



Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

# EXPLORER

## GROUNDBREAKING AT LAST!!!

The long-awaited groundbreaking of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System was held on Thursday, August 21. It was a picture perfect summer morning along the banks of the Missouri River at Clay County Park, near Vermillion, SD. 250 people came out to help celebrate this momentous occasion.

After a prayer by Reverend Robert Hansen of Beresford and joining together to sing the National Anthem, Chairman Charlie Kuehl made opening remarks and thanked the Board of Directors for their hard work. Reflecting on 14 years of determination and hard work, Kuehl noted that everyone involved has "many gray hairs and wrinkles with Lewis and Clark's name on them," and joked that he "looked a lot like Mel Gibson when this project started."

A hallmark of Lewis & Clark's success has been the strong bipartisan support from its elected leaders. Lewis & Clark was honored to have a number of federal,

state, county, and city officials in attendance. Kuehl introduced Governor Mike Rounds, Senator

tem was built. Congressman Bill Janklow, who had been scheduled to attend, asked Sioux Falls



With the beautiful Missouri River in the background, Chairman Charlie Kuehl opens the ceremonies for the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System groundbreaking.

Tim Johnson, and Congressman Steve King. Each talked about the importance of the project to the region in terms of quality of life and economic development, the challenges that have been overcome along the way, and the work that remains ahead. Johnson noted that the region has not seen a project of this importance since the highway interstate sys-

Mayor Dave Munson to make remarks on his behalf. Munson noted Janklow's strong passion and support for the project.

Troy Larson, Executive Director, introduced a number of special guests, as well as representatives from the offices of Senators Daschle, Grassley, Harkin,

continued on page 6...

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Chairman  
Charlie Kuehl

All I can say is that it was certainly worth the wait. We enjoyed an incredibly successful groundbreaking ceremony.

A big "thank you" to everyone who played a role during the past 14 years in helping us get to this point. We couldn't have done it without you.

We were honored to have Governor Rounds, Senator Johnson, and Congressman King in attendance, as well as representatives from the other elected officials.

The steadfast, bi-partisan support on the federal and state level has been nothing short of phenomenal. The current Board of Directors, as well as those who have previously served, are to be commended for their dedicated service. It has definitely been a team effort. We were delighted to have many special guests on hand to help mark this milestone, including former Chairman Gary Hanson, former Executive Director Pam Bonrud, Bill Dempsey, and former Senator Larry Pressler.

Words cannot express the amazing determination and perseverance that have been demonstrated by so many along the way. It has been said that a person is meas-

ured not by their successes, but by the obstacles they've overcome. Using that measure, Lewis & Clark definitely stands tall. We've been through so much, yet many challenges remain. The groundbreaking simply marks the start of a new chapter in this incredible journey.

I'm excited about the future of the project and the impact it'll have on the quality of life and economic development of the region. Much like the Corps of Discovery did close to 200 years earlier, this critical water project will leave an indelible mark on the region. Working together, Lewis & Clark will be built!

## PIPE IN THE GROUND

It may not be pipeline, but Lewis & Clark has pipe in the ground. The groundbreaking was held on August 21, but the official construction of Lewis & Clark actually began on August 11 with the installation of a 90' long, 72" diameter casing, which was installed under Highway 19 a few miles north of Vermillion, SD.

The casing won't be needed for a couple years, but was installed at this time because the highway was in the process of being rebuilt. Putting in the casing now, rather than waiting to bore under the newly paved highway, resulted in a sizeable savings. The 54" raw water pipeline will go through the casing, which leads to the water treatment plant site. A production test well was installed in 2000 and another one is currently being dug, but those activities are considered "exploration," not construction.



Pipe casing being installed under Highway 19, near Vermillion, SD.

Noting the importance of this initial construction, Executive Director Troy Larson promised that this would be the most photographed piece of casing ever, which is believed to have been accomplished with 58 pictures. Loiseau Construction, from Flan-dreau, SD, installed the casing.

# FUNDING UPDATE

## FEDERAL

We were very pleased to learn that the Senate has appropriated \$20 million for Lewis & Clark for FY04.

This is good news, especially considering some of the recent funding challenges the project has faced. The House did not include any project funding and the final number will need to be resolved in Conference Committee.

Although it may be a little less than \$20

million, we are encouraged by the optimism expressed by the congressional delegation and their commitment to work hard to secure as close to that amount as possible.

## IOWA

A project update was held in Sheldon on September 19. There was a good



Randy Feenstra, Murray Hulstein, Mayor Kooima, Lori Wolkow, Mayor Doorenbos, State Rep. Alons, Scott Wynja, Mayor Wahlstrom, Jim Hoye, and Denny Davids.

turnout from the Iowa membership, including Mayor John Kooima from Hull, Mayor John Doorenbos from Boyden, and Duane Wahlstrom from Sheldon. Jim Obradovich, the Iowa member's legislative consultant from Des Moines, also attended. Representative Dwayne Alons, who lives in Hull and farms near Boyden, was a special guest. Troy Larson gave a PowerPoint update on funding, construction, costs, and timelines. Obradovich gave a preview of the upcoming legislative session.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Lewis & Clark was honored to host the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources in its recently



Members of the Board of Water and Natural Resources: John Loucks, Gene Jones, Jr., Dale Kennedy, Chairman Gregg Greenfield, Brad Johnson and Don Bollweg.

expanded conference room for the BWNR's meeting on September 26. Charlie Kuehl, Sid Munson, Dennis Weeldreyer, Roger Lamp, and Troy Larson testified in support of putting the State of South Dakota's \$2.5 million in FY03 funding under contract, and allowing the South Dakota members the option to match the federal funds instead of the accelerated state funding. The Board unanimously approved both requests.

## MINNESOTA

In Luverne on September 9, over 40 people attended a buffalo steak dinner with the Senate Capital Investment Committee. The meeting was a great opportunity to inform the Committee members about Lewis & Clark and solidify their support for the project's '04 funding request. It was a great information exchange and a very productive meeting.

Directors Red Arndt, Don Habicht, Dan Cook, and Don Evers made brief remarks about the importance of Lewis & Clark to addressing their critical water needs. Troy Larson, Executive Director, and Tim Conner from Banner Associates made PowerPoint presentations regarding the construction schedule and funding needs. Committee members asked

many good questions. The Committee was asked to consider accelerating the state's funding in order to avoid the inflation index and expedite the construction of the emergency connection in Minnesota. Although no promises were made, the reception was very positive and there was a commitment to look into this further.

The Joint Powers Board (four MN members) was honored to host the following Senators; Chairman Keith Langseth of Glyndon, Sandy Pappas of St. Paul, Dennis Frederickson of New Ulm, Dave Senjem of Rochester, and Paul Koering of Fort Ripley. Representative Elaine Harder was also in attendance. A number of key Senate and State staff members were also on hand, including Kathy Blair, Marge Romero, Dave Jensen, Lee Mehrkens, and Tim Edmon. Mike Mahoney, the JPB's legislative advisor, and Chairman Charlie Kuehl also attended.

A productive follow-up meeting to discuss the accelerated funding was held in St. Paul on October 8 with Department of Finance Assistant Commissioner, Peter Sausen, Capital Budget Coordinator Lee Mehrkens, and Jim Japs from the Department of Natural Resources. A number of ideas were outlined, which will be reviewed and refined prior to the start of the legislative session.



Don Habicht, Troy Larson, Lori Seten, Red Arndt, and Mike Mahoney in front of the Quadriga atop the Minnesota State Capitol.

# LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

By Terry Pellman

Great news on the land acquisition front! We have secured an option to purchase land for the water treatment plant. The 145 acres, a few miles north of Vermillion along Highway 19, was identified as the best location for the plant. Securing the option allows us to go forward with the proposed route for the raw water pipeline.

With the newly implemented tri-state, phased design, the goal is to begin building the emergency connections in each state by the end of '04. This has created the need to greatly accelerate the appraisal and land acquisition process. To that end, the decision has been made to secure the professional services of right-of-way and appraisal firms. Ads were placed and requests for proposals were sent to many firms. An informational meeting was held with interested firms on September 24 in order to explain the project, timelines, and priorities. Twenty firms, from as far away as Houston, Tulsa, Denver and Chicago, have expressed interest. At its October meeting, the Board will select a firm(s) and send that recommendation to the Bureau of Reclamation for final approval. It's our goal to have the firm(s) on board by December 1.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lewis & Clark continues to move full speed ahead. There's so much going on that it's often hard to keep up with, which is a good problem. We've definitely reached that proverbial point of where the rubber meets the road.



Troy Larson

The groundbreaking was a huge success and Terry Pellman, Lori Seten, Randy Stratton, and I had a lot of fun organizing it. Thank you to everyone who attended. This is an exciting project and I'm grateful to the Board for the opportunity to be a part of it.

We are close to finalizing the construction schedule for the emergency connections, which will provide supplemental water to some of our critical needs members in each state. Work also continues on alternative financing, which would allow Lewis & Clark to borrow against its future federal funds in order to keep the project on schedule.

In other business, one million gallons of unallocated capacity has been reassigned to members in Iowa. Rock Rapids received 500,000 gallons, Sheldon 300,000, Boyden 100,000, and Hull 100,000. The additional capacity is an incredible boost to those communities, who need more water than they originally reserved in '93. The unallocated capacity came from Rural Water System No. 1 of Hospers, Iowa. RWS#1 found another way to address its long-term water needs, so it requested to withdraw from the project, which Lewis & Clark's Board allowed.

On another note, as a cost savings measure Madison cancelled its 500,000 gallons of "excess capacity," which they reserved in '01 and have paid 100% of the cost. Some mistakenly believe this means Madison has withdrawn from Lewis & Clark, which is not the case. Madison maintains its one million gallons of "original capacity" and continues to be a strong supporter of the project. Lewis & Clark will simply downsize the pipeline to Madison.



Lori Seten, Troy Larson, and Terry Pellman (far right) break ground with Congressman King, Charlie Kuehl, Governor Rounds, and Senator Johnson.

## Lewis & Clark Rural Water System Staff:

Troy Larson  
Executive Director  
tlarson@lcrws.org

Lori Seten  
Office Manager  
lseten@lcrws.org

Terry Pellman  
Land Acquisition Specialist  
tpellman@lcrws.org

Phone: 605.336.8688  
Fax: 605.336.8696

# ENGINEERING NEWS AND NOTES

By David Odens, Project Engineer

Work on Lewis & Clark continues at a steady pace in a number of areas. The highlights of recent activities are summarized as follows.

**1. Production Test Well at Site D** - Layne-Western has advanced the drilling of the angle well to a distance of 237 feet and reached a depth of 97 feet.

The drilling crew has encountered coarse material at this depth. The material is the same size as the proposed gravel pack, making it unnecessary to install a gravel pack. This permits the use of a larger diameter screen, which should increase the production capacity of the well by about a half million gallons per day. Production test pumping is scheduled for completion in late October, which will provide a clear indication of the well capacity at this location.



Production test well being drilled at Site D

**2. Raw Water Pipeline Segment 1** - The plans and specifications for raw water pipeline segment 1 were submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for review in July and review comments were received in early September. The engineering team submitted responses to the questions and comments in late September. Plans and specifications for this project will be distributed to contractors for bidding after Lewis & Clark receives the appropriate authorization from Reclamation, which is anticipated to be in mid-October. The plans and specifications have already been approved by the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

**3. Long Range Planning and Engineering coordination with regulatory and environmental activities** -

The engineering team met on September 18 to review the schedule of design and construction activities for the next three years. The purpose of the meeting was to review the tasks and schedule necessary to move the emergency connections to

construction in the next couple of years. The goal is to arrange the design and construction schedule to complete construction of the critical connections by the end of the construction season in 2006. Among the key elements in the plan are the coordination of the design schedule with acquisition of right of way, cultural resources surveys, and other environmental compliance requirements.

**4. Level 3 Cultural Resources Survey** - The cultural resources survey for the raw water pipeline route has been received and indicates the project can be constructed with no significant adverse impact to cultural resources. The report identifies the sites that either are listed or are eligible to be listed and the measures recommended to minimize interference. The measures identified are consistent with the plans for construction in those areas.



Screen installed in production test well

\* Please Recycle This Newsletter!  
Pass it on to a Colleague.

### ...Groundbreaking continued from page 1

Dayton and Coleman, and Congressman Gutknecht, who shared words of praise and congratulations. Messages were also read from Governors Vilsack and Pawlenty.

Lewis & Clark is overseen by the Bureau of Reclamation and has enjoyed a close working relationship with the agency. Jari Beek, Deputy Regional Director from Billings, was on hand to extend Reclamation's congratulations and best wishes. She was joined by Reclamation officials from

Pierre (Ted Hall), Rapid City (Faye Streier), and Bismarck (Jame Todd).

As the project moves forward with construction, Kuehl asked for the Lord's blessing to give the project's organizers and supporters the same resolve, persistence, and courage in staying the course

as was displayed by our illustrious explorers. Directing his words to those in attendance, Kuehl closed with the words written by

William Clark to Meriwether Lewis in response to Lewis' invitation for Clark to join him in the Corps of Discovery. "The enterprise and mission is such as I have long anticipated. This is an immense undertaking fraught with numerous difficulties, but my friend I can assure you that no one lives with whom I would prefer to undertake and share the difficulties of such a trip than yourself."

The program concluded with the audience joining together in singing God Bless America. Many groundbreaking pictures were then taken with shovels in hand and then lunch was served.

It was the perfect kick off for Lewis & Clark's construction.



"Hammering Down"

Gary Hanson, Pam Bonrud, Congressman King, Charlie Kuehl, Governor Rounds and Senator Johnson