



# Explorer

Lewis & Clark  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

SPRING 2012

## Treatment Plant to be Operational This Summer

Project is Two Months Behind Schedule



Aluminum dome being installed on the gravity thickener.



Metal paneling being installed on administrative area.

After expecting to begin equipment training in December, training sessions for the staff finally began in late February and will continue pretty much non-stop until the plant is operational. According to Foley Construction, mid-June is the best case scenario of when the water treatment plant will be operational. Much of the schedule will depend on how smoothly the demonstration period goes when they start up the plant for

testing. With any new plant there are typically a number of “bugs” that need to be worked out during testing. Mid-April is the current substantial completion deadline, so the contractor is at least two months behind schedule. Foley and their subcontractors are working hard to ensure they are able to achieve substantial completion by mid-June, including bringing in additional workers and putting in a fair amount of overtime.

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## Treatment Plant to be Operational This Summer *continued*



Lime silos



Electrical cable trays and duct work.

Over the winter Foley and their subcontractors advanced a significant amount of work in all areas of the building but with primary focus on the administrative area, chemical feed area, gravity thickener and lime silos. The lobby, offices and conference room have really taken shape and the staff is expected to move in by early May. Electrical, HVAC and plumbing work is also nearly finished. Most of the chemical feed lines and equipment are installed. The lime silos and most of the related equipment have been installed, and the last of the precast concrete wall panels have been erected. In the gravity thickener, overflow troughs are finished and the basin bridge, mechanism equipment and piping

have been installed. An aluminum dome over the gravity thickener is completed. The eight filters have been leak tested and the underdrains are finished, as well as the filter backwash overflow troughs and the filter control consoles. The four solids contact basins have also been successfully leak tested, and startup and training is complete for the mechanisms. Casework has been installed in the laboratory and the control room is coming together. In the maintenance area, the bridge crane has been installed along with the radiant heat system, service water, gas and air piping. The concrete parking lot and some of the driveways have been completed. Metal exterior paneling has been installed on top of the walls.

## FEMA Approves Disaster Aid for Revetment Repair



The Federal Emergency Management Agency in early March gave final approval for disaster funding to repair a short stretch of revetment for the Lewis & Clark's (L&C) river bank stabilization that was breached during the record setting Missouri River releases this past summer. Just north of the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge, L&C has a one mile stretch of revetment that protects its primary well field from erosion. Close to 550 feet of revetment was destroyed and another 330 feet was damaged by the record flows.

L&C will pay ten percent of the actual costs to make the repairs, which is estimated to cost \$660,000. This is a unique revetment in that the rip rap is covered with soil, and then willow trees and other vegetation are planted on top to provide for a more natural looking river bank. "Locked logs" are also jugged into the river to help deflect the current away from the river bank. An estimated 18,000 tons of rock and 12,000 willow trees will be used to make the repair. It will take Lake Region Contracting about eight weeks to complete the repair work, which is expected to be finished by mid-May.



## 85th Street Water Tower Nearing Completion



The water tower holds three million gallons and stands 190' tall.

After experiencing a number of delays, the 85th Street water tower is expected to reach substantial completion in late April once the leak testing, tank disinfection and control system have been completed. The substantial completion deadline was November 2011. Before suspending work for the winter, Landmark Structures made significant progress installing the chemical feed system, HVAC and plumbing, fencing and finishing out the work area.



24" piping connecting the transmission line with the piping in the base of the water tower.





\$194  
MILLION

REMAINING FEDERAL COST SHARE AS OF FY11

## Additional \$5 Million Included in FY12 Budget

### Contract for Minnesota – Segment 1A to be Awarded in May

With only \$487,000 included in the proposed budget for FY12, Lewis & Clark (L&C) officials were relieved that an additional \$5 million was included in early February in the FY12 Omnibus Budget bill. The funding will be used to build roughly three of the six miles of 24 inch line that is needed to connect Rock Rapids. While thankful to the tri-state congressional delegation and Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) officials for the additional funding, L&C officials had hoped for at least \$9 million in order to reach Rock Rapids. The City is now expected to receive water in the fall of 2013 instead of the fall of 2012.

The \$5 million was part of \$30 million in unallocated funds that Senator Johnson and other congressional leaders secured for BoR's rural water program. Because of the earmark ban that unfortunately includes authorized projects, the final funding decision was left up to BoR. At the urging of the tri-state congressional delegation, BoR officials agreed to consider population served, pre-payment of the non-federal cost share and economic development impact when distributing the \$30 million. Spearheaded by Senator Klobuchar, the tri-state congressional delegation sent a joint letter of support in late January to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar,

BoR Commissioner Mike Connor and the Office of Management & Budget to urge as much of the \$30 million as possible be designated to L&C.

With these additional criteria, the strong support of the congressional delegation and Mni Wiconi off the table since that project received the vast majority of the rural water funding in the FY12 Budget, L&C officials were optimistic that out of the remaining six water projects it would receive at least the \$9 million needed to reach Rock Rapids. BoR Commissioner Mike Connor said there was not enough money for each project to reach their next connection, so "some tough decisions had to be made." Unfortunately, with tribal projects being a priority for BoR L&C came out on the short end of the stick.

The remaining federal cost share is approximately \$194 million. To put the \$5,487,000 in FY12 funding into perspective, it does not even cover the estimated inflationary increase in 2012 of \$8.5 million. Even if L&C were to receive \$10 million a year, and assuming a conservative four percent rate of inflation (as calculated by BoR, inflation from Oct. 2010 to Oct. 2011 was 4.48%), the project would not be completed until 2050!

## Administration's FY13 Budget Only Includes \$4.5 Million for Project

The tri-state congressional delegation really went to bat in various meetings and letters to the Administration to urge increased funding for Lewis & Clark (L&C) in the FY13 Budget. While L&C officials were pleased the \$4.5 million proposed by the Administration in mid-February in the FY13 Budget is much higher on a percentage basis than the \$493,000 proposed in the FY12 Budget, "it is still a far cry from what is needed to make any meaningful construction progress," said Chairman Red Arndt. As they did with the FY12 Budget, L&C officials are urging the tri-state congressional delegation to again

secure additional funding for BoR's rural water program. The earmark ban that includes authorized projects will unfortunately remain in effect for the FY13 Budget, so BoR would again decide where the funds are allocated should this occur. L&C is pressing to exclude authorized projects from the earmark ban in time for the FY14 Budget. As was the case with the FY12 funding, the proposed \$4.5 million does not even come close to covering the annual inflation on the project. See Chairman Arndt's column on page 6 for additional reaction to the FY13 Budget and earmark ban.

FY12  
FEDERAL  
FUNDING

\$5.4  
MILLION

## Pipeline Commissioning Moved Up – Five Members to Begin Receiving Water in May

The Pipeline Commissioning involves the final disinfection of the main trunk line and service lines in order to prepare the pipes for delivering treated water. Judds Brothers is the contractor. The plan had been to disinfect the lines about one week before the water treatment plant goes into operation so the water in the line would still be potable. To perform the disinfection, Lewis & Clark (L&C) will need to purchase nine million gallons a day for five consecutive days from Sioux Falls. Prior to May 1 that is not a problem, but the treatment plant is behind schedule. Providing this much water in late June or July would be a challenge for the City.

At the recommendation of Banner engineers, the lines will now be disinfected in early May and then to keep the water in the lines potable L&C will purchase 1.5 million gallons a

day of water from Sioux Falls and deliver it to five southern members for their use beginning in mid-May, rather than flushing it on the ground. These members include Beresford, Centerville, Lennox, Parker and Minnehaha Community Water Corp – West. The lines to connect the L&C meter house with South Lincoln RWS system are not yet in place, otherwise they would be included.

This also allows L&C staff to work out the “bugs” in the meter houses, pump stations and other distribution infrastructure prior to the treatment plant start-up so they are not putting out fires in both places at the same time. This benefits both L&C and the members by ensuring water is delivered as soon as possible.

## Lewis & Clark Hires Five New Employees



Becker, Duchscher, Walsh, Heck and Fischer.

A warm welcome aboard to Lewis & Clark's five new operations team members! Water operators Mike Duchscher, Justin (JD) Walsh, Chris Heck and Darin Fischer started in mid-February. Electronics Maintenance Technician Shain Becker started in mid-March.

Shain has an Electrical Construction and Maintenance degree from Mitchell Tech. He has been the electrical superintendent for E&I Electric (electrical subcontractor to Foley) since day one for both phases of the water treatment plant, so he is uniquely qualified for this position. He worked for E&I since 2001. Shain and his family live south of Parker, but he is originally from Wells, MN.

Mike and his family live in Yankton. He has a B.S. in Biology from Valley City State in ND, and worked as a wastewater operator for the City of Yankton for the last two and a half years. Mike has a class III certificate in wastewater. He is originally from Rugby, ND.

JD lives in Vermillion. He spent 10 years in the United States Air Force as a Utilities Systems Craftsman and, as such, he operated and maintained water, sewer and natural gas systems at various Air Force bases, with Grand Forks being his last station. JD has grade II certifications in water distribution and wastewater collection from ND. He is originally from Medicine Lake, MT in the northeast part of the State. JD and Plant Supervisor Jason McBride went to the same high school.

Chris and his wife live in Vermillion. His most recent work experience is as a Photo Lab Specialist at the Vermillion Wal-Mart. He has also worked as a tender/driver for a local fertilizer plant where he blended and field delivered dry and liquid fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to area farmers. Chris is originally from the Deadwood/Spearfish area of the Black Hills. He graduated high school from Sunshine Bible Academy near Miller in central SD.

Darin Fischer lives and runs horses near Centerville, but is originally from nearby Viborg. He worked for Judds Brothers Construction as a heavy equipment operator since 2005. Judds Brothers did the site piping at the Tea Reservoir, as well as the pipeline commissioning project. In addition to operating heavy equipment, he installed pipe, repaired leaks and built structures. Darin was on site from start to finish for the construction of Omaha's water treatment plant that was completed about four years ago.

It is great to have these gentlemen part of the Lewis & Clark team!





I have been involved with Lewis & Clark since its start in 1990. The project is 65% completed. Despite countless hurdles the last 22 years, I remain optimistic it will eventually be completed but the big question is when. Our latest funding challenges have made me really question whether the federal government is going to leave us high and dry.

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*It is hypocritical for the Administration to only propose \$4.5 million for Lewis & Clark when job creation is supposedly their top priority.*

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It is hypocritical for the Administration to only propose \$4.5 million for Lewis & Clark when job creation is supposedly their top priority. We are as shovel ready as you can get. The remaining federal cost share of \$194 million represents as many as 5,500 short-term jobs, plus thousands of long-term jobs from expanded economic development opportunities. A pork processing plant in Worthington, an ethanol plant in Luverne and a cheese factory in Hull cannot expand without more water. These are just a few examples of how the lack of water is stifling economic development. Some members are also battling water quality issues, which impacts quality of life.

The \$4.5 million proposed for FY13 is much higher on a percentage basis than the \$493,000 proposed last year, and for that we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the tri-state congressional delegation and Bureau of Reclamation officials for their efforts to help make that happen. However, it is a far cry from what is needed to make any meaningful progress. The proposed \$4.5 million will not even cover the estimated inflationary increase of \$8.5 million this year. Even if Lewis & Clark receives \$10 million a year, the project would not be completed until 2050. This is completely unacceptable and a terrible disservice to the taxpayers!

We all understand our country's financial struggles, but when times are tough you prioritize and go back to the basics. What is more basic than drinking water? The

Department of Interior's FY13 Budget includes \$45 million to study fracking. The oil and natural gas companies are making record profits. Let them pay for their own 'fracking' study! As Senator Al Franken suggested to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar at a recent budget hearing, this \$45 million should instead be prioritized to Lewis & Clark and other rural water projects. We couldn't agree with him more.

The messed up budget process the last couple years is another story. It is stupid for Congress to include authorized projects in the earmark ban. We had close to ten years of meetings and hearings for Lewis & Clark to be authorized and signed into law in 2000 with a federal cost share of \$270 million, which because of inflation now totals over \$396 million. Lewis & Clark is not an earmark! We appreciate that our tri-state congressional delegation agrees authorized projects should be excluded from the earmark ban, but we need action. We call on them to help get this changed soon.

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Lewis & Clark's members and the over 300,000 people they serve in the tri-state region have gone far above and beyond. This includes pre-paying over \$153 million (99.7% of cost share) and spending another \$9.3 million in unplanned infrastructure upgrades and repairs because of the delay in receiving Lewis & Clark water. The members of Lewis & Clark are beyond feeling frustrated and disappointed, we are angry and outraged with how the federal government has dropped the ball. It is way past due that the federal government holds up its end of the deal!



## Seven Meter Houses Completed

Hoogendoorn Construction reached substantial completion in early April on the last of the seven meter houses, which were part of two different contracts. This included meter buildings for Centerville, Lennox, Minnehaha Community Water Corp – West, South Lincoln RWS, Beresford, Parker and Sioux Falls – Benson Road. The first four listed were pre-fabricated meter houses, with the exterior walls and roofs going up after they arrived on site. The contractor experienced lengthy delays getting the pre-fabricated meter houses from the factory in Wisconsin. The last three were built from the ground up on site and that process went more smoothly. Over the winter the exterior walls and roofs were constructed. The chemical feed equipment was installed and all the related piping was pressure tested and disinfected. Antennas and other communications equipment have also been installed. Staff equipment training is underway.



Sioux Falls - Benson Road meter house.

## Tea Pump Station Almost Completed After Lengthy Delays



Roof going up over surge tank (background) and pipe gallery.

After many challenges and delays that were often beyond their control, Eriksen Construction expects to reach substantial completion on the Tea pump station by late April. November 2011 was the substantial completion deadline. Three of the eight high service pumps finally arrived in late December (they were originally supposed to arrive last March), only to all be damaged during testing

and returned to the factory in Indianapolis for repair. The three repaired pumps, along with a fourth pump, were re-installed and passed their final performance tests in late-March. The other four pumps are part of the final completion deadline, which is 90 days after substantial completion is reached. There were also delays getting the control panels for the pumps.

Over the winter Eriksen focused efforts on installation of the chemical feed systems, instrumentation and control systems, interior process piping, exterior and interior architectural finishes, site grading and pavement, as well as installation of the Solar Bee mixing systems inside the two 7.5 million gallon reservoirs. These systems ensure the water in the reservoirs is mixed to prevent problems with water age. Michael's Fence out of Sioux Falls (Natgun's subcontractor), installed the perimeter fencing and gates around the reservoir site.





## Dan Cook Retires, Brent Hoffmann Joins Board of Directors



Dan Cook

Long-time Lewis & Clark (L&C) Director Dan Cook retired in March of last year as manager of Rock County Rural Water District (RCRWD). He remained on the L&C Board for several months, resigning from the Board this past December. Dan served with distinction on the L&C Board since 1993, including service on the Construction and Executive Committees. Having helped build RCRWD from the ground up, his background and experience have been invaluable to L&C during planning and construction. “Dan always helped us consider all the options before making a decision,” said Executive Director Troy Larson. He and his wife, Diane, recently moved to Sioux Falls and had the opportunity to spend an extended period of time this past winter in Hawaii. Everyone at L&C extends their sincere thanks and appreciation to Dan for his countless contributions through the years and best wishes in his future endeavors!

Brent Hoffmann was appointed to the Board this past December and has jumped right in, including serving on the Construction Committee. He started with RCRWD in July 2010 and was promoted to manager in March 2011. His previous work included four and a half years doing GIS software



Brent Hoffmann

mapping for a company in St. Cloud. Brent has an Associate’s Degree in Water Environment Treatment Technologies from St. Cloud Technical College, as well as a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from St. Cloud State, where he also played club level lacrosse.

Brent is originally from Sartell, a suburb of St. Cloud. He got engaged this past January, with the wedding to take place in September 2013. Brent is a self-described “big time outdoorsman,” and is active in Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited. Fishing and waterfowl/upland game hunting are his main extracurricular activities, with softball leagues thrown in during the summer. When asked what he likes to fish he responded “whatever bites.” Great to have you aboard, Brent!