

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

# Explorer

Fall 2025

## Water Treatment Plant – Phase 3

Phase 3 is 43% complete and PKG Contracting is confident in meeting the October 2027 substantial completion deadline (final completion deadline is April 2028). “PKG’s main focus the last three months has been constructing the clarifiers for the two new solids contact basins. The four existing basins are our main bottleneck right now in being able to produce more water. We thankfully did not need to curtail water sales this summer, but

we still need to get through two more summers before the new basins are online,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Construction started on the powdered activated carbon system (PAC), which removes objectionable tastes and odors from water and is part of the Base System. The PAC system will house two bulk tanks to store the carbon and feed it into the treatment process. Taste and odor have



L&C’s Board of Directors held their September 25 meeting at the treatment plant and toured the construction afterward

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not been issues for L&C so far, but when two more collector wells are brought online that are largely induced from the river they likely will be. Auen described the PAC system as “another tool in the tool box.”

Other construction highlights:

- Constructed the aluminum dome for the second gravity thickener. Excavation for the thickener has begun.
- Nearing completion of the maintenance area. The metal parapet has been installed on the exterior and the site has been seeded. HVAC and electric work remain.
- Installed the 72-inch effluent line for the clearwell. Leak testing of the clearwell is underway.

- Completed pouring the walls for the west clarifier and have started pouring the walls for the east clarifier.
- Started pouring the exterior walls that will enclose the two new solids contact basins and PAC system.





PAC Storage &amp; Feed System



Gravity thickener dome

## Revetment Repairs Underway

Rounds Construction started work in early October to repair erosion damage that is mainly under the river waterline on a 1,770 foot stretch of the one-mile bank stabilization revetment that protects L&C's wellfield along the banks of the Missouri River southwest of Vermillion. The repairs are expected to be completed in mid-December. In 2008 the original revetment was constructed using boulders that averaged 27-inches. Larger Class D boulders averaging 34-inches that have held up much better were used for the previous erosion repairs in 2012, 2017, 2021, as well as the repairs underway. As required by the National Parks Service for aesthetic reasons, the quartzite boulders will be covered with a layer of field stone. After the latest repairs are made there will be roughly 1,000 feet of original revetment left with the smaller boulders.



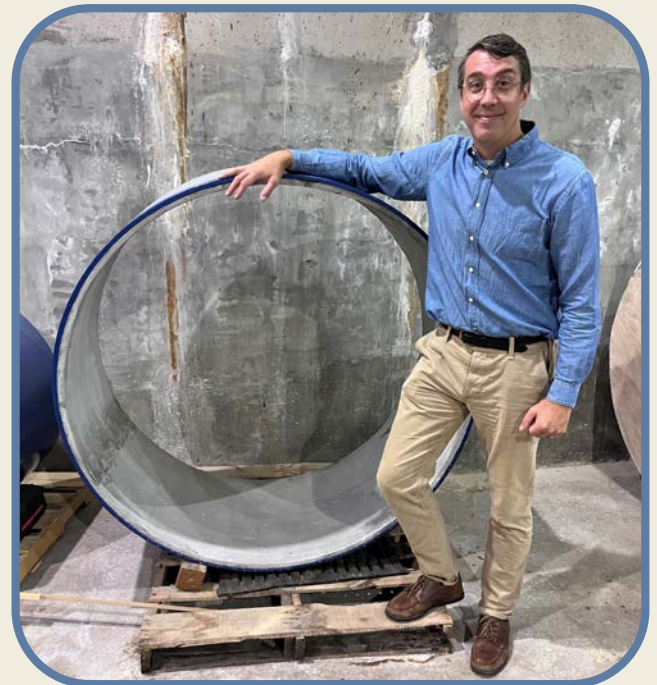
## Lewis & Clark Members Tour Plant

Lennox, Luverne, Madison, Sheldon and Tea officials took a joint tour of the treatment plant on August 19. South Lincoln RWS' Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the plant on August 20 and then took a tour. Although not a member, Lyon & Sioux RWS buys L&C water from Rock Rapids. Directors and

staff from Lyon & Sioux toured the plant on August 21. "We always enjoy the opportunity to provide tours to our members. Most of the folks on these tours had not seen the plant before, so great opportunity for them to see the plant and treatment process firsthand. Touring the plant really helps put the scope and scale of L&C into perspective," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.



Directors Todd Uhl of Sheldon, Ryan Hegg of Madison, Nate Vander Plaats of Lennox and Pat Baustian of Luverne



Tea City Administrator Justin Weiland with a slice of 54-inch main trunkline



Madison Director of Engineering Ryan Hegg, City Administrator Jameson Berreth, Utilities Director Mike Plooster and Mayor Roy Lindsay



Sheldon's operations team Matt Burrington, Dean Paulsen, Public Works Director Todd Uhl, Scott Ruden, Nate White and Dave Andringa



Lennox City Administrator Nate Vander Plaats and Councilwoman Lauren Van Driel



Luverne Councilman Mert Kracht and Mayor Pat Baustian



Director Todd Uhl sizes up a 72-inch pipe section that is part of Phase 3



South Lincoln RWS directors and staff, including Chairman Lloyd Poppens who also serves as President of the SD Association of Rural Water Systems (third from left) and Manager John Stearns (fifth from right)

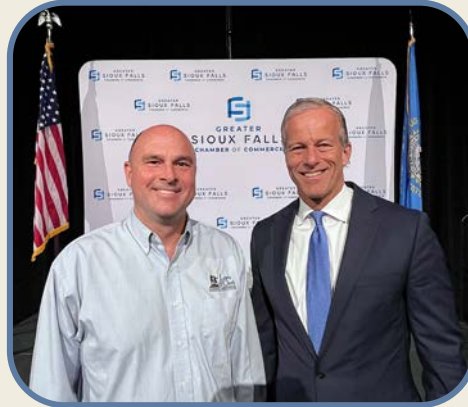


Lyon & Sioux RWS directors and staff

# FROM THE PIPELINE



Larson and Governor Larry Rhoden reminisced about past L&C legislative triumphs in Pierre when Rhoden was a legislator during the Sanford International in Sioux Falls on September 12



Executive Director Troy Larson had the opportunity to thank Senator John Thune for his continued strong support and leadership for L&C at a Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce event on August 12



Chairman Murray Hulstein and Congressman Randy Feenstra talked about the status of L&C while sharing a meal with their spouses in Hull on September 27. Left to right: Randy, Lynette Feenstra, Fonda Hulstein and Murray.

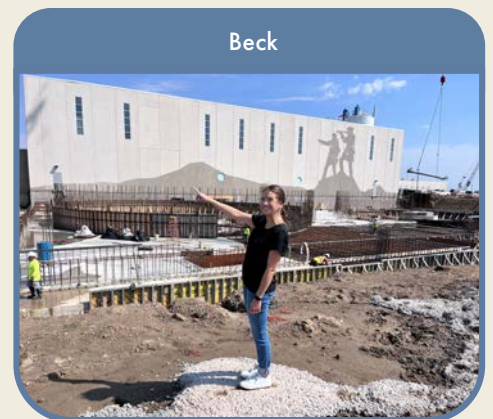


Former director Roger Lamp of Lincoln County RWS (left) and former lead engineer Dave Odens of Banner Associates were among the attendees at L&C's annual "Thanks-for-Giving" meal on October 23. The meal is a small token of appreciation to folks past and present who have helped turn this pipe dream into a reality.



Yetter and Mayer

Legislative Aide Matt Yetter and Deputy District Director Sara Mayer from Sen. Mike Rounds' office toured the treatment plant and wellfield on August 11, and Legislative Aide Audrey Beck with Sen. Thune's office toured the treatment plant on August 14. Yetter and Beck handle L&C for the respective senators in D.C. and Mayer is in Sioux Falls. Larson and Operations Manager Jim Auen also visited in depth with the staff members about L&C over lunch in Vermillion.



Beck

## Chairman's Report



Chairman Murray Hulstein

L&C's first expansion that will increase total capacity from 44.19 MGD to 60 MGD is expected to be completed in late 2030. Our long-awaited Appraisal Level Study on a possible second expansion beyond 60 MGD was

completed by our engineers in June after two years of work. The study can be found on our website; under the Operations tab go to the Second Expansion link.

At the time this study was initiated, L&C's 20 members estimated they needed another 82.8 MGD combined to address their water needs for the next 40 years – from 2030 to 2070. Banner's rough estimate for an 82.8 MGD expansion is just under \$2.5 billion. Yes, with a "B." This summer the members took a second look at their future water needs, with the results from this re-survey showing the 20 members estimate they need another 95 MGD combined. That pushes the estimated price tag closer to \$2.6 billion.

L&C is also exploring the potential for partnering with the proposed Dakota Mainstem RWS (DMS) on certain shared facilities for our respective projects. HDR Engineering expects to complete DMS' Appraisal Level Study in December. The next steps for both L&C and DMS will be securing congressional authorization allowing BoR to cover up to half the cost of the feasibility studies using existing program funding. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds and their staffs are taking the lead on that effort. While nothing is guaranteed when it comes to congressional action, both offices indicate securing authorization by March is a possibility. Regardless of whether L&C and DMS partner on portions of our respective projects, separate feasibility studies will be needed. We estimate it will take about two years to complete L&C's feasibility study.

The communication to date between L&C and DMS and our elected leaders has been transparent and unified. A small working group of L&C and DMS directors, staff and engineers was recently formed to strive for a transparent and unified message going forward, especially as we work with our elected officials.

## Backup Generator Pads Completed

D.W. Proehl completed construction of the backup generator pad at the treatment plant in October as shown below. They previously completed construction of the pad at the Tea pump station in July. D.W. Proehl is a subcontractor for both contracts. Muth Electric is adding a fourth generator at the treatment plant and American Electric is adding a second generator at the pump station. Both generators are part of the Base System. Due to the long-lead time getting enclosures for the generators, the substantial completion deadline for both contracts is not until May 2028.





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## Operations Update

The 2.5 million-gallon Beresford water tower was taken out of service on October 13 for warranty repair of the paint coating system failures on the underside of the steel ceiling. These failures were identified this past spring during a warranty inspection, but work did not begin until the fall when water demand is lower. The repainting will take about one month. No service disruptions are anticipated for the members as water pressure and flows are being maintained by the Beresford pump station.

The three new lime drying beds are in the background of the photo below and the new stockpile area is to the right of them. “Gacke Enterprises from Canton pushed hard to remove a lot of sludge this fall from two of the original drying beds in the foreground. They removed about 21,100 tons in FY25 after being delayed by wet weather this spring and summer. L&C’s goal is around 30,000 tons per year, so they will need to remove more in FY26 to keep up with the sludge production,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

