


REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

Explorer

Winter 2020

Lewis & Clark Receives Funding Increase for FY20

Only \$100,000 Again Proposed for FY21

The Bureau of Reclamation announced on February 3rd that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System will receive \$18 million for FY20, an increase of \$3 million compared to FY19! "Thanks to the hard work and strong support of our tristate delegation, Congress approved an additional \$117.4 million for the Rural Water Program in the FY20 Budget. Reclamation in turn allocated \$17.9 million of this amount to Lewis & Clark. When combined with the \$100,000 proposed by the administration it brings our total for FY20 to \$18 million," said Executive Director Troy Larson. The FY20 funding will be used to cover a portion of

three construction projects -- a radial collector well adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion that is anticipated to produce 16 million gallons per day, a 2.5 million gallon water tower on the east side of Beresford and the 12.6 mile middle segment of 24-inch pipeline between Beresford and Sioux Center.

The administration's proposed FY21 Budget was released on February 10th. For the third consecutive year it only includes \$100,000 for Lewis & Clark. "While very disappointing, the proposed funding is not surprising. We will again be counting on our tristate delegation to secure additional funding for the Rural Water Program," said Larson.

Chairman Red Arndt and Senator John Thune (left) visit about L&C in Washington, D.C. in February



National Rural Water Rally

Chairman Red Arndt of Luverne, Sioux Center City Manager Scott Wynja and Executive Director Troy Larson attended the National Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. in early February. They joined officials from the South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota rural water associations for some of their congressional meetings, and held other separate meetings. "It was a good opportunity for us to thank the tristate delegation and



Larson and Rep. Dusty Johnson (left)

their staffs for their efforts to secure additional funding for the Rural Water Program in the FY20 Budget, as well as urge them to do the same for the FY21 Budget. I have probably been to Washington, D.C. about 70 times through the years. While it is easy to focus on what is wrong in Washington, we need to remember how blessed we have been to have such strong support across state and party lines, and to have our elected leaders so accessible to us. I made a point of letting them know how much we truly appreciate their long-time support," said Arndt.



Wynja and Senator Chuck Grassley (left)



SD Rural Water delegation with Senator John Thune (far left)



Wynja, Senator Joni Ernst, Arndt and Larson



Above: Larson, Senator Mike Rounds, Arndt and Wynja



Arndt and Rep. Jim Hagedorn (left)

Congressman Johnson Tours Plant

L&C directors and staff were honored to host Congressman Dusty Johnson for a roundtable discussion/working lunch at the treatment plant on October 8th. Afterward, he toured the treatment plant. A wide range of topics were discussed including the FY20 Budget and the earmark ban. Johnson expressed his strong support for L&C and doing whatever he can to help get the project across the finish line. Some of Johnson comments

included: “You don’t have a lot if you don’t have water”... “The pace of federal funding has been way too slow and way too frustrating”... “We are not going to give up the ghost until everyone is connected”. Johnson said the tour really helped put into perspective the scope, scale and magnitude of the project. L&C officials thanked Johnson for his support and for the generous amount of time he spent with us.



L&C directors, staff and engineers with Congressman Johnson in front of one of the solids contact basins



Raising a toast of water in the laboratory of the treatment plant

Vander Plaats Appointed to the Board

Lennox City Administrator Nate Vander Plaats was appointed to the Board of Directors on August 22nd. He takes over for Utilities Superintendent Jeremy Gulbranson. Nate is originally from Sioux Center and started his new position in December 2018. He served on Sen. Tom Harkin's staff for ten years and attended several L&C annual meetings, so he already knew a lot about the project and has hit the ground running. Welcome aboard to Nate and our thanks to Jeremy for his service this past year!



Nate Vander Plaats

Harrisburg Wins Best Tasting Water Award!

Lewis & Clark Produced Water Sweeps Top Two Spots

For the second time in three years, Harrisburg won the Best Tasting Water Award at the Annual Technical Conference of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems in Pierre on January 16th. L&C came in a close second of the 15 entries. One hundred percent of Harrisburg's water comes from L&C, so water produced by L&C swept the top two spots. This is the fourth year out of five that water produced by L&C has taken the top spot, with a second place finish the other year.

"This is not about bragging rights. It is about providing an opportunity to recognize the outstanding work by the great employees at Harrisburg and Lewis & Clark. A heartfelt congratulations to them!" said Executive Director Troy Larson.

At the conference Larson received a Distinguished Service Award from the Upper Missouri Water Association for his 17 years of helping to move Lewis & Clark forward as its executive director (see photo immediately below). Presenting the award was UPWA board president Darrell Raschke of Huron.



Above: Harrisburg's Assistant Public Works Director Dustin Preheim (left) receives the best tasting water award from SDARWS President Ron Gillen



Left: L&C Operations Manager Jim Auen receives the runner-up award



Four Vertical Wells Completed

Lewis & Clark Back to 11 Production Wells

Well Construction of Yankton reached substantial completion on November 5th on the \$1.9 million contract for four vertical wells. These vertical wells were constructed adjacent to four angle wells that were abandoned and capped due to decreasing production and increasing maintenance issues. The new well vaults were built in a way to utilize as much of the infrastructure as possible in the adjacent angle well

vaults, such as flow meters, check valves, air relief valves, surge valves and other electrical equipment. "We are very pleased with the new wells and being able to rely upon their consistent production. It has been a long time since we have had eleven operational wells that we can count on," said Operations Manager Jim Auen. Three of the new vertical wells are producing an average of 3.3 million gallons a day (MGD) and the fourth is averaging 2.9 MGD. By comparison, the production of the angle wells they replaced were down to 1.7 MGD and were continuing to drop on a steady basis.

Vertical well and casing adjacent to an angle well vault

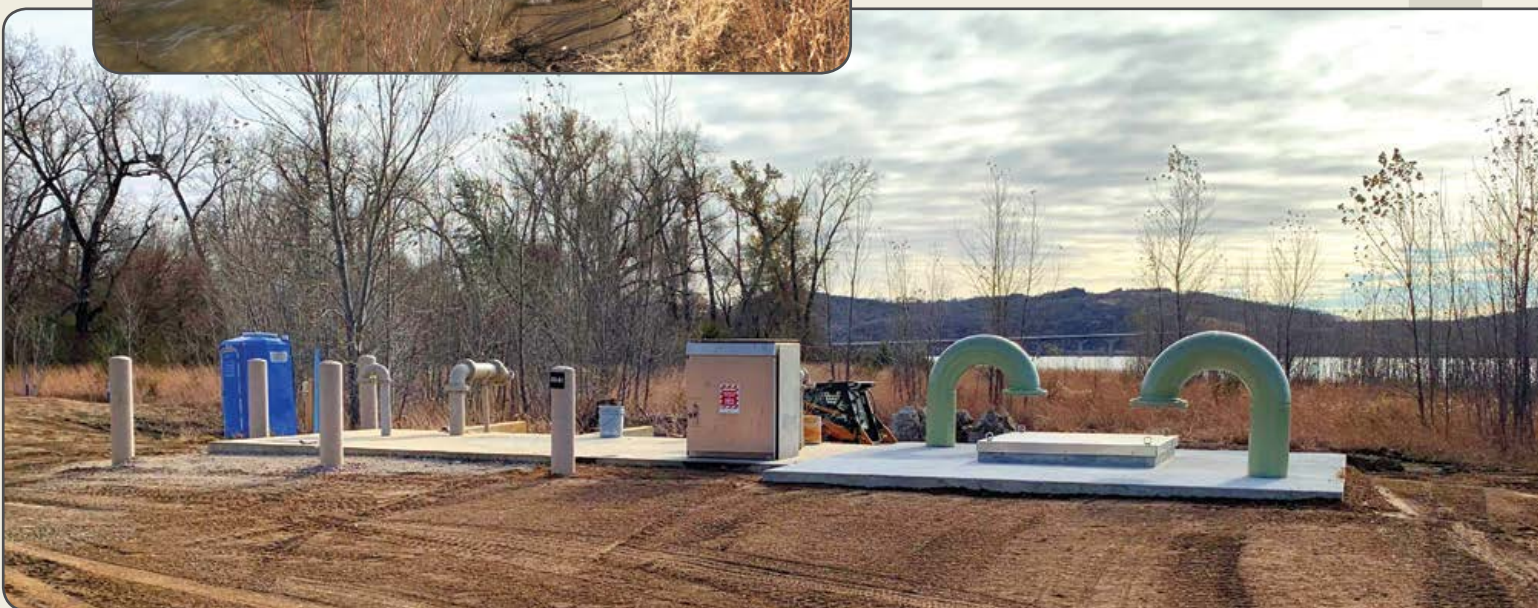




Above and Right: Work on a vertical well vault



Left: Test pumping a vertical well



Bottom: Completed vertical well and vault (right) adjacent to an angle well vault

Union County Water Tower Contract Awarded

The Board of Directors on February 3rd awarded a \$6,773,000 contract to Caldwell Tanks of Louisville, KY to construct the 2.5 million gallon Union County water tower. It will be located on the east side of Beresford's city limits, and at 210 feet high to the overflow line, the tower will be quite tall in order to gravity flow water to Sioux Center and Hull. The low bid was \$932,000 higher than the budgeted number. "Most of our contracts have come in under budget, but they do not all turn out that way. Overall construction of the System is still under budget in terms of our federal funding ceiling," said Executive Director Troy Larson. Construction of the water tower is expected to begin in May and the substantial completion deadline is July 2022.



Water tower site in the foreground with Beresford in the background

Governor Reynolds' Budget Includes \$1.7 Million for Lewis & Clark Speaker of the House Grassley Learns about Project

At an event in Sioux Center on November 13th, State Representative Jacob Bossman, Director Jim Collins of Hull and Executive Director Troy Larson had the



Larson, Bossman, Grassley and Collins

opportunity to visit with incoming Speaker of the House Pat Grassley regarding L&C's efforts during the upcoming legislative session to secure a federal funding advance of \$3.5 million over two years to keep construction moving forward in northwest Iowa. If approved, the first dollars would go toward the Sioux Center meter building and expansion of the existing meter building in Hull. "We are incredibly thankful to Governor Kim Reynolds for including \$1.7 million for Lewis & Clark in her proposed FY21 infrastructure budget. A big thank you as well to our local legislators Senator Randy Feenstra, Senator Zach Whiting, Rep. John Wills, Rep. Dan Huseman, Rep. Skyler Wheeler and Rep. Jacob Bossman for continuing to go to bat for us. They all know how important water is to the quality of life and expanded economic development opportunities of northwest Iowa," said Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center.

Radial Collector Well Contract Advertised

A radial collector well adjacent to the Missouri River at Site B that is anticipated to produce 16 million gallons a day has been designed and the contract was advertised on February 10th. The bid opening is scheduled for March 19th. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2020 and the substantial completion deadline is April 2022. “We currently have 11 vertical wells that combined have 27.5 million gallons a day of non-firm capacity.

These wells range in capacity from 570,000 gallons a day to 3.3 million gallons a day. As we connect more members we need additional well capacity. When completed this radial collector well will be the cornerstone of our well production,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

Lincoln Pipestone RWS Connection Celebrated!

The long-awaited ribbon cutting to celebrate Lincoln Pipestone RWS being fully connected to L&C was held on September 12th at the Adrian meter building/pump station. “Lincoln Pipestone’s second connection near Adrian became fully operational on May 13th, but most of their board members are farmers so we needed to wait until there was a break in the action. Along with their connection in Magnolia, Lincoln Pipestone now has access to 1.1 million gallons a day,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

Long-time Lincoln Pipestone board members Earl DeWilde (then-chairman), Jerry Lonneman and Frank Engels talked about the generational impact this connection means for their system and customers. Chuck Ackman from Senator Amy Klobuchar’s office and Jacki Anderson from Rep. Jim Hagedorn’s office offered their congratulations, as did State Senator Bill Weber and State Rep. Joe Schomacker. Lincoln Pipestone manager Jason Overby spoke, as did previous managers Dennis Healy and Don Evers. Chairman Red Arndt and Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein also congratulated the good folks of Lincoln Pipestone RWS on this long-awaited milestone. A celebratory lunch was then held. Congratulations to everyone at Lincoln Pipestone!

DeWilde is wielding the scissors with Lonneman and Arndt holding the ribbon



Construction Delayed on Pipeline from Beresford to Sioux Center



Bore pit that flooded multiple times

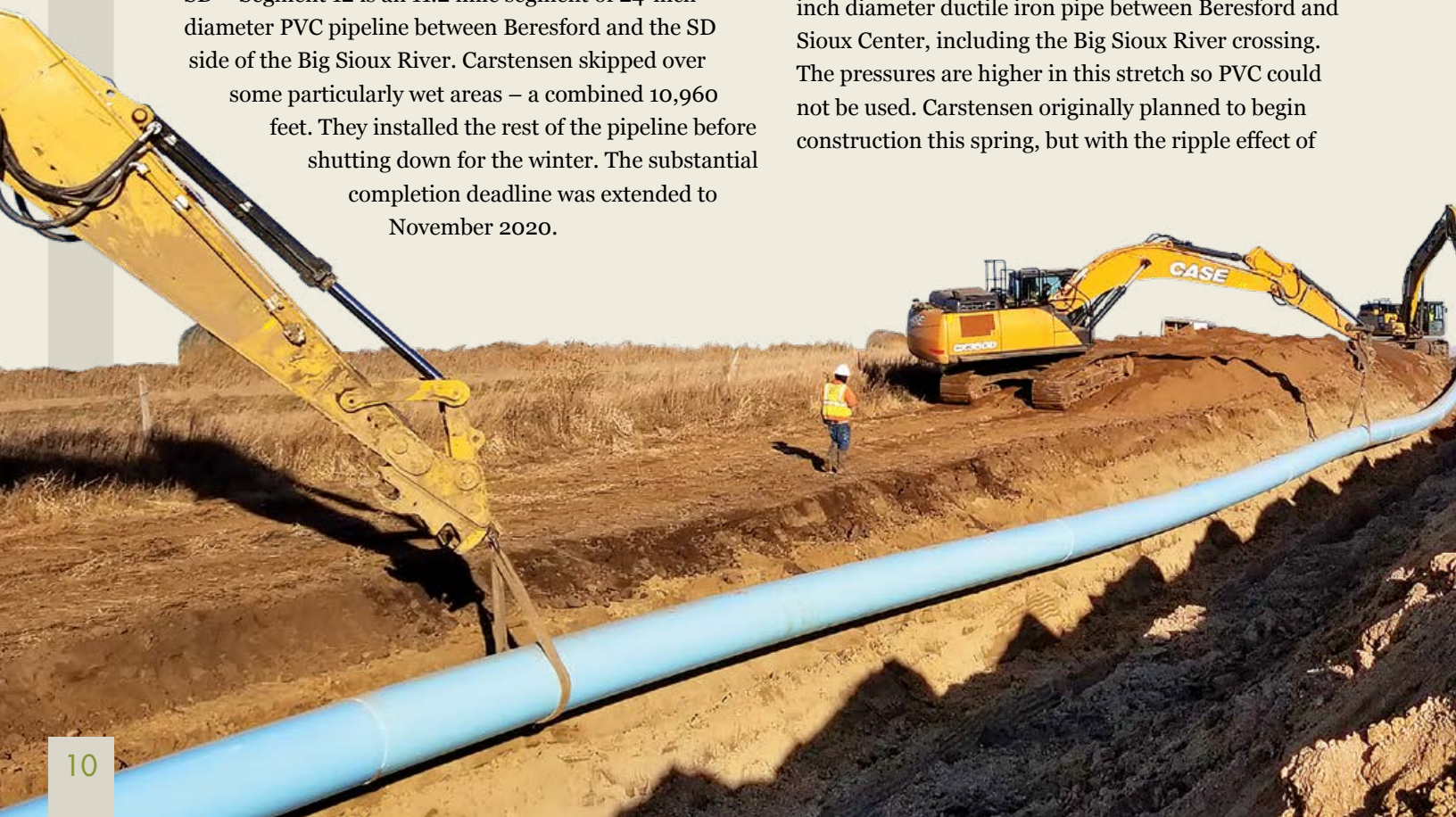
The historically wet weather in the summer and fall of 2019 delayed construction of the pipeline between Beresford and Sioux Center. This 33.8 mile stretch of pipeline is divided into three separate contracts. Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids is the contractor on all three segments.

SD – Segment 12 is an 11.2 mile segment of 24-inch diameter PVC pipeline between Beresford and the SD side of the Big Sioux River. Carstensen skipped over some particularly wet areas – a combined 10,960 feet. They installed the rest of the pipeline before shutting down for the winter. The substantial completion deadline was extended to November 2020.

Carstensen has also run into difficulties with the bore under Highway 11 and an adjacent creek. A large obstruction was encountered and three different methods were employed in an effort to complete the bore. The three failed attempts did result in progressing the bore close to 200 feet, which cleared under the highway, but another 110 feet remain under the creek. Carstensen will next attempt to directionally drill the remaining distance. Seven change orders totaling a combined \$644,000 have been approved for additional de-watering, extra work on the bores and adding a pig launch assembly. The original contract amount was \$9.2M.

IA – Segment 2 is 10 miles of 24-inch PVC pipeline starting at Sioux Center and heading west. Carstensen expected to begin work last fall on this \$8.2M contract, but the wet weather prevented that. They now expect to start work this spring. The substantial completion deadline has been moved from August 2020 to December 2020.

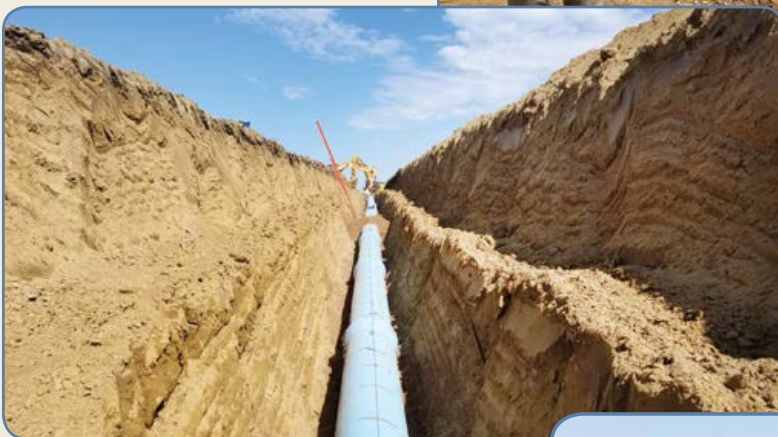
IA – Segment 3 is the middle 12.6 miles of primarily 24-inch diameter ductile iron pipe between Beresford and Sioux Center, including the Big Sioux River crossing. The pressures are higher in this stretch so PVC could not be used. Carstensen originally planned to begin construction this spring, but with the ripple effect of





Banner engineers on SD – Segment 12 are (left to right) Kevin Kuebler, Scott Vander Meulen and Dennis Odens

the delays on the other two projects they now plan to start construction in the fall of 2020. The revised substantial completion deadline is December 2021 on this \$19M contract.





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Lewis & Clark RWS Celebrates 30 Year Anniversary!

The Board of Directors and staff for the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System celebrated the organization's 30 year anniversary at its monthly board meeting on January 23rd! L&C's Articles of Incorporation were signed on January 29, 1990. Chairman Red Arndt of Luverne (left) and Vice-Chairman Murray Hulstein of Sioux Center shown below are the only two original directors who are still serving on the Board. Organizing efforts for Lewis & Clark – then known as the Southeastern South Dakota Water Supply System – began in 1987 or 1988. The exact date and year have been lost to history.

Executive Director Troy Larson remarked, "This is quite the milestone for Lewis & Clark! A big thank you to Red and Murray for their more than 30 years of dedicated service and leadership. Thank you as well to all the current and former directors. Visionaries like Gary Hanson of Sioux Falls, Charlie Kuehl of South Lincoln RWS, John Buss of Minnehaha Community Water Corporation and Don Habicht of Worthington, just to name a few, played very important roles in helping to bring us to where we are today. Thanks as well to my predecessor Pam Bonrud for her 10 years of hard work coordinating the authorization efforts. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our engineers at Banner Associates and HDR who have designed an outstanding system, as well as the many federal and state agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for their guidance and advocacy through the years. Lastly, thank you to the current and former members of the tristate congressional and gubernatorial delegations. We would not be where we are today without their strong bipartisan support and effective leadership. Here's to the next 30 years!"

