

Explorer Fall 2022

Ribbon Cutting & Infrastructure Funding Celebration Held

L&C was honored to host Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo and close to 100 other attendees in Beresford on August 10 for a ribbon cutting of the 2.5 million gallon Beresford water tower that is expected to be ready for use in November. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the \$75.5M L&C will receive from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in FY22, as well as additional BIL funding expected in FY23 and FY24. Seventeen of L&C's 20 members were represented, as well as many other groups and organizations. Staff members attended from the offices of Senators Chuck Grassley, John Thune, Amy Klobuchar, Mike Rounds and Tina Smith, as well as the offices of Representatives Dusty Johnson and Randy Feenstra.

Trujillo oversees the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) and was the featured speaker. She praised not only the BIL funding, but also the strong partnership through the years between BoR and L&C. Other speakers included BoR Regional Director Brent Esplin from Billings and Chairman Murray Hulstein. They touted the importance of the BIL funding to accelerating L&C's construction schedule, as well as the role of the tower in serving Beresford, Sioux Center, Hull and Sheldon. "We are incredibly thankful for the infrastructure funding! It will get us close to the finish line," said Hulstein. Caldwell Tanks and Banner Associates were also recognized for the important roles they played with the water tower.

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Sioux Center officials with Trujillo





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After the program and ribbon cutting, L&C treated the crowd to a chislic lunch. First time many from out-of-state had chislic. All were impressed. Big thanks to everyone who joined the celebration!

Banner's Kristin Bisgard, Tim Conner and Brad Wermers



Assistant Secretary
Tanya Trujillo



Left to right: Sara Mayer from Sen. Rounds, Chance Costello from Sen. Thune, Liz Lloyd from Rep. Johnson, Jacob Bossman from Sen. Grassley, Bree Maki from Sen. Smith, Chuck Ackman from Sen. Klobuchar, Wes Fopma from Rep. Feenstra, Sheldon Water Superintendent Keith Vaandrager, Director Heidi Kramer from Hull, BoR Area Director Joe Hall from Bismarck, BoR Regional Director Brent Esplin from Billings, Assistant Secretary Trujillo, Chairman Murray Hulstein, Sioux Center Mayor Dave Krahling, Caldwell president Ryan Harvey, Director Tom Erickson of Beresford, Banner's Kristin Bisgard, Banner's Brad Wermer, Banner's Tim Conner and Executive Director Troy Larson

32nd Annual Membership Meeting

L&C's annual meeting was held in Tea on June 25. Staffers attended from the offices of Senators John Thune, Amy Klobuchar, Mike Rounds and Joni Ernst, as well as the offices of Representatives Dusty Johnson, Randy Feenstra and Michelle Fischbach. Chairman Murray Hulstein talked about efforts underway to expand the System from 44.19 MGD to 60 MGD. Executive Director Troy Larson provided an update on operations, construction and funding. Former director Mary McClung of Harrisburg was recognized with the Spirit of Discovery Award for her 19 years of dedicated service on the Board prior to her retirement this past May. Deepest thanks and appreciation to Mary!



Mary McClung

Kramer Appointed to Board



Heidi Kramer of Hull was appointed to the Board of Directors on May 25. She is originally from Granville, IA and has an Administrative Assistant Degree with a Legal Emphasis from Iowa Central Community College in Ft. Dodge.

Murray was surprised with the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award, which is the organization's highest honor. He has served on the Board since 1993 and was attending meetings for a few years before that. Well-deserved recognition for his long-time commitment and dedication! It was also announced that the Sioux Center meter building will be dedicated in his honor. Heartfelt congratulations to Murray!



Murray Hulstein

Heidi was the City Clerk in Hospers for 12 years before becoming City Clerk in Hull in November 2021. She was promoted to City Administrator in April. Heidi and husband Nic of 23 years have four children – three boys and the youngest is a girl. They range in ages from 20 to 12. When she isn't keeping busy with the kids' sporting activities, Heidi enjoys yard and house projects. She is an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan. Welcome aboard, Heidi!

Chairman's Report – Repricing a Game Changer



When Lewis & Clark was authorized by Congress in 2000, the project parameters were identified and a federal funding component was determined that we often refer to as our “federal funding ceiling.”

Our remaining federal funding ceiling has long been a dark cloud hanging over our heads. Until recently the relatively small amounts of annual federal funding have made it very difficult to construct this system in an efficient or cost effective manner. As just one example that has been repeated many times, we awarded three separate contracts for a stretch of pipeline instead of one due to federal funding limitations. The more contracts we award and the smaller the size, the more expensive overall the system becomes. In addition, the annual indexing adjustments to the remaining federal funding ceiling have not kept up with actual inflation.

To avoid forcing the members to pay the shortfall to complete the authorized system, which we estimate is

roughly \$35M in today's dollars, discussions were started early this year with our tristate congressional delegation about the possibility of increasing our federal funding ceiling. We later turned to the Bureau of Reclamation to urge them to come up with a resolution to the problem, which we later discovered is plaguing the other four authorized rural water projects to a much larger degree.

On June 22 we received the great news that Reclamation officials are implementing a solution called “repricing.” That is where they will increase our federal funding ceiling based on the updated estimates of what is needed to complete the “base system,” thereby meeting the intent of the congressional authorization. This is a huge relief and definitely a game changer for us!

With the assistance of Banner Associates, the repricing effort is already underway at Reclamation's Technical Service Center in Denver. We hope to have our updated federal funding ceiling by March. A big thanks to Regional Director Brent Esplin and everyone else at the Reclamation offices in Billings, Bismarck and Salt Lake City who worked to help make this happen!

Collector Well Challenges

The 22 million gallon per day collector well at Site B was expected to be operational by early June, but the project has experienced multiple challenges. Welfl now estimates they will reach substantial completion in late November.

Delivery of the surge tank was delayed after Welfl switched vendors and some of the associated components still have not arrived. A pressure test of the exterior piping by Feimer Construction (subcontractor) on August 12 resulted in significant damage inside the pump house because some of the interior piping was not properly restrained. After most of the repairs were made a successful pressure test was conducted on September 12. A new flow meter has been ordered to replace the damaged one.

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800 feet of 42-inch ductile iron pipe connects the pump house to the raw water transmission line

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Discharge from testing the three 400 h.p. pumps resulted in erosion damage along the riverbank at the end of the drainage channel, so how the water is discharged has been redesigned and additional piping will need to be installed. A fourth pump will be installed later that was ordered after the well capacity was increased from 16 MGD to 22 MGD.



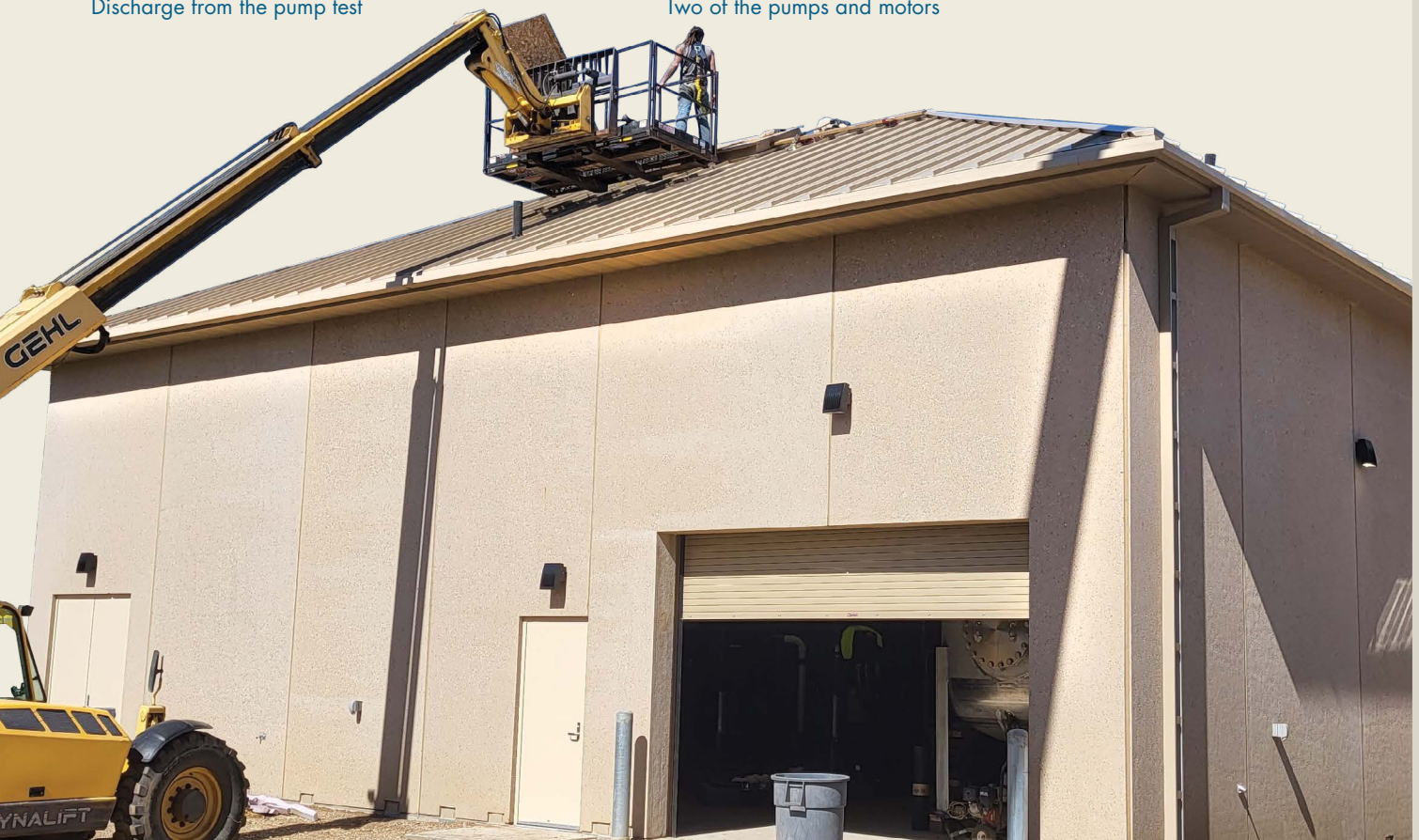
Discharge from the pump test



Touring construction on July 28 were (left to right): Director Ralph Hammer from South Lincoln RWS, Director Nolan Meyer from Harrisburg, Director Gavin Graverson from Sioux Falls, Business Manager Lori Seten, Sioux Falls' Nick Borns, Banner's Kristin Bisgard, Banner's Cullen Kohles, Construction Administrator Clint Koehn and Operations Manager Jim Auen



Two of the pumps and motors



FROM THE PIPELINE



Left and Above: Legislative Director Liz Lloyd from Congressman Dusty Johnson's office in D.C. met with Executive Director Troy Larson on April 14 to get an update on L&C and learn more about the project's history and background. Troy met with Congressman Johnson in Harrisburg on May 3 and thanked him for his strong support.

Congressman Brad Finstad (R) won the special election for Minnesota's 1st District and was sworn in on August 12. He is completing the term for the late Jim Hagedorn. Finstad is a farmer from the New Ulm area and served as the state's Director of USDA Rural Development. Executive Director Troy Larson, Vice-Chairman Scott Hain and lobbyist Jane Lucas met with Finstad by video on October 3 to bring him up to speed on the project.



Legislative Aide Reid Willis from Senator Grassley's office in D.C. stopped in Sioux Center on August 8 to tour construction of the Sioux Center meter building and visit with city officials and L&C staff about the status of the project. Left to right: Assistant Utilities Manager Adam Fedders, Willis, Utilities Manager and L&C Chairman Murray Hulstein and City Manager Scott Wynja. Senator Grassley held a townhall meeting in Rock Rapids on August 24 where Director Jim Hoyer had the opportunity to thank him for his support of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Legislative Aide Chance Costello (far left) from Senator Thune's office in D.C. was in Brookings on August 18 to get a project update from Troy and lobbyist Jane Lucas, who is originally from Brookings



Nineteen directors attended the May 25 Board meeting. Left to right. Back row: Ryan Hegg of Madison, Gavin Graverson of Sioux Falls, Tom Erickson of Beresford, Jerry Lonneman of Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Scott Hain of Worthington and Ralph Hammer of South Lincoln RWS. Middle row: Larry Pedley of Sibley, Sid Munson of Tea, Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center, Ryan Holtz of Rock County RWD, Brad Preheim of Centerville, Jim Hoyer of Rock Rapids, Todd Uhl of Sheldon, and Heidi Kramer of Hull. Seated: Pat Baustian of Luverne, Nolan Meyer of Harrisburg, Scott Buss of Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Nate Vander Plaats of Lennox and Robin Dykstra of Lincoln County RWS. Director Adam Jans of Parker joined by video.

Contract Awarded for Hull Pump Station & Sheldon Meter Building

Includes the Start of Expansion

A \$5,212,892 contract was awarded to West Branch Construction of nearby Boyden, IA on August 11 for a pump station a few miles south of Hull and a meter building at Sheldon. Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will be used. Construction will begin this fall. The substantial completion deadline is October 2023.

Two 125 h.p. pumps in the Hull pump station are part of the 44.19 million gallons a day (MGD) “base system.”

The contract amount includes a \$165,271 bid alternate for a third pump that represents the start of construction to expand the System to 60 MGD and will be paid for separately using

non-federal funds. “It is much less expensive to add the third pump now instead of a separate contract later. Other expansion-related contracts will be awarded yet this year. The drought has made it abundantly clear we need to get started now on the expansion. Our current goal, which is subject to change, is to have the expansion completed by 2030,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Lewis & Clark needs to award six more contracts in order to complete construction of the base system. With continued BIL funding it is expected the last of those base system contracts will be awarded by the summer of 2023. The goal is to have all 20 members connected by early 2025.

Meter Buildings and Pump Station Delayed

One contract covers three different projects – remodel the Hull meter building to double its size, construct the Sioux Center meter building and add pumps to the Beresford pump station. D.W. Proehl made good progress on the Hull and Sioux Center meter buildings, but has experienced lengthy delays getting variable frequency drives (VFDs) for the four 50 h.p. pumps at the Beresford pump station. The VFDs were originally ordered from Eaton in August 2021. Citing supply chain delays, it got to the point where Eaton would not even return repeated phone calls. D.W. Proehl had no choice but to switch to a different supplier in early June. The VFDs were supposed to arrive in mid-October but that

has been pushed back to mid-November. Substantial completion deadline for the Beresford pump station was originally July 15 but that will need to be extended.

The VFDs are needed to pump water to the Sioux Center and Hull meter buildings in order to test the piping and equipment in those facilities, so the delay impacts those projects as well. The VFDs are also needed for Carstensen to pig, flush and disinfect the lines between Beresford and Hull. It is anticipated Sioux Center and Hull will begin receiving water in early January, but the schedule is still subject to change.



Sioux Center meter building



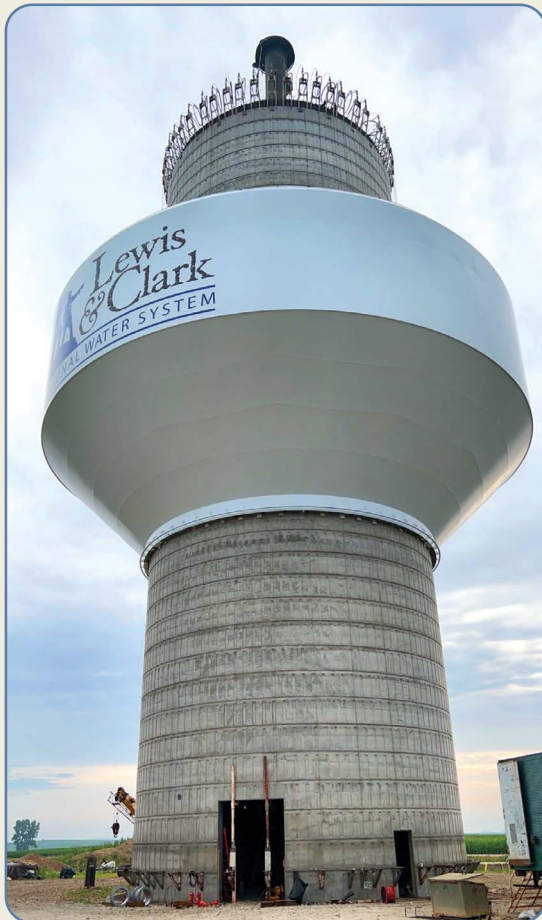
Hull meter building

Beresford and Sheldon Water Towers

Construction is nearing completion on the 2.5 million gallon Beresford water tower and Caldwell Tanks anticipates it will be ready for use in November. After repairing minor damage from the May derecho, the water tower tank was painted on the ground and then jacked to the top on July 16. It took three hours for the jacking. The panels for the metal roof were later welded into place and painted. Some work remains on the controls, as well as other items in the interior of the tower. At its peak the tower is 220 feet tall, which according to Caldwell is the tallest 2.5 million gallon water tower in the nation.

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Beresford water tower



Before the water tower can be placed into service, the 33 miles of 24-inch PVC pipe between Beresford and Sioux Center, as well as the nine miles of mainly 16-inch PVC pipe between Sioux Center and Hull, need to be pigged, flushed and disinfected. Carstensen Contracting will do this work. The hope is they will have the lines disinfected by early January, which is when it is anticipated Sioux Center and Hull should begin receiving water. However, that will depend on the status of the Beresford pump station (page 7).

Caldwell is also making good progress on the one million gallon water tower a few miles west of Sheldon. After the foundation pilings, foundation cap and

influent and effluent piping were completed, they started pouring the concrete pedestal on July 25. The last of 27 “lifts” for the pedestal was completed on October 6. Their next focus is welding the steel panels into place for the tank before winter and then paint it in the spring. Caldwell believes they are on schedule to meet the mid-October 2023 substantial completion deadline.



Sheldon water tower



Final IERT Meeting Held

The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for the Interagency Environmental Review Team (IERT) process. They invite federal, state, local and tribal officials to review planned construction sites to ensure there are no environmental, biological or cultural resource concerns. The first IERT meeting was held on June 24, 2003 to review the route of the raw water pipeline, as well as the sites for the water treatment plant and wellfield. This day infamously became known as “Tornado Tuesday” in SD because of the then national record 67 tornadoes that evening.

Nineteen years later, the 18th and final IERT meeting was held on August 30 to review the 17-mile route for the Sibley service line. No other agencies attended, which everyone felt was a testament to the outstanding work through the years of ensuring environmental compliance, as well as the careful planning in selecting routes. Troy was the only one to attend all 18 meetings and said, “Reclamation staff did a super job through the years of leading the IERT process. They have been a great partner. Thanks to Faye Streier, Nell McPhillips, Meg Claypool and Andrea Gue for doing a masterful

job leading the IERT through the years.”

Afterward, the group had lunch in Sibley to celebrate the conclusion of the IERT process.



Left to right: Sibley Water Superintendent Cory Dykstra, Sibley City Administrator Susan Sembach, Director Larry Pedley, Banner’s Kristin Bisgard, BoR’s Andrea Gue, Banner’s Scott Vander Meulen, BoR’s Alicia Waters, Operations Manager Jim Auen, BoR’s Kyle Dworshak, Construction Administrator Clint Koehn, TRC’s Nathan Fleming, BoR’s Justin Hammer and Banner’s Becky Baker.



Larry Pedley and Troy Larson at the conclusion of the IERT meeting where the north end of the Sibley service line will connect with L&C’s existing Minnesota Transmission Line

Contracts Awarded for Madison Reservoir & Iowa Transmission Line

Two separate bid openings were held on June 28.

The first was for a one million gallon ground storage reservoir a few miles east of Madison and the second was for 17 miles of 16-inch PVC pipe between Hull and Sheldon. Because of a lengthy delay on Reclamation’s end with L&C being able to utilize funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it was not until July 28 that both contracts were awarded.

DN Tanks of Dallas was the low bidder at \$4,471,900 for the Madison reservoir. They plan to start work in the spring of 2023. The substantial completion deadline is August 2024.

Eatherly Constructors of Leawood, KS was the low bidder at \$16,400,000 for the pipeline between Hull and Sheldon, which is referred to as Iowa – Segments 4 & 5. This is the last segment of the Iowa Transmission Line. They started construction in early October and hope to install about three miles of pipeline before winter. The substantial completion deadline is November 2023.

Madison Service Line Construction

Ten miles of 16-inch PVC pipe were previously constructed for the Madison service line – five miles on the south end and five miles on the north end. These segments are currently being used for the “wheeling plan” to deliver water to Madison on a temporary basis in partnership with Minnehaha Community Water Corp and Big Sioux CWS. Contracts have been awarded for the middle 32 miles of pipeline for the Madison service line.

Halme Construction of Lake Norden, SD was awarded a \$16,541,370 contract on April 28 for the southern-most 16 miles. Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids, SD was awarded a \$14,369,529 contract on May 25 for the northern-most 16 miles. The latter involves pipe that is not as thick because the pressures will be lower, which accounted for part of the price difference. Both contractors have pipe staged onsite and started stripping topsoil in early October. They will install as much 16-inch PVC pipe as they can before winter.



South Dakota Approves Expansion Funding



After the Legislature approved Governor Kristi Noem’s proposal to set aside \$600M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funding for water projects, the SD Board of Water & Natural Resources (BWNR) on April 12 approved a plan providing up to \$15M for L&C to help offset a portion of the members’ expansion cost. If, as expected, the Legislature this session agrees with the joint recommendation of the BWNR and the SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR), \$7.7M would come from the forgiveness of a federal funding advance the state approved in 2015 and \$7.8M from

ARPA funds. The loan forgiveness plan was developed by DANR staff and would free up more ARPA funding for the state to allocate elsewhere while providing increased funding to L&C. Win win. In the remote chance the Legislature rejects the plan, then L&C would receive \$13.1M in ARPA funding.

The funding will be used at the treatment plant to construct a sixth lime drying bed, add a second clearwell and add two more pumps to the high service pump station. These projects are part of expanding the system to 60 MGD. “Along with Iowa’s \$12M of ARPA funding, the combined \$27M will cover roughly a quarter of the members’ estimated expansion cost in today’s dollars. This directly benefits homes and businesses because it helps keep the members’ water rates as low as possible. A huge thank you to Governor Noem, BWNR, DANR and the Legislature!” said Executive Director Troy Larson.



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Operations Update

The delays with the collector well (page 4) and continued drought made for another challenging summer to keep up with water demands. For the past two summers all 11 vertical wells were operated as hard as they could go without sucking air in order to produce as much capacity as possible. Running them so hard meant diminished well capacity as the screens plugged with fine sands. Last summer the combined max capacity of the wells was 32.2 million gallons per day (MGD), but that dropped to about 30 MGD this summer. In June, the Board approved restrictions prohibiting the 15 connected members from exceeding their reserved capacities. "These restrictions, which were lifted in September, really helped us get through a difficult summer. We know

this presented a challenge for several members, but we appreciated everyone doing their part to conserve and reduce usage," said Operations Manager Jim Auen. L&C celebrated its 10-year anniversary of operations on July 30. On that date in 2012, much needed water began to flow to the first 11 members. In 10 years L&C delivered 54.467 billion gallons for a daily average of 14.93 million gallons. Each year the usage increased. Hats off to the operations team for their outstanding work!

L&C enjoys providing tours of the treatment plant and wellfield. Two recent ones are shown below.



Sheldon officials on May 5 (left to right): Water Operator Dave Andringa, Wastewater Superintendent Dean Paulsen, Water Superintendent Keith Vaandrager, Councilman Tom Eggers, Councilman Brad Hint, Public Works Director and L&C Director Todd Uhl and City Manager Sam Kooiker



Left to right on July 12: SD Association of Rural Water Systems Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle, Sioux Falls Engineering Department's Enoch Banza, Hull City Administrator and L&C Director Heidi Kramer, Hull Mayor Arlan Moss, Plant Supervisor and tour guide Mike Duchscher, Cory Becker from Rep. Michelle Fischbach's office in Willmar, Kolby DeWitt from Sen. Ernst's office in Sioux City, JCG Land Services' Mike Adams, MN Rural Water Association Executive Director Lori Blair and Executive Director Troy Larson