



Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

# EXPLORER

www.lcrws.org

Spring, 1999

## 1999 EXPECTED TO BE THE YEAR FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING

One of the most printed topics in the paper today is the coming of the new millennium followed closely by the concerns about Y2K. One can quickly envision our world in the new millennium because it shouldn't bring any immediate changes other than our calendar and perhaps how we pronounce the first decade of the new millennium.

If we look into the new millennium from a different perspective which includes the growing population and stricter drinking water standards, then you can begin to envision a new era where challenges to find natural resources could possibly

equal that of our ancestors as they began to settle the Great Plains 130 years ago.

After nearly nine years of organizing, lobbying and presenting a compelling case about water resources in the rural areas surrounding and including Sioux Falls, the tone is changing from cautious optimism to serious concern. This is the year, 1999, the end of the century. This is an important year in many respects, but for the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System it is a year of resolution.

As the media provides a harbinger for what looks to be movement towards authorization and funding, the nearly 200,000 people who have invested their hopes and energies towards a future water source are waiting patiently for word to come. And they are still waiting.

The stage has been set for renewed optimism with the legislative process in Washington. The legislation, SB 244 and HR 297, are written and introduced. Senator Tom Daschle stated he believes that the new chairman of the Senate Power and Water

## LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPS WEB SITE



As the information age continues to grow so does the need to stay at the forefront of communications. Lewis & Clark is aware of the power of the Internet and has developed a web site for constituents and policymakers to learn about the water project. Visitors to the web site can follow the progress of the water project from congressional authorization and funding to being an on-line witness to the first shovel of dirt being moved.

The address for the web site is [www.lcrws.org](http://www.lcrws.org). The web site will be a news source and will also provide links to congressional offices, government offices, and state and federal organizations overseeing the authorization of the water project.

### LEWIS & CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM, INC. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 27, 1999  
7:30 PM

SIoux FALLS, SD  
DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY INN  
STARLITE ROOM

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Charlie Kuehl, Chairman LCRWS

Work continues in seeking federal authorization for Lewis and Clark. I am happy to report that federal authorizing legislation has been introduced in Congress with the full support of our United States senators and representatives from the project area. Our senate bill number is S. 244 and the House of Representatives bill is H.R. 297.

Great strides were made in the 105th Congress. Lewis and Clark's legislation received unanimous approval from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and was heard for the first time before the House of Representatives Water and Power Subcommittee. We intend to build on this momentum in the 106th Congress and achieve our goal of federal authorization before the end of 1999.

All indications are that our hard work over the past six years is bearing fruit. Both committees are focused on finding resolution to any remaining issues that stand between our federal authorization and us. Our senators and representatives are contacting the committee chairmen to impress upon them the urgency surrounding our need for federal authorization in 1999. They remain optimistic that we can achieve federal authorization this year.

I also want to invite you to our Annual Membership Meeting on May 27, 1999, at the Sioux Falls Holiday Inn Downtown. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Starlight Room. It is my sincere hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating another year of successes for Lewis and Clark.

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Subcommittee, Gordon Smith of Oregon, will provide an opportunity for a vote in the committee and ultimately a vote on the Senate floor.

In addition to Sen. Smith's favorable position on the hearing, another long-time supporter of the water project, Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota, has a seat on the full committee. In other committee news, Sen. Rod Grams of Minnesota lost his position on the committee through the senate committee selection process. Sen. Grams will remain active as a former member of the committee.

As the legislative process takes shape with a first hearing coming as soon as May, the question about which federal agency will oversee and manage the funding is becoming more clear. Originally, Senator Kyl wanted the financial assistance request shifted from the Bureau of Reclamation to Department of Agriculture and the EPA. It is expected that the move would have delayed the project even further. Lewis & Clark believes that Sen. Smith will have a more pragmatic approach to the Bureau's role in rural water development.

As we look into the new millennium, the quality and integrity of our infrastructure has to become the public's first priority. With the vision created by the members of Lewis & Clark, the most important infrastructure investment the government can make is one that delivers clean water. Though funding for multi-state projects should always be scrutinized, try to think of one thing more important to a community or rural area than water.

## MOVIN' ON

You have to know his humor, dry as it might be at times, his kind spirit, his friendly determination, and his unselfish commitment to water development to his community to really know Bill Davelaar. Bill has served Rural Water No. 1 as a board member for nine years and as a member of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water board for nine years. Bill is now moving on.

Where can you expect Bill to go and what he will do to top his water development commitments is a question for all that know Bill. He has been a leader and true patriot in the quest to develop water for his constituents and neighbors throughout the three-state area. Good luck to you Bill and thank you.

As a replacement for Bill, Jean Still, Manager of RWS No. 1, will fill that seat on the board of Lewis & Clark. Jean comes to Lewis & Clark with years of experience in managing the water system with her late husband Ron. Together, they managed the growing water system, which was one of the first rural water systems in Iowa. Welcome aboard Jean.

"Bill has done a wonderful job representing RWS No. 1. He has always gone the extra mile to support the Lewis & Clark Rural Water project and our local water needs. I hope I can fill the void he has left at Lewis & Clark," said Jean Still.

# FEATURE SYSTEM

## MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA



--Madison's New Water Treatment Plant

Travel into Lake County and you will see a people who are proud of their communities, farms, and way of life. The rich, fertile soil has seen some of the best crop yields in the state. The recreation opportunities in the area are many. Lake Herman and Lake Madison surround the City of Madison to the west and to the southeast, respectively. As a farming community since statehood, Madison has maintained a strong agriculture economy and began to add on industry in the 60s and 70s. The city population has been steady at about 6,500 residents. A college town since the 1890s, Madison is home to Dakota State University. The school is known nationally for its curriculum and computer integration and boasts a high placement rate for its graduates.

Madison has everything it needs to maintain the growing community into the next century, except for one important resource - water. Through the years, a growing population and changing technology has required most municipalities to invest in their infrastructure just to keep pace with new laws. Madison, doing all they can to stay current and within federal guidelines,

has recently built a new water treatment plant and drilled two new wells. The wells are shallow and were built as a stopgap measure until a new water source can be found.

Madison is the county seat of Lake County and has seen many challenges to the integrity of their water system over the years. With relatively few options and little chance for continued economic development without a new water source, Madison decided to join the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System.

Mayor Royce Hueners believes in Lewis & Clark and envisions a day when Madison won't have to gamble on the cost of a new well and will support a sustainable source of water. "We have to support Lewis & Clark as the best solution to our water needs in Madison," said Hueners. "We have struggled with water issues for many years and now we have something we can count on to supply us with ample, clean water. We have to see this project through Congress. It is just so critical to Madison and the rural communities that are part of the project."



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Pam Bonrud, Exec. Director, LCRWS

Spring is almost here and with that comes promises of many good things for Lewis and Clark in 1999. The latest word from Washington, D.C. is that the Senate Water and Power Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on S. 244 in early May. This is exciting news as it will put Lewis and Clark in play at a much quicker pace than we have been before. We expect the House subcommittee to focus attention on Lewis and Clark sometime in June.

In state legislative news, South Dakota Governor Bill Janklow signed into law a bill containing a \$50,000 grant for Lewis and Clark. Our next step will be to work with the Board of Water and Natural Resources to put the money under contract. As for Iowa and Minnesota, their legislatures are still at work and we remain optimistic that they will approve funding for Lewis and Clark as well.

South Dakota members were also fortunate enough to receive approval from the East Dakota Water Development District for a \$20,000 grant. These funds are used to assist the South Dakota membership in meeting its financial obligations to Lewis and Clark. East Dakota has long been a supporter of Lewis and Clark and we are grateful for their continued financial assistance.

I, too, hope to see you at our annual membership meeting in May. Many good things have come our way over the past year, giving us good reason to celebrate. Please join us in Sioux Falls on May 27!

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## **RANDY VAN DYKE IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**

Congratulations to Randy Van Dyke as he takes the helm of the National Rural Water Association. Randy is the manager of the Clay County Rural Water System located in Spencer, Iowa. Randy has been a board member of the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System since the beginning and has held several offices in the national rural water association.

The National Rural Water Association is a non-profit federation of State Rural Water Associations. Their mission is to provide support services to State Associations who have more than 18,000 water and wastewater systems as members.

*--Continued from page 1 (Web Site article)*

The board members and staff are always interested in getting questions and comments from constituents and policymakers. A complete directory of the board and staff is part of the web site. Visitors will find phone numbers and e-mail links to LCRWS board members and staff.

In addition to phone and email information, the web site will offer an entry form under the Contact Us link to directly input comments and questions about the water project. The forms are a popular way to get additional information. The LCRWS staff will monitor the questions and comments while making an effort to respond to all questions.

Visit the site often as news items will be posted on a frequent basis.

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