

## **Iowa Legislature Approves \$4.75 Milion for Lewis & Clark**

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**May 9, 2018**

**Tea, SD** – On May 2 the Iowa Legislature approved the annual infrastructure budget known as the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), which includes a \$4.75M “federal funding advance” for the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. Governor Reynolds, who included the Lewis & Clark funding in her budget, has until June 4 to sign the RIIF bill.

These funds, along with the \$2.25M advance approved last year, will be used to construct pipeline starting at Sioux Center and heading west. The exact distance will not be known until bids are opened this fall, but project officials are estimating roughly six miles. Most of the \$2.25M advance approved last year is being used to design the meter building at Sioux Center and the close to 19 miles of pipeline between Sioux Center and the South Dakota side of the Big Sioux River, as well as acquire easements.

According to Executive Director Troy Larson, “These two advances are a huge shot in the arm in terms of advancing construction of this critically needed water project in northwest Iowa. In addition, we will continue to work with the tristate congressional delegation to try to leverage these advances, as well as the advances provided by Minnesota and South Dakota, to secure increased federal funding. We cannot thank Governor Reynolds and the Legislature enough for their strong support and leadership.”

### **BACKGROUND:**

The “federal funding advances” are zero interest unsecured loans that will be paid back with future federal funding after all 20 members are connected, but before the project is completed. After the members are connected, there is still an estimated \$33M worth of construction needed to make the System more reliable and dependable that Lewis & Clark has agreed to defer until the states are repaid. In addition to the \$7M approved by Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota have approved advances of \$44.5 million and \$8.7 million respectively. These advances are above and beyond the states’ original project cost share.

It was announced yesterday Lewis & Clark will be using its FY18 federal funding to start constructing pipeline at Beresford and head east toward the Big Sioux River. In other words, construction will start on both ends of the segment of pipeline between Sioux Center and Beresford and work toward the middle.