

## **Lewis & Clark Receives Funding Increase for FY20 *Only \$100,000 Again Proposed for FY21***

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

**February 11, 2020**

**Tea, SD** – The Bureau of Reclamation announced that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System will receive \$18 million in federal funding for FY20, an increase of \$3 million compared to FY19. “Thanks to the hard work and strong support of our tristate delegation, Congress approved an additional \$117.4 million for the Rural Water Program in the FY20 Budget. Reclamation in turn allocated \$17.9 million of this amount to Lewis & Clark. When combined with the \$100,000 proposed by the administration it brings our total for FY20 to \$18 million,” said Executive Director Troy Larson. The FY20 funding will be used to cover a portion of three construction projects -- a radial collector well adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion that is anticipated to produce 16 million gallons per day, a 2.5 million gallon water tower just east of Beresford, and the 12.6 mile middle segment of 24-inch pipeline between Beresford and Sioux Center.

The administration’s proposed FY21 Budget was released on February 10. For the third consecutive year it only includes \$100,000 for Lewis & Clark. “While very disappointing, the proposed funding is not surprising. We will again be counting on our tristate delegation to secure additional funding for the Rural Water Program.”

###

**BACKGROUND:** Lewis & Clark is a non-profit wholesale provider of water to its member cities and rural water systems in southeast SD, northwest IA and southwest MN. Its water source is a series of wells adjacent to the Missouri River and has a treatment plant near Vermillion. The project was incorporated in 1990 and authorized by Congress in 2000. Construction began in 2004 and Lewis & Clark started delivering water in 2012. The System is currently 82% complete and is serving water to 15 of its 20 members. Based on recent federal funding levels, which are subject to change, it is anticipated Sioux Center and Hull will be connected in 2022, Sheldon in 2023, Sibley in 2024 and Madison in 2025.