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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Recognizes Troy Larson as the 2024 Rural Water Manager of the Year

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems is pleased to announce Troy Larson, the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Executive Director, as the 2024 Rural Water Manager of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes Troy's exceptional leadership, vision, and dedication to advancing rural water systems in South Dakota and beyond.

Since assuming the role of Executive Director in 2003, Troy has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the growth and sustainability of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. This past year marked a milestone under his leadership, with the connection of the system's final three members—Sheldon, Madison, and Sibley—and the completion of the last segment of its 310-mile transmission line. These achievements culminate two decades of meticulous planning, construction, and collaboration.

In addition to these accomplishments, Troy secured 17 million gallons per day (MGD) of additional water rights, paving the way for future system expansion. His collaborative efforts with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), legislators, and stakeholders were instrumental in securing \$83.3 million in ARPA funding for critical water projects.

Looking ahead, Troy is spearheading innovative strategies to meet future capacity needs, including exploring options to expand the system's capacity beyond 60 MGD. His forward-thinking approach ensures the long-term sustainability and reliability of the system, benefiting member communities for generations to come.

Troy's tireless dedication, strategic vision, and ability to achieve remarkable results make him a deserving recipient of the Rural Water Manager of the Year Award.

About the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS): The SDARWS is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to enhancing South Dakota's water and wastewater industries. Through training, on-site technical assistance, and the Annual Technical Conference, SDARWS supports rural and municipal water and wastewater systems in operations, management, boardmanship, and governance. The organization is financially supported by its membership dues and grant programs, embodying a member-driven approach.