

# Explorer Summer 2018

## Rock Rapids Celebrates Lewis & Clark Connection!

A well-attended dedication ceremony was held at the Rock Rapids treatment plant on June 19 to celebrate the connection between L&C and Rock Rapids. Rock Rapids started blending L&C water with its existing sources last October, but they wanted to hold off on having a ceremony until their staff got the blending down pat and the weather cooperated. Speakers included Rock Rapids Utilities general manager Jim Hoyer, former long-time Rock Rapids Utilities board member Gene Metzger, current Rock Rapids Utilities president Randy Koll, Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson. Staff members from Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst and Rep. King shared their congratulations. Officials were also in attendance from Hull, Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Luverne, Sioux Center, Worthington, DGR, Lyon & Sioux RWS and

Rural Development. Rock Rapids presented attendees with commemorative glasses, which were filled with water and toasted to conclude the ceremony.

Rock Rapids has been purchasing water from L&C and re-selling it to neighboring Lyon & Sioux since 2012, but because they joined the project after authorization they needed to construct 13 miles of pipe to connect the city to L&C's meter building on the IA/MN border. They partnered with Lyon & Sioux to finish the pipeline. Rock Rapids continues to sell water to Lyon & Sioux, but now some of the L&C water is also being used by the residents of Rock Rapids. Congratulations to Rock Rapids on having another source of water that will be a legacy for generations to come!



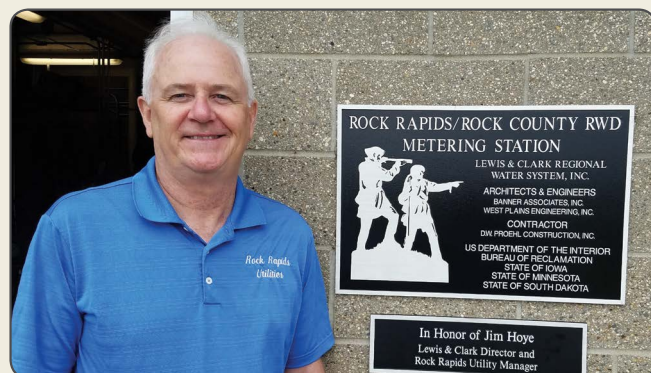
(Photo on left): To celebrate the occasion, L&C officials presented Rock Rapids with a framed collage of construction photos. Left to right: Rock Rapids Utilities board member Rhonda Menning, Lincoln Pipestone's Jerry Lonneman, Hoyer, Larson, Arndt, Koll, and Hull's Jim Collins.

(Photo on bottom): The group celebrates with a toast of fresh L&C water!



## Meter Building Dedicated in Jim Hoyer's Honor

Prior to the ceremony for the Rock Rapids-L&C connection, a ribbon cutting was held at the joint Rock Rapids-Rock County RWD meter building, located 13 miles from Rock Rapids along the IA/MN border. L&C officials surprised Director Jim Hoyer by dedicating the meter building in his honor. Jim has served on the board for over 16 years, and has been active on various committees and made trips to Des Moines and DC. As general manager of Rock Rapids Utilities, he also played a key role in Rock Rapids re-joining L&C after authorization. Chairman Red Arndt told Jim "Even though this building in the middle of nowhere will never be a tourist destination, please know this plaque and our dedicating it in your honor represents our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your 16 years and counting



of dedicated service, as well as your leadership in making the case that Rock Rapids should re-join L&C. For generations to come the citizens of Rock Rapids will enjoy an improved quality of life and expanded economic development opportunities because of the L&C connection. You can take great pride in the important role you played in helping to make that happen. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Jim!"

## Contract Awarded for Four Vertical Wells

### Design Starts for Radial Collector Well



This 54 inch diameter section of steel casing pipe is being set vertically to act as a guide for the large drilling rig which will drill a 48 inch hole for the replacement well

On June 7 a \$2,027,891 contract was awarded to Welf Construction of Yankton to construct four vertical wells to replace four angle wells being abandoned due to on-going problems with decreased production and increased O&M expenses. The original plan was to construct two wells in 2018 and two in 2019, but a \$95,000 change order credit was later issued changing

the timeline to one well in 2018 and three in 2019. This brings the new total to \$1,932,891. Construction on the first well started on August 13 and will be completed by the end of the year.

Federal funding will be used for the replacement wells because the angle wells were recommended in 2002 by the Value-Engineering Review Team led by Reclamation. "The goal of the angle wells was to increase production and save cost. Unfortunately, the opposite turned out to be true for angle wells, which at the time were relatively new to the rural water industry. We are now going back to the vertical wells originally planned by the engineers," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

On a related note, HDR recently started designing a radial collector well that will be located in L&C's wellfield, which is part of the Frost Game Production Area just north of the Vermillion-Newcastle bridge. Because of environmental restrictions, the radial collector well will need to be constructed over a two year period. The plan is to award the contract in early 2019 and have construction completed by late 2020. No testing has been done yet, but L&C staff hope the radial collector well will produce in the neighborhood of 16 million gallons a day.



## Holtz and Gulbranson join the Board of Directors



Ryan Holtz



Jeremy Gulbranson

Ryan Holtz, the new manager of the Rock County RWD, was appointed to the L&C Board of Directors in April and Jeremy Gulbranson, Lennox's Water & Sewer Superintendent, was appointed in May. They take over for Brent Hoffmann and Dennis Weeldreyer respectively. Welcome aboard, Ryan and Jeremy!

Ryan grew up in rural Luverne, graduated from Alexandria Technical College and moved back to the area 11 years ago. He worked the last five years as a water/wastewater operator for the City of Adrian. He and his wife Crystal have four boys ages 20, 14, 11 and 7. Ryan enjoys fishing and camping with the family.

Jeremy is from Eveleth, MN. He enjoyed a distinguished baseball career at the University of Duluth. Before arriving in Lennox in 2015, Jeremy worked for the City of St. Paul for eight years. During that time he headed up MN's largest utility relocation project in history. It was a billion dollar project over five years to relocate all the water and sewer lines from downtown Minneapolis to downtown St. Paul to make way for the Light Rail Transit system. Jeremy has two children – a 9 year old son and a 6 year old daughter. He likes to hunt and fish.

## Reynolds Signs Iowa's \$4.75M Federal Funding Advance into Law!

This past session the Legislature approved the infrastructure budget, which included Governor Kim Reynolds' request for a \$4.75M federal funding advance for L&C! On June 1 she signed the infrastructure budget into law. The funds will be used for a 10 mile segment of pipeline starting at Sioux Center and heading west, which is expected to be awarded this fall.

During the 2017 session a \$2.25M advance was approved, which is being used to complete the engineering and acquire easements for the line between Sioux Center and the Big Sioux River, so the two-year total was \$7M. "We cannot thank Governor Reynolds and legislative leaders enough for going to bat for northwest Iowa. These funds are a huge shot in the arm in terms of keeping construction moving forward, but also giving us more ammunition to try to leverage additional federal funding," said Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center.

In Sheldon on July 23 the Iowa members met with local legislators to discuss a \$3.5M federal funding advance over two years for the Big Sioux River crossing.

The legislators voiced support for the request during the upcoming session. Iowa members held a follow-up conference call with Reynold's senior staff to get the request on their radar screen. The staff voiced the governor's continued support of the project, but understandably said no budget commitments will be made until later this year.



Hull officials thanked Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg for their support of L&C during a stop in Hull on May 11. Left to right: Councilman Les Van Roekel, Reynolds, City Administrator Jim Collins and Gregg.

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Meeting in Sheldon with local legislators. Left to right: L&C's Troy Larson, Sibley's Glenn Anderson, Sioux Center's Murray Hulstein, Sioux Center's Scott Wynja, Senator Randy Feenstra, Rep. Skyler Wheeler, Rep. Dan Huseman, Senate candidate Zach Whiting, Hull's Jim Collins, Sheldon's Todd Uhl, Sheldon Mayor Katricia Meendering, Sibley's Larry Pedley and L&C lobbyist Paula Dierenfeld.

## Worthington and MCWC Meter Buildings

KHC started constructing the Worthington meter building next to the city's treatment plant and reservoir on October 10, 2017 and reached substantial completion on August 29 (see photo below). Worthington will not be able to take water though until the Nobles County reservoir and the pipeline between the city and Adrian are completed, which hopefully will happen in November.



KHC got a late start on the MCWC-East meter building located on land owned by the First Slavic Church along Six Mile Road southeast of Sioux Falls. They did not start moving dirt until July 31 and the substantial completion deadline is currently November 2. Foundation work is underway in the photo below. All the controls and equipment have been delivered, so the contractor believes they can still meet the increasingly tight deadline.





## MCWC-East Service Line Operational

Winter Brothers Underground (WBU) reached substantial completion on the MCWC-East service line on August 3. This is a 3.5 mile segment of 16 inch PVC pipe along Six Mile Road in southeast Sioux Falls. All the pipe was installed last year except for the boring under Arrowhead Parkway (a.k.a. Highway 42). WBU ran into rock and Banner needed to work with City officials and the contractor over the winter to come up with a Plan B for the boring, which was ultimately successful. The photo below is looking south and shows the northwest corner of the intersection of Arrowhead Parkway and Six Mile Road. This is where the pipeline connects into MCWC's distribution system.

For member connections the meter building is always located at the end of L&C's pipeline. The one exception is the MCWC-East meter building, which is

located 1.5 miles south of the end of the line because that is the closest L&C could feasibly acquire a permanent easement. MCWC started taking a limited amount of water on August 14. They will not be able to access their full reserved capacity on this line until the MCWC-East meter building is completed (see story on opposite page).



## Pipeline to Worthington Nearing Completion

The 15-mile segment of PVC pipeline between Adrian and Worthington includes three different pipe sizes – five miles of 24 inch diameter, just over four miles of 20 inch and close to six miles of 16 inch. As of the end of August S.J. Louis installed 57,300 feet of the 79,540 feet (72%).

After they finish pipe installation they will pressure test, flush and disinfect the line. With extra days they were given due to wet weather, the current substantial completion deadline is November 17. The contractor feels confident about meeting that deadline.





## Construction on Reservoirs

Preload is wrapping up work on the four million gallon Rock County reservoir southwest of Luverne. They have experienced a variety of different delays. It is anticipated they will reach substantial completion by mid-September.

In mid-May Preload started construction on the two million gallon Nobles County reservoir west of Worthington. The floor has been poured and the wall panels are going up.



# Tristate Delegation Fights to Increase FY19 Funding

After the administration's proposed FY19 Budget only included \$100,000 for L&C compared to \$3.65M the previous year, the delegation once again went to work to increase funding for the Rural Water Program. With the earmark ban that wrongly includes fully vetted authorized projects like L&C, this is the only avenue available for the delegation to help. The administration's overall proposed funding for the five authorized rural water projects was slashed from \$25.975M in FY18 to \$13.795M. This meant an even heavier lift for the delegation.

Led by Rep. Noem with strong support from Reps. King and Walz, the House Energy & Water Appropriations Bill approved in mid-May included an additional \$98M for the Rural Water Program. A week later the Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill was marked up in committee with only an additional \$86M. Typically, the Senate number is higher or on par with the House number. Led by Senator Thune and his staff, an amendment supported by Senators Grassley, Klobuchar, Rounds, Ernst and Smith was approved by the full Senate in late June, moving funding from a dormant Corps of Engineers project to increase funding by another \$13.5M, for a total of \$99.5M. “The proposed \$100,000 would not even cover Reclamation’s annual cost to oversee the project. We cannot thank our delegation enough for again going above and beyond to increase funding” said Executive Director Troy Larson.



Senator Klobuchar met with Worthington and L&C officials on April 30 to discuss construction and funding. She also toured construction on the Worthington meter building. Left to right: Larson, Arndt, WPU General Manager Scott Hain, Klobuchar, Mayor Mike Kuhle, WPU President Gary Hoffmann, Chamber's Darlene Macklin and City Administrator Steve Robinson.



Arndt and Larson thanked Senators Thune (below) and Rounds for their efforts to increase FY19 funding at events in Sioux Falls on August 7



## Feeney and Davis Recognized at 28th Annual Membership Meeting

The members were well represented at the Annual Membership meeting in Tea on May 24. Staff members from the congressional offices of Grassley, Thune, Klobuchar, Rounds, Ernst, Smith, King, Walz and Noem were in attendance, as were some local legislators. It was an exceptionally busy, productive, and challenging year, so Executive Director Troy Larson had a lot to cover in providing an update on operations, construction and funding.

Jim Feeney, a distinguished 29-year employee of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was honored with the Spirit of Discovery Award for his strong support, valuable counsel and candid feedback through the years. This past April he made the move from Pierre to the Southeast Council of Governments in Sioux Falls. Jim was involved with the project from the very start when the idea for the water system was called the Southeastern South Dakota Water Supply Project. On many occasions Jim went to bat for Lewis & Clark, including coming up with the idea of how to secure a \$7.7M federal funding advance for the

Madison “wheeling plan.” Chairman Red Arndt remarked, “Jim was a huge help to us in navigating the winding roads of state funding and regulations. His advice and counsel will be greatly missed.”

Denny Davis retired this past April after a remarkable 39-year career as Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. He played a key role in the development of what eventually became known as Lewis & Clark. Denny shared some interesting stories of those early efforts to get the project off the ground and the challenges that were faced on Capitol Hill. A collector of knives, Denny was then presented with an engraved hand-crafted knife as a Special Recognition. Larson said, “Denny, we cannot thank you enough for your support and advocacy. Whether it was in those early years of getting the project started, going to D.C. or being our eyes and ears in Pierre, you were always there for us.”



Arndt presented the Spirit of Discovery Award to Feeney



Larson presented the Special Recognition to Davis



## Backup Generator Being Added to the Tea Pump Station

With 93 percent of the water L&C sells passing through the Tea pump station, this is the main hub in the distribution system. Ever since the System began operations in July 2012, the Tea pump station has not had a backup generator as project officials have focused on using funding to put more pipe in the ground. Using a combination of federal funds and remaining funds from SD's \$7.7M federal funding advance, the board agreed with staff's recommendation to add the backup generator, which is part of the authorized system. A \$1,017,400 contract was awarded on June 27 to American Electric of Sioux Falls to install a 1,500 kW Cat generator. It is a barely used 2010 model with only four hours on it, which saved just over \$350,000 compared to the bid for a new generator.

L&C receives WAPA power from May 1 to October 31. During the other six months L&C will use the generator to participate in Southeastern Electric's load shedding and load shaving

The Tea pump station is located between two 7.5 million gallon reservoirs

programs, reducing overall electrical costs. "Other than brief flickers, there were no power outages at the pump station for close to six years. It was only after the decision was made to add the backup generator that ironically we've had three outages for roughly one hour each this summer, mainly related to road construction around Tea. From an operations standpoint, we can't get the generator installed fast enough," said Operations Manager Jim Auen. Prep work for installation of the generator started in late August and the substantial completion deadline is April 2019.

1,500 kW  
Cat Backup  
Generator



## Pipeline Coating Issues Remain Unresolved

The segment of pipeline between Magnolia and Adrian, known as Minnesota – Segment 3B, includes ten miles of 24 inch diameter steel pipe and two miles of 16 inch PVC pipe. Attorneys for L&C continue to work through the courts in an effort to favorably resolve the issues surrounding the defective exterior protective coating that is believed to be on nine miles of the steel pipe. The coating is not adhering to the pipe as strongly as required by the specifications. L&C and Banner officials were told equipment used at Ameron's plant in Mexico to prepare

the pipe exterior before being coated was not functioning properly, which was the cause of the problem. Carstensen, the general contractor, hired a third-party engineering firm to confirm these findings. The coating applied after the fixes were made to the equipment, which involved the last mile of steel pipe, has thus far met specifications. A day-long mediation session in Minneapolis on August 22 proved unsuccessful, so L&C is continuing to pursue its legal remedies.



## Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) provides oversight of L&C's construction and federal funding. L&C is part of BoR's Great Plains Region headquartered in Billings, with offices in Bismarck and Pierre. Mike Black was appointed the new Regional Director this past January. He transferred from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is originally from Aberdeen. Chairman Red Arndt and Executive Director Troy Larson traveled to Billings on April 19 to meet with Mike, Deputy Regional Director John Soucy and Financial Manager Gloria Shaw. They provided Mike with background on the project and updated the three of them on planned construction and funding needs. It was a very productive meeting.

As he works to learn more about the water projects under his purview, Mike accepted L&C's invitation to attend the annual meeting on May 24. Earlier in the day he and other BoR officials toured the Tea pump station and reservoirs, wellfield and treatment plant. "L&C has enjoyed a long and productive partnership with BoR. We cannot thank Mike enough for taking the time to meet with us in Billings, as well as attend our annual meeting and tour the infrastructure to get a better idea of the scope, scale and mission of L&C," said Larson.



Arndt, Soucy, Black, Shaw and Larson in Billings



Soucy, Area Manager Arden Freitag of Bismarck, Black and Deputy Rural Water Manager Stacy Myhre of Pierre touring the high service pump station at the treatment plant

## Rock County Pump Station

### Adrian Meter Building



Gridor Construction reached substantial completion on the Adrian meter building/pump station on March 4 and hit the same milestone on the Rock County pump station on May 2. Water will not be delivered to Lincoln Pipestone RWS at their second connection near Adrian until the Nobles County reservoir west of Worthington reaches substantial completion this fall.



## Members Impressed by Tour of Treatment Plant and Wellfield

Officials from 13 of the 20 members toured the wellfield and treatment plant on July 26. Represented were Centerville, Hull, Lennox, Luverne, Madison, Parker, Rock County RWD, Rock Rapids, Sheldon, Sibley, Sioux Center, Sioux Falls, and South Lincoln RWS, as well as the SD Association of Rural Water Systems and Wells Fargo. For many this was their first chance to see the infrastructure, which helped them put the scope and scale of the project into perspective. In describing the

plant afterward to the local newspaper, Director Todd Uhl of Sheldon said it best when he said, "It's kind of like what we have in our communities back here, except on steroids." He went on to say, "As board members, it's nice for us to get there on occasion. We get reminded of what we have for assets and operations, and we bump into staff we don't normally see. The staff there does a good job of keeping it clean. It looks like something to be proud of."



WAPA officials met with L&C staff and toured the Tea pump station and reservoirs on August 1. Jody Sundsted and Lori Frisk-Thompson are the new Regional Manager and Power Marketing Manager respectively in Billings, and Tracy Thorne is a long-time public utilities specialist in Huron (left to right). As part of its authorization, which ties back to the Pick-Sloan Act that created the dams in the 1950's, L&C receives lower cost WAPA power during the May 1 to October 31 "irrigation season". This results in significant savings for L&C's members. "The meeting and tour were a great opportunity for us to provide Jody and Lori with a better understanding of the project and our partnership with WAPA," said Executive Director Troy Larson.



## Pipeline Contract Awarded Between Beresford and the Big Sioux River

A \$9,198,153 contract was awarded to Carstensen Contracting of Pipestone, MN on August 23 for an 11.2 mile segment of 24 inch diameter PVC pipe starting at Beresford and heading east toward the Big Sioux River. "The bid was \$2.6 million below the engineer's estimate, so great news in terms of stretching our funding as far as possible," said Executive Director Troy Larson. Construction will start this fall and the substantial completion deadline is December 2019.

This pipeline is part of the "Iowa Transmission Line" that starts at Beresford and will connect Sioux Center, Hull

and Sheldon. L&C plans to award a contract this fall for 10 miles of 24 inch diameter PVC pipe starting at Sioux Center and heading west, so there will be construction underway on both ends. When these two projects are completed there will still be 12.6 miles of pipeline in the middle, which includes the river crossing. Future funding levels will determine when that project is awarded. A meter building at Sioux Center, water tower east of Beresford, and adding pumps to the Beresford pump station are also needed before water can be delivered. Based on recent funding levels, it is anticipated Sioux Center and Hull should be connected by the end of 2022.

## Weeldreyer Honored by Lewis & Clark

Dennis Weeldreyer retired in April from the board after 15 years of dedicated and distinguished service, which included serving on multiple committees and representing L&C for six years on the SD Association of Rural Water Systems' board. He was also on the city council when Lennox joined L&C, and he later continued his support as mayor. In recognition of Dennis' many contributions, the meter building in Lennox was dedicated in his honor on May 14. Mayor Orville Wiebers declared it "Dennis Weeldreyer Day". To commemorate his estimated 6,000 hours sitting in meetings during his combined 67 years of public service, the L&C staff had some fun by presenting him with a butt pad.

Dennis was unable to attend the annual meeting, so at the June 27 board meeting Dennis was given the organization's highest honor – the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award. Vice-chairman Murray Hulstein (below) made the presentation. He noted, "Dennis is trustworthy, hard-working, dedicated, humble and unassuming. I think the highest compliment we can give Dennis is that he earned and deserved every ounce of respect from those with whom he worked and served." Thank you, Dennis!





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Tea, SD 57064

## Operations Update

A wetter than normal summer has reduced water sales. In June, July and August, L&C delivered an average of 18 million gallons a day, a reduction of 6% compared to those same months last year. Two vertical wells were rehabbed in April. Two firms using different methods were hired to each rehab one well to determine which method restored the most capacity. A third method used by a third firm was previously determined to be ineffective. In the end, the method used by Sargent Drilling proved the most effective in terms of cost and capacity. Their method restored 63% of the lost capacity, compared to 37% and 0% for the other methods. “This provides the operations team with important insight going forward in terms of how to properly maintain our wells – the lifeblood of our system,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

The certified truck scale at the treatment plant installed by Webster Scale went into operation on June 7 (see photo at right). Lime is a byproduct of the treatment process and has many ag-related uses. L&C pays by the ton for removal of lime from the three drying beds, so an on-site scale will save money in the long-run by cutting down on transportation costs. The trucks had been traveling 20 miles round-trip to the nearest scale.

L&C’s attorneys continue to work with the roof membrane manufacturer to resolve what is currently a \$360,000 claim related to work recently completed in order to extend the life of what L&C officials believe is a defective roof membrane at the treatment plant. These improvements included installing metal fasteners, ballast and vents (see photo above) to hopefully prevent the roof membrane from blowing off, which happened to a portion of the roof in December 2016.

