


Lewis & Clark
REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

Explorer

Summer 2025

Munson Honored at 35th Annual Membership Meeting

The 35th annual membership meeting was held in Sioux Falls on June 26. Staff from the offices of Senators Thune, Klobuchar, Rounds and Smith, as well as Representatives Johnson and Finstad, were among the attendees. Updates were provided on funding, construction, operations, expansion and efforts to secure additional capacity. On behalf of the directors and staff, Chairman Murray Hulstein presented Director Sid Munson of Tea with

the Lewis & Clark Trailblazer Award, the organization's highest honor! Hulstein also announced the Tea meter building will be dedicated in Sid's honor.

Sid has served on L&C's Board and various committees for 22 years and counting. He also served on the City Council for 21 years, where he was a strong advocate for L&C. Sid has also served as L&C's director on the SD



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Association of Rural Water Systems' (SDARWS) Board for 7 years and counting. "Most of Sid's career was spent at the SDARWS, but prior to that he worked for Tea in the public works department. Regardless of whether it has been paid or volunteer positions, water has been at the forefront of everything Sid has done. Sid is passionate about his family and golf, but a close third is his passion for water development. Congratulations to Sid on these well-deserved honors!" said Hulstein.

Over 40 people attended the dedication of the Tea meter building in Sid's honor on July 24. This included many of Sid's family and friends, as well as Tea and SDARWS officials and L&C directors, staff, and engineers. Former mayor John Lawler thanked him for his dedication to help secure a reliable source of water for the growing community. Hulstein dedicated the meter building in Sid's honor, saying in part "On behalf of the directors and staff, I'm pleased to officially dedicate this meter building in honor of Sid. May all who enter in the future be reminded of the incredible impact he has had on Tea and the tristate region for generations to come."



Chairman Hulstein (left) and Director Munson at the Annual Meeting

Revetment Repairs Contract Awarded

A \$1,568,429 contract was awarded on June 26 to Rounds Construction to repair erosion damage on a 1,770-foot stretch of rock revetment. Rounds plans to start construction in mid-September and reach substantial completion in mid-November. The substantial completion deadline is mid-December.

One mile of revetment armors the riverbank just north of the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge to protect L&C's twelve wells from erosion. "The original revetment constructed in 2008 used quartzite boulders that were not as large as the ones that have been used for three erosion repairs in 2011, 2017 and 2021. These larger boulders have held up much better. Rounds made the repairs in 2021 and did a really good job," said Operations Manager Jim Auen. Because this portion of the river has a scenic/recreational designation, for aesthetic reasons a layer of field stone is

placed on top of the quartzite boulders and then covered with topsoil. After this repair, about 1,000 feet of original revetment will remain.



Revetment repairs in 2021

Backup Generators Progress

The final two contracts for the Base System were awarded in January – a second backup generator at the Tea pump station was awarded to American Electric and a fourth backup generator for the treatment plant was awarded to Muth Electric (see Winter 2025 newsletter). D.W. Proehl is the subcontractor for both concrete pads. Work on the pump station pad started in June and was completed in July. The existing pump station generator is shown in the background below. Work on the treatment plant pad is expected to start in September. May 2028 is the substantial completion deadline for both contracts due to long lead times for generators, fuel tanks and enclosures.

Design team of West Plains' Jonathan Kennedy
and Banners' Adam Hanson and Kristin Bisgard



Water Treatment Plant – Phase 3

Phase 3 is 33% complete and PKG is confident in meeting the April 2028 substantial completion deadline. On June 12 PKG met an interim milestone when the conversion from using a sodium hypochlorite bleach solution in the treatment process to gas chlorine went into operation. The conversion to gas chlorine took a few months longer than expected due to delays beyond PKG's control. "There were several start-up issues we needed to address, but everything is working well now. Among the benefits of using gas chlorine is a lower treatment cost," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Other construction highlights:

- 54-inch raw water pipeline that brings water from the wells to the plant was encased in concrete to protect this vital artery during the construction of the solids contact basins.
- Nearing completion of the new maintenance area and added driveway.
- Top slab of the three-million gallon clearwell has been completed and the piping installed.
- Underdrain work for the two solids contact basins is completed and the base slabs are being formed and poured.



Gas chlorine conversion



Concrete encasement of the 54-inch raw water line



Clearwell top slab



Placing rebar and pouring concrete for the base slab for the west solids contact basin



Banner's onsite rep Trevor Stahl next to the 72-inch clearwell effluent pipe that carries treated water from the clearwell to the high service pump station



New maintenance area and driveway highlighted

FROM THE PIPELINE



The East Dakota Water Development District (ED) and the Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VB) held joint board meetings at the treatment plant on May 15. They also toured the plant and construction underway. Director Robin Dykstra of Lincoln County RWS chairs VB and Director Brad Preheim of Centerville is the long-time Executive Director of VB. Executive Director Troy Larson serves on the ED board. Both organizations are involved with a wide variety of water issues.



Former Director Glen Wollman of Parker passed away on June 6. Glen served on the Board of Directors from 1993 until 2011. He was recognized with the Spirit of Discovery Award at L&C's 2010 Annual Meeting as shown above. Glen was so passionate about L&C that even after he was off the Board, he never missed an annual meeting and continued to closely follow its progress— reading, printing, and filing each weekly report.

Left to right: Tea Council President Jim Erck, Executive Director Troy Larson, Tea Mayor Casey Voelker and Banner's Joe Munson participated in a rainy Sioux Metro Growth Alliance golf outing in Harford on June 25. This is the economic development organization for communities other than Sioux Falls in Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner and McCook counties.



Three L&C teams were among the record 63 that participated in the SD Association of Rural Water Systems' annual golf outing in Sioux Falls on July 22. Director Nate Vander Plaats from Lennox was L&C's ringer. Two L&C teams (one not pictured) tied for last place, proving they spend a lot more time working than golfing!



Long-time congressional aide Chuck Ackman from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office toured the water treatment plant and construction on June 27

Collector Well Caissons Contract Awarded

A \$13,139,740 contract was awarded to Layne Christensen on July 24 for two 16-foot diameter collector well caissons at Site C. Only two contractors in the nation construct these caissons, and the other bid was only \$134,860 more. Layne constructed the 16-foot caisson for L&C's Site B collector well in 2020.

The base bid for one caisson is part of the expansion to 60 MGD (\$6,558,070), and the bid alternate for a second caisson is O&M (\$6,581,670). Construction is expected to begin this fall. The substantial completion deadlines for the first and second caissons are April 2027 and April 2028, respectively. Separate contracts for the two wellhouses will be awarded at a later date. The plan is to have the first collector well at Site C operational by the end of 2030.

“There were two reasons the engineers and staff recommended the bid alternate be awarded – an estimated \$800,000 in cost savings to construct the second caisson as part of this contract instead of a separate contract later, and having the caisson completed provides a two-year head start if, for unexpected reasons, the second collector well needs to be put into service sooner than expected,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

The second collector well at Site C eventually will be needed to replace the capacity from the vertical wells that are being phased out due to diminishing production. “We are not sure yet when the second collector well needs to be operational. Demand from the members and how long it makes sense to continue operating the vertical wells will drive that decision, but we are anticipating sometime around 2035,” said Auen. Each collector well at Site C is estimated to produce 25 MGD.

Layne constructing the Site B collector well caisson in 2020





1800 Monty Street
Tea, SD 57064

Operations Update

L&C set a new peak day record of 38.88 MGD on June 20. “Until Phase 3 of the plant is completed in the spring of 2028, which among other things will add two more solids contact basins, 41 MGD is as much as we can produce. The current bottleneck is our four solids contact basins,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

An inspection was conducted in May of the 2.5 million-gallon Beresford water tower prior to expiration of the two-year warranty period. After the steel tank was drained, paint failures were found on the underside of the steel roof (see photo below). Samples were taken to

determine the cause and develop a repair plan. The tank was cleaned and disinfected before being put back into service. “Warranty repairs will take place this winter when the demands are lower and we can have the tower out of service for a longer period,” said Auen.

Sioux Falls increased access to its reserved capacity by 3 MGD on June 1. Their total reserved capacity is 28.007 MGD, but had been self-limiting at 17.167 MGD. They are now self-limiting at 20.167 MGD. The City will phase in access to its remaining capacity.

