

Lewis & Clark Receives \$14.875M in Federal Funding for FY18

Contact: Troy Larson, Executive Director - 605-368-2400 (work) and 605-310-0560 (cell)

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Tea, SD – The Bureau of Reclamation announced late yesterday that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System’s total funding from the FY18 Budget will be \$14.875M. By comparison Lewis & Clark received \$9.15M in the FY17 Budget. “This funding increase is great news! A big thank you to the Bureau of Reclamation and the tristate congressional delegation for their efforts on Lewis & Clark’s behalf,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

The funding will be used to construct the segment of pipeline between Beresford, SD and the Big Sioux River, which is just under 15 miles. “We will not know until the bids are opened in August if we have enough to construct the entire segment, but it should be close,” said Larson. Future phases of construction will get the pipeline to Sioux Center, IA.

BACKGROUND:

The administration originally proposed \$3.65M for Lewis & Clark in the FY18 Budget. The tristate congressional delegation then worked hard to secure an additional \$48M for Reclamation’s Rural Water Program. It was announced this past February that a bipartisan budget agreement was reached adding \$10B in infrastructure funding to the FY18 Budget. The tristate delegation then urged appropriators to direct a portion of these funds to the Rural Water Program. Through these efforts, another \$18.5M was directed to the Rural Water Program, bringing the total additional funding for the Rural Water Program to \$66.5M.

Because of the earmark ban, which unfortunately includes fully vetted authorized projects like Lewis & Clark, after President Trump signed the FY18 Budget on March 23 the Bureau of Reclamation then had 45 days to determine how to allocate the \$66.5M in additional funding among five authorized rural water projects. Reclamation allocated \$11.225M to Lewis & Clark. Along with the \$3.65M proposed by the administration, this brings total funding for FY18 to \$14.875M.

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