supply project manager Michelle Klose and Gov. John Hoeven Wednesday before turning on the NAWS water to Burlington.

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Water flows west

NAWS begins serving West River residents

By JILL SCHRAMM, Staff Writer jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: June 23, 2010

The day that many residents of the Burlington area had long been waiting for came on Tuesday when water from the Northwest Area Water Supply project began flowing to West River Water and Sewer District.

The City of Minot is providing water through NAWS until the project obtains water from the Missouri River.

West River serves about 170 users and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Max Weppeler, vice chairman for the water district, said people have been calling every day, anxious to know when the NAWS water would be turned on.

"Everybody is excited about it," he said.

Dale Frink, state engineer, and Michelle Klose, NAWS project manager, both with the North Dakota Water Commission, were on hand for the turning of the valve near Speedway, between Burlington and Minot, that sent water flowing to the district. Officials with Minot, Burlington, West River and others involved in the project also were present.

NAWS planned to flush lines Tuesday afternoon before introducing the new supply. Residents are advised that they may need to run their water for about 20 minutes to clear any sediment stirred up in the process.

West River has been receiving its water supply through Burlington.

Burlington is scheduled to begin receiving water in about two weeks once technical issues are finalized to enable the city's storage system to accommodate the flow.

"We are real pleased that this is going in," Burlington Mayor Jerome Gruenberg said. "A lot of people in Burlington are looking forward to getting better water."

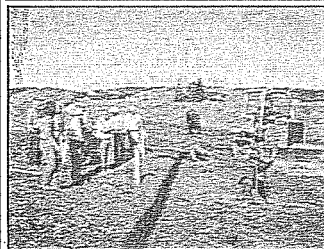
He said Burlington will be blending its existing water with the NAWS water. The city needs to maintain its existing water supply to provide adequate fire protection.

Construction started this spring on the pipeline that is providing the water. Steen Construction completed the \$471,000 project, which was funded with federal and state dollars and Minot's 1 percent sales tax for NAWS.

The two water systems will get up to 179,000 gallons of water a day.

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Article Photos



Jill Schramm/MDN
Clint Cogdill, right, public works director for the city of Burlington, turns the valve to start water flowing to West River Water & Sewer District Tuesday as state and local officials and others involved in the project look on.

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Water opportunity

Carpio sees opportunity for NAWs water

By JILL SCHRAMM Staff Writer jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: March 5, 2009

A Northwest Area Water Supply pipeline soon will be bringing water toward Carpio, giving the community a chance to tap into more dependable, safe water supply.

Members of the city council have been knocking on residents' doors to share information and sign up potential water customers.

"The more people we sign up, the better it is looking to go forward," Mayor Jamie Armstrong said. "It sure would be nice to turn your spigot on and not have to worry about where the water is coming from."

Carpio has no public water system. Residents are served by private wells. Last summer, some residents had problems with wells going dry. Water quality also has been an issue for some. The community's stockholder-owned cafe hauls water from Minot because its well water doesn't meet state standards for public drinking.

Residents who sign up could be in line to receive water in 2010 through North Prairie Rural Water District, working through the North Central Water Consortium. North Prairie would tap into the pipeline that NAWs plans to build from Berthold to Kenmare this year. The area would be served by water from Minot until the day that treated water from the Missouri River becomes available.

Armstrong said there are 93 households in Carpio, and North Prairie wants 60 percent to sign up to proceed with a project.

So far, interest has been good, Armstrong said. The council will assess the interest at its meeting March 9. If it looks positive, the council will meet with North Prairie.

North Prairie would bring pipeline within 50 feet of homes at a cost of \$525 per customer. Residents would be responsible for the hookups to their homes. Armstrong said he has been researching that cost but hasn't any estimate yet.

Once water is delivered, the cost is projected to be \$49 a month to cover operating, plus \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons. The average household uses 4,000 to 5,000 gallons a month.

Carpio's last opportunity to hook up to rural water was 30 years ago, Armstrong said. Residents declined at that time, but Armstrong believes circumstances are different for residents today.

Good, reliable water can make a difference in getting a home loan or in selling a home, he said. It can determine Carpio's future.

"It's another expense, but it's something that's, hopefully, going to build this community," Armstrong said. "It's a small town not far from Minot who could see potential growth."

Residents who pass up this opportunity can hook up later but at higher cost. The hookup charge rises from \$525 to \$1,200 in the first year and \$2,400 after the first year.

Armstrong said many residents, including himself, have looked at the costs and concluded that the water is worth it.

"Water is an important commodity," he said, "and when you have the opportunity to get hooked up to it, it's so nice."

Article Photos



Jill Schramm/MDN
Cafe employee Ashley Huff turns on the tap to fill a glass of water from hauled water in storage while a nearby tap provides well water for nondrinking uses at the Valley Inn Cafe in Carpio.

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Carpio-area residents need money to connect to NAWS

By JILL SCHRAMM, Staff Writer jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: December 17, 2009

CARPIO Carpio-area residents aren't sure how long they will have to wait for good water even though a hookup is waiting for them in a Northwest Area Water Supply pipeline only a half-mile away.

Water began flowing through the pipeline Dec. 7 on its way from Minot to Kenmare. The problem for Carpio is there's no money yet to tap into the pipeline and build a distribution system for the water.

The city of Carpio had hoped to receive water from NAWS next year through the North Central Water Consortium. The consortium, which consists of North Prairie Rural Water District and Central Plains Water District, plans to purchase water from NAWS to bring service to at least 65 subscribers in Carpio and about 100 more subscribers in the rural area.

The consortium needs about \$3 million to build a distribution system for the town and the surrounding rural area. It is seeking grants to make the project affordable.

"I would be really nice if we could figure something out," Carpio Mayor Jamie Armstrong said. He said the toughest part of the delay is "not knowing what to tell the residents in Carpio if they are going to get water or not. ... It's disappointing because they won't give you any sort of an answer. They just keep waiting for funding."

Darrell Hournbuckle, the consortium's engineer with Interstate Engineering, said there wasn't an opportunity to get federal funding for 2010 through the Municipal, Rural and Industrial program. The consortium is working with Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., to get funding into the 2011 budget.

Money might be available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program to get started next summer on a system for the town of Carpio only. The problem is that separating Carpio with its higher population concentration from the rest of the project jeopardizes the financial feasibility of getting water to the scattered rural customers, Hournbuckle said.

"No one wants to just abandon the rural people," Hournbuckle said.

The Rural Development program would provide 45 percent financing, compared to the 75 percent financing associated with MR&I funds.

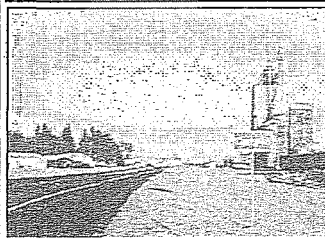
"It means the cost to each individual could be quite a bit higher," Hournbuckle said.

The latest figures, based on costs last spring, showed that North Prairie could bring a pipeline to within 50 feet of homes at a cost of \$525 per customer. Residents would be responsible for the hookups to their homes. Once water is delivered, the cost was projected to be \$49 a month to cover operating, plus \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons. The average household uses 4,000 to 5,000 gallons a month.

Carpio residents are working through the consortium rather than directly with NAWS because they have no public water system. Residents are served by private wells.

Residents have had problems with wells going dry, and water quality is an issue. Armstrong said one homebuyer was required to put in a reverse osmosis system to qualify for a mortgage. The community's stockholder-owned cafe has hauled water from Minot because its well water hasn't met quality standards.

Article Photos



Jill Schramm/MDN
The town of Carpio, along with area rural residents, are waiting for funding to build a distribution system for NAWS water.

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Berthold rates to reflect better quality water

By JILL SCHRAMM, Staff Writer jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: August 8, 2008

BERTHOLD Berthold residents will pay a little more for water beginning later this month, but Mayor Alan Lee said the price is a bargain.

"I think it's an extremely good buy for what we are getting," Lee said.

Berthold and the Northwest Area Water Supply project will be celebrating the arrival of a new water supply on Aug. 18. That's when Berthold is expected to begin supplying residents with NAWS water purchased from Minot. A celebration ceremony is set for 2 p.m. in the Sportsman Club, followed by a 3 p.m. ribbon cutting at the NAWS tank site.

The Berthold City Council approved an increase of \$2 per 1,000 gallons in the price to water users. The average household will see its water bill increase \$10 to \$15 a month, assuming water usage remains the same.

Lee said many residents haven't watered lawns and were buying or hauling drinking water because the quality of Berthold's water has been poor. With the arrival of good water, usage of the municipal system is expected to increase.

Under a contract between the State Water Commission and the City of Minot, the commission will pay Minot \$1.57 per 1,000 gallons for treated water to be delivered through NAWS to Berthold. Those costs, along with operation and maintenance costs of NAWS and the City of Berthold, will be passed on to water users.

Berthold expects to purchase an average of 34,000 gallons a day from Minot this year. In event of drought, Berthold would share in any water restrictions that Minot might impose on use of city-treated water.

The Minot Water Treatment Plant produces an average of 10 million gallons a day for summer use and 5 million gallons a day in the winter for Minot, Minot Air Force Base and North Prairie Rural Water. Based on June billings, Minot used about 72 percent of the water produced, or more than 7 million gallons a day.

Minot also has a contract with NAWS for use of its pipeline to distribute an average 1.16 million gallons a day to some city customers this year. Minot will pay NAWS 28 cents per 1,000 gallons to cover operation and maintenance.

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NAWS celebrates water delivery to Berthold

By JILL SCHRAMM, Staff Writer, jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: August 19, 2008

BERTHOLD Water flowed from Minot's treatment plant into a storage tank at Berthold as Berthold residents and others involved in the Northwest Area Water Supply project celebrated Monday.

"Now we are going to have good water," said Bob Inman, a member of the Berthold City Council. "It will help the city grow."

Berthold's community band kicked off festivities that included speeches, a ribbon-cutting and what might have been the first ceremonial visit by a state governor to Berthold. Joining Gov. John Hoeven were other leaders who have worked on water issues, including area legislators, representatives of the state's congressional offices and officials from the State Water Commission, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, City of Minot and Ward County.

The State Water Commission is purchasing water from Minot to serve Berthold, a community of about 466 people. NAWS built a pipeline this past year to connect the two towns, located 25 miles apart,

"I know this isn't our long-term goal. Our long-term goal is to get Missouri River water here," said Dale Frink, state engineer with the water commission. "I think it will happen. But this really is a very nice first step."

A lawsuit brought by Manitoba over proposed water treatment has prevented access to Missouri River water. The court has ordered more studies, and the Bureau of Reclamation hopes to finish an Environmental Impact Statement by the end of the year.

Minot is providing water to Berthold in the interim.

Following the ribbon-cutting, Minot Mayor Curt Zimbelman signed an agreement with the State Water Commission to authorize the sale of water. The Minot City Council will consider an amendment to address the city's long-term involvement should water from the Missouri River be indefinitely delayed. The amendment won't affect water sales for the interim projected in the agreement.

"We are going to complete NAWS, and today is a big step forward," Hoeven said during Monday's ceremony. "It really symbolizes the progress we are making on the Northwest Area Water system."

He said the environmental study will ensure the project protects the interests of the state and Canada.

"We are doing it right. We are doing it well. We are being very diligent that it's environmentally sound, but we will not be dissuaded or deterred," Hoeven said. "We are going to keep moving this forward. This is important to our state."

Berthold Mayor Alan Lee credited the project's progress to Minot's commitment, including passage of a 1 percent sales tax to pay local costs of NAWS for the region.

"This is a major day, a major step forward, and without that 1 percent sales tax to push this forward, we probably wouldn't be where we are today," Lee said.

Minot voters enacted the sales tax in 1999. In June, they rejected a plan to divert a portion of the tax to a community bowl.

"We have tried to help the communities around us as best we can," Zimbelman said. "Certainly when we put in this city sales tax, we didn't think it would be in as long as it has been. This thing has been drug out. This has certainly slowed down projects we might have been able to do otherwise, but I know the community is behind NAWS. The importance of water just can't be overstated."

Michelle Klose, NAWS project manager with the water commission, said a delay in getting a pump station into operation has kept the people of Berthold from already being able to run Minot water out of their taps. The state is conducting bacterial testing today on the water in storage. If the water passes the test as expected, the City of Berthold can begin Wednesday to flush its distribution system in preparation for delivering the new water.

Article Photos



Jill Schramm/MDN —
Cutting the ribbon on water from the Northwest Area Water Supply in front of a water storage tank in Berthold Monday are, from left, Minot mayor Curt Zimbelman, Berthold mayor Alan Lee, Gov. John Hoeven and state Sen. David O'Connell of Langford. Behind them, from left, are state Reps. Karl Conrad and Elwood Thorpe of Minot and Bob Schempp, chairman of the NAWS Advisory Committee.

Statements Received at Public Scoping Meetings
September 13-16, 2010

Monday's celebration drew some Berthold residents who are eager for the switch-over.

Ever since he was a kid, Gary Gathman said, all he's known is hauling water for drinking. Things finally will change for him.

"I am looking forward to it," he said.

"I am, too," added Klint Hanson. "It will be nice real nice."

Hanson said he has drinking water delivered but must use Berthold's water for other purposes, much to his wife's chagrin. She will be happy when she can wash white clothes and have them turn out white, he said.

Now that a NAWs transmission line to Berthold is in place, North Prairie Rural Water District also can begin branching off to serve new customers. North Prairie will hold a meeting this fall with Berthold-area residents interested in a rural water system.

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NAWS Testimony
Minot Mayor Curt Zimbelman
Supplemental EIS: Public Scoping
September 14, 2010-6:30 PM
Sleep Inn- Convention Center
2400 10th St SW
Minot, ND

My name is Curt Zimbelman, Mayor of Minot. I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the supplemental EIS for the NAWS Project.

Minot has been supporting the NAWS Project since it's inception. We passed a \$.01 sales tax specifically for NAWS in 1999 and have been participating in funding the project since construction began in 2002. To date we have spent more than \$30 million on the local share of the project. When complete, the NAWS Project will provide water to both Minot and to the North Central Region of our state.

U.S. District Judge Collyer's ruling, this past March, indicated that there needed to be a harder look taken at the depletion of Missouri River waters. She also indicated that there needed to be further study of biota transfer, once water from the Missouri River has been pumped over the continental divide.

Studies done on the impact on the Missouri River, as a result of the withdrawal of water for the use of the NAWS Project, show that the depletion would not be measurable below Lake Sakakawea. In other words, water being taken out for the NAWS project would not have any significant affect on the water needed for downstream dams and other uses. This study was done as part of the EIS for the Red River Valley water supply project. So, we are convinced that further study of the impact of NAWS on the water level in the Missouri River will indicate the same result.

The NAWS Project has been developed to provide a reliable, quality source of water for the people living in Minot and North Central North Dakota. A number of the cities that will be

served by this project have been impacted by EPA drinking water standards. Without NAWs, these communities would need to make extensive and expensive improvements to their treatment plants, to treat their poor quality and low quantity of water. The NAWs Project will provide them with the quality and quantity of water needed so they can develop and serve their communities as they continue to grow.

Judge Collyer also indicated last March that the Bureau of Reclamation had to take a harder look at the treatment of water before going over the continental divide. The goal of this harder look is to prevent biota transfer from the Missouri River drainage system to the Hudson Bay drainage system. Three treatment processes were studied in detail in the development of the EIS on the NAWs Project. Engineering studies on those processes indicated that although there was a large difference in the cost of the treatment process options, there was no significant difference between them in how well they treated biota. Other environmental assessment studies have also concluded that the chance of the transfer of biota is negligible compared to what is routinely happening in nature. So, again we are convinced that further biota transfer study in this supplemental EIS will indicate no major differences from either of the prior studies.

We do agree with Judge Collyer, that NAWs is a needed project for our region. As we have stated many times before, NAWs water is essential to providing an assured supply of good, clean quality water to the citizens of Minot and North Central North Dakota. In addition, the project needs to move forward so that the cost does not continue to increase as a result of the inflation being experienced regionally.

Minot is committed to paying the local 35 % share of the entire NAWs project. We do, however, want to see the project completed as quickly as possible in order to eliminate the need for a local sales tax for this purpose. Minot is growing and has been impacted by the nationally important Bakken Oil Field development. But, with that growth comes significant community infrastructure needs that have had to be put on hold.

In conclusion, because of our clear need for an abundant and quality water supply, our region has a great desire to see NAWS move forward as quickly as possible. We are confident that the supplemental EIS will conclude that there is no significant impact to Missouri River quantities, and no significant impact of biota transfer to the Hudson Bay drainage system from the NAWS project. As a result, it is our request that this supplemental EIS process be completed in as timely a manner as possible. This in turn will allow the NAWS project to move forward on the critically important treatment portion of the project. Once that is complete, NAWS will finally be able to fulfill the promise of this critical water resource for our region.

TESTIMONY BY ALAN LEE

Good evening. MY name is Alan Lee. I am the Mayor of Berthold as well as one of the original members of the NAWS advisory steering committee.

I am here to speak support of the NAWS project and to stress its importance to Northwest North Dakota.

Water as we all know is the lifeblood of any community any where in the world. We are no exception. Berthold has its own water system which has failed tests for being a safe and potable water for all uses. We were given a temporary exception from the law being that we were signed up for the NAWS water project.

Safe with Drinking Act

Berthold water while being great for clothes washing and bathing is not usable for cooking and drinking. All of that water has had to be hauled in. I first became aware of the quality issue of Berthold water when I planted a new yard and quite a lot of trees. I watered them faithfully with city water. After a couple of years the trees started dying and when I pulled them up the roots were a solid white. The high salt content of our water.

Our water is not usable for fracking water on oil wells in the oil patch. They need higher quality water than is available from our wells.

Berthold had the honor of being the first community to be hooked up to the NAWS system. We had the ribbon cutting in September of 2008. It has been a really good experience. In my being Mayor for over 20 years, I have never had anything that increased the local cost, and yet never received a single complaint over that event. I have had a lot of residents say thanks and none saying no-thanks.

This was so important for our community, because until there is a transmission line in place there will never be an opportunity to get water to our rural area. A project that many of us have been working on since 1976.

Right now on my farm, my well is over 700 feet deep, a new well, and it will not pump enough water to take care of a household without having a surge tank. I have two neighbors with cattle that are presently hauling water from Berthold for their cattle. As well we have many rural people haul water year round from Berthold for their home use.

Berthold is not any exception, and nearly all the communities in the Northwest North Dakota can tell you similar stories.

As you know the city of Minot is a part of the NAWS project and is currently supplying the water for the rural area also. They did this with the understanding that Missouri River water would be the source when the pipelines were completed. The developing demand from all communities in the North West is going to be more than Minot can safely pass through and still supply their needs.

This study needs to be completed and approved and the project allowed to move forward. In my mind these stalling tactics have gone on much too long.

With that I would like to thank you for your past support and urge your strong future support. It is critical and one of the best economic development tools you can put out there.

Alan Lee
Berthold N. Dak.
701-453-3636

Good evening. My name is Mary Massad. I am the Manager/CEO of the Southwest Water Authority (SWA). The North Dakota Legislature created the Southwest Water Authority to provide for the supply and distribution of water to the people of southwestern North Dakota and to provide for the future economic welfare and prosperity of the people of the state. Water infrastructure is critical to meet those needs.

The Southwest Water Authority manages, operates and maintains the Southwest Pipeline Project for the people of the state of North Dakota. The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) is the first large multi-county regional rural water project developed in the state. The water source for the SWPP is Lake Sakakawea. We serve more than 4,000 rural customers, 28 communities, 15 small businesses, 15 raw water contract customers which includes an ethanol plant as well as Perkins County Rural Water System in South Dakota. The current North Dakota population served by our system is approximately 35,032. It is truly the lifeblood of our region. People and businesses succeed with quality water.

The Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project include the 12 counties in southwest North Dakota. This Project has been under construction for 25 years. To date, more than 4,000 miles of pipeline have been installed and more than \$180 million has been spent building an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities to bring an adequate supply of quality water to our region.

We began providing water service in October of 1991 to the city of Dickinson. Our first rural service began the following year. The Southwest Pipeline Project is an example of how successful a regional water system, especially one that uses water from such a reliable source as Lake Sakakawea, can be. The quality and quantity of water available from this lake make it the water source of choice in our state.

Ground water in North Dakota is scarce and the quality of the water is very limited at best. In the early days of Project design, mayors of communities were quoted as saying they could not entice businesses to move to their communities due to the quality of the water.

I would like to quote from Pat Lynch who was the mayor of Beach, ND, when water service from the SWPP arrived in that community. "Beach was in dire need of an adequate supply of quality water. You answered our plea, and we celebrate the arrival of Southwest Pipeline Project water in our community. I am confident that those who await your service will, someday, be as pleased as we are. Water has been one of the more controversial projects I've tackled as mayor, but I think the residents in Beach are pleased with the new water. In fact, the city auditor routinely receives calls from residents stating that it is so nice to have good water to drink."

Our rural customers have the same stories. Of the 4,000 rural customers we serve, many had an inadequate supply and poor quality of water, if any water at all.

A family north of Beach is the third generation on this family farm. When the Southwest Pipeline Project provided water service to this young family of five, it was the first time in three generations that they had running water at their farm. Hauling water to their farm had been a part of their routine. Another family north of Belfield has uranium in their well water. The health department had said they could safely bathe in this water, but I know I wouldn't want to. I would often joke that this family would glow in the dark. They were truly grateful when they no longer needed to haul their drinking water and knew the water they use on a daily basis is safe.

The Southwest Pipeline Project provides water service to farmers and ranchers. One rancher had cattle which were dying and they didn't know why. They had the water tested and the well water was what was killing them. During drought years, having water in the pasture from the SWPP is what kept the ranchers in business. If it weren't for pipeline water, they would have had no water at all and would have had to sell their herds.

Let me tell you my story. In the 1980's I lived in Adams County with clear well water. It was hard water, but seemed okay until we had a baby. The water was high in nitrates and since we didn't want a blue baby, we could no longer use the well water. We moved to Dunn County in 1990. We received rural water November 5, 1995. This was truly a happy day. Neighbors were burning their water jugs as they no longer had to haul water. Prior to this we had well water the color of coffee. It had coal tar tannins and iron in the water and smelled of rotten eggs. We used it to cook and bathe and wash in, but rarely to drink. When we received pipeline water, we were awe struck. You could take a bath and see the bottom of the tub. You could flush the toilet and be amazed with clear, clean quality water. Sinks and plumbing fixtures were no longer stained and corroded. The enamel would no longer be eaten away.

I could go on and on with stories of those whose lives have been changed for the better with rural water. It is a quality of life issue. Most people do not think about water when they turn on the tap. They assume there will be quality water coming out. We want our communities and our rural areas to be sustainable and grow. How many young people today would live in a home if they had to haul water to live there? How many would live there if they couldn't drink the water when they turn on the faucet? Not many. I have had doctors tell me how the health of their patients, both in town and in the country, have improved since receiving pipeline water. They have lower blood pressure and fewer kidney stones at the very least. It truly is a quality of life issue for our citizens.