

Lewis & Clark
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

Explorer

Fall 2018

\$15 Million Approved for FY19

In February the administration only proposed \$13.795M for Reclamation's (BoR) Rural Water Program in the FY19 Budget. This was almost half of what was proposed for FY18. L&C's proposed funding dropped from \$3.65M in FY18 to a mere \$100,000 in FY19; an amount that does not even cover the annual cost for BoR's oversight activities. Thanks in large part to the strong support and efforts by the tristate delegation, \$98.74M was added to the "minibus appropriations bill" that was signed into law on September 21. This was the first time since 1999 funding for Energy & Water Development was approved before the October 1st start of the new fiscal year.

Because the earmark ban wrongly includes fully vetted authorized projects, it was up to BoR to decide how to allocate the funding among five authorized rural water

projects. Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson traveled to Billings (BoR's regional office) on October 22 to review L&C's construction capabilities and urge that L&C receive the same percentage of the additional funding as last year.

BoR announced on November 7 that L&C received a total of \$15M, which included the proposed \$100,000. The percentage of additional funding dropped compared to last year, but the total is a slight increase from the \$14.875M approved last year. "We are incredibly thankful to the congressional delegation for again working hard to increase funding for the Rural Water Program. They really stepped up to the plate for us. We also appreciate the efforts of our Reclamation partners," said Larson. The vast majority of the \$15M will go toward construction of the close to 23 miles of pipeline between Sioux Center and the Big Sioux River.

BoR meeting in Billings (left to right): Deputy Area Manager Joe Hall of Bismarck, Rural Water Division Manager Bob Bezek of Bismarck, Area Manager Arden Freitag of Bismarck, Regional Budget Officer Sandy Hughson of Billings, Regional Director Mike Black of Billings, Arndt, Deputy Regional Director John Soucy of Billings and Larson.



Reclamation Projects Hold Joint D.C. Fly-In

Executive Director Troy Larson and L&C’s lobbyist Summer Mersinger helped organize a D.C. fly-in on September 25 and 26 for the five authorized rural water projects. The projects have a unified message on two requests – 1.) Increase funding for the Rural Water Program (RWP) to \$125M in FY20, and a commitment from the projects that no further increases would be requested if this level is reached, and 2.) Maintain proposed funding levels for the RWP when the next project is completed. “We have been told by BoR more funding would be available for the remaining projects when one project is completed, but instead big cuts were proposed when projects were completed in FY06 and FY13”, said Larson.



Hulstein, Thune and Larson

Steve Daines (MT). Votes prevented Senators Amy Klobuchar and Mike Rounds from making it, and Senator Chuck Grassley had his hands full with a certain Supreme Court nominee. The group also met with senior staff from Senators Jon Tester (MT) and Heidi Heitkamp (ND). Participating in every meeting and voicing their strong support were National Rural Water Association officials. “Everyone we talked to voiced strong support for our two-part request, but they also noted the stiff budgetary headwinds. Nobody was blowing happy smoke. They encouraged us to continue coming to D.C. as a group at least once a year, which we agreed to do,” said Larson.

Individual meetings with House members were held the second day. L&C officials met with Reps. Steve King and Kristi Noem, as well as the staff of Rep. Tim Walz. Scheduling conflicts prevented them from meeting with the staff of Rep. Collin Peterson. “Results of trips like these are better viewed through a long-term lens. The projects will continue to stay in front of administration

and congressional leaders with our two-part message,” said Larson.



Over 20 officials participated. The other projects are: Rocky Boy’s/North Central Montana RWS; Fort Peck/Dry Prairie RWS (MT); Garrison Diversion Unit (ND); and Eastern New Mexico RWS. Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center, Larson and Mersinger represented L&C. Group meetings were held the first day with Dr. Tim Petty (fourth from right in photo above), the Assistant Secretary of the Interior who oversees BoR, as well as Senators John Thune, Tina Smith, Joni Ernst, Tom Udall (NM) and



Hulstein briefing Ernst



Thune and Udall (orange tie) meeting jointly with the group



Stew Thornley with the MN Department of Health has been writing about L&C in his agency newsletters since the late 80's. He finally had the chance recently to see the project firsthand. Stew, who is also the Official Scorer for the Twins, toured construction underway in southwest MN (pipeline, meter building and reservoir), as well as the Tea pump station (left), wellfield and water treatment plant.

One Replacement Nearing Completion, Three to Go

Welf Construction of Yankton, and their subcontractor Layne, expect to complete one 26 inch vertical well in late December in an area of the Frost Game Production Area southwest of Vermillion designated as Site C. They will drill three more vertical wells starting in the spring of 2019 – one more at Site C and two at Site D. This first vertical

well has not been fully tested, but the estimated capacity is roughly 3.5 million gallons a day. These four vertical wells will replace four adjacent angle wells that are being abandoned because of decreasing capacity and increasing maintenance problems and cost. The current contract amount is \$1,932,891 and the substantial completion deadline is December 20, 2019.



Drilling the first vertical well at Site C. To the right is the abandoned angle well.

Test pumping the well



Congressional Leaders Meet with Chairman Arndt

Chairman Red Arndt recently caught a pretty bad break. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on September 11. Red has always lived life to the fullest and intends to continue doing so until the Good Lord calls him home. The last thing he wants is for people to treat him any different or feel sorry for him, so everyone has been razzing him as much as always and he has been dishing it right back. He is undergoing chemotherapy and will start radiation in January.

Members of the tristate delegation have reached out to him in many kind ways, including letters, phone calls and personal visits to Red's "man cave". While in Luverne on October 13 for the Governor's Pheasant Hunt kickoff, Rep. Tim Walz stopped by the man cave to wish Red well in his

battle, thank him for his many years of hard work, and to talk a bit about where things stand with L&C. At the banquet that evening Senator Amy Klobuchar also offered encouragement to Red and recognized him during her remarks for his long-time leadership on the project.

Following his tour of the treatment plant on November 8 (see story on page 9), Rep. Steve King made the pilgrimage to the man cave. In addition to wishing him well and discussing L&C funding, King presented Red with a statement he entered into the Congressional Record recognizing his 28+ years of dedicated service on behalf of L&C. Red said, "I cannot thank everyone enough for all their thoughts, prayers and kind words. It has really meant a lot."



Representative King



Senator Klobuchar



Representative Walz

Water Tower Dedication for Gary Hanson and Roger Lamp

The 85th Street water tower on the southern edge of Sioux Falls is a joint connection point for the city and Lincoln County RWS (LCRWS). It became operational in July 2012. A ceremony was held at the three million gallon tower on October 4 to dedicate it in honor of Sioux Falls' former Mayor Gary Hanson and LCRWS' Roger Lamp. "Many folks from Sioux Falls and LCRWS have played key roles through the years in helping to bring L&C to where it is today, but Gary and Roger exemplify those efforts," said Chairman Red Arndt. Gary was a key organizer of L&C and then served with great distinction as L&C's first chairman for close to five years. He made many trips to DC in an effort to secure project authorization. Roger served with great dedication on the L&C board for 25 years. He served on many committees during that time, including as treasurer.

Speakers at the ceremony included Arndt, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, Sioux Falls Planning Director and former L&C director Mike Cooper, LCRWS Chairman Merlyn Smeenk, former lead Banner engineer Dave Odens, Hanson and Lamp. "This well-deserved recognition is a small token of our thanks and appreciation for the efforts of these two outstanding gentlemen," said Arndt.



Getting ready to cut the ribbon (left to right): Arndt, TenHaken, Lamp, Hanson, Smeenk and L&C Executive Director Troy Larson.

Leaks Delaying Pipeline to Worthington

A series of challenges have delayed SJ Louis from reaching substantial completion on the 15 mile segment of PVC pipeline between Adrian and Worthington. Minnesota – Segment 4 starts with five miles of 24 inch pipe between Adrian and the turnout to Sibley, then four miles of 20 inch pipe between the turnout and the Nobles County reservoir, and finishes with six miles of 16 inch pipe between the reservoir and the Worthington meter building (see photo below). The last section of 16 inch pipe went into the ground on October 26. Director Scott Hain, general manager of Worthington Public Utilities (WPU), signed the last section in memory of the late WPU general manager and L&C director Don Habicht.

The current substantial completion deadline is November 23. It was expected the line would be successfully pressure tested and disinfected by then. Unfortunately, the pressure testing is not going well. “As of December 12 there were 21 leaks identified, and ten miles of pipe have not even been pressure tested yet.” said Executive Director Troy Larson.



Repairing a leak in the 24 inch pipe



WPU's Eric Roos and Scott Hain in front of the last section of pipe

MCWC Fully Connected!

Minnehaha Community Water Corporation (MCWC) has three connections to L&C – west of Sioux Falls near Highway 42, west of Crooks and southeast of Sioux Falls along Six Mile Road. The meter building for the final connection is located by the Slavic Church along Six Mile Road (see photos below) and became operational on November 9. KHC made quick work of the meter building. They did not even start moving dirt until July 30.

“We really questioned whether their aggressive construction schedule was doable, but with all the materials already on site it was impressive to see how quickly they got the job done,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen. MCWC, the second largest member of L&C in terms of reserved capacity, now has access to just over 2.2 million gallons a day. Congratulations to MCWC on being fully connected!



Collector Well Planned for Site B

When the four replacement vertical wells are completed in late 2019 (see story on page 3), L&C will have 11 vertical wells with productions ranging from roughly 2.8 to 4 million gallons a day. To keep up with the present demands, as well as the demands when more members are connected in the coming years, the next well L&C will construct is what is known as a collector well, which has a much larger capacity than a vertical well. The collector well includes a vertical pipe with several lateral screens that extend horizontally from the bottom. It will be located in the Frost Game Production Area southwest of Vermillion at a location designated as Site B.

Due to environmental restrictions involving migratory birds, there are only certain months when construction can take place unabated. Consequently, it is expected the collector well will take two years to complete. “The plan is to award the contract in the fall of 2019 and have it operational by the end of 2021. Our goal is for the collector well to produce at least 16 million gallons a day, with the potential for more,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

HDR is the lead engineering firm for the collector well. They recently designed a roughly 20 million gallon collector well upstream for the City of Yankton. Before the engineers can start designing the collector well this winter, data is needed from one 12 inch test well and six observation wells at Site B. A bid opening was held on October 25 for the seven wells. The next day the Board awarded the contract to Sargent Drilling of Geneva, NE for \$91,846; far below the engineer’s estimate of \$154,000. On November 19 drilling started on the 12 inch test well (see photo at right). All seven wells should be completed by the end of December.



Legal Action Pending on Minnesota Pipeline Project

L&C officials and their attorneys from Davenport Evans in Sioux Falls continue to work through legal channels regarding the defective exterior coating on roughly nine miles of 24 inch pipe on Minnesota – Segment 3B between Magnolia and Adrian. Ameron is the pipe manufacturer. A federal judge in Sioux Falls this fall rejected their motion for change of venue to move the case from Sioux Falls to Minneapolis, but he is now

considering Ameron’s motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, which if approved would move the case from Sioux Falls to Minneapolis. Legal action can proceed once it has been determined which federal court will hear the case. In the meantime, efforts to reach a mediated resolution are ongoing but currently at a standstill.

King Tours Treatment Plant & Meets with Iowa Members



Front row (left to right): Sibley mayor Jerry Johnson, Sheldon councilman Pete Hamill, King, Sheldon’s Todd Uhl and Hull mayor Roger Buys. Back row (left to right): Sibley’s Glenn Anderson, L&C’s Jim Auen, L&C’s Troy Larson, Sioux Center’s Murray Hulstein, Hull’s Jim Collins and Whiting.

Rep. Steve King toured the treatment plant and held a roundtable discussion with Iowa members on November 8. He was joined by staffer Zach Whiting, who was just elected to the state senate and whose district includes Sibley. King toured construction of the plant, but this was his first opportunity to see it in operation. “This is a remarkable facility, very impressive,” he said. King and Whiting then sat down with officials from Hull, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center to discuss federal and state issues impacting L&C. King told the group, “I was there for the groundbreaking, I’m here for the operations, but the most important part is to be there for the finish. We need to get this done. I will continue to do everything I can to ensure the remaining members are connected as soon as possible.”



Whiting, King, Johnson and Anderson toast with glasses of L&C water in the plant’s laboratory

Rock County Reservoir Problems Persist; Nobles County Reservoir Delays

A just under \$3M contract was awarded to Preload of Louisville, KY on September 22, 2016 for a four million gallon reservoir southwest of Luverne. Construction started in the spring of 2017. The original substantial completion deadline was October 2017. Preload experienced numerous problems in 2017, many self-inflicted. With winter approaching they were given a time extension until April 2018. Unfortunately, this project continued to be plagued by multiple self-inflicted problems. Most recently four attempts to pass the 72-hour leak test have failed. Three known leaks have been repaired, and of this writing Preload officials are continuing their efforts to fix the remaining leak(s).

Preload was awarded a just over \$2.6M contract on August 24, 2017 for a two million gallon reservoir four miles west of Worthington. The original substantial completion deadline was October 2018, but internal and external challenges have delayed construction. Construction of the reservoir itself started this past May (see two photos below, and two at top right) and is now complete other than the exterior painting. However, construction of the adjacent vault that houses the controls is behind schedule. It is hoped they will reach substantial completion by late December.





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The Solar Bee mixing system, shown at left in the Rock County reservoir, makes sure the water is circulated in the reservoir



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Operations Update

September 30 was the end of L&C's fiscal year. Despite it being a very wet year, a record 5.775 billion gallons were delivered in FY18. This is a daily average of 15.8 million gallons and an increase of 3.9% from the previous year. Peak day was 22.9 million gallons on June 15. Water loss was an incredibly low 0.41 percent. L&C started delivering water in July 2012, so FY13 was the first full fiscal year of operation. When comparing one year to the next, L&C has

seen increases every year – 10.5% in FY14, 41.1% in FY15, 15.85% in FY16, 4% in FY17 and 3.9% in FY18.

Wells lose production capacity over time as materials build up on the outside of the screen, and in L&C's case roughly every three years need to be rehabilitated in order to regain as much of the lost capacity as possible. Sargent Drilling, who uses water jetting and pumping to clean the screen, was hired to rehabilitate five vertical wells. They started working on the first well

in late September and expect to finish all five wells by the end of December. The photo at left shows them removing the suction control device from inside the screen, which limits the velocity of water drawn into the well. "We won't know until January how much of the capacity was restored, but based on Sargent's previous work we expect a significant restoration of capacity," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Adding ballast – essentially concrete

pavers as shown in the photo at right – to the defective roof membrane at the water treatment plant, high service pump station and electrical switchgear building recently started in order to help hold it in place. Last fall vents and mechanical fasteners were installed, which are also part of the effort to extend the useful life of the membrane. High winds have twice blown off a portion of the membrane. L&C is working with its attorneys to have Sika Sarnafil, the membrane manufacturer, cover the cost of these three steps.

