

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT
WINNER, SOUTH DAKOTA**

PRESS RELEASE
September 21, 2026

CORRECTION OF MISINFORMATION

There is substantial misinformation circulating in the community concerning Tripp County Water User District's (the "District") processes and procedures for approval of taps and concerning the impact on other users of the approval of a tap for a proposed hog facility northwest of Winner. The District issues this release to ensure the District's users and the community at large are aware of the facts.

CLAIMS VS. FACTS.

The approval process:

Claim: The Pipestone Management application was approved irregularly or in secret.

Fact: The Pipestone Management application was considered at public meetings of the District's Board of Directors, notice of which was given as required by law. The actions of the board of directors are recorded in the minutes of the directors' meetings, copies of which are available for public inspection.

Availability of water:

Claim: Approval of the Pipestone Management tap resulted in the denial of water service to other users.

Fact: Pipestone Management was approved for a standard 1" tap. Assuming the Pipestone Management tap ran at full capacity 24 hours per day on a Summer day, it would use approximately 1.5% of the District's average daily Summer production. The counties and parts thereof served by the District are divided into several "service areas." The applications of eight other users located in the same service area as Pipestone Management were approved **after** approval of the Pipestone Management tap and capacity remains available in that service area to serve additional users.

Integrity of the aquifer:

Claim: The District's water source will be depleted and contaminated due to the approval of the Pipestone Management application.

Fact: The District's wells are located well south of Winner and draw from the Valentine formation of the Ogallala Aquifer. While parts of the Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska and further south are demonstrating declines in water levels, the evidence shows the Valentine formation is recharging and maintaining its normal level. The proposed hog facility site does not sit atop or near the Valentine formation.

Additional information is available in the Addendum to this Release.

Issuer contact.

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TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT
ADDENDUM TO PRESS RELEASE
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Process. All persons or companies desiring water service from the District are required to file a written application. All applications are reviewed by the District's engineers, Bartlett & West, Inc., a well-established regional engineering firm that serves water distributors throughout the central United States, to determine if the District's distribution system has the capacity to serve the requested tap.

Bartlett & West makes a recommendation which is then considered and acted upon by the District's board of directors at a public meeting. The District's agendas are posted prior to each meeting at the District's office in Winner and on the District's website.

Applications are approved or denied based upon the ability of the District's system to provide the requested service. Applications which are not feasible as presented are often tabled to give District staff the opportunity to work with the applicant to find a way to provide service, including a different tap location, restrictions on the water available through the tap, and occasionally user-financed upgrades to the District's distribution system.

The Pipestone Management Application. Pipestone Management made an application in February 2026 requesting a tap to serve 55 gallons per minute (approximately 80,000 gallons per day). After review by Bartlett & West, at a public meeting of the District's board of directors held on March 9, 2026, the application was tabled as it was not feasible for the District to provide that amount of water using the District's existing infrastructure.

As is the District's common practice, further discussion was had with Pipestone Management to look at other options for water service. On April 13, 2026, at a public meeting, the District's board of directors approved service at a reduced level through a standard 1" meter

Availability of Water for Other Users. The average flow through a standard 1" meter is 25 gallons per minute or 36,000 gallons per day. On a typical summer day, the District pumps approximately 2,400,000 gallons. The amount approved for Pipestone Management - 36,000 gallons per day - is 1.5% of a typical summer day's production.

The counties and parts thereof served by the District are divided into several "service areas." After the Pipestone Management tap was approved, the District's board of directors approved eight additional taps in the same service area as Pipestone Management. Bartlett & West has advised District management there is additional service capacity left in that service area even after the addition of those eight taps.

Applications have been denied and will likely continue to be denied or tabled for a variety of reasons unrelated to the Pipestone Management tap. Common reasons applications are denied include the inability to serve the quantity of water requested, the proximity of the requested tap to existing District transmission or distribution pipeline, and the elevation of the location of the tap.

Exhaustion or contamination of the aquifer. The District's wells are located many miles south of Winner and source water from the Valentine formation of the Ogallala Aquifer. The data show the Valentine formation is not experiencing the same reduction in levels as other parts of the Ogallala Aquifer and instead is maintaining its normal level.

The proposed Pipestone Management facility is located many miles from the District's wellfield. The proposed facility would not sit atop the Ogallala aquifer.

Relevant links.

District website: <https://trippcountywater.com/meeting-notice/>

District engineers' website: <https://www.bartlettwest.com/>

District aquifer consultants' website: <https://spherosenv.com/>