

  
**Lewis & Clark**  
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

# Explorer

Summer 2023

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Sioux Center & Hull

A jubilant crowd of over 80 people attended the joint ribbon cutting ceremony that was held for Sioux Center and Hull on May 2 in Sioux Center. It was a long awaited opportunity to celebrate the communities finally being connected to L&C – Sioux Center on April 4 and Hull on April 5. Speakers included: Congressman Randy Feenstra, who lives in Hull and served for several years on the L&C board; BoR Regional Director Brent Esplin; Sioux Center Mayor David Krahling; Hull Mayor Arlan Moss; Chairman and Sioux Center Utilities Manager Murray Hulstein; and Kolby DeWitt with Senator Joni Ernst.

Vice-Chairman Scott Hain of Worthington announced that the Sioux Center meter building was being dedicated in Murray's honor. "Over the past 30-plus years, Murray has poured his heart and soul into turning the dream of Lewis & Clark into a reality, not only to benefit his community but the entire tristate region. When the history of Lewis & Clark is written and future generations talk about the giants on whose shoulders we stand, there is no doubt Murray is one of those giants," said Hain.

A lunch was held after the ceremony, followed by a photo-op ribbon cutting at the Hull meter building. Thanks to all who helped celebrate!

**Feenstra** – "Personally this is so important for Hull and Sioux Center. I grew up in Hull, became city administrator, and then served on Lewis & Clark's executive board. To finally see it come to fruition is just incredible. What it does is create economic sustainability and economic development opportunities for our communities. Water is such a precious commodity that we all need, and now we have it long-term....People don't understand how many solutions had to occur to make this happen."

**Hulstein** – "It took far longer than anyone imagined when the project was started, but it is well worth the wait. The water will ensure continued future growth and expanded economic development opportunities for many decades to come. We far too often take water for granted, but we're marking this as a monumental day over 33 years in the making."

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Joint ribbon cutting at the Sioux Center meter building

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**Moss** – “I thank the Lord for this opportunity to celebrate one of the essentials of life and that’s water. What a blessing we have to celebrate this day.”

**Krahling** – “Difficult challenges are best solved with cooperating with one another, and this project is that example. To every individual who has been part of leading this in any way, thank you for the legacy of showing us how to solve tough problems and how to work together with patience and perseverance.”

**Esplin** – “This project is a lifeline for the people who live and work in this region. It is also a shining example of how investing in rural America and fostering strong

local partnerships can make a lasting difference in people’s lives. Reclamation is honored to be part of this collaborative effort that has delivered clean and reliable water to these communities after decades of hard work and dedication. I congratulate everyone who has contributed to this remarkable achievement.”

**DeWitt** – “Senator Ernst has always been a strong supporter of Lewis & Clark and believes this project shows what can be accomplished when federal, state and local leaders work together across state and party lines. Lots of organizations across the Midwest are named after Lewis and Clark, but this project’s leadership and staff have proven worthy of their namesake explorers, as they are innovative, enterprising and always pressing onward.”



During his remarks Congressman Randy Feenstra held up a bottle of wine from L&C’s ground breaking ceremony on August 21, 2003 that he told his wife he wasn’t going to uncork until water got to Hull, “So today’s a big day!”



Sioux Center meter building dedicated in honor of Murray Hulstein



Gifts from L&C to the communities of Hull and Sioux Center and their directors. Left to right: Hulstein, Krahling, Moss and Director Heidi Kramer (Hull City Administrator).



Hull meter building ribbon cutting



## Reclamation Officials Tour Construction

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony in Sioux Center on May 2, Reclamation's Regional Director Brent Esplin of Billings, Deputy Regional Director Marlon Duke of Billings, Area Manager Joe Hall of Bismarck and Rural Water Division Manager Dani Fettig of Bismarck toured the construction underway at the Hull pump station, pipeline between Hull and Sheldon, Sheldon water tower and Sheldon meter building. Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is being used on all of these projects except the water tower. "We always appreciate the opportunity to see firsthand the

great progress being made as a result of the partnership between Reclamation and Lewis & Clark. Nice to finally see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Esplin.



Above: Executive Director Troy Larson, Hall, Esplin, Fettig, Duke and Operations Manager Jim Auen



Left: Fettig, Hall, Esplin and Duke

## Future Use Water Rights

L&C will need "firm capacity" of 60 million gallons a day (MGD) when the expansion is completed around 2030. In April L&C submitted a future use request for an additional 17.07 MGD (19,121 acre feet) of ground water rights. At the recommendation of SD DANR staff, and with no comments received from the public, the SD Water Management Board (WMB) on July 12 voted unanimously to present L&C's request to the Legislature

during the upcoming session. This request exceeds 10,000 acre feet, so legislative approval is required before the WMB can take final action. "We look forward to educating legislators on the importance of this future use request during the upcoming session. The last time a water rights request came before the Legislature was in 1994, which coincidentally was also from Lewis & Clark. We will be back 30 years later," said Executive Director Troy Larson.



## Hoye Honored at Annual Meeting

The 33rd Annual Membership Meeting was held in Tea on June 22. Staff members attended from Senators Klobuchar, Thune, Rounds, Ernst and Smith, as well as from Representatives Johnson, Feenstra and Fischbach. Chairman Murray Hulstein reported on efforts to complete the Base System, expand to 60 MGD and a possible second expansion beyond 60 MGD. He also touched on what it has meant for Sioux Center and Hull to be connected. Executive Director Troy Larson provided updates on the record 17 simultaneous construction contracts underway, as well as on operations, funding and future capacity needs.

Director Jim Hoye of Rock Rapids was given the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award, the organization's highest honor. Jim joined the Board in June 2002 and has served on the Executive Committee since 2017. He is retiring at the end of this year. In making the presentation, Murray said "Jim is never afraid to share his thoughts and ideas at meetings, but does so with great respect, professionalism, thoughtfulness and usually a good dose of humor. He has made many significant contributions through the last 21 years to help get the project to where it is today. His commitment and dedication are second to none. For generations to come the citizens of Rock Rapids and the surrounding region will enjoy an improved quality of life and expanded economic development opportunities because of water from Lewis & Clark. Jim can take great pride in the important role he played in helping to make that happen. Our heartfelt congratulations to Jim on this well-deserved honor!"



Director Jim Hoye



Former L&C Chairman and current SD PUC Commissioner Gary Hanson, Director Tom Erickson of Beresford, State Senator Jim Bolin and Director Brad Preheim of Centerville

## Hull Pump Station & Sheldon Meter Building Delayed



Hull pump station

West Branch Construction is nearing completion of the Hull pump station and Sheldon meter building, but unfortunately delivery of the pumps for the pump station has been repeatedly delayed. It is unknown whether they will be able to meet the October 2023 substantial completion deadline. "While some minor items remain, West Branch has for the most part completed all the work they can for both projects. Interior and exterior piping has been installed, as well as the associated equipment and components inside both buildings. Startup for both buildings will depend on when the pumps arrive, which is a big question mark," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

## Chairman's Report – Second Expansion



In May the Board of Directors approved a \$342,000 service order for Banner to conduct an “Appraisal Level Study” to possibly expand L&C beyond 60 MGD; potentially doubling our capacity. This would be a second expansion of the System. The first expansion

from 44.19 MGD to 60 MGD is underway and should be completed around 2030.

Much has changed in 30 years when the members needed to lock in their reserve capacities in 1993. Growth has far outpaced projections. For some time now the members have realized that L&C will not meet their long-term water needs as long as previously thought.

**The timeline for each member varies, but they need an additional source of water in the next 15 to 40 years beyond the 60 MGD L&C can provide.**

To that end, the first meeting to discuss an expansion beyond 60 MGD was held in May 2019. 2018 and 2019 were record wet years for the region, demonstrating how the prolonged drought is not driving this discussion.

As L&C has shown, it can take decades to complete large scale water projects so we need to start now.

We previously referred to an expansion beyond 60 MGD as “Lewis & Clark II,” but the term gives the false impression this is a new project with potentially new members. This is simply another expansion of the System to provide the existing members with additional capacity to meet their future needs, so to avoid confusion that term is no longer used.

Banner anticipates completing the Appraisal Level Study by the spring of 2024. The next step would be a Feasibility Study, with the ultimate goal of Congress amending our existing authorization to provide a federal cost share. However, as a possible alternative we continue to closely monitor the progress being made on the Dakota MainStem Regional Water System; a conceptual project to bring Missouri River water to the central and southern portions of eastern SD. Hopefully by this spring it will be clearer to the members which of these two options is the best approach to address their long-term water needs.

None of the many visionary leaders who conceived and formed L&C in the late 80's are still involved with the project. They set the table for us and we are incredibly thankful for that. Likewise, we want to make sure we in turn are setting the table for the next generation of community and rural water leaders.

## Lime Drying Beds Construction Begins

Lidel Construction started construction in May on three additional lime drying beds at the treatment plant, as well as a second stockpile area. They are located to the east of L&C's existing stockpile area and three drying beds, as shown at right. Lime sludge is a by-product of the treatment process. It has many agricultural uses after it is dried, removed from the beds and then stockpiled. As the amount of water produced increases, so does the need for more drying beds.

Two of the new drying beds are part of the 44.19 MGD Base System and the third bed is for the expansion to 60 MGD. The \$7.4M contract was awarded in December 2022 and of this amount \$1.2M was a bid alternate for the third bed; showing the savings from constructing it

now instead of a separate project later. SD ARPA funding is being used for the third drying bed. Lidel feels they are well on schedule to meet the October 2024 substantial completion deadline.





# FROM THE PIPELINE



The L&C family was saddened by the passing of former Director Don Sweeter on April 28. Don served for over 40 years on the South Lincoln RWS board, and for 13 years on the L&C board before stepping down in January 2019. He was a rural water champion.



Tom Erickson of Beresford retired from the Board on July 27 after 12 years of dedicated service. Beresford Public Works Director Jeff Heidebrecht (right) was appointed to the Board. Jeff is originally from Centerville and has been with the City since 2011. "A big thank you to Tom! He did a great job for us. A warm welcome aboard to Jeff! He'll hit the ground running," said Chairman Murray Hulstein.

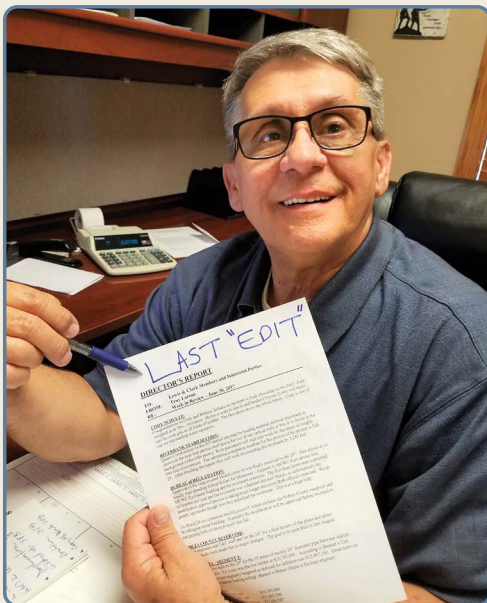


Dirt work began in early May for the one million gallon ground storage reservoir three miles east of Madison, SD. DN Tanks began work on the foundation in late July. On June 27 a change order was approved that included a **credit** of \$113,968 for changing the piping from ductile iron to PVC. When the project was advertised PVC pipe was not readily available, but it is now. August 2024 is the substantial completion deadline.



D.W. Proehl installed the three pumps for the Crooks pump station in June. Work continues on the electrical and controls.





Dan Zulkosky (Mr. Z) retired as Tea City Administrator on June 30. In various roles he has been involved with L&C since May 2003 when he started as Sibley City Administrator. Mr. Z served on L&C's board before being hired as L&C's Construction Administrator in August 2006. He served in that position until joining Tea in July 2017. Our thanks and best wishes to Mr. Z as he starts the next chapter in Omaha with the grandkids!



After several years of battling terrible roads leading to L&C's administrative office, the final asphalt lift was finally paved on June 29. The office can now be connected to Tea's water and sewer systems. Executive Director Troy Larson was particularly excited, as he led the long effort to have the City annex the industrial park in October 2019.



L&C directors and staff helped Banner celebrate the open house for their beautiful new office building in Sioux Falls on July 27! Congrats to Banner!

## Tank Jacked for Sheldon Water Tower

After the painting was completed on the ground for the one million gallon steel tank, the skyline just west of Sheldon changed on July 3 when the tank was jacked to the top of the concrete pedestal. The steel roof and floor of the tank were then welded into place. Work continues on the controls and electrical. Caldwell feels they are on pace to meet the October 2023 substantial completion deadline.

Banner engineers determined Caldwell reached substantial completion on March 8 on the 2.5 million gallon Beresford water tower, which is when the tower became operational. The SCADA controls were completed in late May. Work continues on final completion punch list items.





## Iowa Members Request State Expansion Funding

L&C officials traveled to Des Moines on July 5 to meet with Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) officials. They first discussed the status of the State's \$12M in ARPA funding for the expansion. L&C will only use \$9.6M of it, which represents the entirety of the expansion construction within IA's borders. The remaining \$2.4M cannot be used in other states so the funds will be reallocated to other projects.

They also discussed the IA members' request for the State to convert \$7M in federal funding advances into grants that the IA members can use to help offset some of their expansion cost share. This would mirror what the states of MN and SD have done to varying degrees. "Northwest Iowa is an economic driver for the State. If approved this would be a big help to the rate payers in Hull, Rock Rapids, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center. Combined we would still need to pay close to \$5M for the expansion, so it would not be a free ride," said Chairman Murray Hulstein.

Debi Durham, IEDA Director, voiced her full support for the request but emphasized she has no purview over these funds. She forwarded the request and presentation to Governor Reynold's staff and recommended follow-up discussions with them in terms of the next steps.



Above left to right: Executive Director Troy Larson, Director Larry Pedley of Sibley, Durham, Director Todd Uhl of Sheldon, Rita Grimm (Chief Legal Counsel for IEDA and IFA) and Hulstein. Not pictured Aaron Smith (CFO for IFA).

## \$1 Million Repaid to South Dakota

Executive Director Troy Larson on June 1 hand delivered a one million dollar check to Governor Kristi Noem at the State Capitol, in addition to a ceremonial check. This reimbursed the State's General Fund for a "federal funding advance" the Legislature approved during the 2014 session. The funding played a very important role in jump starting the development of the "wheeling plan" for Madison, which in cooperation with Minnehaha Community Water Corp and the Big Sioux Community Water System became operational in May 2017 and will continue to be used until next summer. It allows Madison to access up to one million gallons of water per day until they are connected to L&C.

Former legislator Deb Peters led the charge to secure this federal funding advance. "A big thanks again to Deb, as well as the legislators who served in 2014 and former Governor Dennis Daugaard. This funding was a huge help to Madison. Our thanks and appreciation as well to Governor Noem for her continued strong support, which is demonstrated in the \$15M the State recently approved to help cover a portion of the cost to expand the System," said Larson.





## Expansion Funding Approved for Minnesotans!

During the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions, the MN Legislature appropriated a combined \$39,003,078 in “federal funding advances.” These were zero interest unsecured loans to keep construction moving forward that L&C agreed to pay back when federal funding became available. Directors Scott Hain of Worthington and Pat Baustian of Luverne led the charge this past legislative session in requesting the Legislature appropriate up to \$22M of these advances to cover the combined expansion cost share of the four MN members, currently estimated at \$20M.

With strong support from Governor Tim Walz and local legislators – Senator Bill Weber, Representative Joe Schomacker and Representative Marj Fogelman –



the Legislature approved this request and on June 1 the governor signed the bill into law that contained this provision! Officials from the four MN members met on July 20 in Luverne to discuss the next steps in finalizing an agreement with the State to draw down these funds (see photo below and left).

Construction on expanding the System to 60 MGD started last year and is expected to be completed around 2030. “This is tremendously exciting news for the customers of Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Luverne, Rock County RWD and Worthington, who would have otherwise had to foot the bill to secure much needed additional capacity from Lewis & Clark,” said Hain. “A big thank you to the governor and our local legislators for championing our effort! They really went to bat for us,” said Baustian.



Above: Vice-Chairman Scott Hain of Worthington and Mayor Pat Baustian of Luverne

## Two Contracts Awarded for Iowa Infrastructure

### Two Contracts Remain to Complete Base System

A \$5,082,700 contract was awarded on May 24 to Rice Lake Construction of Deerwood, MN for a pump station near Larchwood, IA. This is part of the expansion from 44.19 MGD to 60 MGD. The project also includes adding a third pump to the Rock Rapids-Rock County RWD meter building/pump station. Iowa ARPA funding will cover the cost. Construction is anticipated to start this spring. The substantial completion deadline is April 2025.

Director Larry Pedley of Sibley made an enthusiastic motion on June 22 to award a \$2,291,000 contract for

the Sibley meter building to West Branch Construction of Boyden, IA. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring. The substantial completion deadline is Oct. 2024.

Only two contracts remain in order to complete the 44.19 MGD Base System – the Sibley service line and Phase 3 of the water treatment plant. Depending on easement acquisition, it is hoped a contract for the Sibley service line can be awarded this fall. Banner and HDR engineers and staff continue to meet monthly to review the design progress for Phase 3. The plans are currently at the 65% level, and it is anticipated a contract will be awarded by January 2024. A small amount of well capacity for the Base System will also be constructed later as part of a larger wells expansion project.



## Pipeline Projects on Schedule

Construction is progressing very well for three segments of 16-inch diameter PVC pipeline. All three contractors believe they are on pace to meet their respective substantial completion deadlines.

**Madison – Segments 2 & 3A:** Halme Construction has installed 99% of the 16 miles that encompass the southern half of the remaining Madison service line. It starts at the Crooks pump station and heads north. October 2023 is the substantial completion deadline.



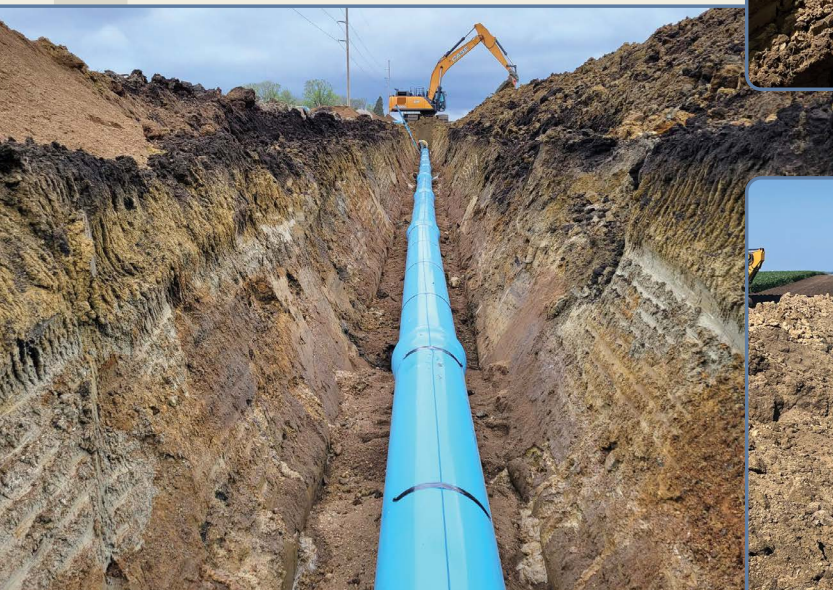
Halme Construction

**Madison – Segments 3B & 4:** Carstensen Contracting has installed 70% of the 16.1 miles that encompass the northern half of the remaining Madison service line. It starts at the intersection of 245th Street and 465th Avenue in northwestern Minnehaha County and heads north to Highway 34 three miles east of Madison. August 2024 is the substantial completion deadline.

**Iowa – Segments 4 & 5:** Eatherly Constructors has installed 99% of the 17 miles between Hull and Sheldon. It starts at the turnout for the Hull service line and ends at the Sheldon meter building. October 2023 is the substantial completion deadline.



Above and below: Eatherly Constructors



Carstensen Contracting





## More Delays on Plant Improvements

PKG continues to experience repeated delays with delivery of the first two 1,250 h.p. high service pumps and associated check valves. The pumps are currently scheduled to arrive in September. Substantial completion deadline was April 2023. “The contract was awarded back in December **2021** and the pumps were ordered shortly after, so the repeated delays have been incredibly frustrating,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

When this contract was awarded it included two pumps for the 44.19 MGD Base System, but in a cost savings move a \$2.7M change order was approved in December 2022 to add two more pumps that are part of the expansion to 60 MGD, instead of adding them later in a separate contract. The delay involves the first two pumps for the Base System. “In the past we have only run three

of our four existing high service pumps simultaneously, so we always had one as a backup. With the collector well coming online and the addition of Sioux Center and Hull, this summer we are running all four pumps at the same time. If we don’t lose a pump, motor or have other mechanical issues, this delay will have no impact on water deliveries. However, if we lose one we could have capacity limitations,” said Auen.

In the meantime, PKG continues to make good progress on other parts of the contract. The variable frequency drives for the high service pumps have been installed as shown below. Work was completed in late June on adding more A/C units in the electrical room, as well as A/C units in the process room to replace the ineffective louvers. They are nearing completion on installing three 25 h.p. service water pumps for upsizing the two existing CO<sub>2</sub> feed skids, along with adding a third CO<sub>2</sub> skid.







46986 Monty Street  
Tea, SD 57064

## Operations Update

With the Site B collector well finally online and the addition of Sioux Center and Hull, combined with continued drought conditions, July was a record-setting month. “We delivered a monthly record of 931.3 million gallons (MG) and a peak day record of 34.5 MG on July 28. Usage was 18.8% higher than July of last year. Work continues on punch list and warranty items, but so far we have been very pleased with the collector well,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Gacke Enterprises continues to remove lime sludge from the middle drying bed as shown in photo on lower left. L&C hosted EMS training for Vermillion, Wakonda and Gayville first responders. A medical helicopter landed at the plant as part of the training. The plant was recently shut down for six hours so the 10+ year old control servers and associated equipment could be replaced.

