



**Minnehaha
Community
Water Corp.**
47381 248th St
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
(605)910-5870

Directors:

Lloyd Rave,
President
Rodney Van Der Vliet,
Vice President
Paul Hentges,
Secretary
Brian Howe,
Treasurer
David Stearns
Kenny Sieverding
David Howard

Employees:

Scott Buss,
Executive Director
Ryan Allen,
Operations Supervisor
Nathan Vrchota,
Chief Plant Operator
Greg Schmidt
Tom Van Well
David Fox
Sawyer Pals
Brian Benda
Brad Eggert
Ken Johnson

Office:

Tanya Schmidt,
Office Manager
Tessa Mogensen
Sonya Weiland

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025 Issue

Executive Director's Comments

Building for the Future

Water pumping rates for 2025 are up slightly from 2024, with production passing 1 billion gallons sold by October this year. The Big Sioux River started the year with very little flow but recovered this summer as storms moved through the area to our north. To meet the continued increases in system demand, we receive half of our water from Lewis & Clark Regional Water and produce half of our water with our North Treatment Plant.

MCWC has been working with Big Sioux Community Water to develop additional treatment and distribution capacity. Construction of an 8 MGD treatment plant is approaching 50% complete west of Trent, SD. The cost of the plant is \$78 Million, with \$34 Million coming from ARPA grant funding. Approximately 16,000 yards of concrete have been poured, and precast panels have been delivered for the walls and roof. The focus will now shift to electrical, plumbing, and equipment installation. The anticipated completion date is October of 2026.

The Lewis & Clark project received a significant amount of funding through ARPA and the Federal infrastructure bill. Now that all twenty members are connected, work begins to expand the system from 45 MGD to 60 MGD. Expansion of the L&C treatment plant is now 50% complete. Work will start in the spring on a collector well that is estimated to produce 25 MGD. Planning has started for the water needs for the next 40 years. Both Lewis & Clark and Dakota Mainstem are assessing the needs in eastern South Dakota and the feasibility of running a new water line from the Missouri River. Preliminary engineering reports for both systems will be complete in early 2026 and will help provide direction for the water supply to the eastern side of South Dakota.

Construction for new rural homes has been down significantly for the last two years as people wait for interest rates to drop. Total customers are now over 5,550. The board of directors has been adjusting the rate structure in anticipation of loan repayment for the new treatment plant. The monthly minimum will be increasing by \$10 this year after no adjustment in 2025.

I would like to thank all the MCWC staff for their efforts during the past year. They kept the water flowing despite changing river conditions and managed through the growth and construction around the City of Sioux Falls.

Copper Line Leaks on the Rise

We have been repairing leaks in the copper water lines, especially in the section that brings water into the home before the meter. These leaks can be challenging to detect because the water may drain directly into a sump pit, meaning they won't show up on your water bill. Common signs of a possible leak include a sump pump running more frequently than normal or damp spots in the ground where the water line enters the home. If you notice either of these signs, please contact us, and we will come out to inspect the line. This notice is relevant only for customers whose water meter is located in the basement. Identifying and repairing these leaks early is essential to prevent unnecessary water loss and potential foundation damage.



Check out our website: www.minnehahacommunitywater.com



Our customer portal gives you the ability to manage your billing account online. Enjoy the convenience of paperless billing, viewing your bill, paying your bill, viewing your billing usage and much more! Check it out today and register your account.

Customer portal link can be found at our website or the direct link is mcwc.authoritypay.com

Water Outages

Do we have the correct phone number on file for you?



Please make sure we have the right contact number for your account.

Call or email our office to let us know of any changes.



Notice of Water Rate Increase

After extensive discussion and careful consideration, the Board members voted to increase water rates at the meeting held on October 28, 2025.

As you may know, prices for most utilities, supplies, products, and materials have been rising across the country. This trend also applies to our operating expenses, including the costs of chemicals, materials, and electricity necessary to maintain our water system's proper and efficient functioning.

The board's decision to approve the rate increase was made after careful consideration. During the discussion, several factors were taken into account, including the monthly minimum required for debt service payments once the third treatment plant is completed. Starting in 2026, the monthly minimum will increase by \$10. Instead of a significant hike in 2027, the board has opted to implement gradual annual increases.

Additionally, the consumption charge per 1,000 gallons was reviewed and adjusted to account for rising costs. The board has also decided to consolidate the rate structure into a single chart, eliminating the separate residential and agricultural rate schedules.

The rate increase will take effect on billing starting **January 1, 2026**. Below is a summary of the changes to the minimum charges and the rates per 1,000 gallons.

Monthly Minimum: Meter Size	Current Rate	New Rate
3/4 inch	\$ 60.00	\$ 70.00
1 inch	\$ 70.00	\$ 80.00
1 1/2 inch	\$ 90.00	\$ 100.00
2 inch	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00
3 inch	\$ 110.00	\$ 120.00

2026 Rates:

Usage:	Charge (per 1,000 gallons)
0 - 10,000	\$4.50
11,000 – 60,000	\$5.50
61,000 – 300,000	\$6.00
301,000 – 500,000	\$8.00
501,000 and up	\$9.00

If you have any questions, feel free to call us during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at 605-910-5870 or email us at ebilling@minnehahacommunitywater.com.