



# Explorer

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM



FALL 2012

## Ribbon Cutting & Open House Held for Water Treatment Plant! Arndt Presented with Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award



On a glorious day with over 300 people in attendance, the water treatment plant ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held on August 21, the nine year anniversary of the ground breaking ceremony. Pastor Greg Myrmoe of Beresford provided the opening and closing prayer. In between, the speakers congratulated Lewis & Clark (L&C) on this important milestone, but stressed the need to connect the remaining nine members. Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein surprised

Chairman Red Arndt by presenting him with the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award, L&C's highest honor, in recognition of his enormous contributions through the years. Hulstein noted, "Red has always been there for L&C and the fact he is here today less than two weeks after open heart surgery is testament to that. He has been a driving force in his relentless and tenacious support for bringing critically needed drinking water to the tri-state region...Red is a visionary who understands this is a legacy that will

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## Ribbon Cutting & Open House Held for Water Treatment Plant! *continued*



have a profound impact on the region for many generations to come.”

The ceremony ended with the audience singing “God Bless America.” Arndt then cut the ribbon in front of the plant entrance. Lunch and guided tours of the over 210,000 square foot facility followed. Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate this momentous occasion and to the sponsors. Banner Associates, HDR Engineering, Foley Company, Clay-Union Electric, CoBank, DN Tanks, E&I Specialists, East River Electric, Engineering America, Howalt-McDowell Insurance, Lake Region Contracting, Micro-Comm, Southeastern Electric, Tessier’s and Wells Fargo.



Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein (right) presents the ‘Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award’ to Chairman Red Arndt

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPEAKERS:**

**Chairman Red Arndt:** “For those of us who have worked so long and hard on this project, today is a day of not only great celebration, but also a great deal of relief. There have been countless challenges and obstacles along the way. This truly has been a herculean effort by so many people to get the project where it is today.”



Rep. Steve King and Governor Dennis Daugaard

**Governor Dennis Daugaard:** “Great projects like this one don’t happen by accident. They take a lot of vision, planning, persistence and dedication. Having access to a dependable water system is absolutely necessary for the predicted population increases that we’re going to see and to support the economic development we want to see.” He concluded, “Today we celebrate an excellent achievement, but our work is not yet done. Eleven partners out of the 20 are receiving water, but nine are not. Eleven out of 20 is not good enough. So we must re-dedicate ourselves today to securing the funding to finish this project...L&C water means better health, more jobs and more prosperity for thousands and thousands of people for many many years to come.”



Executive Director Troy Larson and Senator John Thune

**Senator John Thune:** Describing L&C as an “incredible partnership” and a “model for the country,” Thune said “We are declaring victory today, but it is only a partial victory. Complete victory won’t occur until those communities that don’t have this water are receiving it and this project has reached final completion.” He recalled the incredible effort it took to get the project authorized in Congress and how that same “creative effort” is needed to complete the project.

## Ribbon Cutting & Open House Held for Water Treatment Plant! *continued*



Operations Manager Jim Aven (far right) showing the controls to Rep. Noem, Lt. Governor Matt Michels and Governor Dennis Daugaard. Photo by Vermillion Plain Talk

**Representative Kristi Noem:** “I stand arm in arm with all of you as we fight to get this project completed....With all the challenges along the way some may have thrown in the towel, but here in the heartland we don’t do that. We buckle down and work together to get the job done. I have a responsibility, along with my colleagues, to make sure we tell the story in Washington, DC about the importance of prioritizing dollars for clean drinking water projects.”

### **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike**

**Connor:** Connor noted the \$59.5M in stimulus funding for the main treatment plant building was Reclamation’s second largest stimulus project. He said the plant will “have long lasting positive effects for the sustainability of these communities.” Connor said “We recognize the value of this project and the great partnership we have with all the members of L&C, and I can assure you that we are all committed to moving this project forward so we can celebrate the finalizing of this project.”



Gary Hanson

**Gary Hanson, L&C’s first chairman:** “Twenty-four years ago we gathered in Sioux Falls to pursue an extraordinarily ambitious mission to secure a vital resource to protect the health, safety, and very existence of our communities...Our congratulations cannot be exuberant enough toward those who have worked so hard and so long to bring this portion of L&C to fruition. There are still thousands of citizens who need L&C to be completed so that they may have safe and dependable drinking water. This project must be completed!” He concluded, “Through the long life of L&C, millions of people will benefit. Jobs that would not have existed will flourish, communities that would have declined will grow, and the quality of families’ lives will be enhanced...Long after we here have left this place, after the sun has set over that horizon 30,000 times, people will still enjoy drinking the water from L&C, and L&C will still be supporting the economy and life of this region. What a wonderful legacy you have left.”

### **Senator Tim Johnson released a statement saying,**

“L&C stands as an example of regional cooperation that will address common challenges in a more effective way than each state or local sponsor could do alone. We need to keep this critical project moving forward so all of the member communities in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa can enjoy the benefits of economic growth and improved quality of life.”



Meal being served in the maintenance area

**Representative Steve King:** “I’m about finishing projects. I like to start them, but I want to see them done.” He said L&C “transcends state lines and party lines.” He also noted “the earmark ban has hurt us” in terms of it including authorized projects.

## Lewis & Clark Finally Begins Delivering Water!



One of four solids contact basins where lime (brown center area) is mixed with the water. The basins are 85' in diameter.

After close to four years of construction, the treatment plant finally reached substantial completion and began delivering water to 11 of the 20 members on July 30. This was a momentous occasion that was over 23 years in the making. “This is a very exciting day! With our members experiencing critical water needs in the face of the crushing drought, we are extremely pleased that Lewis & Clark (L&C) is able to begin delivering water in the nick of time,” said Chairman Red Arndt. “This project has been an enormous undertaking. Words cannot express the range of emotions of finally reaching this point,” said Arndt who has been involved with the project since it was incorporated in 1990. The plant was completed about two months later than scheduled, but the contractor, engineers and L&C staff pressed extra hard the last few months to get the system operational as soon as possible. “Our sincere thanks to Foley Company, their subcontractors, the engineers at Banner and HDR, and L&C staff for their hard work the last four years,” said Arndt. Foley Company is working to finish up the remaining punch list items before the final completion deadline in January.

The 11 members receiving water include: Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County RWS, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation (MCWC), Parker, Rock Rapids, Sioux Falls, South Lincoln RWS and Tea. For MCWC and Rock Rapids, service is only to one of their connections. “Be assured we continue to work tirelessly to ensure the remaining nine members are connected as soon as possible,” said Arndt. The members who are not connected include: Hull, Luverne, Madison, Sheldon, Sibley, Sioux Center, Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Rock County RWD and Worthington.

Based on feedback from the 11 members, it was anticipated the plant would operate five days a week and produce

4.5 million gallons a day (MGD). L&C started with eight operational staff to meet this anticipated demand. However, with the drought condition driving the need for more water, the plant has been operating seven days a week and produced an average of 11.2 MGD in September, with a peak demand of 13 MGD. The current capacity of the plant is 36 MGD with expansion to the originally designed 45 MGD after all 20 members are connected.

As with any new system, there have been plenty of operational bugs to work out, which have kept the staff extra busy. Combined with running the plant seven days a week instead of five, this has stretched the operations team thin. However, they have done a great job stepping up to the plate and doing whatever is needed to get the job done. “The start-up has been a learning experience for everyone, including the members receiving water. As the members get a better feel for how much water they plan to utilize from L&C on a year round basis, we will be able to staff up accordingly. Despite the challenges, I’m pleased with the high quality water being delivered,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.



Toasting the first treated water produced by the plant! – Plant Supervisor Jason McBride, Operations Manager Jim Auen, Banner’s lead on-site engineer Dennis Micko, HDR’s lead on-site engineer Terry Stoltenow, Maintenance Foreman Todd Giffin and Foley’s Project Superintendent Vic Rider

## Pipeline Commissioning Completed in Advance of Delivering Treated Water



One of two "pigs" used during disinfection of main trunk line.

Judds Brothers out of Lincoln, NE was the contractor for the pipeline commissioning project, which involved disinfecting the 50 miles of 54" main trunk line between the Tea reservoirs and the treatment plant, as well as just over 21 miles of the smaller diameter service lines. For the main trunk line, this involved launching two "pigs" with a three mile "slug" of highly chlorinated water between them. Using pressurized water from Sioux Falls, the pigs moved in tandem at an average of 1.12 feet per second. This allowed for four hours of contact time for the chlorine with the pipe. The pigs, which

are 96" long and 58" wide and weighed 7,500 pounds, were launched at the Tea reservoirs the morning of May 1 and arrived at the treatment plant the morning of May 4. This project took a great deal of coordination among the engineers, staff and Sioux Falls officials, not to mention some late nights.

After successfully passing the bacteriological tests, it was important to keep water flowing through the pipes to prevent the need for re-disinfection. With the treatment plant still under construction at the time, Sioux Falls graciously agreed to sell 1.5 million gallons a day to L&C, which in turn was sold to Beresford, Centerville, Lennox, Parker and Minnehaha Community Water Corp. From mid-May to July 30 when the treatment plant began delivering water, these five members covered the cost for roughly 40% of this temporary water. The other cost was covered by the pipeline commissioning contract, as that amount of water would have needed to be flushed as part of the project anyway, so this way the water was not wasted. This also gave the staff a head start working out the operational bugs with the meter houses, which was important because when the treatment plant went on-line it was all hands on deck addressing issues there and at the Tea pump station.



Pump room of the Tea pump station. Eriksen Construction finally reached substantial completion on April 6, close to five months past the deadline. Delays involving the delivery of the eight 350 h.p. high service pumps and the associated control panels were the main reason for the delay.

## Larson Testifies at Senate Energy & Natural Resources Hearing



Executive Director Troy Larson provided testimony on July 31 at a Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing in strong support of S. 3385 – the Authorized Rural Water Projects Completion Act. The bill would provide \$80 million a year in “mandatory” funding for the Bureau of Reclamation’s seven rural water projects (soon to be six as Mni Wiconi is expected to receive its final funding in FY13). The funding needs to be offset so it does not add to the debt and would sunset as soon as the projects are completed. S. 3385 would by-pass the dysfunctional budgeting process that wrongly includes authorized projects as part of the earmark ban. The bill is the idea of retiring Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Committee. Senators Tim Johnson, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken have co-sponsored the bill.

Senator Max Baucus, lead sponsor of the bill and Chairman of the Finance Committee, testified and made it clear he will work with his colleagues to find a suitable offset.

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“I believe very strongly this bill is extremely important.” - Senator Baucus

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Baucus said, “I believe very strongly this bill is extremely important. We in the Finance Committee will work very hard, do our level best to help find the offsets so there is \$800 million over 10 years to finance this...This approach makes a lot of sense because the old ways of doing things just have not worked very well. There just haven’t been enough appropriations to complete these projects. At the current rate we’re going it’s going to take a long long time, maybe a generation, before some of these projects are finally

completed.” Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor testified that the Administration “supports the goals” of the bill to provide additional funding.

Larson testified regarding the pre-payment by the members and states, the short-term and long-term economic impacts from L&C, and how the drought highlights the critical importance of the project. He noted that based on current funding levels, Lewis & Clark (L&C) would never be completed. Larson said, “To be perfectly frank, the members are angry and outraged that the federal government is not honoring its commitment. They feel the federal government is leaving them high and dry at a time when they need water the most...We respectfully urge Congress to pass this bill so L&C and the other projects languishing on Reclamation’s plate can be completed in a timely manner.”

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- Executive Director Larson

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Johnson and Franken serve on the Committee and asked excellent follow-up questions related to L&C that highlighted the importance of passing this bill. It is hoped the bill will be passed during the lame duck session of Congress.



## Congressman Peterson Adds His Support to Lewis & Clark

### Arndt and Larson meet with Congressional Leaders

While in Washington, D.C. for the hearing on S. 3385, Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson met with the ten members of Lewis & Clark's (L&C) tri-state congressional delegation to discuss the bill and funding. That is right, ten members instead of nine. L&C has gained the support of influential Congressman Collin Peterson, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee! With re-districting, the vast majority of Lincoln Pipestone RWS' service area is now in his district. His old district included a portion of that system's service area, so he already was very familiar with L&C. Peterson recently sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee urging them to hold on the House side the \$15 million in unallocated funds for rural water projects included in the Senate's bill. Peterson and his staff made it clear they want to do whatever they can to help move the project forward. "We are incredibly pleased to have Congressman Peterson's full support and we look forward to working closely with him to ensure we get this thing done," said Arndt.



Arndt, Peterson and Larson

In separate meetings, Arndt and Larson urged Senators John Thune and Chuck Grassley to co-sponsor S. 3385 and work to find a suitable funding offset for the bill. They also urged the House members to support S. 3385 if it becomes part of an end of the year wrap up bill.

## John Buss Retires from Board; Scott Buss Appointed to Board

Long-time Lewis & Clark (L&C) director John Buss of Minnehaha Community Water Corp (MCWC) retired from the Board of Directors in April. John had been with the project since the very beginning. His signature is on the January 1990 Articles of Incorporation. John served as Treasurer and was on every committee. He shared some parting words of advice with the Board and staff, encouraging them to focus resources on "getting pipe in the ground." Chairman Red Arndt said, "We cannot thank John enough for his dedicated service and working so hard through the years to help get the project where it is today."

Scott Buss, John's son, was appointed to the Board in April. He has managed MCWC since 2002 when John retired from that position. Scott has been a regular attendee at the Construction Committee and Board meetings, so he is very familiar with the project and has hit the ground running. He serves on the Construction and Audit committees. Scott grew up by Colton and was a Tri-Valley Mustang. He graduated in 1989 from the SD School of Mines & Technology with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering.

Before joining MCWC, he worked in manufacturing in Nebraska, Tennessee and Oklahoma. He has two daughters – one a sophomore at USD and the other a junior at Lincoln HS. "Scott has participated in so many meetings through the years it feels like he has been on the Board for quite some time now. We thank Scott for his continued service in this official role," said Arndt.



## Minnesotans Make Funding Case to Reclamation Commissioner

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Tim Walz and a dozen officials from Worthington, Luverne, Lincoln Pipestone RWS and Rock County RWD met in Worthington on August 20 with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor and Regional Director Mike Ryan. The meeting, which was organized by Klobuchar, focused on the importance of connecting the nine remaining members as quickly as possible. Klobuchar and Walz stressed to Connor and Ryan the critical importance of increasing the funding for Lewis & Clark (L&C) in the Administration's budget.

Main points stressed by the elected leaders and the MN members included: pre-payment by the members, adverse impacts to economic development due to the delays, how current federal funding is not even keeping up with inflation, and the additional money being spent by the members (\$8.4M in MN alone) for unplanned infrastructure improvements because of the delays.

**“It's incredibly important that we complete what we started.” - Senator Klobuchar**

Klobuchar said, “It's incredibly important that we complete what we started. And while we face tough economic times, we're going to make the economy tougher down here if we don't have enough water....We need to get a bigger commitment going next year out of the federal budget....We have one of the best cases in the nation.” Walz noted, “This is an absolute critical project. Its jobs in the short run, its

long-term economic growth and quality of life, and folks out here have done their share....We asked people to pay ahead. We asked people to believe in the system and now we're slowing it down. From a fiscally conservative manner, we can get equipment and workers cheaper now. Let's finish this project....If this was argued in court in front of a jury we'd win this case every time.”

Connor indicated L&C is a high priority for Reclamation, but also talked about the financial constraints in their budget. He said the overall funding for the rural water program needs to be increased and that “the continued dialogue is definitely helping.” Connor noted that L&C's strong economic impact is its main strength. There was also discussion regarding the Authorized Rural Water Projects Completion Act, which Connor spoke favorably about, and Reclamation's draft criteria for prioritizing projects.

Chairman Red Arndt pointed out how persistent the L&C members are and how everyone is going to keep pushing hard to get the job done. “It was very good and frank discussion, with the members' frustration being heard loud and clear. This was the first meeting we've had with Connor or Ryan in the project service area, so this was a really big deal which hopefully is another step toward improving our funding picture,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.



Rock County RWD Chairman Ron Boyenga, Rock County RWD Manager Brent Hoffmann, Lincoln Pipestone RWS Board Member Jerry Lonneman, Lincoln Pipestone RWS Chairman Rod Spronk, Rep. Tim Walz, Chairman Red Arndt, Commissioner Mike Connor, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Worthington Mayor Alan Oberloh, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, Regional Director Mike Ryan and Worthington Utilities Manager Scott Hain



## Contract Awarded for Minnesota – Segment 1A

Nine bids were opened on June 26 for Minnesota – Segment 1A (MN-1A), which is a just over six mile stretch of pipe along the IA border that will provide Rock Rapids with a second connection. PVC pipe has been used for the service lines, but with the lower pressures on this stretch it is the first time PVC was offered as an option on a transmission line. Merryman Excavation of Woodstock, IL was the low bidder at \$6,589,921 using 30" PVC pipe, which was within one percent of the engineer's estimate. This is the first Lewis & Clark (L&C) contract for Merryman, but they are an experienced pipe installer. Construction began on September 24 and has been going very smoothly so far. November 2013 is the substantial completion deadline, but weather permitting Merryman hopes to be finished by early summer.

L&C hopes to bid the contract in February for the Rock Rapids meter house meter building so water can be delivered by next fall, but the timing depends on when Congress passes the FY13 Budget. MN-1A and the meter building are the only construction planned for 2013 unless federal funding is increased. This fall Rock Rapids will construct 3.5 miles of 12" pipe to reach the meter building at the intersection of Dove Avenue and 100th Street.



First section of 30" PVC pipe being installed



Using a trench box for pipe construction



Following the August 20 meeting in Worthington, Reclamation officials toured the Tea pump station, reservoirs and the 85th Street water tower. Left to right in front of one of the two 7.5 million gallon reservoirs: Commissioner Mike Connor, Washington, DC; Regional Director Mike Ryan, Billings; Area Manager Dick Long, Bismarck; Rural Water Division Chief Arden Freitag, Bismarck; and Ted Hall, Pierre, who provides project oversight.



Rep. Kristi Noem

Just over 150 people attended Lewis & Clark's (L&C) annual meeting in Tea on May 24. Representative Kristi Noem addressed the audience, saying "after the election it is important the earmark ban be refined so Congress can make authorized infrastructure projects like L&C a priority in terms of funding." She also talked about how L&C needs to be given a higher priority by the Administration during the budgeting process. Senators Tom Harkin and Al Franken expressed their frustration with federal funding through taped videos. Staff members expressed continued strong support on behalf of Senators Tim Johnson, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Amy Klobuchar and Representative Steve King.

Chairman Red Arndt pointed to the great news of the treatment plant soon coming on-line, but was also hard hitting in his remarks that the federal government is leaving the L&C members high and dry by gutting funding for the project, even though the members and states have prepaid over \$153 million (99.7% of the non-federal cost share). "Our elected officials have held L&C up as an example of good government – the federal government,

three states and 20 locals governments working together to address common water problems in the most efficient and cost effective way possible. I hate to say this, but unfortunately L&C has turned into an example of bad government," said Arndt.

Former Director Dan Cook was presented with L&C's highest honor – the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award. Dan retired from the Board in November after 19 years of distinguished service on the Board, including participation on the Construction and Executive committees. Former Director John Buss, who retired from the Board in April, was recognized for his 23 years of dedicated service. John received the Trailblazer Award at the 2010 annual meeting. "Thank you, Dan and John! Your significant contributions through the years have forged a lasting legacy. You are both true rural water trailblazers" said Arndt.

Executive Director Troy Larson provided a Power Point presentation on the extensive construction activity the past year, including work on 11 different contracts. However, he noted that construction activity will come to almost a stop in 2013 unless something changes with federal funding.



Dan Cook

## Inflation Outpacing Federal Funding – Project on "Path to Infinity"

In 2011 the remaining federal cost share (the amount the federal government still needs to appropriate to the project as part of its congressional authorization) was \$194.3 million. The remaining federal cost share is indexed annually by the Bureau of Reclamation to adjust for price increases caused by inflation and supply and demand. In 2012 the remaining federal cost share jumped to \$200.6 million, an increase of \$6.3 million. Only \$4.5 million is proposed for Lewis & Clark in the Administration's FY13 Budget, which is about half the amount needed just to cover inflation and would prevent construction from moving forward. "This is a terrible disservice to the taxpayers. You don't need to be a math whiz to know that we are on a path to infinity. Based on current funding levels the project would never be completed," said Executive Director Troy Larson. The estimated price tag for the entire project, considering all sources of funding, has now increased to \$509 million.

## Revetment Repair Completed – FEMA Denies Claim for Portion of the Repairs



Locked log being moved into place

Repairs were completed in late August to Lewis & Clark's (L&C) river bank stabilization just north of the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge. Record floods during the summer of 2011 caused considerable damage to a portion of the river bank stabilization that protects the 11 production wells and related infrastructure from erosion. In October 2011, when the river levels were high, FEMA surveyed the damage and approved L&C's claim for public disaster assistance. FEMA estimated 880' of the one mile stretch of bank stabilization, which was completed in 2007, was in need of either replacement or repair. Much of the damage was to the "stone toe" below the water line, which was difficult to inspect with water levels so high. The stone toe is the base of rock that serves as the foundation to hold the locked logs and the upslope revetment in place.

Lake Region Contracting began repair work in mid-March. By mid-May it became apparent the record river flows not only completely washed away much of the stone toe, but also scoured away large areas of the river bed. These large holes had to be filled in with rock before the stone toe could be replaced. This significantly increased the amount of rip rap needed to make the required repairs and over a wider than expected area – 310,000 tons of rock was used to replace or repair 2,400' of the bank stabilization. The repair work also included covering the upslope rock with top soil and planting 10,000 willow trees. Based on the survey, it



Willow trees being planted

was estimated that the repair work would cost \$460,000. However, FEMA officials indicated because L&C is in the "large project" category, the amount of disaster assistance would be based on the actual repairs needed, not the estimate. L&C is responsible for covering 10% of the actual repair cost. Because of the expanded area and quantities of rock, the final bill was \$1.4 million.

In late August FEMA said L&C is ineligible to receive disaster assistance for the repair work beyond what was identified in the original survey. This denial is based on a technicality involving notification requirements, of which L&C was never informed. FEMA disaster assistance is administered through the State of South Dakota. Governor Dennis Daugaard and SD Department of Public Safety officials have expressed strong support for L&C's claim and are filing an appeal on L&C's behalf. If the appeal is rejected, it will cost L&C an estimated \$950,000 more.



Repair of the "stone toe"

## Jeff Hines Hired as Operator



Jeff Hines joined Lewis & Clark (L&C) in late May as an operator. He is originally from Florida and worked there for a year as a water operator for U.S. Water Services based out of New Port Richey. Jeff moved to the Volin area near Vermillion to be closer to his father, who lives in Yankton. Before joining L&C, Hines was an operator for Sioux Falls for several months and has a Class 2 certification. He is one class short of a BS degree in biology from the University of Central Florida and is hoping to finish up his degree soon. Welcome aboard, Jeff!

## Senator Franken Tours 85th Street Water Tower – Tower Construction Completed



Director Chad Huwe of Sioux Falls, Construction Administrator Dan Zulkosky, Executive Director Troy Larson, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, Chairman Red Arndt, Lincoln Pipestone RWS Chairman Jerry Lonneman, Senator Al Franken, Director Brent Hoffmann of Rock County RWD, Director Scott Hain of Worthington, Director Roger Lamp of Lincoln County RWS, Operations Mgr Jim Auen and Office Mgr Lori Seten

Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials hosted Senator Al Franken on April 3 for a meeting and tour at the 85th Street water tower. Representatives from Luverne, Worthington, Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Rock County RWD, Sioux Falls, Lincoln County RWS and Banner Associates participated in the meeting. Operations Manager Jim Auen provided Franken with details about the tower, which is a key piece of infrastructure to eventually serving the four MN members. Most of the discussion centered on the lack of federal funding and the adverse impact it is having on the MN members. The members shared their concerns with how economic development is being curtailed and the unplanned infrastructure expenses they are incurring because of the delay in receiving L&C water. Chairman Red Arndt expressed the members' anger with the earmark ban wrongly including authorized projects. Franken said the funding situation is "terribly frustrating." Noting how the members have pre-

paid their share and how the project ties in perfect with the Administration's efforts to create jobs and infrastructure for "an economy that is built to last," he said "there is almost an injustice to it." Summing up how there is no silver bullet to the funding challenges, Franken said "I'm trying to be armed to make the best case I can and also to just keep pounding away."

Landmark Structures reached substantial completion of the water tower on April 21, three months past the deadline. Disinfecting and pressure testing the tank, getting all the controls operational, painting the roof and sandblasting the concrete pedestal were some of the last items completed.



Painting the top of the water tower



Sandblasting the concrete pedestal