



Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

EXPLORER

CONGRESSMEN GUTKNECHT AND KING TO PROVIDE HOUSE LEADERSHIP

The FY05 appropriation process is underway on Capitol Hill. In the House of Representatives, the project's success depends on the leadership of Congressmen Gil Gutknecht of Minnesota and



Congressman King (center) with Scott Wynja and Randy Feenstra

Congressman Steve King of Iowa. While Lewis & Clark has always enjoyed support from its representatives in Minnesota and Iowa, the South Dakota representative has traditionally shepherded the project's appropriation request through the process. With no South Dakota representative, the

leadership of Gutknecht and King has never been more critical to the project's success than this year.

Lewis & Clark officials recently met with King and Gutknecht to urge them to take an active leadership role on behalf of

the project. Both expressed their strong support for the project, a desire to do whatever they can to help, and a willingness to work together in stepping up their efforts in the House. This was music to the ears of those in attendance.

Meeting in Washington, King noted the

importance of the project in northwest Iowa to not only improving the quality of life, but also enhancing economic development opportunities. He thanked the project organizers for their hard work and perseverance.

With one-day's advance notice, close to thirty Lewis & Clark supporters from the four Minnesota members, including Mayor Glen Gust from Luverne and Mayor Alan Oberloh from Worthington, turned out to meet with Gutknecht in Windom to express the importance of the project to their communities and rural water

systems. State Representatives Doug Magnus of Slayton and Elaine Harder of Jackson, who have championed the



Congressman Gutknecht, State Rep. Harder, Director Dan Cook, Director Red Arndt, State Rep. Magnus, Director Don Evers, and Director Don Habicht

ANNUAL MEETING

Lewis & Clark Rural Water System will hold its Fourteenth Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the Fontelle Room at the Sheraton in Sioux Falls, SD. Please join us!

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Charlie Kuehl

Lewis & Clark received some long-awaited good news when the last step in the lengthy process to approve our Final Engineering Report, a second 90-day review by Congress, was recently completed. Final approval allows us to finally use federal funds for construction. So far we have only been able to use federal funds on expenses such as engineering, legal, land acquisition, and administrative. This is just in time, as construction on the first segment of the raw water pipeline will begin soon. It has been exciting to see the "baby pictures" of our pipe sections being fabricated.

Construction activities are well underway and we have a lot of momentum. Later this year, contracts will be awarded for the second and third segments of the raw water pipeline (6.5 miles of 54" pipe), and the first segment of the treated water pipeline (MCWC's connection on the west side of Sioux Falls to Tea). We will also be drilling a third production test well.

We are moving full speed ahead. Our FY05 appropriation will be critical to keep the momentum going. Being included in the President's budget for \$17.5 million is an important first step, but we have a long way to go. Although it sounds unlikely that we'll receive the \$35 million needed to keep construction on schedule, we are encouraged by

the commitment of our entire tri-state congressional delegation to work hard to increase the funding as much as possible.

On another note, Lewis & Clark recently accepted the withdrawal of Clay Regional Water. Being at the end of the line, Clay Regional felt it needed more guarantees as to when it would receive water. Their manager and long-time Lewis & Clark director, Randy VanDyke, has made many trips to Washington, D.C. and Des Moines through the years to support the project. We appreciate everything he has done to help get Lewis & Clark to where it is today. We certainly wish everyone at Clay Regional the best as it pursues other ways to address its water needs.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lewis & Clark continues to receive strong support on the state level. The project enjoyed another successful legislative session in Pierre, with the sessions in Des Moines and St. Paul nearing completion.

In South Dakota, Governor Rounds' water projects bill included another \$2.5 million for the project. The bill was unanimously approved by the Legislature. This amount represents an accelerated funding schedule for the State.

In Iowa, Governor Vilsack and the Legislature are working with a very tight budget and funding for many projects has been cut. Through the strong support of our legislative leaders, the \$2.45 million scheduled for Lewis & Clark this year was thankfully not cut. Another legislative focus is to pass legislation that would allow the State to pay the inflation cost on its share of the project, which would correct an earlier legislative oversight. Lewis & Clark officials met with key legislators in Des Moines on April 13. Directors



State Rep. Dave Johnson (second from left) visits with Directors Hulstein, Wynja, Feenstra, and lobbyist Obradovich at the Capitol in Des Moines.

Murray Hulstein from Sioux Center, Scott Wynja from Sheldon, Randy Feenstra from Hull, and Executive Director Troy Larson made the trip. The legislative effort is being lead by Jim Obradovich, the Iowa Commission's lobbyist. It was a productive trip. The

response by the legislators to the project was very favorable.



State Rep. Doug Magnus and Red Arndt testify on behalf of project funding at the State Capitol in St. Paul

In Minnesota, Governor Pawlenty included \$2 million for Lewis & Clark in his bonding bill, which represents over forty percent of the State's total share of the project's cost.

Final passage is unknown at this time, but with the Governor's support and strong leadership in the House and Senate, the bill continues to move forward. Lewis & Clark officials made two recent trips to St. Paul to meet with key legislators and state officials. Director Red Arndt from Luverne attended, as well as Scott Hain from Worthington, Dennis Healy from Lincoln-Pipestone RW, and Troy Larson. Michael Mahoney, the Joint Powers Board's state lobbyist, is heading up the legislative effort. Reflecting on his countless trips to St. Paul over the years, Red remarked that the Legislature's support and encouragement for the project is the strongest it has ever been.

\$17.5 MILLION FOR PROJECT INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT'S FY05 BUDGET

On February 24 and 25, Lewis & Clark officials had two full days of meetings in Washington, D.C. The primary focus of the trip was to urge support for project funding in the FY05 budget. Directors Red Arndt of Luverne, Don Habicht of Worthington, Scott Wynja of Sheldon, Randy Feenstra of Hull, and Kevin Smith of Sioux Falls made the trip, as well as Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson and Executive Director Troy Larson.

At the urging of our tri-state elected leaders, the Administration made a commitment last year to provide \$18 million in funding in both FY04 and FY05 to Lewis & Clark and Perkins County RWS in northwest South Dakota.

\$17 million was subsequently approved for Lewis & Clark in FY04. For FY05, President Bush has included \$17.5 million for Lewis & Clark in his budget, which demonstrates the Administration's renewed commitment to the project. This was welcome news and provides a strong

starting point. However, the project needs \$35 million in FY05 to keep construction on schedule. The President's budget usually sets the floor for funding levels. It is hoped that the tri-state congressional delegation will be able to improve upon that number.

While on Capitol Hill, the Lewis & Clark officials had the unique opportunity to personally meet with all six of their Senators – Tom Daschle, Tim Johnson, Chuck Grassley, Tom Harkin, Mark Dayton, and Norm Coleman, as well as Congressman Steve King from northwest Iowa. Although they could not make any promises, each expressed their strong support for the project and pledged to work hard to increase the project's FY05 funding as much as possible. The Lewis & Clark delegation also met

with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys, the staffs of



Senator Daschle greets Mayor Munson and Red Arndt

Congressmen Gutknecht, Kennedy, and Peterson, as well as House and Senate committee officials.

The secondary focus of the trip was to meet with officials to discuss the proposed rural water program. With more rural water projects seeking authorization, various bills have been introduced to develop a program that would organize, prioritize and establish criteria for constructing the projects. Lewis & Clark is willing to help the effort by sharing its past experiences, but strongly opposes including projects that are already authorized. Including projects already underway could potentially change the rules in the middle of the game in terms of government cost share and other issues. Fortunately, the proponents of the legislation on both sides of the aisle agreed that authorized projects like Lewis & Clark should be exempt.



Troy Larson, Scott Wynja, Red Arndt, Mayor Munson, Don Habicht, Kevin Smith, and Randy Feenstra

MEMBER PROFILE:

SIBLEY, IOWA

Sibley is a progressive community of 2,800 residents in Osceola County that has experienced steady growth. 75 new homes have been built in recent years. Sibley has a solid industrial and business base, which employs about 1,300 people. The largest water user is AMPI, which uses up to 100,000 gallons a day.

Sibley is updating its plan for areas of annexation and growth management. The Highway 60 expressway project connecting Interstate 90 and Sioux City will give Sibley a large economic development boost. Current construction activity includes a new hospital, day care center, assisted living apartment, two businesses, and developing an 11-acre housing subdivision.

Sibley has been notorious for having the poorest quality water in Iowa. High sulfates, TDS, and sodium levels forced the City to study many water treatment alternatives, but they were too expensive or not environmentally friendly. The community currently receives its water from Osceola County Rural Water, but additional supplies are limited. As Sibley continues to grow and faces periodic droughts, Lewis & Clark will play a critical role in ensuring the City has an ample source of quality drinking water to meet its increasing needs.

Director Denny Davids is Sibley's Water Superintendent. He is a Sibley native who has worked for the City for 23 years. Denny will be retiring in June, but will continue to serve on Lewis & Clark's Board. Diane and Denny have been married for 42 years, and have two sons, one



Denny Davids

daughter, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Denny says of his retirement, "It has been a great ride with the City. I have been fortunate in working with an excellent staff and council over the years." In addition to traveling, Denny plans to spend more time with his hobby of model railroading.

LANDOWNER INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSES HELD

The land acquisition process continues to move forward. Terry Pellman is coordinating the efforts of the four main components; engineering, legal, appraisals, and right-of-way.

Lewis & Clark recently secured the professional services of Allen, Williford & Seale

to perform the appraisals, and Graham Land Acquisition Associates to handle the right-of-way acquisition and review appraisals. As with starting anything new, it has taken awhile to complete the necessary preliminary work. However, the land acquisition process is now underway in earnest.

A key to the successful construction of the project is to develop and maintain open communication with the landowners from whom easements need to be secured. To that end, landowner open houses were held in Boyden and Tea to provide information to landowners on the current construction schedule and easement process.

The Boyden open house on February 17 was very well attended by the landowners along the route from Sioux Center to Sheldon. In addition to the open house, a pub-

lic hearing was held on the creation of an entity known as the Iowa Commission, which consists of Lewis & Clark's six Iowa municipalities. Because Lewis & Clark is incorporated in South Dakota, the formation of the Iowa Commission was necessary to more effectively facilitate the land and right-of-way acquisition process in Iowa.

An open house was held in Tea on February 12. Landowners along the route from Minnehaha Community Water Corp's connection on the west side of Sioux Falls to Highway 18 south of Lennox were invited. While attendance was low, which has given the staff ideas on ways to ensure better turnouts in the future, it was still a good exchange of information. Follow



Iowa Commission public hearing in Boyden



Tim Conner from Banner Associates (second from right) visits with landowners in Tea

up meetings with landowners were held, which resulted in a route change south of Lennox. The change is expected to save money by using a route that reduces the number of detours needed to avoid developments.

ENGINEERING NEWS AND NOTES

By David Odens, Project Engineer

The pace of activities on the project has picked up as the levels of funding have increased for the project. The activities have expanded from planning and policy development to include preliminary design, final design, and construction phase services. The highlights of the engineering and construction activities are summarized below:

Production Test Well at Site J –

Plans and specifications for a test well at Site J are being developed and will be ready to submit for review in early May. The test well at Site J will help define the capacity of wells in the area west of Clay County Park. This information is necessary for preparation of applications for future water rights in this area.

Raw Water Pipeline Segment 1 –

Much of the pipe for the first segment of the RWP has been fabricated and will start shipping to the site in the next several weeks. Winter Brothers Underground of Sioux Falls is the contractor and they have indicated their intent to start installing pipe in late May or early June.



Lewis & Clark's 48" steel pipe being fabricated and welded in South Carolina

Raw Water

Pipeline Segments 2 and 3 – The plans and specifications for these segments of the pipeline have been completed and submitted to Reclamation and South Dakota DENR for their review and concurrence. This project will complete the raw water pipeline from the well field on Mulberry Point to the water treatment plant site. The segments of pipeline that will be bid this summer are 54" diameter

pipe. The project is currently scheduled to advertise in early June for a bid opening in late June.

Water Treatment Plant and Treated Water Pump Station –

Preliminary design activities on the treatment plant, associated clearwell and pumping station, and related site improvements have begun. The first documents being prepared in the preliminary design effort include technical memorandums on staffing levels, regulatory requirements, process layout and site plan development, and space planning for administrative and maintenance areas for the facilities. The preliminary site plan will be reviewed with the local zoning officials and neighboring landowners. Development of the site plan requires completion of the planning for the number of staff to be accommodated, the arrangement of the treatment

process and residuals handling facilities, and identification of the traffic patterns for chemical deliveries and normal facilities operations.

Design of Treated Water Pipelines –

The design team is proceeding with the

design of the treated water pipelines from West 12th Street in Sioux Falls south to Tea and the connection between Sioux Center and Hull. The plans have been developed to the point where right of way requirements can be determined and the exhibits for the easements have been generated. A preliminary set of plans will be provided soon to Reclamation for their review.

...House Leadership continued from page 1

project in St. Paul, expressed the State's strong support for Lewis & Clark.

Calling the turnout "unprecedented," Gutknecht described the disconnect people often experience when hearing about a water shortage in Minnesota. Although water may be plentiful throughout most of the state, he said he realizes there is a water shortage



Mayor Oberloh and State Rep. Magnus show Rep. Gutknecht a map of the System

in southwest Minnesota and will work hard to convince his colleagues of the problem as well, including Representative Dave Hobson, who is Chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

Lewis & Clark officials expressed their thanks and appreciation to King and Gutknecht for everything they already have done to support the project, as well as for their commitment to stand in the gap during this critical appropriations season.

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WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP PHOTOS



Senator Chuck Grassley



Senator Tim Johnson



Senator Mark Dayton



Senator Norm Coleman



Troy Larson provides a project update to Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys (far right), while Mayor Munson looks on



Senator Tom Harkin

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