



# Explorer

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

FALL 2011



## Rock Rapids Receiving Water from “Emergency Connection”

It took three months longer than projected, but water began flowing on October 5 to Rock Rapids through an eleven mile “emergency connection.” Until the treatment plant is operational, Lewis & Clark (L&C) is purchasing 60,000 gallons of water a day from Lincoln County RWS (LCRWS). In turn, Rock Rapids ultimately is selling the water to the Grand Falls Casino in northwest Iowa. Completion of the 24” pipe for Minnesota – Segment 1 (MN-1) by Morgan Contracting was delayed by wetter than anticipated conditions, difficulties crossing the Big Sioux River and unexpectedly encountering close to 1,000 feet of granite that needed to be blasted. *continued page 2*



Rock and soil heaved from subsurface dynamite blast.

## Members Enjoy Final Construction Bus Tour

Close to 100 officials from Lewis & Clark’s 20 member cities and rural water systems, as well as several state legislators and congressional staffers, participated in the annual construction bus tour on August 11. The attendees toured the construction underway at the 85th Street water tower, pump station and reservoirs near Tea, and the water treatment plant and well sites near Vermillion. The two charter buses and lunch were sponsored by the contractors working on these five

projects – Landmark Structures, Eriksen Construction, Natgun, Foley Construction and Welzl Construction respectively. It was widely felt this was by far the best construction tour that has been held due the large scale construction going on at so many locations...and the fact it did not rain as in past years. With the lack of federal funding and with mainly smaller diameter service lines to construct in the future, this was billed as the final construction bus tour.





## Rock Rapids Receiving Water from "Emergency Connection" *continued*

To save on blasting costs, L&C had Morgan bury the pipe four and a half feet below the surface instead of the standard six feet. Styrofoam insulation was placed on top of the pipe for added protection against frost.

This is one of two connections for Rock Rapids. The second connection further to the east will provide water to the City. Six miles of 24" pipe still needs to be constructed along the Iowa border for this second connection, which is ready to bid as soon as federal funding is available. From there, the next pipeline segment will head north to Luverne. This segment between the Iowa border and Luverne, which will also connect Rock County RWD, is also ready to bid as soon as federal funding is available.



Styrofoam insulation for additional frost protection due to shallower trench.



Construction just west of the Big Sioux River.



Final section of 36" pipe for MN-1 being installed.

## Pipeline Commissioning Underway

Judds Brothers is moving forward on work to commission the pipeline, which will get it ready to deliver potable water. This first involves flushing, pressure testing and repairing any leaks. To flush the line and clean out any debris, a 96" long and 58" diameter "pig" was inserted into the 54" mainline at the Tea reservoirs. Flowmore Services, a subcontractor out of Houston, tracked the pig continuously until it entered the receiver at the water treatment plant (WTP) 70 hours later. With large volumes of water pushing the pig, it achieved the desired speed of approximately one mile per hour or 1.5 feet per second. The pigging went very well and all the water was discharged into the lagoons at the WTP. The "before" and "after" photos of the pig after making the 50 mile trip are shown at right. The damage occurred as it was pushed partially sideways into the pig retriever at the end of the pigging run. It came in with a pretty good "whump"! A pig of this size weighs approximately 1,000 pounds dry and roughly 7,500 pounds wet. Right before the treatment plant is operational Judds Brothers will disinfect the lines. This will involve two more pigs traveling through the line with highly chlorinated water for disinfection sandwiched between them. This will allow the contact time necessary to disinfect the line.





## Water Treatment Plant Equipment Training to Begin Soon

Foley Construction continues to make good progress on the water treatment plant. Considerable progress has been made on both the interior and exterior of the administration area, essentially completing the enclosure of the maintenance area, and completion of the basin walls of the gravity thickener. Installation of process piping and equipment, HVAC, fire protection, plumbing and electrical systems, controls and other internal infrastructure is being rapidly advanced. The site yard piping is essentially complete, including the wastewater treatment mound system. Concrete paving for the parking lot and roadways has been started and is continuing to advance as weather permits. East River Electric has completed their electrical substation located just north of the treatment plant, which will provide power to the plant.

Final completion was reached in October for Phase 1, which includes the three million gallon underground reservoir, high service pump station, electrical switchgear building and back-up generators. Mid-April is the current substantial completion deadline for Phase 2, which is the main treatment plant building. It is estimated Foley is about one month behind schedule, but they believe they will be able to make up that time in the coming months. Based on that schedule, the Lewis & Clark staff is planning to begin equipment training in December, which will continue pretty much non-stop through March. Five more employees will be hired this winter, for a total of eight operations employees at start-up. When operational, the plant will supply treated water to 11 of the 20 member cities and rural water systems.



Concrete walls being poured for the gravity thickener.



54" section of pipe being installed for an isolation valve vault near the plant.

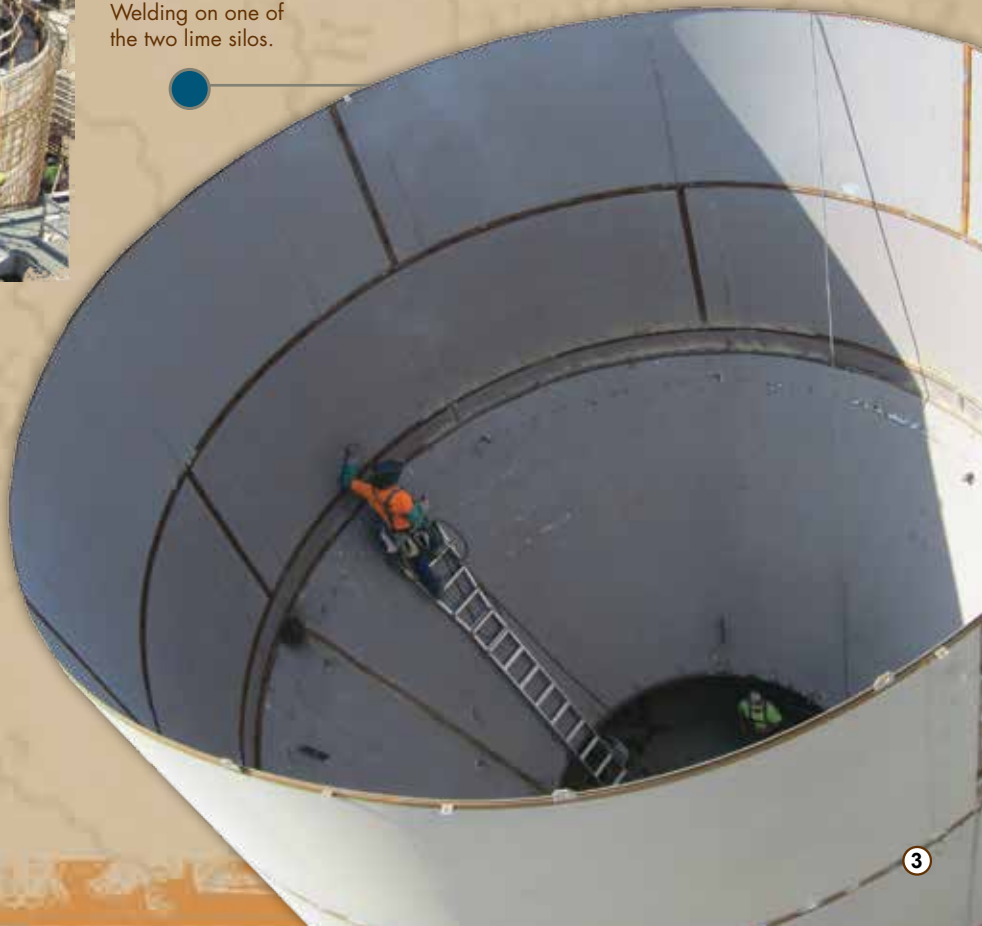


Main entrance.



Another "golden spike" – final section connecting the raw water pipeline with the treatment plant piping.

Welding on one of the two lime silos.





## Wells Nearing Completion

Well Construction is nearing completion on the project to drill and equip five new vertical wells at Sites A and E, southwest of Vermillion, as well as construct two well/pump houses, three vaults, connecting piping, roads and install back-up generators. The contract also includes equipping the six previously drilled wells at Sites C and D. Work is about six weeks behind the mid-November substantial completion deadline. However, this delay will not impact the water treatment plant coming on-line this spring. When completed, these 11 wells will provide a “firm” capacity of approximately 28 million gallons a day, which is the capacity with the largest well out of service. It is anticipated Lewis & Clark will have 17 to 19 wells when the entire 45 million gallons a day system is completed.

## Reservoirs Completed After Overcoming Wind Storm

### Pump Station Delayed by Delivery of Pumps

Overcoming the one month delay from the destruction caused by the strong wind storm in July 2010, Natgun reached substantial completion in late October on the two 7.5 million gallon reservoirs near Tea. For the past four months Natgun and their subcontractors added the architectural accents and painted the reservoir exteriors, including two logos on Ground Storage Reservoir #1 and one logo on Ground Storage Reservoir #2. They have successfully pressure tested and disinfected the reservoirs and associated piping. In addition, they completed the site grading, including roads and entrances. They are currently working on perimeter fencing. The reservoirs are 164' in diameter and 69' tall.

On the pump station, which is located between the two reservoirs, Eriksen Construction is making good progress on the interior process piping, equipment, controls and chemical feed systems. They have also installed all the exterior discharge piping and are currently working on pressure testing and disinfection, as well as finishing the concrete pavement around the building. Eriksen though continues to experience frustrating delays with delivery of the eight 350-horsepower pumps from the manufacturer in Indianapolis. The pumps were originally scheduled to arrive this past March, but the manufacturer is having repeated and unexplained problems. Mid-November is the substantial completion deadline, which will not be met. It is not currently known when the pumps will arrive. As a result, the contractor is planning to install three temporary pumps so that water can be delivered this spring while the manufacturer works to resolve the problem.





## Senator Franken Meets with Lewis & Clark Officials and Tours Construction

Lewis & Clark officials from Minnesota and South Dakota were honored to host Senator Al Franken on September 17. The group met at the office near Tea for a roundtable discussion about the project's federal funding challenges. Franken then toured the construction underway at the pump station and reservoirs near Tea, including climbing into one of the reservoirs.

Chairman Red Arndt, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian and the other attendees emphasized that new construction is on hold until federal funding is restored, and how the members and states pre-paid their non-federal cost share based on the government's authorized commitment to the project. Franken expressed strong frustration and disappointment with the \$493,000 proposed in the President's FY12

budget and how the earmark ban prevents Congress from increasing funding through the normal appropriations process. In terms of the federal government not honoring its commitment, Franken said, "It's a sin. It's wrong, it's wrong." He further commented, **"I am pleased and encouraged to see the progress being made, but I know it's imperative that my colleagues and I keep fighting for funding back in Washington. I have heard first hand from Minnesotans who would like to expand their businesses and create jobs but are being held back because they don't have access to enough water. Lewis & Clark will bring jobs and economic development to communities all over the tri-state area. This is almost the definition of economic development."**



Jerry Lonneman of Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Chairman Red Arndt, Luverne City Administrator John Call, Senator Franken, Sid Munson of Tea, L&C Construction Administrator Dan Zulkosky, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, Dan Cook of Rock County RWD, Joe Munson of Banner Associates and Roger Lamp of Lincoln County RWS.

## Lewis & Clark Makes a Move

In a cost saving move, Lewis & Clark moved its administrative offices in late August from downtown Sioux Falls to the industrial park one mile east of Tea. The remodeled building combines the administration and distribution operations, which eliminated the need to build a separate shop/garage near Tea for the distribution operations. This saved an estimated \$150,000. Even with the added space and owning the building instead of renting, the annual payments are less. Financing was secured through CoBank. "We are always striving to be the best stewards possible of the public funds that have been entrusted to us so this move was a no brainer," said Chairman Red Arndt. The new office telephone number is 605-368-2400 and the new address is 46986 Monty Street, Tea, SD 57064. Stop by when you are in the area for the nickel tour!





## Tri-State Congressional Delegation Makes Unified Push for Funding

In an effort to secure increased funding for Lewis & Clark (L&C) in the FY12 and FY13 budgets, the tri-state congressional delegation held an unprecedented joint meeting, which was organized by the MN delegation, with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Office of Management & Budget Deputy Director Sally Ericsson and Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) Commissioner Mike Connor on November 3. With the earmark ban unfortunately including authorized projects, L&C's federal funding levels for the next two years will be determined by the President's budget.

Noting L&C creates needed jobs on the front end through construction and manufacturing and on the back end through expanded economic development opportunities, the delegation stressed construction would be halted if the Administration's proposed funding of only \$493,000 for FY12 is approved. They also emphasized the importance of the federal government honoring its commitment, and how the three states and 20 cities and rural water systems pre-paid a

combined \$153.6 million (99.7% of the non-federal cost share). The delegation also discussed BoR's priorities for funding rural water construction, which lists L&C last even though the project is 65% completed (including construction underway that will be completed in 2012), serves by far the largest population and the non-federal cost share has been pre-paid. Questions about BoR's Rural Water Program taking a disproportionate share of the internal cuts compared to other agency programs were also discussed.

These points resonated with the administration officials, particularly the pre-payment by the members, but they noted that unfortunately due to ever tightening budgetary constraints they do not expect funding increases in FY12 or FY13. One small sliver of good news is that BoR agreed to revise how it prioritizes projects, with pre-payment of the non-federal cost share being a key factor. This is welcome news that is expected to move L&C up the priority list, but unless the administration increases funding for the Rural Water Program it only means the project would receive a bigger

percentage of a shrinking amount of overall construction funding. The administration only requested \$20.2M for seven rural water projects in FY12 compared to \$47.5M in FY11.



Larson, Senator Amy Klobuchar and Arndt.



Arndt and Rep. Tim Walz.

In advance of this tri-state delegation meeting, Chairman Red Arndt of Luverne, Director Scott Wynja of Sheldon and Executive Director Troy Larson were in Washington, DC the first week in October for a series of meetings with congressional and administration officials. Noting that L&C should be a top budgetary priority because it fits all the funding and economic development criteria, and is basic infrastructure that is not new spending, Rep. Tim Walz summed up the sentiment of the meetings best by exclaiming, **"Why is this so damn hard?!"**



Wynja and Rep. Steve King.

## Governors Unite to Urge Increased Funding

Governors Mark Dayton, Dennis Daugaard and Terry Branstad sent a joint letter to the President on November 2 to urge continued funding for Lewis & Clark to ensure construction can move forward. In their letter they wrote, "The importance of Lewis & Clark to Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota cannot be overemphasized. Beyond the benefits of providing safe and reliable water to our citizens, the construction activities will create jobs in the short term for a previously authorized project. More importantly, this project creates an environment for long-term job creation by addressing the economic impediments the region's lack of water poses to attracting new businesses and industries to the region...We remain hopeful that the project will be completed in a timely manner and we encourage you to include the highest possible amount for Lewis & Clark in your FY 2013 budget."



## Seven Meter Houses Scheduled for Completion by January



Pre-fabricated meter house being lowered into place near the base of the Lennox water system.



Concrete blocks being placed on the exterior of the Minnehaha Community Water Corp – West meter house.

Hoogendoorn Construction is the contractor for both Meter Building Package 1 and Package 2. Package 1 includes pre-fabricated meter houses for Centerville, Lennox, Minnehaha Community Water Corp – West and South Lincoln RWS, and Package 2 includes built on-site meter houses for Beresford, Parker and Sioux Falls – Benson Road. Hoogendoorn experienced a lengthy delay getting the pre-fabricated meter houses from the factory in Wisconsin, but plans to have all the meter houses completed by January. Exterior concrete block and a roof have been added to the pre-fabricated meter houses.



Concrete being poured for the floor of the built on-site meter house for Beresford.



Roof work on the pre-fabricated meter house for South Lincoln RWS.

## Changing the Skyline of Sioux Falls

Landmark Structures raised the 114' diameter steel bowl for the three million gallon water tower along 85th Street in southern Sioux Falls to the top of the concrete pedestal on August 14. The bowl took six hours to make the trip to the top. Painting of the bowl interior was completed in late October and the contractor is working to finish the exterior and interior piping. Mid-November is the substantial completion deadline. The tower is 190' tall and the pedestal of the tower is 61' in diameter. There are only a handful of water towers in the nation that are three million gallons.

The tower is owned and operated by L&C, but in a cost saving partnership with Sioux Falls the City is paying for half the construction costs. Both Sioux Falls and Lewis & Clark needed a one and a half million gallon tower in the same area. Half of the three million gallon capacity will be used by Sioux Falls and Lewis & Clark will use the other half. The tower is located just inside of City limits. Due to a City ordinance, the logo could only be one-fifth the size of what was originally planned.



Tom Erickson and Ivan Frieze

## Erickson and Frieze Join the Board

Tom Erickson of Beresford and Ivan Frieze from Parker joined the Lewis &

Clark Board in May. Tom was appointed to fill the remaining term of the late Dan Cotton. Ivan takes over for Glen Wollman, who served 18 years as Parker's representative on the Board.

Tom served 30 years as a civil service employee and member of the SD Air National Guard, before retiring in 2004. He was the supervisor for the flight line avionics element and also taught supervisory courses. Prior to that, Tom worked four years as a charter pilot and flying air mail. Before his flying career, Tom served 19 months in Vietnam as a Marine Corps jet engine mechanic. He grew up on a dairy farm near Beresford and has been a long-time resident of the

community. Tom was elected to the City Council in April 2009. He enjoys trap shooting, hunting, golf, volunteering at church and the Green Bay Packers. Tom has been married 41 years and they have three children and ten grandchildren.

Ivan was born and raised on a dairy farm near Parker, graduating from Monroe H.S. He farmed for 27 years, selling the farm in the mid-80's. After working three years at a grain elevator, Ivan worked as the water and waste water superintendent in Parker for 10 years. He has made deliveries for Dakota Tom's Sandwiches for the last ten years (part-time the last four years). Ivan was elected to the City Council in 2007. He enjoys woodworking, gardening, teaching Sunday school and the Minnesota Twins. Ivan has been married 47 years and they have five children, 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild.