



LUVERNE BEGINS RECEIVING LEWIS & CLARK WATER!

For Immediate Release

Contact: Troy Larson, Executive Director - 605-368-2400 (work) and 605-310-0560 (cell)

March 15, 2016

Tea, SD – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held yesterday in Luverne to celebrate the city’s connection to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C). Mayor Pat Baustian said “This is a momentous occasion that has been 26 years in the making. Having a stable pure water source for our citizens and the growth of our community is a huge deal.”

Luverne is the thirteenth member to be connected to the system, with seven more to go (unconnected members include Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Worthington, Madison, Hull, Sioux Center, Sheldon and Sibley). The city now has access to 821,000 gallons a day from L&C with the opportunity to secure more capacity in the future.

Attendees at the ceremony included state legislators, city officials and representatives from some of the other member cities and rural water systems. Governor Mark Dayton was scheduled to attend but was unable to make it due to the dense fog earlier in the day. Dayton released a statement saying in part, “I am terribly sorry that air travel conditions have prevented me from being in Luverne today. This project is critically important to the people and businesses in the Luverne area. I congratulate everyone who has worked so hard to make it a reality.”

Red Arndt of Luverne, Chairman of the L&C board of directors, is the only remaining board member from the project’s incorporation in 1990. He was presented with a bottle containing the first potable water to come through the faucet of L&C’s meter house in Luverne. Arndt took a big swig and said “Tastes great! I’ve been waiting for this day for a long time – for the last 26 years – and here it is.” In their remarks Arndt and Baustian noted how the L&C water will expand economic development opportunities, improve the resident’s quality of life and sustain the growth of Luverne for generations to come.

Ribbon Cutting Photo (left to right): L&C Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center, Luverne City Administrator John Call, Luverne Councilwoman Caroline Thorson, State Rep. Joe Schomacker, Luverne Councilwoman Esther Spease Frakes, Banner Associate’s Dave Odens, L&C Chairman Red Arndt, Luverne Councilman Kevin Aaker, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, Worthington Public Utilities Manager and L&C director Scott Hain, Luverne Councilman Eugene Marshall, State Senator Bill Weber, Banner Associate’s Tim Conner, Luverne Water/Wastewater Supervisor Al Lais and L&C Executive Director Troy Larson.