



Explorer

Lewis & Clark
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

WINTER 2016

Delegation Secures Additional \$47 Million for Rural Water Construction

Increase of \$18.2 Million from Last Year

Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials were thrilled with the news that through the hard work of the tri-state congressional delegation an additional \$47 million was included for overall rural water construction in the FY16 Budget that passed the House and Senate on December 18. On top of the administration's proposed funding it brings the total to \$65.5 million, which is an \$18.2 million increase from FY15.

Because the earmark ban wrongly includes authorized projects, the Bureau of Reclamation will now decide how much of the \$47 million to allocate to L&C; a decision is expected in February or March. L&C received a total of \$9 million in FY15. "The last four years rural water construction funding has either been cut or kept at the same level, which has been incredibly frustrating. It is really good to finally see funding heading in the right direction. I've been working on this project for 26 years and it has been an uphill battle every step of the way, but through it all we have had the strong support and leadership of our delegation. We greatly appreciate their efforts to secure this additional funding," said Chairman Red Arndt.



Left to right: Sioux Center's Harold Schiebout, Hull's Aaron Kooiker, Sheldon's Scott Wynja, Sioux Center's Murray Hulstein and L&C's Troy Larson met with Senator Joni Ernst in Spencer in September to discuss construction funding and the water needs of northwest IA. Ernst reiterated her strong support for the project.



Chairman Red Arndt met with Representative Tim Walz at an event near Brewster in August. Walz said he will continue do everything he can to increase project funding.

Dayton Proposes Federal Funding Advance to Reach Worthington

House and Senate Capital Investment Committees Tour Construction

It is estimated over \$18 million is needed to complete 15 miles of pipeline, a meter building and reservoir to deliver water to Worthington. Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials have long anticipated the FY16 federal funding will not be enough to reach Worthington, so shortly after the 2015 session they started working with Governor Mark Dayton, local legislators and committee leaders on a possible third and final federal funding advance in the 2016 Bonding Bill.

The state previously approved federal funding advances of \$22 million in 2014 and \$19 million in 2015. Along with federal funding, those advances will allow L&C to complete construction from the IA/MN border to Lincoln Pipestone RWS's connection three miles east of Adrian, as well as three meter buildings, Rock County reservoir, Rock County pump station and get the segment between Adrian and Worthington shovel ready in terms of engineering and easement acquisition. "The state has already stepped up in a huge way, so the last thing we wanted to do is ask for more help but our needing to do so shows how badly we need the water," said Worthington's Scott Hain.

How much of a final advance is needed will depend on the FY16 federal funding. The MN legislature will make their final bonding bill decisions in May, so L&C's federal funding will be known well in advance. In the meantime, L&C officials were very pleased when Dayton requested L&C funding in his proposed bonding bill. "It's just the start of a long process but Governor Dayton's funding request is a huge step forward and we are incredibly thankful to him and his administration. We are also very thankful to Representative Rod Hamilton, Senator Bill Weber and Representative Joe Schomacker for their continued strong support and leadership. There are no guarantees but we know the governor and our legislators will work hard to secure funding for this final piece of the puzzle," said Hain.

The House and Senate Capital Investment Committees take the lead on the bonding bill. In advance of the session members of both committees toured the state meeting with various groups to discuss their funding requests. L&C officials were honored to host both committees and administration officials. Representatives toured construction of the 24 inch pipeline south of Luverne on August 26. Senators toured construction of the Magnolia meter building and then met with the MN members in Luverne on November 18. During both visits the legislators asked many good questions about the project, water needs in the area, construction progress and federal funding.



Senate Capital Investment Committee tour (left to right): Chairman LeRoy Stumpf, David Tomassoni, Julie Rosen, Scott Newman, Dave Senjem, Carla Nelson, Bev Scalze and Bill Weber

House Capital Investment Committee tour (left to right): Jean Wagenius, Ray Dehn, Alice Hausman, Dean Urdahl, Joe Schomacker, Chairman Paul Torkelson, Chris Swedzinski, Bob Vogel, Leon Lillie, Mark Uglem and Tama Theis



Lewis & Clark Wins Best Tasting Water Award!

Seten, Odens, Hall and Arndt Honored at Conference

Lewis & Clark (L&C) brought home some hardware from the SD Association of Rural Water Systems' Annual Technical Conference in Pierre in mid-January. System officials were excited to win the best tasting water award during the blind taste test! "We often tout L&C's high quality water, so this taste test honor is very rewarding. The recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire operations team," said Executive Director Troy Larson. This qualifies L&C to compete for the national title at the Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC in mid-February.

Office Manager Lori Seten was honored with the well-deserved Office Person of the Year Award! The portion of her nomination that was read at the awards brunch included; "Unlike other systems where the administrative functions are divided among multiple employees, Lori does it all. She is solely responsible for billing, bookkeeping, accounting, human resources, IT, and special projects and

events. Lori also takes the lead on developing the draft budget. Whatever Lori does, she goes above and beyond. She consistently does that little extra to make the result even better than expected."

Banner's Dave Odens and recently retired Ted Hall from the Bureau of Reclamation both received the Spirit of Rural Water Award! They were nominated by L&C. "This award recognizes not only their many years of hard work on L&C, but their commitment and dedication to water development projects throughout the state," said Larson.

Chairman Red Arndt received a lapel pin and certificate recognizing his 25 years of distinguished rural water service. Seten was recognized for 20 years of rural water service (she worked at SDARWS six years before joining L&C) and Maintenance Foreman Todd Giffin for five years.



Left to right: Maintenance Mechanic Roger Adam, Distribution Operator Justin Walsh, Water Operator Jon Anderson and Executive Director Troy Larson receive the best tasting water award from SDARWS president Ron Gillen



Office Person of the Year – Lori Seten



Chairman Red Arndt recognized for 25 years of rural water service



Spirit of Rural Water Award – Ted Hall (left) and Dave Odens

36% Increase in Water Sales, 1.2% Water Loss and Staffing Changes

In 2015 Lewis & Clark (L&C) delivered 4.898 billion gallons; a daily average of 13.4 million gallons. This is 36% higher than last year with a remarkably low 1.2% water loss, which is virtually unheard of in the water industry. On top of the 25% increase in water sales from 2013 to 2014, this is a 61% increase over the last two years. "It is great that water demand continues to increase, but it has stretched us very thin. Two more connections started up in 2015 and Luverne will soon be receiving water, so we have reached the point of needing to start running the system on a 24/7 basis to enhance our operational efficiencies and ensure we continue to meet demands," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

As part of the transition to operating the system 24/7 beginning this April, three new positions have been added – two water operators (total of six) and one distribution operator (total of two). These three new positions, as well as the recent termination of two water operators, has caused a lot of staff changes.

Two of the new positions were filled by current team members. Water operator Jay Nelson moved over to distribution operator and treatment plant custodian Mike Rath filled one of the water operator positions. Terry Hoxeng was hired as the new part-time custodian. He lives in the Volin area where he is from originally and recently retired from a carpentry career.

Over 60 applications were received for the water operator openings. Jeremy Hult started on December 7, Shawn Anderson on December 14, Curt Haakinson on January 4 and Cody Schultz on January 18. Jeremy has been a Poet ethanol plant operator for the last eight years and lives in nearby Viborg. He is originally from Centerville. Shawn has worked the last 16 years as a construction supervisor for Vast Broadband and lives in the Vermillion area. He is originally from nearby Wakonda. Curt worked the last 15 years for the City of Vermillion as a water operator, so brings a great deal of experience to the table. He is originally from Vermillion. Cody Schultz worked at Baldwin Filters in Yankton the last three years and lives in the Vermillion area. He is originally from Clarks in central Nebraska.

"The net effect from all the changes is we increased from 14 team members to 17. We're very excited to have these five high caliber individuals join the Lewis & Clark team, and to have two other team members move into different roles. They are quick learners and will no doubt help make the transition to a 24/7 operation a smooth and seamless one," said Auen.

New Positions



Distribution Operator Jay Nelson and Water Operator Mike Rath

New Faces



Water operators Jeremy Hult, Shawn Anderson, Curt Haakinson, Cody Schultz and custodian Terry Hoxeng

Construction Expected to Reach 73% Complete in a Year

Project Currently 67% Complete

Project officials are often asked what percentage of construction has been completed. According to Banner's Tim Conner, Lewis & Clark (L&C) is currently 67% complete. Including the recent funding advances from MN and SD, much of which has not yet been obligated, he estimates L&C will reach 73% completion within the year. At that time 14 members will be connected, and utilizing the "wheeling plan" Madison will have access to an interim water source. "That may sound to some like we are nearing

the end, but we have a long way to go. Five members will still need water and it will take another 133 miles of pipeline to make that happen, including completing the service line to Madison and hopefully looping the system between Sibley and Sheldon. We also need to construct more wells, reservoirs, pump stations, meter buildings and expand the water treatment plant. The remaining federal cost share as of September 2014 is \$203 million, so that puts it into perspective," said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Luverne & Magnolia Meter Buildings

Robert L. Carr reached substantial completion on the Luverne meter building on January 7, which is located next to Luverne's water treatment plant (January 1 was the revised substantial completion deadline). Construction went pretty smoothly with no major issues. They are now working on the punch list. The final completion deadline is May 31.

In late September they started working on the Magnolia meter building, which is located in town next to Rock County RWD's water tower. This is a second connection point for Rock County RWD and the first of two connection points for Lincoln Pipestone RWS. The contractor got the foundation footings poured (see photo at right) and underground piping installed before shutting down for the winter. Work will resume this spring. August 12 is the substantial completion deadline.



Stacy Froelich New Bureau of Reclamation Point Person

Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials were very pleased that Stacy Froelich with the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) in Pierre was appointed as the project's new agency point person. She takes over for Ted Hall who retired in early October and is responsible for agency oversight on all aspects of the project. Froelich is originally from Lemmon, SD and has Bachelor's and Master's engineering degrees from the SD School of Mines & Technology. She has worked for BoR for close to three years and was recently selected as the agency's Federal Engineer of the Year. Prior to joining BoR she was at the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for ten years, where among other projects she worked on L&C. "Through her work at DENR and the last few years at BoR, Stacy was already familiar with the project so she has hit the ground running. Ted left big shoes to fill in more ways than one, but it is clear Stacy is more than up to the challenge and that she will continue the strong partnership between BoR and L&C," said Executive Director Troy Larson.



Froelich with her Engineer of the Year Award

Contract Awarded for Minnesota – Segment 3A

Magnolia Service Line to be Bid Separately

The Lewis & Clark (L&C) board on December 17 awarded a \$5.2 million contract to Carstensen Contracting of Pipestone, MN for 6 ½ miles of 24 inch steel pipe between Luverne and Magnolia. This stretch is part of the MN transmission line and is designated as MN – Segment 3A (MN-3A). "We were very pleased with the bid results. The low bid was 30 percent less than originally budgeted; a savings of \$1.55 million," said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Carstensen has planned a fairly aggressive construction schedule. Pipe deliveries are anticipated to begin in March and construction will start with the highway borings. The substantial completion deadline is this November, but the contractor's goal is to reach that point by mid-summer.

MN-3A included a bid alternate for the 3 ½ mile 16 inch service line to Magnolia, but it was rejected because the cost was higher than expected. "The service line will now be bid as a stand-alone project, which hopefully will attract smaller local contractors who normally do not have an opportunity to bid on L&C projects. Our goal is to open bids in March," said Larson. November will be the substantial completion deadline to coincide with the timeline for MN-3A. Magnolia is the second of two connection points for Rock County RWD and the first of two connection points for Lincoln Pipestone RWS.

Pipeline to Luverne Nearing Completion

Carstensen Contracting installed the last section of 24 inch steel pipe for Minnesota – Segment 2 between the IA/MN border and Luverne on November 4. To mark the occasion Luverne and Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials were on hand to sign their names on the last piece of pipe. However, Carstensen has had a much tougher time than expected successfully pressure testing the 24 inch pipe (the 14 inch pipe has been successfully pressure tested). This has delayed delivery of water to Luverne as they work to locate and fix the leaks. Carstensen officials expect L&C will be able to deliver water to Luverne by March 1 at the latest. December 11 was the revised substantial completion deadline. The contractor has identified the installation related reasons for the leaks and is taking steps to prevent them from happening on MN – Segment 3A.



Construction Administrator Dan Zulkosky, Executive Director Troy Larson, Luverne Councilman Kevin Aaker, Chairman Red Arndt & Luverne City Administrator John Call signed the last piece of pipe



Most joints are just pushed together but they are welded where the pressure is higher or a leak is fixed



Canusa wrap is put on joints to add further corrosion protection



Banner's Clint Koehn crawled the 12.5 miles of 24 inch pipe to inspect the joint grouting and deflection (roundness). Tight squeeze!



Additional Minnesota - Segment 2 Photos



Above: Working in a narrow easement area



Left: Last section of 24 inch pipe being installed



Below: Isolation valve vault



Below: Pressure testing the 14 inch Luerne service line

