



Lewis & Clark Rural Water System

# EXPLORER

Winter, 1996

## LEWIS & CLARK BOARD MEETS WITH TRI-STATE CONGRESSMEN IN D.C.

Legislation to authorize LCRWS for construction and federal funding was introduced on June 14, 1995 in the House of Representatives by Representative Tim Johnson—SD and Representative Dave Minge—MN. The House bill number is H.R. 1841. The Senate version (S. 931) was introduced the following day by Senator Larry Pressler—SD, Senator Tom Daschle—SD, Senator Charles Grassley—IA, Senator Tom Harkin—IA and Senator Paul Wellstone—MN. In follow-up to the introduction of authorizing legislation, representatives of LCRWS traveled to Washington, DC during the dates of November 13–15, 1995.

The purpose of the trip was to meet with Congressional representatives and committee staff about our federal legislation. Meetings were held with each state's Congressional office representing the project area. LCRWS also had the opportunity to meet with Valerie West and Steve Lanich, majority and minority staff members for the House Committee on Resources.

This committee will be the one responsible for holding a hearing on LCRWS' authorizing legislation. It will also decide if the legislation goes to the House of



—From left to right: Dir. Al Johnson, Mayor Gary Hanson, Treas. Lyle Trautman, Rep. Dave Minge, Exec. Dir. Pam Bonrud, Chm. Charlie Kuehl, Eng. Dave Odens, Dir. Randy Van Dyke



—From left to right: Dir. Lyle Trautman, Engineer Dave Odens, Exec. Dir. Pam Bonrud, Sen. Rod Grams, Mayor Gary Hanson, Chairman Charlie Kuehl

Representatives' floor for a vote. Because of the budget debate that was underway, we were unable to meet with staff from the Senate authorizing committee—the Senate

Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Highlights of the Washington, DC agenda included meetings with Bill Simmons of Utah Representative Jim Hansen's staff and Stan Harris of Arizona Senator Pete Domenici's staff. LCRWS was treated to a special one on one meeting with Representative Hansen when he walked into our meeting with Mr. Simmons. It was a great opportunity to talk personally with Representative Hansen about our pending legislation. Because Representative Hansen comes from an arid western state, he fully understands the importance of water to our region. "You can't do anything without water," Representative Hansen said to us.

Both congressmen will play important roles in the decision making process for LCRWS' authorizing legislation. Representative Hansen is a ranking Republican on the House Committee on Resources. Senator Domenici is a ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and is a ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Domenici also represents a state that knows the value of water and has been a true friend to rural water.

As Mr. Harris stated: "Rural water is

—continued on page 4

# TECH NOTES

By David Odens, Banner Associates, Inc.

Welcome to the second edition of the Lewis & 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 first in the series is a description of the proposed intake system.

The proposed system for diversion of water for the Lewis and Clark project is a series of three "Ranney Collectors." Ranney collectors are a type of well which uses a concrete caisson and horizontal well screens. Multiple well screens can be installed in each caisson. Each screen can have a length of up to 250 feet. This arrangement provides a high capacity water collection facility that requires a relatively small building at the ground surface. The collectors can also be set back a short distance from the edge of the river. This reduces the vulnerability to bank erosion and reduces the visual impact of the facilities.

The use of this method of collections of water was also preferred because the Missouri River at Vermillion is still in its "natural" state. Among other things, this means the river channel moves and changes as sandbars are deposited and eroded. This characteristic contributes to the natural beauty of the area but can cause real problems if a surface intake is used. The sandbars in this area may also provide habitat for species of shore birds including plovers and sandpipers. Diversion of water from the alluvium beneath the river rather than the surface water will minimize or eliminate any adverse effects of the project on wildlife in the area.

The concept of the "Ranney Collector" is illus-

trated in Figure 1: Ranney Collector Arrangement. The caissons for the radial collectors would be approximately 80 feet deep with an inside diameter of 13 feet. The collector screens are horizontally bored and jacked in a radial pattern extending 200 to 250 feet out from the collector caisson. Each pump house would have a total of three vertical turbine pumps rated at approximately 4200 gallons per minute. The design pumping rate could be achieved with two of the three pumps operating in each of two radial collectors.

The Lewis & Clark Rural Water System has obtained a Future Use permit for the diversion through the South Dakota Board of Water Management. The permit was approved by the South Dakota Legislature in 1995. At the time the facilities are constructed, it will be necessary to obtain an appropriation permit for the actual capacity of the facilities constructed. The future use permit establishes the priority date for the water appropriation and reserves the right to appropriate the water.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

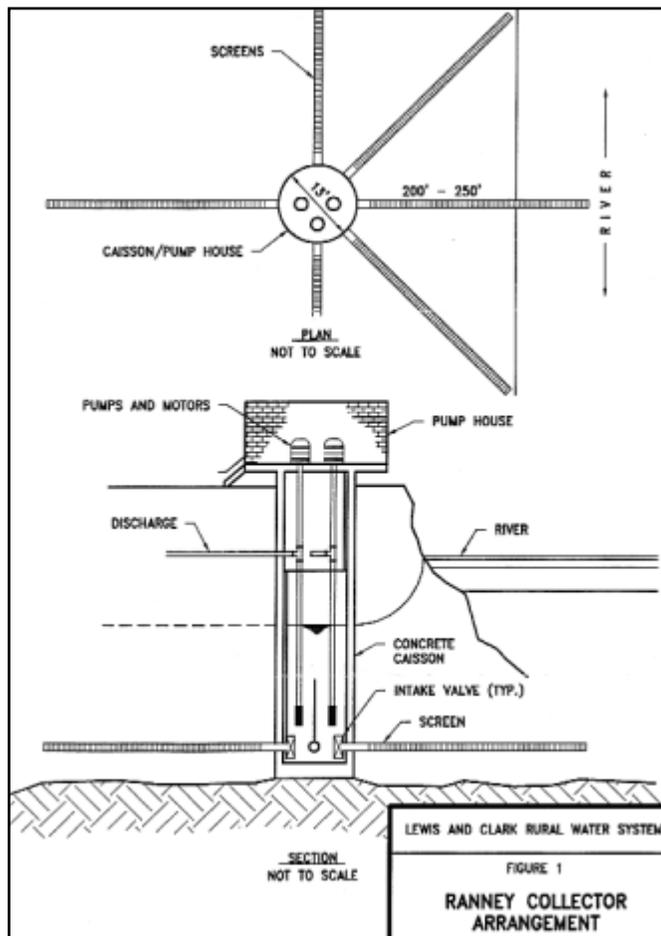
By Charlie Kuehl, Chairman LCRWS

During 1996, LCRWS will be facing many challenges as it works its way through the authorization process with Congress. The Board of Directors and membership are ready for these challenges and look forward to achieving our goal of federal authorization and construction.

LCRWS is very pleased with the support and encouragement we continue to receive from our Congressional delegations in Washington, DC. Even though we were in Washington, DC during the first federal government shut down, every Congressional office made time to see us. We thank our Congressional delegations, their staff and committee staff members for the time they spent with us.

I also extend our sincere appreciation to Gary Hanson, Mayor of Sioux Falls, SD, for taking time to go with us to Washington, DC. He was Chairman of LCRWS from 1990 - 1994, when he resigned to become the Mayor of Sioux Falls. Mayor Hanson represented Sioux Falls in our discussions with Congressional representatives about issues related to this community's participation in the project. He did an admirable job in representing Sioux Falls and their interests in LCRWS.

LCRWS appreciates all of the positive comments we received about our newsletter. If you have ideas or questions that you would like to see addressed in future issues, please call our Executive Director at 605-336-8688 and we will see that they are included.



—Figure 1: Ranney Collector Arrangement

# FEATURE SYSTEM

## HULL, IOWA

One of the first Iowa cities to express an interest in the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System was Hull. The City of Hull has 1,724 residents (1990 Census). The City of Hull has recently built a new addition to the high school and is currently adding new residential divisions. Many of the residents work in local communities and in Hull.

Hull is one of seven water systems from Iowa that are current members of Lewis & Clark. Hull is in Sioux County. The county has a population of 30,000. Iowa represents 13% of the total Lewis & Clark project population.

The City of Hull is committed to finding a new source of water. The current water source is pumped from three wells at 650 feet. Most of the water comes from the 325 foot level. The last well was developed in 1980.

City administrators have been concerned with the quality of water after tests showed 75-80 grains of hardness. The current sulfate content is 1300 milligrams per liter which is well above the proposed federal standards. The extra expense to treat the water and replace equipment used to purify and pump the

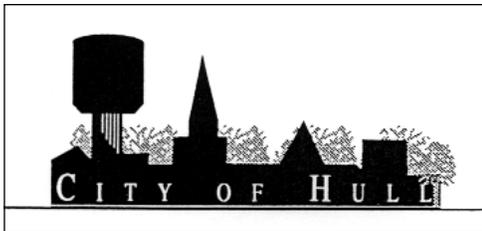
water has been a burden for the city.

“Water heaters seldom last more than five years in Hull and some people’s digestive tracks have trouble adjusting to the water,” says Dennis Wright, Mayor of Hull. “As new government standards are placed on water

systems, Hull will be hard pressed to meet those standards for sulfate content in the water.”

The concern over the water quality is very important to future economic development and the current companies in Hull. The two largest employers, Foreign Food Company and Formosa Food Company have different water needs. Water quality and availability is of particular concern for companies engaged in food processing. Formosa Foods is a pork processing plant which uses water throughout the process.

Hull is eager to see the Lewis & Clark project begin construction. The concern for the residents of Hull and future development hangs in the balance. With new proposed water standards on the horizon, Hull, Iowa supports Lewis & Clark and is eager to see the project completed.



—Hull, Iowa sign on Highway 18



—Hull, Iowa City Hall



—New classroom addition at Western Christian



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Pam Bonrud, Exec. Director, LCRWS

The beginning of a new year brings focus to past accomplishments and future goals. 1996 promises to be a very busy and exciting year for LCRWS. During the winter months, LCRWS will be busy with the legislative season in all three states. Our work will focus on maintaining state legislative support for the project, as well as addressing project specific issues in each state. LCRWS will also have its display and video at the annual membership meetings of the rural water associations in South Dakota and Iowa in January, and the Minnesota Rural Water Association annual meeting in March.

LCRWS' attention will primarily be centered on Washington, DC in 1996. We continue working with our Congressional representatives in moving our legislation ahead. Letters are being drafted for their signatures requesting committee hearings on our authorization legislation. Our target is to schedule hearings for March or early April. The goal of LCRWS remains to have Congressional approval of our legislation in place before the November elections. It will not be easy for LCRWS to become a federally authorized project. With the mood to cut federal spending and the deficit, gaining Congressional support for a \$283 million project will be difficult. Each of us needs to be persistent in talking to our Congressional representatives. LCRWS needs your active involvement if we are to achieve our goal of providing a safe, adequate supply of drinking water in the tri-state area.

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## **LEWIS & CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM**

# *Q&A CORNER*

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**QUESTION:** What is the process in becoming a federally authorized project?

**ANSWER:** There are two main steps that LCRWS will go through in becoming a federally authorized and constructed project. The first hurdle is securing federal approval of legislation to authorize the LCRWS for construction and federal funding for cost share. This is the point at which LCRWS is now.

The second step is seeking federal funding. It must be kept in mind, that authorization is needed first before LCRWS can request federal funding for construction. There are no guarantees that federal funding will fall in place even after the project is authorized.

**QUESTION:** How long will it be before we get water from LCRWS?

**ANSWER:** When LCRWS will be able to deliver water depends on how soon federal authorization legislation is approved by Congress and how quickly it is able to secure federal dollars to begin construction. Under our current timeline, LCRWS expects federal authorization to occur by October of 1996.

Once that happens, LCRWS will move into its final engineering and design phase, which is expected to take about 3 to 5 years to complete. Project construction is expected to begin in the year 2000 or 2001. At the latest, and if all goes well with Congress, everyone should be receiving treated drinking water from LCRWS by the year 2011.

—continued from page 1

always number 1 or 2 on Senator Domenici's list of priorities." Talks with our Congressional delegations and committee staff centered on when it would be possible to schedule hearings on LCRWS' legislation.

Considerable time was also spent discussing the project cost share package and how it related to Sioux Falls' participation in LCRWS. This is an issue that will need to be solved with Sioux Falls and Congress before our authorizing legislation can move ahead.

Discussions are being held with Sioux Falls and at the Congressional level to find an answer to this question. Indications from our meetings are that it is very likely that LCRWS will be invited to Washington, DC early this spring for committee hearings.