Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

EXPLORER

Spring, 1996

IOWA CONGRESSMAN SIGNS ON AS COSPONSOR OF LCRWS LEGISLATION

On April 18, 1996, Representative Tom Latham (R-IA) became a cosponsor of HR 1841–federal legislation to authorize Lewis and Clark. Congressman Latham represents the 5th Congressional District located in northwestern Iowa.

Rep. Latham joins House cosponsors Representatives Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Dave Minge (D-MN). Cosponsors of the Senate companion bill (S.931) include Senators Larry Pressler (R-SD), Tom Daschle (D-SD), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Paul Wellstone (D-MN). The Congressional delegations representing the tri-state project area are hopeful that hearings will be scheduled within the next two to four weeks.

"We are very pleased with Representative Latham's decision to cosponsor our federal legislation," commented Executive Director Bonrud. "Representative Latham's decision to cosponsor comes at a critical point in our efforts to become a federally authorized water supply project. LCRWS looks forward to working with Representative Latham in making the project a reality for the tri-state region."

With the 1997 federal budget compromise approved in the last few weeks, the LCRWS Board will actively work to gain passage and funding through meetings in Washington during the spring and summer months.

—Congressman Tom Latham (R-IA)

FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION AND MARK-UP PROCESS

Federal authorization of a project like Lewis and Clark is a long and cumbersome process. The first thing that needs to happen is introduction of a bill that will authorize a project for construction. In the case of Lewis and Clark, two companion bills, containing the same language, were introduced in June of 1995. Both bills are referred to as the Lewis and Clark Authorization Act of 1995. The Senate bill number is S. 931 and the House of Representatives bill is H.R. 1841.

After the bills are introduced, they are assigned to a committee for further legislative action. The Senate committee with jurisdiction over projects like Lewis and Clark is the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. In the House of Representatives, it is the House Natural Resources Committee. Within the committee structure, there are smaller committees, or subcommittees, that handle specific issues of jurisdiction for the full committee.

For the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the subcommittee that LCRWS will work with is the Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee. This subcommittee is chaired by Senator Larry Craig from Idaho. In the House Natural Resources Committee, the subcommittee is named Water and Power Resources and is chaired by Rep. John Doolittle of California. This is the stage at which LCRWS is now, seeking subcommittee hearings on our federal legislation.

It is also at the subcommittee level that "mark-up" of a bill will occur. "Mark-up" refers to the process of making changes to a piece of legislation before it goes to the full committee or floor for debate. However, mark-up can also occur during Conference Committee action. It is at the subcommittee mark-up stage the LCRWS expects the issue of cost share on the project will be finally resolved. After an agreement is reached with the subcommittee and project sponsors during mark-up, the bill will be moved to the full com-

—continued on page 4

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Charlie Kuehl, Chairman LCRWS

Since the last issue of the Explorer, activities for Lewis & Clark have intensified at the federal front. Subcommittee hearings on our federal legislation is the next step in becoming a federally authorized project. It is during this stage that the cost share issue related to the project will be resolved.

Once this is satisfied, we are optimistic that the subcommittees will agree to moving the legislation ahead for consideration by the full committee. If a majority of the full committee members vote in favor of Lewis & Clark, the legislation will move to the floor for approval.

We, along with our Governors and Representatives, are working with the House subcommittee to schedule a hearing at the same time as the Senate subcommittee hearing. This will save the project and others who will be testifying in support of Lewis & Clark considerable time and expense if we can testify before both subcommittees on the same date.

Lewis & Clark is hopeful that the House subcommittee will continue working with the Senate subcommittee in setting the final date and time. It is our plan to try and move both pieces of legislation through their respective Houses of Congress at the same time. If this can be accomplished, it will increase our chances of success in gaining federal approval of Lewis & Clark before Congress adjourns for the November elections.

TECH NOTES

By David Odens, Banner Associates, Inc.

Welcome to the third edition of the Lewis and Clark Explorer. The Tech Notes column for the next couple of issues will be a series of short articles describing various design and construction aspects of the proposed project. The second in this series is a description of the proposed treatment system.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will deliver treated water to each of the members. The water treatment process proposed includes partial softening using lime, recarbonation for pH adjustment, filtration, and disinfection. This process was selected on the basis of cost effectiveness and reliability for treatment of groundwater under the direct influence of surface water. As described in the previous article, the water will be withdrawn from the alluvial deposits adjacent to and beneath the Missouri River. As the water passes through the deposits some natural pretreatment occurs which removes particulate matter and organic substances.

The water also has a tendency to dissolve some inorganic materials, particularly hardness, iron and manganese. The treatment process is designed to remove the iron and manganese and reduce the hardness levels similar to those in the river water. The presence of the iron and calcium and magnesium hardness make the use of conventional lime softening appropriate.

Precipitation of magnesium in the softening process has proven to be an effective means for reduction of the concentration of any organic compounds which may remain after filtration of the water through the natural sand and gravel formation.

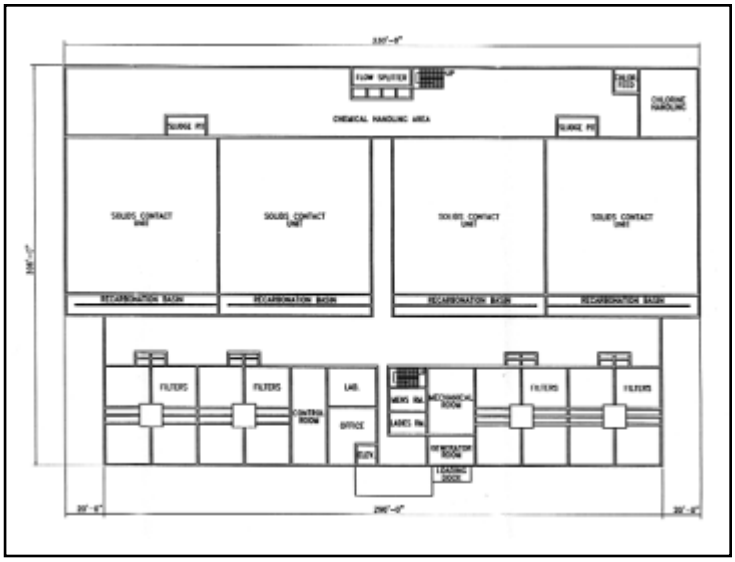
A preliminary layout of the treatment process is presented in Figure 1: Treatment Process Arrangement. The facility arrangement indicates a total of four treatment process trains, each with a nominal capacity of 4500 gallons per minute.

The capacity provided will permit delivery of 23.5 million gallons per day of treated water in a 22 hour period. The remaining time is then available for filter backwashes and production of the water required for filter backwashing.

The use of lime in the treatment process will generate lime sludge as a treatment process residual. The characteristics of lime sludge make beneficial reuse opportunities possible. Two beneficial reuse strategies are: reuse as a soil amendment similar to ag-lime and as a supplement to the daily cover material at a landfill.

The treatment facilities will be designed for flexibility to use alternate or additional chemicals for treatment of the water if the need arises.

The capacity of the Lewis and Clark System is of a size which will require ongoing bench testing and treatment optimization studies in order to demonstrate compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act rules and regulations. The treatment plant will be equipped with laboratory facilities and bench top testing apparatus necessary for continuing testing process optimization.



—Figure 1: Treatment Process Arrangement

FEATURE SYSTEM

SOUTH LINCOLN RURAL WATER

South Lincoln Rural Water was incorporated in December of 1976. After four years of legal battles and over $2 million worth of legal and delay costs, South Lincoln was on it's way to becoming a reality.

Since the beginning of construction in 1981, South Lincoln has always continued to grow. It started out with about 1,000 monthly users and the small Town of Chancellor to serving the City of Alcester, S.D. and is approaching the goal of 1,500 members by 1997.

In 1982, South Lincoln sold 96,000,000 gallons of safe drinking water to its customers, and in 1994 South Lincoln sold 250,000,000 gallons of safe drinking water to its customers. Continued growth and System improvements have been the key to success for the South Lincoln System.

In recent years, South Lincoln has added two booster stations, two water towers, two new wells, and, at the present time, we are adding a 400,000 gallon Ground Storage Reservoir along with a completely new computer system for all the plants.

The Board of Directors takes pride in reliability of services to their customers. South Lincoln has always had a portable Generation Unit to provide water for its customers in the worst situations. Recently, a new stationary Generator System was purchased for the Main Plant because the portable was no longer large enough to provide all the power needs of the plant. The new system is a 230,000 KVW Generator powered by a Cummins Turbo Diesel.

With the growth of the City of Sioux Falls, South Lincoln has tried to provide water for the need outside the City, but the growth is faster than what South Lincoln is able to provide for. That is where Lewis & Clark Rural Water comes in. It will provide the water needs in the Northern part of our system. In the past years South Lincoln has turned down as many as 100 potential users which would have strengthened the system. Hopefully, Lewis & Clark will be able to meet these needs in the future.

South Lincoln serves water in four counties. The System extends 67 miles long and 25 miles wide. It has about 900 miles of pipe in the ground. The City of Canton, S.D. and South Lincoln are connected for emergency situations. South Lincoln has taken water from Canton and has provided water to Canton during major fires experienced in the past few years. This working relationship has been very good for both systems.

In the next few months South Lincoln's main plant will be upgraded from a 1,200 gallon per minute plant to a 2,000 gallon per minute plant. With this improvement in place the new Ground Storage Reservoir will open for use in October of 1996. South Lincoln will be able to have over 1,000,000 gallons of water above ground, which is approximately one day's water usage. With these improvements in place, South Lincoln should be able to meet the needs of new customers for a few more years.

System Improvements are always on the minds of everyone at South Lincoln and Lewis & Clark. Lewis & Clark will solve these problems.

—A new water tower under construction

—Inside the treatment plant at South Lincoln Rural Water System

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Pam Bonrud, Exec. Director, LCRWS

The process of becoming a federally authorized rural water system can appear to be long and tedious. Many times when I am speaking at a public function, I see people shake their heads in wonderment when they consider how long Lewis & Clark has been working to become a federal project. Often I am asked, "Will this project ever happen?" My response is, "I believe it will!"

I understand the frustrations and doubt. However, projects of this magnitude do not happen over night. It takes a great deal of commitment and belief in the project to make it a reality. We have a story to tell about the lack of good quality water in the tri-state area and how this impacts our economies, health, and futures. Our discussions must also outline what we have done at the local level to find solutions to our drinking water supply problems and how each of those alternatives have been found to be unsatisfactory. We need to remain committed to telling our story to the decision makers at the state and federal levels. It is only through the process of keeping our elected officials educated about the need for Lewis & Clark that we will realize our goal of becoming a constructed, federal water supply project.

So, hang in there. We are very close to making things happen in Washington, D.C. Congress needs to understand that good quality drinking water for the citizens of our nation is a federal priority and demands their attention. Now is the time to show Congress that we are serious about Lewis & Clark.

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LEWIS & CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM Q&A CORNER

QUESTION: What effect would a drought situation in North Dakota and South Dakota have on the Lewis & Clark Rural Water supply and its ability to meet member demands?

ANSWER: To put it quite simply, none. The groundwater source that will be used by LCRWS to supply water to its members is directly connected to the Missouri River. As long as there is water in the Missouri River, LCRWS will be able to meet the drinking water demands of its membership. However, drought situations do affect the ability of our members to use their current groundwater supplies. Because the groundwater is so shallow in the tri-state region, drought conditions severely weaken the ability of these resources to meet drinking water demands. This is one reason why LCRWS is needed for the tri-state area.

QUESTION: Once the Lewis & Clark pipeline is built can other communities or water systems still join the system?

ANSWER: That is a difficult question. The best answer LCRWS can give at this time is we will have to look at each request on a case by case basis. If it is possible for LCRWS to hook up another community or rural water system within the scope of the project's design, we will make every effort to do so. Current board policy is that if a community or rural water system wishes to hook up after engineering design or construction is completed, any additional costs associated with redesign or construction will be that system's responsibility.

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mittee for action before it can be voted on by the full House of Representatives or Senate.

If the legislation passes both houses of Congress in the same form, it goes to the President for his signature. If the legislation passes both houses of Congress in a different form, a Conference Committee is appointed with representatives of both the House of Representatives and Senate. It is the Conference Committee's responsibility to negotiate the differences between the two chambers and report back to the full Congress with a compromise bill.

If both houses agree to the compromise bill, it is passed and sent to the President for his signature. Once the President signs the bill, then it becomes law. If he decides to veto, it will take a two-thirds majority of both houses to make the legislation into law.