



# Explorer

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

FALL 2009

## Congressional Leaders Tour Construction During August Recess

Lewis & Clark (L&C) members were honored to host separate meetings and tours with Congressman Steve King, Congressman Tim Walz and Senator Amy Klobuchar during the August congressional recess. It was a great opportunity for officials from L&C's cities and rural water systems to thank them for their strong support, reiterate the importance of continued funding and for the elected leaders to see first hand the construction progress.

King met on August 5 with L&C members, mainly from the Iowa communities of Hull, Rock Rapids, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center, at the water treatment plant site. The cheese factory that recently located in Hull due in large part to L&C's emergency connection and the promise of future water was cited as an example of the economic development impact to the region.

Citing the importance of water to the economic development of the region, King said, "Any community that is going to sustain their population and industrial base, let alone grow, has to have an adequate water supply." In terms of funding, King readily agreed that the stimulus funding should not be used to offset future appropriations, saying "The stimulus funding has already been offset. We're still behind schedule of where we need to be."

King then toured the construction underway at the water treatment plant. He next toured the 54" diameter pipe that was being constructed as part of the main trunk line.

King owned a construction company before being elected to Congress. Using that experience, he hopped into the massive 1200 Hitachi excavator and deftly unloaded several buckets of backfill onto a section of 54" diameter pipe. "That felt great! I could have stayed in there all day," King said afterward.

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in there all day."*

*-Congressman Steve King*

## August Recess - continued from page 1



Rep. Walz sizes up the 72" pipe for the treatment plant.

Officials from Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Luverne, Rock County RWD and Worthington held a roundtable discussion with Walz in Sioux Falls on August 17. Walz expressed his disappointment with the stimulus funding offset for FY10, saying "The stimulus funding wasn't a gift. This project is authorized and the Federal government has a commitment." Noting the importance of completing the project in a timely manner, he said, "The sooner Lewis & Clark is done, the sooner we start seeing the economic benefits of it. This

project will provide a return on investment over and over." Walz then toured the construction underway at the treatment plant.

*"The sooner Lewis & Clark is done, the sooner we start seeing the economic benefits of it."*

*-Congressman Tim Walz*

Klobuchar met in Luverne for a roundtable discussion with Minnesota members on August 25, including Luverne Mayor Andy Steensma, Worthington Mayor Alan Oberloh, Rock County RWD Chairman Harold Fick of Luverne, Lincoln Pipestone RWS Chairman Bill Ufkin of Minnesota and MN Rural Water Association's Ruth Hubbard. Each shared examples how economic development is being stymied in southwest MN due to the lack of water. They stressed the importance of receiving L&C water in

a timely manner, and how future Federal funding shortfalls directly impact when the MN members will receive water. Executive Director Troy Larson provided a construction update. Klobuchar was impressed with the progress being made, but to keep it going said "I realize the



Ufkin, Fick, Klobuchar, Oberloh and Steensma

heavy lifting (in DC) that is still needed." She reiterated her strong support for the project, saying "We're very devoted to this project and seeing it through." She also noted that L&C's regional approach "represents the kind of efficiency and cooperation that needs to be encouraged."

## First Segment of "Minnesota Transmission Line" Substantially Below Estimates

Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials were very pleased with the low bid of \$3,764,000 submitted on September 29 by Morgan Contracting of Albertville, MN, for Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 10 (TWP-10), which was more than \$1.4M below the engineer's estimate. Nine bids were submitted. The low bid is attributed to the continued economic recession.

With this contract, L&C has reached a significant milestone. In the past six years, L&C has approved contracts and change orders totaling just over \$250M.

TWP-10 is five miles of mainly 30" pipe and a small amount of 24" pipe that will be constructed just southeast of Sioux Falls. All the construction will be in SD, but this is the first segment of what is called the Minnesota Transmission Line. Ultimately, Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Rock Rapids, Luverne, Rock County RWD, Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Worthington and Sibley will receive water from service lines connected to the "Minnesota Transmission Line." Construction should begin this fall. The deadline for substantial completion

is November 2010. It was expected that the contract for TWP-10 would be awarded sometime after 2012. However, the \$56.5M in stimulus funding received earlier this year for the treatment plant freed up funds to use toward other projects, including this one.

Nine construction contracts totaling \$86.2M have now been awarded to MN firms. This economic impact continues to be emphasized to the MN congressional delegation.

*In the past six years, L&C has approved contracts and change orders totaling just over \$250,000,000.*



## Chairman's Report - Red Arndt

The \$56.5M in stimulus funding was a great boon for Lewis & Clark (L&C). It allowed us to award the contract for the main water treatment plant building (Phase 2) and freed up funds to use toward other projects. However, the disappointing aspect of the stimulus funding is that it was used as a reason to significantly offset L&C's appropriation in the FY10 Budget. Compared to the \$27M approved in FY09, the Senate had approved \$16M and the House \$6M for FY10. The Conference Committee on September 30 basically split the difference and approved \$10M for L&C, which Congress approved and the President signed.

We know our tri-state Congressional delegation worked very hard on our behalf and we thank them profusely for their continued strong support and their pledge

to re-double their efforts for FY11. To their efforts, we greatly appreciate the added support from recently elected Senator Al Franken.

We likely will need to scale back our construction plans some, but because of the pre-payment by the members and three states, as well as the stimulus funding, we will still be able to award contracts in 2010. The big unknown though, is whether L&C's funding in FY09 or FY10 will be used as the starting point for negotiations in the FY11 Budget. Starting in 2011, L&C will be entirely dependent upon Federal funding for construction, since we will have exhausted all other funding sources. L&C will be a hand-to-mouth operation. As a result, it is critically important that we at least get back to the FY09 level of \$27M for the FY11 Budget. We can then work toward



Chairman Arndt and Senator Franken

reaching the \$35M needed each year to keep construction on schedule, which is now over two years behind.

Federal underfunding in FY11 and beyond most directly impacts Madison, SD, and the nine members in Minnesota and Iowa, since when we connect those members depends exclusively on future Federal funding levels. It will also impact the ten SD members who will be receiving water by 2012, since their rates will be higher until the full economy of scale kicks in when all 20 members are purchasing water. The roller coaster rolls on!

## Contract Awarded for Lewis & Clark's Primary Storage Facility Two 7.5 Million Gallon Reservoirs to be Built Near Tea

Bids were opened on August 20 for two 7.5 million gallon above ground reservoirs at the intersection of 467th Avenue and 270th Street, a couple miles northwest of Tea, SD. The low bid of \$9,505,800 from NATGUN, headquartered in Wakefield, MA, was pretty close to the engineer's estimate. This included the bid alternate for the second reservoir. Construction

will begin this fall with a substantial completion deadline of October 2011.

Each circular pre-stressed concrete reservoir will be 165' wide and 70' high at the peak of the dome. Other smaller capacity reservoirs and water towers will be constructed throughout the System, including the construction that started in

October on a three million gallon water tower on the south side of Sioux Falls, but these reservoirs on the 54" main trunk line constitute Lewis & Clark's (L&C) primary storage facility. Although not part of this contract, a pump station will be located between the two reservoirs. L&C expects to open bids this spring for the pump station.



## Lewis & Clark Pushes for Increased Funding in the FY11 Budget

Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson were in Washington, D.C. on September 23 and 24 to meet with Congressional and Administration officials to push for increased funding of the Bureau of Reclamation's rural water program. At most of the meetings they were joined by officials from other Reclamation water projects in SD, ND, MT, AZ and NM in making a unified case for the importance of increased funding in order to complete these critically needed water projects in a timely manner. Due to the stimulus funding being used as a reason to offset Lewis & Clark's (L&C) FY10 appropriation, Arndt and Larson also strongly urged Congressional and Administration officials to not use the stimulus funding as a reason to again offset L&C's funding in FY11. They emphasized how L&C at that time will be a hand-to-mouth operation, with its construction schedule entirely dependent on Federal funding levels. By then L&C will have exhausted all its other funding sources, including the pre-payment by the local members and three states.

Arndt and Larson met with newly elected Senator Al Franken of MN, who responded "absolutely" when asked if L&C could count on his support.

Franken indicated, "Infrastructure is one of the main predictors of prosperity for an area. When we under invest in infrastructure, we do so at our own peril."

Arndt and Larson also met with Senators Tom Harkin, John Thune, Amy Klobuchar, as well as the staffs of Senator Tim Johnson and Congressman Tim Walz. They also had a joint meeting with Congressman Pete Visclosky, Chairman of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. They all expressed their continued strong support for the project, appreciation for the importance of timely completion and agreement that the stimulus funding should not be used as a reason to again offset L&C's appropriation in FY11. However, they also forewarned that the overall budget for FY11 will be as tight as ever, and how it will require a re-doubling of efforts.

Visclosky, who has been in office 25 years, expressed his frustration with how Administrations through the years have not proposed enough funding for water projects, regardless of political party. "It's stupid politics to not fund basic infrastructure for water," said Visclosky, "I'm hopeful the Administration's FY11



Arndt, Commissioner Connor and Larson

Budget will be better." In terms of the pre-payment made by L&C's members, Visclosky said, "I appreciate the local pre-payment. The Federal government should reward good behavior."

Thirty officials from the various Reclamation projects also had the opportunity to make their unified case for increased funding to Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor and John Tubbs, the Department of Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science. Connor said he believes "this Administration will be very supportive of rural water." Tubbs indicated, "I feel we're in a new era for water in the West." In terms of getting all the project officials together in one room, Tubbs said "the strength in arms sends a powerful message."

## Webcams Now Live!

Follow the progress on the water treatment plant construction by webcam, which can be accessed through the Live Webcams link on L&C's homepage ([www.lcrws.org](http://www.lcrws.org)).

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# Main Treatment Plant Building Construction Begins; Walls Completed on Underground Reservoir



54" diameter pipe being installed into the clearwell.

Construction started in July on Phase 2 – the water treatment plant building. Foley Company of Kansas City, MO, is the general contractor. A large drainage ditch was first dug around two sides of the property to allow for surface water runoff. The next major excavation was a roughly 275' by 275' area that is 11' below grade for the four solids contact basins. Material from this excavation was used to build berms adjacent to the treatment plant and berms for the sludge lagoons. Work on the basins and lagoons has been slowed by the wet weather. Lake Region Contracting of Spicer, MN, is the dirt

work subcontractor. Foley started placing concrete for the footings of the basins in late October.

With the Phase 2 bid way below the engineer's estimate, a \$2,024,650 change order was approved in September to add the gravity thickener, which consolidates the solids that are generated during the water softening and filtration process. This originally was deferred until Phase 3 (future phase that will expand the plant from 36 to 45 million gallons a day). Pumping thicker solids extends the life of the sludge lagoons and allows the plant to operate at higher capacities for a longer time. The gravity thickener also conserves water by reusing a portion of the water from the thickening process, which is returned to the plant for treatment. This change order, which does not change the substantial completion deadline of March 2012, also locks in a lower price during the down economy.

Foley is also the general contractor on Phase 1. Work continues to go well, but has been slowed by the wet weather. The interior baffle walls and the sloped concrete fill for the floors have been completed for the three million gallon clearwell portion of the underground reservoir. Close to 900 truck loads of concrete (about 7,000 cubic yards) have been placed so far. Foley is now placing concrete for the roof that will cover the 325' by 150' underground reservoir.

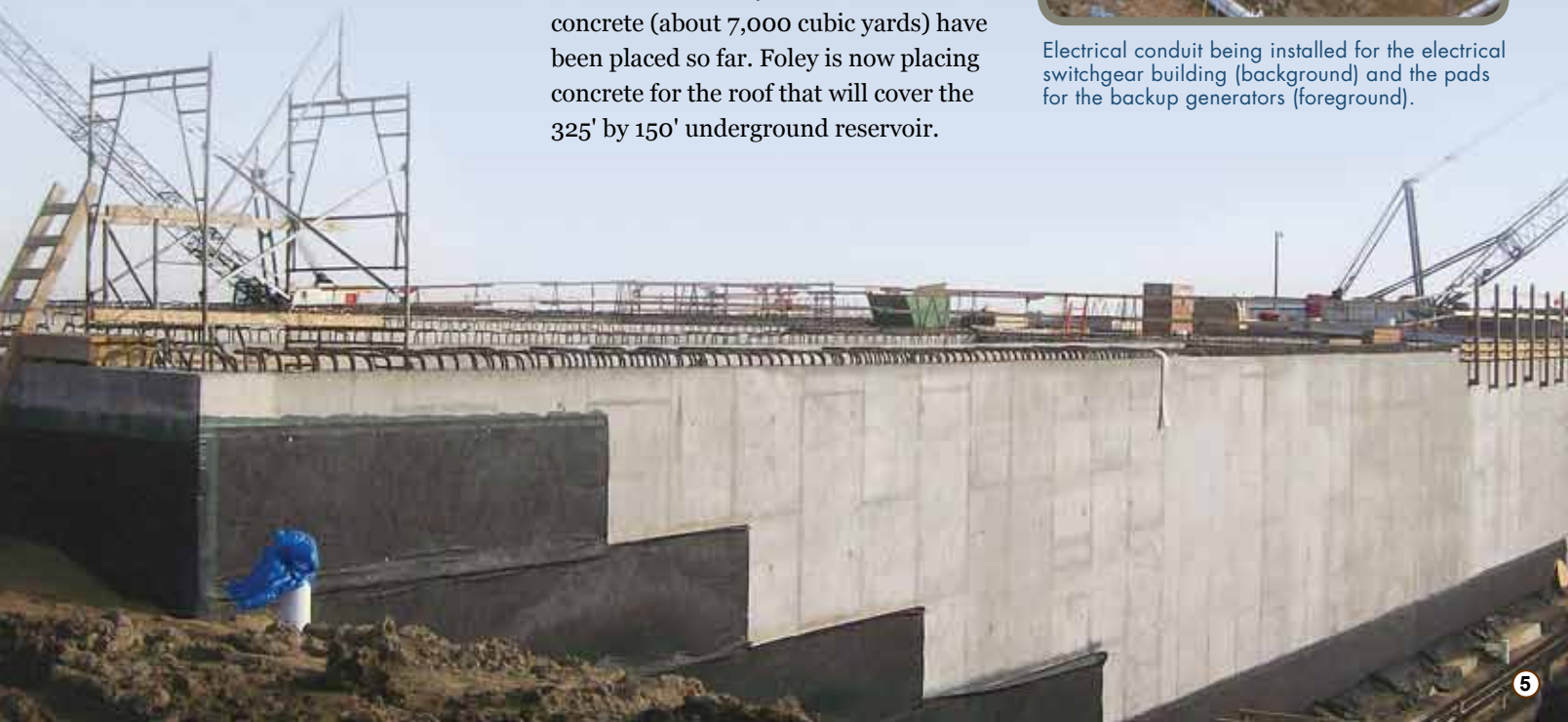


The left side shows the maze of walls for the clearwell portion of the underground reservoir that ensures the first water in from the treatment plant is the first out. The wet well portion (pump station will sit on top) is on the right. To the left of the reservoir are the footings for the electrical switchgear building.

Weather permitting; they should have the entire underground reservoir capped by late December. The electrical building, which is also part of Phase 1, should be enclosed by late November. E&I, the electrical subcontractor from Sioux Falls, will then start installing the electrical switchgear, motor control centers and other electrical equipment.

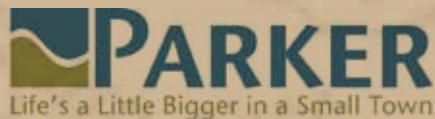


Electrical conduit being installed for the electrical switchgear building (background) and the pads for the backup generators (foreground).



## Parker and Centerville Service Lines Construction to Begin this Fall

Twelve bids were opened on September 22 for the Parker and Centerville service lines. The low bid of \$2,870,003, close to \$750,000 below the engineer's estimate, was submitted by Nitteberg Construction of Estelline, SD. These service lines originally were to be constructed after 2012, but the money freed from the stimulus funding allowed the contract to be awarded much earlier.



The Parker service line includes close to fourteen miles of 10" PVC pipe and the Centerville service line is five miles of 6" PVC pipe, which is the smallest diameter pipe that will be used in the System. Construction will begin this fall with a deadline of November 2010 for substantial completion. Parker has reserved 490,000 gallons a day from Lewis & Clark and Centerville has reserved 220,000 gallons. Both communities, along with eight other members, will begin receiving water in 2012 when the treatment plant is completed. The remaining ten members will be connected in subsequent years as Federal funding permits.

Erected in 1895, Centerville's standpipe water tower is the oldest water tower in SD.

## Last 50' Section of 54" Pipe Buried

The last 50' long section of 54" diameter pipe on Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 8/7B in southern Clay County was buried in August. Don Kelly Construction (DKC) is now pressure testing this 11 mile segment, which is the last segment of the main trunk line between the Missouri River and Sioux Falls. They are also finishing up top soil restoration and completing the air vacuum vaults. Once the pressure testing is done, DKC will install the final 5' section of 54" pipe that connects this segment with TWP-6/7A (in the photo you can see the capped end of this previously completed segment). Although the 50' sections are done, this 5' piece will be the "golden spike" in terms of the very last piece of 54" trunk line.



The last 50' long section of 54" pipe being lowered into the trench.