

Governor Reynolds Announces \$12 Million for Lewis & Clark

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January 28, 2022

Sioux Center, IA – Governor Kim Reynolds announced today that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C) will be receiving \$12 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that will be used for infrastructure in Iowa that is part of its expansion from 45 million gallons a day (MGD) to 60. She was joined at Sioux Center’s water treatment plant by Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, state legislators and officials from Hull, Rock Rapids, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center. “Today’s announcement demonstrates Iowa’s commitment to the project and the people it serves. This \$12 million award will enable a significant expansion of Lewis & Clark,” said Reynolds. The funding brings the State of Iowa’s total financial commitment to the tristate drinking water project to just over \$19 million.

Unlike the 45 MGD base system that is being constructed with a 90% cost share from the federal government and three states, the member cities and rural water systems are responsible for 100% of the cost for the 15 MGD expansion. All 20 have agreed to participate in the expansion; in today’s dollars estimated at just over \$100 million. “Even though some members are not even connected yet, the drought the last two years has made it clear to all of us that we need more water for our long-term economic development and quality of life than what we reserved way back in 1993. This funding, as well as ARPA funding we hope to receive from South Dakota and Minnesota, will help offset a portion of the expansion cost for the members. This directly benefits the homes and businesses who purchase water from our respective utilities. A big thank you to Governor Reynolds, Lt. Governor Gregg and Iowa Economic Development Authority’s Debi Durham! This funding is just the latest example of their incredibly strong support and effective leadership,” said Chairman Murray Hulstein, Sioux Center’s Utilities Manager.

The \$12 million will be used to construct three pump stations by Hull, Larchwood and Lebanon, as well as a ground storage reservoir near Hull and adding pumps to the existing Dove Avenue pump station northwest of Rock Rapids. L&C hopes to award some of these projects yet this year. Construction of portions of the expansion is being done concurrently with construction of the base system in order to realize significant cost savings and efficiencies. Five members of Lewis & Clark are not yet connected – Hull, Sioux Center, Sheldon and Sibley in IA, as well as Madison, SD. It is expected that all members will be connected by 2025. Completion of the expansion is estimated to take another five to seven years beyond that. None of the additional 15 MGD can be delivered until 100% of the expansion is completed.

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BACKGROUND: L&C was incorporated in January 1990 and its congressional authorization was signed into law in July 2000. It is a non-profit wholesale provider of water to its member cities and rural water systems in southeast SD, northwest IA and southwest MN. The System will benefit over 350,000 people when completed. *The System for the Future*