



ASWUD NE Bottineau County Rural Water Expansion Project

ASWUD has operated for many years and already includes 5 systems that includes 1700 miles of pipeline, 1540 connections and 4 bulk connections in the cities of Rocklake, Bisbee, Willow City and Upham.

The opportunity is available to expand the ASWUD into NE Bottineau County in the townships of Dalen, Roland, Homen, Witteron and Cordelia. This region includes rural properties, rural subdivisions and the Lake Metigoshe and surrounding lake areas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

ABOUT THE EXPANSION PROJECT

WHY NOW

The ASWUD started this project exploration in fall of 2022. A combination of grants and low interest loans may be available to facilitate expansion if enough property owners express interest and a feasibility study is completed this fall.

HOW WILL THIS HELP EXISTING ASWUD CUSTOMERS

It will help stabilize costs for everyone, including the new area.

WHY WOULD I PARTICIPATE IF I ALREADY HAVE A WELL OR PUMP WATER OUT OF THE LAKE

It's up to each property owner to determine the value of rural water based on their personal needs, lifestyle and property location. For some rural water might mean guarantee of supply, quality of water, not needing to maintain a well and equipment, resale value of property or other related decisions.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THE SURVEY

We need to understand how many property owners are interested in the rural water expansion and the potential location of those properties to begin a feasibility study.

WHERE CAN I TAKE THE SURVEY

Scan the QR Code here



WHAT WILL THE GOOD INTENTION FEE OF \$200 BE USED FOR

This fee will be used to fund the feasibility study.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETED

Your \$200 Good Intention Fee is non-refundable. However, if the project gets closer to construction or under construction and you have paid a connection fee and your property is not served, your connection fee will be refunded.

HOW MANY PROPERTIES ARE THERE WITHIN THE EXPANSION AREA

We believe there are 1560 properties that could qualify for access in the expansion project area.

HOW MANY PROPERTY OWNERS ARE NEEDED TO START FEASIBILITY STUDY

It is estimated that about 750 property owners would need to be interested in rural water and pay the Good Intention Fee to start the feasibility study.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH INTEREST

If not enough interest is gained, the project will not move forward.

DO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS NEED TO PARTICIPATE

No. Some property owners may opt out of participation, and in some cases, other property owners may opt in, but the feasibility study of pipeline routing may indicate that some addresses are not financially feasible based on total number of properties in an area.

COSTS/PRICING/FINANCING

WHAT WAS THE LAST RELATED CONNECTION FEE FOR ASWUD CUSTOMERS

\$500 (as of 2004 during the last expansion)

WHAT IS THE CURRENT MONTHLY MINIMUM FOR ASWUD CUSTOMERS

- System 1, 3 & 4 (original) - \$40/month - \$7.50/1000 gallons
- System 4 (expansions) & System 5 - \$48/month - \$7.50/1000 gallons

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL OF A CURRENT ASWUD CUSTOMER

\$50-60 for a family of 2

WHAT WILL BE THE CONNECTION COST TO NEW USERS

\$2000 connection fee, minus Good Intention Fee of \$200 if the project moves forward (\$1800)

WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED MONTHLY RATE FOR THE NEW AREA

Projected - \$85.00 to \$100.00 per Month 5,000 gallons

WILL THERE BE SEASONAL RATES

No current policy related to seasonal used has been determined. Regardless of seasonal use, there will be construction debt for 12 months of the year.

WHAT IS THE ASWUD COST COMPARED TO OTHER REGIONS

We are on par with all other rural water regions in the state. Some larger regions with more customers are lower, other regions are higher.

DOES EVERYONE IN THE EXPANSION AREA PAY?

Only if you committed to rural water and have a curb stop.

DO YOU HAVE TO PAY IF YOU SIGN UP AND DON'T USE

Yes, if you have a curb stop, you will pay an allotted fee.

CAN I FINANCE MY HOOKUP

No, ASWUD will not be financing the hookups. You may have financing options with your local lender.

WILL THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HAVE REGULATORY AUTHORITY ON PRICES

No, they are not involved in the project.

WHAT WILL PREVENT MINOT FROM RAISING THE PRICE OF NAWS WATER

There will be a separate governance on the NAWS Board. ASWUD is currently has a voice/board member on the NAWS authority board.

HOW IS ASWUD FUNDING/FINANCING THE PROJECT

ASWUD will look for low interest loans and grants to facilitate the project. Neither grants or loans can be applied for or secured until the feasibility study is complete. The grants can be for up to 75% of the cost of the project. Once the feasibility study is complete we can apply for pre-construction funding and once that work is complete, apply for construction funding.

ABOUT WATER PROJECT

WHEN WILL THE PROJECT START – BE COMPLETED

- Receive Water from NAWS..... 2024-2025
- Bid NE Bottineau County Expansion..... 2025-2026
- Start Phase 1 Construction..... 2026-2027
- First Phase Substantial Completion..... 2028-2029
- Project Completion..... 2030

WHERE WILL THE WATER COME FROM?

ASWUD to purchase water from NAWS (Northwest Area Water Supply)

Source:

- Lake Sakakawea (Snake Creek Pumping Station)

Treatment:

- Biota Treatment Plant, Max
- Minot Water Treatment Plant, Minot

Supply:

- NAWS High Service Pump Facility, Minot
- 4,000,000 gallon storage tank & High Service Pumping Station, Lansford
- 1,000,000 gallon storage tank and High Service Pumping Station, Souris Corner
- Bottineau/ASWUD 3,000,000 gallon storage tank and High Service Pumping Station, Northeast of Bottineau

WILL THE MINOT WATER TREATMENT PLANT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP

Yes, the Bottineau County Expansion was included in the overall design of NAWS

WILL THE SEWER SYSTEM HANDLE THE INFLUX OF WATER

Yes. Mike Hall from Lake Metigoshe Rural Service District was present at the meeting



CONSTRUCTION RELATED CONCERNS

WHAT ARE THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COSTS

It is hard to determine at this point without understanding the full scope of the feasibility study, types of hookups, locations, etc. The more responses to the current survey, the better estimates that can be made in the feasibility study phase.

WHAT ARE THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESTRICTIONS

A permit has been secured and issues have been settled in litigation.

HOW WILL THE WATER LINES BE INSTALLED AND WHERE?

The lines will be bored or trenched in depending on the location and individual situation. The feasibility study will determine best locations.

HOW WILL ROAD AND PAVEMENT REPAIRS BE HANDLED?

The cost of this will be included in the construction contract.

HOW CLOSE TO EACH PROPERTY WILL YOU GET AND HOW WILL YOU GET THERE

The curb stop will be located 50-75 feet from the selected property location. Feasibility study will determine best path.

WILL THE EQUIPMENT BE FROST-FREE FOR SEASONAL USERS

Most locations will be pit meters which are placed in the ground and freeze-guarded.

WHO PAYS FOR DAMAGE FROM CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

This will be included in the construction contract.

IS THIS PROJECT DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN

Yes, the trees, lakes, sloughs all play a part in the design of this project.

FUTURE STATE

WHAT HAPPENS TO PRIVATE WELLS AFTER YOU HOOK UP TO RURAL WATER?

You will be able to maintain your wells, but they can not be hooked into the same systems/lines as your rural water system.

CAN I SIGN UP LATER AFTER THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE

Maybe, but you are responsible for additional construction and pipe related costs from the existing line to your location and it will be dependent on availability and capacity to your area. If you are interested, it is best to make the choice during the initial feasibility phase.

IF YOU SIGN UP FOR SERVICE AND ARE NOT SATISFIED, CAN YOU DISCONNECT

Yes, after 5 years.

WILL ASWUD NEED ADDITIONAL STAFF BASED ON THE EXPANSION

Yes

