



EXPLORER

Fall, 1996

LCRWS LEGISLATION CLEARS FIRST BIG HURDLE IN 104th CONGRESS



—(L. to R.) Randy Van Dyke, Pam Bonrud, Mayor Bill Weber and Mayor Gary Hanson testify before the Senate Forest and Public Land Management subcommittee.

After six years, hundreds of miles of driving, several trips to state capitols and the nation's capitol, the fate of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System (LCRWS) will ultimately come down to a gathering of officials in Washington, D.C.

One of those important gatherings took place in Washington on September 6th. Several area LCRWS representatives testified before the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee chaired by Senator Craig of Utah. Bill Weber, the mayor of Luverne, Minnesota was one of the Lewis & Clark representatives who testified before the committee.

"I believe that the trip (to Washington, D.C.) was very worthwhile. All six Senators and three representatives from the Tri-state area presented testimony on behalf of the

project. Five of the six Senators and one Representative appeared in person to speak on our behalf," said Bill Weber of Luverne. Elected officials providing testimony included: Senator Daschle-SD, Senator Wellstone-MN, Senator Pressler-SD, Senator Grassley-IA, Senator Harkin-IA, Senator Grams-MN, and Rep. Johnson-SD, Rep. Minge-MN, Rep. Latham-IA, and Governors Janklow-SD

and Branstad-IA.

At this point the main issue that needs to be worked through is the commitment by Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls has already committed \$12.5 million as its share of the project. However, members from the Senate committee and the federal Bureau of Reclamation have asked for a bigger commitment.

Several comments from the committee members and the governing agencies indicated that authorizing legislation should be acted upon in early 1997 and it would appear that there is strong support on the committee for moving this bill along.

Pam Bonrud, Executive Director for Lewis & Clark testified before the Senate

committee along with Gary Hanson, Mayor of Sioux Falls, Randy Van Dyke, Manager of Clay County Rural Water System, near Spencer, IA and Bill Weber, Mayor of Luverne, MN.

"Each member signed a letter of commitment to the project that legally obligates them to pay for their pro-rated share of the construction costs," said Pam Bonrud before the committee. "In turn, Lewis & Clark has asked the three states to match the membership's cost share for construction. While we believe that the cost share package presented in Senate Bill 931 is the most affordable for our membership, we are also willing to look at alternative funding possibilities."

Most of the member systems are rural communities and rural water systems. During testimony from LCRWS board member Randy Van Dyke of Spencer, Iowa, he emphasized the critical need for farmers domestic and livestock water supply.

Gary Hanson, Mayor of Sioux Falls, and past chairman of LCRWS, is optimistic about the authorization of LCRWS. "We've been knocking on the door for a long time and working through the process," Hanson said. "This time we had a very favorable committee hearing, with very strong support from the congressional delegations from the three states, as well as senators from elsewhere."

During testimony in Washington, Hanson spoke of the efforts of Sioux Falls to conserve water and implement watering restrictions. Sioux Falls' average residential water use was 73.5 gallons per capita per day over the past decade. The National

TECH NOTES

By David Odens, Banner Associates, Inc.

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Lewis & Clark Explorer. The Tech Notes column for the next couple of newsletters will be a series of short articles describing various design and construction aspects of the proposed project. The third in this series is a description of the proposed water distribution system and storage reservoirs.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will deliver treated water to each of the members. The water distribution system is designed to deliver the maximum capacity requested by each member simultaneously. The pipelines required for meeting the demands were sized to deliver the maximum day demand of each member in a 24 hour period. Variations in demand during the day can be met by delivering water stored in reservoirs connected to the distribution system.

A preliminary route map of the distribution system is presented in Figure 1: Water Distribution System. The distribution system includes a total of 11 pump stations and 5 reservoirs. Total reservoir storage capacity is 28 million gallons. The reservoirs would be able to supply system water demands for one day if there were an interruption to service from the water treatment plant or a pipeline break. The reservoirs are above grade ground storage reservoirs located at

high points on the system. The reservoir to be located near Madison, South Dakota will be at an elevation that can maintain water pressure on the entire distribution system.

The pipeline materials used as a basis for the cost estimate are PVC water pipe for water lines 14" and smaller, ductile iron for water lines 16" through 36", and tape wrapped steel for pipe larger than 36". Other materials will be considered at the time of bid. The depth of cover used for estimating purposes was a minimum of 6 feet. It may be necessary to go somewhat deeper in some locations in order to minimize interference with other utilities, particularly tile drains in agricultural areas. The 6' depth of cover will also provide protection against freezing the line in the event water is not moving for extended periods of time.

The booster pump stations used as the basis for the cost estimates are above ground stations. Each station would house the pumping equipment, electrical service and controls, radio telemetry equipment, and instruments to measure flow, pressure, and electrical load. The stations will be sized to deliver the maximum daily water demand of the customers on their respective branch of the distribution system with one pump out of service. Each station will be designed to operate as a fully automatic station. Pump station operation will be monitored at the water plant and with portable remote monitoring equipment through a radio telemetry system.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

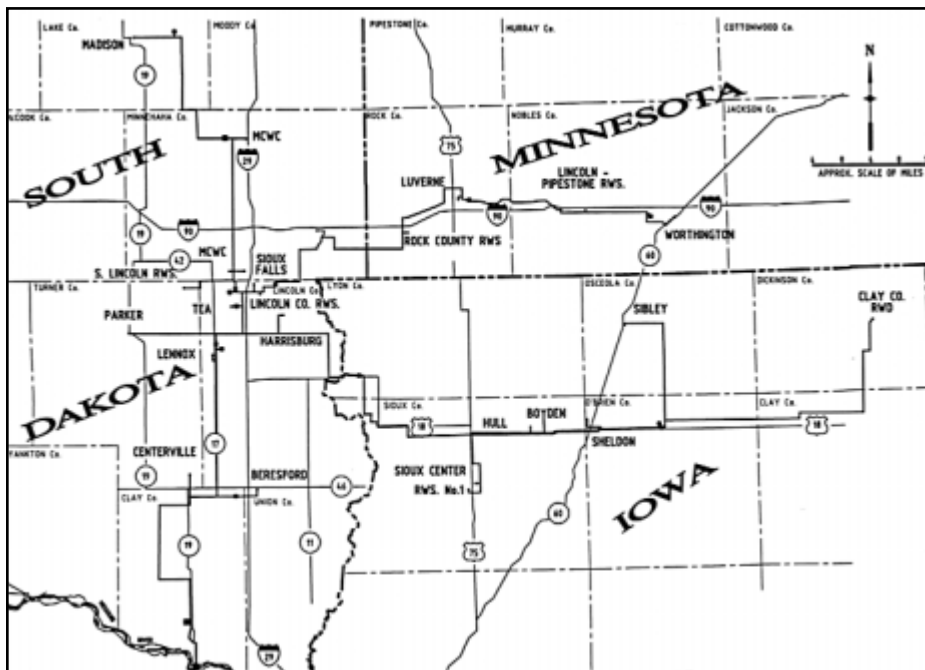
By Charlie Kuehl, Chairman LCRWS

Project sponsors of Lewis and Clark are still smiling from an outstanding hearing before the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee on September 6 in Washington, D.C. It was gratifying to witness the project's triumph before the subcommittee after six years of working hard to ready Lewis and Clark for federal authorization.

The success of Lewis and Clark during its subcommittee hearing is due to the dedication of its membership, our Congressional delegations, our Governors and state legislatures, and statewide organizations that submitted supporting testimony for the hearing record. I can not thank you enough for your efforts on our behalf.

I also want to personally thank those who testified on behalf of the project sponsors before the subcommittee: Mayor Gary Hanson of Sioux Falls, SD; Mayor Bill Weber of Luverne, MN; Randy Van Dyke, Lewis and Clark board member and manager of the Clay County Rural Water System in Spencer, IA; and Pam Bonrud, our Executive Director. Each of you did an excellent job in portraying the drinking water needs of the tri-state area.

While federal authorization did not happen before Congress adjourned this year, we are confident that 1997 is our year! Stay tuned...



—Figure 1: Lewis & Clark Water Distribution System

FEATURE SYSTEM

LINCOLN-PIPESTONE RURAL WATER

The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System based in eastern Minnesota near the South Dakota border has a story that is similar to many water systems in the midwest. Communities and counties realize the benefit of combining resources and the needs of the area to build a water system. A group of community people recognized the need for a continuing source of water in 1979. On May 15, 1979, bid letting was held for the \$10.4 million project.

The need for the new system was brought on by increasing presence of sulfates in the existing system and not being able to meet the demands of the population in rural towns and farms. Shallow wells in the area were greatly effected by drought conditions that are part of the weather patterns of the midwest prairie.

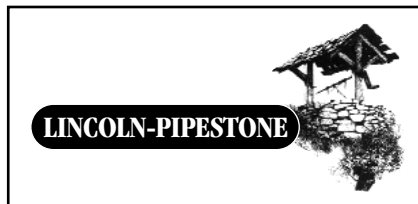
The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System now provides service to 883 rural connections and wholesale service to 11 communities including the cities of Tyler, Lake Benton, Ivanhoe, Hendricks, Arco, Florence, Verdi, Woodstock, Holland, Trosky and Kenneth. The system covers about 2,600 square miles, runs a length of about 100 miles north to south, and about 40 miles east to west and encompasses all or portions of seven counties.

The system's water supply is provided by four shallow wells (60-70 ft. deep) located approximately four miles west of Verdi, Minnesota. Each of the gravel-packed wells is capable of producing 400-450 gallons of water per minute, not to exceed 1,870,000 gallons of water per day to the members. The water pumped from the wells has a hardness of approximately

20 grains per gallon.

The largest single construction cost item of the project was the distribution pipeline. The main pipeline, covering 645 miles, ranges in diameter from 2 inches through 12 inches with 1.5 inch service lines covering about 70 miles. The water system currently consists of 2,400 miles of pipe and serves over 20,000 people including 2,800 farms.

The members of Lincoln-Pipestone are very conscientious about conserving water. A continuing education program for water conservation is brought to the public through schools, radio spots and free distribution of low-flow shower heads.



—Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System offices.

Lincoln-Pipestone has not only served its members well it has responded to other communities during an emergency. In 1993, Des Moines, Iowa was hit hard by flooding. The municipal water supply for Des Moines was shut down. Lincoln-Pipestone responded with transport trucks filled from their system and delivered to the people of Des Moines for drinking and cooking water. They also delivered water to the hospitals.

The future of Lincoln-Pipestone is connected to the development of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System. "Water in the area is in short supply and existing sources are of poor quality," said Donald Evers, CEO of the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System. "No one individual or organization can afford to solve these water supply problems alone. It takes real cooperation and common sense to bring and protect a lasting supply of good quality water."



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Pam Bonrud, Exec. Director, LCRWS

A very important milestone in the project's progress towards federal authorization was achieved with our Senate subcommittee hearing on September 6. Numerous bills are introduced in Congress each session. Many never get the opportunity to be heard before a congressional committee. We are very fortunate, indeed, that our congressional representatives stuck to their guns and made sure Lewis and Clark had an opportunity to testify before Congress adjourned.

The time Lewis and Clark has spent educating our locally and federally elected officials, and Administration representatives, about the tri-state area drinking water needs is yielding results.

What happens now? We will be working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation and Congress during these next few months to resolve the cost share issue. During testimony before the Senate subcommittee, the Bureau of Reclamation made a commitment to work with us to bring this discussion to an end. Our intentions are to have our differences reconciled in time for federal legislation to be introduced on Day One of the 105th Congress.

Lewis and Clark will also be finalizing its requests for state financial support in 1997. We are looking at our budgetary needs for 1997, in light of pending federal authorization, to determine what we will need to get the project rolling towards construction. Lewis and Clark will also be seeking a federal appropriation for the project in the 1998 federal budget.

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LEWIS & CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Q&A CORNER

QUESTION: With the recent U.S. Senate committee hearing on LCRWS authorization completed, when would be the earliest the Senate would take a vote on the bill?

ANSWER: The 104th Congress has adjourned. Therefore, any action on LCRWS' legislation will need to wait until the 105th Congress convenes in January of 1997. LCRWS is hopeful that the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee will accept the September 6th hearing as the "hearing of record." If so, we will ask the committee to approve the legislation and move it to the Senate floor for consideration. Once the Senate agrees to pass our authorizing legislation, our Senators will ask to place the bill on the House of Representatives' consent calendar. If the House agrees, LCRWS can

expect to be authorized by late Spring of 1997.

QUESTION: When will the cut-off date be for member systems to order their total water purchase from LCRWS?

ANSWER: Each of the member systems have already ordered their allotment of water from LCRWS when the Letters of Commitment were signed in 1993. Within the Letter of Commitment, it is spelled out how much water the member system wished to reserve as capacity from LCRWS. Once the project is authorized, and it moves to the final design phase, changes in capacity requirements or possible new members will be considered at that time.

—continued from page 1

average is 106 gallons. And South Dakota statewide is 110 gallons. "The community has used lawn watering restrictions for each year since 1987," added Hanson. "Lawn watering restrictions are now a permanent part of our water management policy."

Throughout the hearing, Chairman Craig of Utah was understanding of the water problems of the Midwest. Senator Craig also stated his interest in seeing the direction of the Bureau of Reclamation focused more on domestic use of water as opposed to irrigation in the western states.

What is the next step for the LCRWS authorization bill? After the Senate Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee votes on the bill, then the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will vote to send it to the full Senate. At this writing, Congress has adjourned, therefore the bill won't see any further action until January when the 105th Congress convenes.
