



# Explorer

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

SPRING 2008

## Lewis & Clark Celebrates “Start Up” Sioux Center to Hull Connection First Segment to be Operational

Lewis & Clark (L&C) is finally selling water! Over 60 people attended the “start up ceremony” on May 1st at the meter house in Hull, Iowa, to celebrate the momentous occasion of putting into service the first segment of pipeline. The nine mile segment between Sioux Center and Hull was built several years earlier than planned to serve as an “emergency connection” for Hull. In the short-term, L&C will purchase 80,000 gallons a day from Sioux Center and re-sell it to Hull. In recent years, Hull’s water tower has come close to running dry at times. Combined with the addition of industries such as the new cheese factory being constructed, the City needed a supplemental source of water until L&C water arrives.

Senator Grassley in his videotaped remarks noted, “We know this is just the first step of a much bigger effort for a full and completed system. The finished product will provide much needed water to the tri-state region. It will also improve the quality of life and bring expanded opportunities for economic development. But the first step means there are a heck of a lot more steps to take. We’re now making the case for additional federal funds with the help of local communities. Your investment not only in your time and work, but your very own resources, helps push our argument here in DC.”

*“Nine miles down and only 328 to go!”*  
- Chairman Red Arndt

Congratulations were shared by a number of dignitaries, including Sioux Center Mayor Dennis Walstra, Hull Mayor John Kooima, former Hull Mayor Dennis Wright, Reclamation’s Ted Hall, Dave Ehler from Congressman King’s office and State Rep. Dwayne Alons. Chairman Red Arndt, who celebrated his 60th birthday in style, remarked, “Although this is a small start utilizing a temporary source of water, this is a big first step forward for Lewis & Clark. It took eighteen years, but we’re finally selling water. Nine miles down and only 328 to go!”



Opening the valve are Walstra, Kooima, Arndt and Director John Buss, a founding member of the System, who was also celebrating a birthday.

## Chairman's Report - Red Arndt

Lewis & Clark (L&C) enjoyed very successful legislative sessions in MN and SD. In MN, the bonding bill that passed the Legislature and was signed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in April includes a provision swapping the State's L&C pre-payment of \$5.3M in bond funds for general funds.

Three years ago a bonding bill was passed that approved the \$5.3M pre-payment. However, using bond funds across state lines for the main trunk line and water treatment plant was a challenge. Last year the swap language also passed, but the bonding bill was vetoed for reasons unrelated to L&C. Worthington, Luverne, Lincoln-Pipestone RWS, Rock County RWD and everyone at L&C were very pleased everything worked out this year.

We really appreciate the time and effort so many people put into getting the swap provision passed. A special thanks goes to our legislative delegation of Senator Jim Vickerman and Representatives Aaron Peterson, Doug Magnus and Rod Hamilton. They really went to bat for us. We also thank the Governor for his support, as well as Senator Keith Langseth and Representative Alice Hausman, who chair the Senate and House Capital Investment Committees. Through the years I've made over 50 trips to St. Paul. Many others have made countless trips as well. It took a lot of hard work, but it is fantastic to finally get it done.

In SD, we are very thankful to the Legislature for approving a record level

of \$6.4M for L&C, despite a very tight budget. This represents one-third of Governor Mike Rounds' plan to pre-pay SD's remaining share of the project by 2010. We greatly appreciate the Governor's strong support and leadership. In addition to saving taxpayer's money by stopping the impact of inflation and helping L&C keep construction moving forward, SD's pre-payment commitment, along with the pre-payments by IA, MN and the local members, is a powerful tool for our congressional leaders to use as they make the case for continued federal funding.



## Bids Opened for Last Segment of the Main Transmission Line

Three bids for Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 8/7B (TWP-8/7B) were opened on May 15 in the amounts of \$30,700,000, \$31,300,000 and \$35,542,650. A bid protest has been filed, so it is unknown when this contract will be awarded.

Located in central Clay County, TWP-8/7B is the last eleven mile segment of the main 54" transmission line between the Missouri River and Sioux Falls. It will connect the rest of the main transmission line with the water treatment plant (WTP) site, which is located three miles

north of Vermillion along Highway 19. Construction is hoped to begin by this fall, with a substantial completion deadline of 11/1/09.

Once the contract is awarded, L&C will have 90 miles of primarily 54" pipe either completed or under construction. The total distance of pipe throughout the project is estimated at 337 miles.

This segment of pipeline connects to the WTP site, so it will operate under higher pressures than other portions of the main transmission line. As a result, the pipe walls are thicker. For TWP-8/7B, the thickest sections of pipe used are .425"

of steel (half inch of cement mortar lining used on the inside). By comparison, the pipe wall thickness on portions of the treated water pipeline near Tea was .251". The difference is about 5,000 more pounds of steel for each 50' long section of pipe. Each section of pipe on TWP-8/7B that has the .425" wall thickness will weigh an estimated 8.3 tons. Using more steel, combined with the price of steel and energy costs both skyrocketing to record levels, will make this segment of pipeline the project's most expensive by far in terms of a per mile cost.

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## Pipeline Construction Update

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Lewis & Clark (L&C) has begun what will be a very busy fifth season of construction. There are currently five pipeline projects underway, with construction hopefully beginning on a sixth (TWP-8/7B) this fall. The six projects represent 90 miles of pipeline. In addition, the first phase of the water treatment plant (WTP) is planned for bid in July. The first phase will include the clearwell, high service pumps and electrical building, which are separate structures from the main WTP building.

### **Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 5:**

SJ Louis Construction (SJL) in March completed the successful pressure testing of this 16 mile segment of 54" pipe. The pressure testing was done in sections because of the pipe's length. The photo below shows a blow off hydrant operating to take pressure off the line after a portion of the pipeline was pressure tested last fall (no chlorine residual in the water). The project has been accepted for substantial completion. Some minor clean up remains.

### **Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 6/7A:**

SJL resumed work in May. Five of the eleven miles of 54" steel pipe have been constructed in this segment that runs along 467th Avenue from the Clay County line south to 308th Street. The deadline for substantial completion is 11/1/08.

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Last section of pipe being installed on TWP-5, connecting it with a previously completed segment of the main transmission line.



## Construction Nearing Completion on Bank Stabilization, Well Facilities Underway

Work on the “modified stone toe revetment” continued through much of the winter and is nearing completion. After placing 51,000 ton of rock and 49,000 willow trees during the winter on the bank stabilization portion of the project (see photos to the right), Lake Region Contracting (subcontractor) this spring planted a combined 59,000 cottonwoods and dogwoods further up the river bank, as well as seeded the river bank to native grass. The original plan to stabilize the river bank was to bury the rock inland and let it “launch” as erosion eats away the bank. However, the erosion does not occur in a uniform pattern and the rock does not always launch evenly, so this method usually requires follow-up work. The modified stone toe revetment was urged by the National Park Service and Army Corps of Engineers. It is a more environmentally friendly approach because of the soil and vegetation that covers the rock. From an engineering standpoint this method is more effective because the river bank was first sloped and the rock evenly

placed, as well as having the “locked logs” jutting into the river to soften the current’s impact. The photo below shows a completed portion of the bank stabilization.

The general contractor, Welfl Construction, began constructing the well facilities in early April. Two well houses and four valve vaults are being constructed, along with 2,900' of polyethylene encased ductile iron and PVC pipe that range in size from 12" to 36" (see photo below of 24" pipe). The pipe connects the wells to the vaults, well house and raw water pipeline. The well facilities will be substantially completed in July.



## Washington, D.C. Trip

Chairman Red Arndt, Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson, Luverne Mayor Andy Steensma, Hull Director Randy Feenstra, Sioux Center's Harold Schiebout and Executive Director Troy Larson were in Washington, D.C. on April 15 and 16 to meet with congressional leaders about the importance of continued federal funding in the FY09 Budget. The meetings, which were organized by The Bockorny Group, went extremely well. L&C officials spoke with all six Senators, as well as Rep. Herseth Sandlin, Rep. Walz and Chairman Visclosky, who chairs the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. They also met with the staffs of Rep. King and Rep. Peterson. L&C officials also met separately with Senator Grassley and Rep. King in Sibley, IA, in late March to discuss project funding.

With the SD members, the discussion centered mainly on legislative strategy and construction status. For the IA and MN delegations, it was more on the critical importance of the project and how we need their strong and active support more than ever. With everyone, L&C officials expressed their sincere thanks, stressed the importance of not going backward with federal funding and the pre-payments being made by the states and local members. The responses were very positive and encouraging. The congressional leaders expressed their continued strong support, disappointment with the Administration zeroing out funding and confidence L&C will receive funding for FY09, but how much remains to be seen. They want to at least hold last year's level of \$26.5M. Each expressed disagreement with those who view L&C, an authorized project, as a traditional earmark. They also praised

and how the federal government needs to hold up its end of the bargain. Visclosky indicated L&C has strong bi-partisan support. "Water is not a partisan issue," he said. He also commended the pre-payments, which he said is uncommon.

In the other meetings, Senator Johnson asked a number of detailed questions about construction. He first inquired what L&C could build with \$35 million, which L&C officials said was a great question. Senator Thune, who reiterated L&C is a top priority for him, was pleased to hear of the ever increasing support from the IA and MN delegations.

*"This is a critical project that needs to get done...this is basic infrastructure that is the key to the economic development and vitality of our rural communities."*

*- Senator Coleman*

Senator Grassley said "we need to see it through...the local support (pre-payment) is very important." Senator Harkin, who along with Johnson serves on the Appropriations Committee, said he understands the importance of the project and will press the need for continued funding. Senator Coleman said "This is a critical project that needs to get done...this is basic infrastructure that is the key to the economic development and vitality of our rural communities." Senator Klobuchar said, I'll "do whatever I can to help."

Putting their support into action, the Senators and Representatives sent joint letters requesting \$35M for L&C to their respective Energy and Water Appropriation Subcommittees. L&C continues to be grateful for the steadfast support from its congressional leaders. As has often been said, the need for high quality and dependable drinking water transcends state lines and party lines.



Left to Right: Larson, Munson, Feenstra, Visclosky, Schiebout, Walz, Steensma, Arndt and Josh Albert (Herseth Sandlin's Legislative Director)

the members for pre-paying and believe this will help them in their fight for funding.

L&C officials made their case directly to Chairman Visclosky. The meeting was set up by Rep. Herseth Sandlin, who was unable to attend, but Rep. Walz attended and fervently outlined the importance of continued funding, the "guts" the members' showed in pre-paying



### **Tea and Harrisburg Meter Houses and Service Lines:**

Gridor Construction began work in April on the two 28' by 15' brick meter houses. Winter Brothers Underground started construction in May on the just over three miles of 16" PVC pipe for the Tea and Harrisburg service lines. The deadline for substantial completion of both projects is 7/1/08.

### **Treated Water Pipeline – Segment 9:**

Resuming work in late February, SJL installed pipe in low lying wet areas before the ground thawed (see photo below of 36" pipe). Six miles have been constructed of this eight and a half mile segment of 36" and 30" steel pipe that runs along 85th Street south of Sioux Falls from the main transmission line (467th Ave.) to a half mile east of Cliff Avenue. The contractor has finished a 330' bore of I-29. The pipeline was installed through a 54" metal casing, 12' below the top slab of I-29. The deadline for substantial completion is 7/1/08. Combined with the Tea and Harrisburg projects above, these three projects will provide the infrastructure for the "emergency connection" to those communities. If the agreement in principal resolving the service territory related issues among Tea, Harrisburg, Sioux Falls and Lincoln County RWS has been finalized by then, L&C anticipates putting this connection into operation this summer.



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