



Explorer

Winter 2023

\$78.6 Million Approved for FY23!

Combined Appropriations Bill and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

The FY23 Appropriations Bill signed into law on December 29, 2022 includes \$18.6 million for ongoing construction of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C)! This total includes the \$6.6 million proposed by the Administration, as well as the \$12 million congressionally directed spending request made by Senators Amy Klobuchar, Mike Rounds and Tina Smith. The funding is less than the \$21.9M approved last year, but that is because L&C's funding needs were less as a result of the \$75.5M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding it received in FY22.

"This critically needed funding will be used to cover the remaining costs of four projects currently under construction that were planned to be paid for over two fiscal years. These projects include two segments of the Madison service line (combined 32 miles), the one-million gallon water tower just west of Sheldon

and improvements at the water treatment plant. No new contracts will be awarded with these funds. Our thanks and appreciation to Senators Klobuchar, Rounds and Smith for requesting the additional funding on our behalf, as well as to the rest of the tristate congressional delegation for their continued strong support to get us across the finish line," said Executive Director Troy Larson.

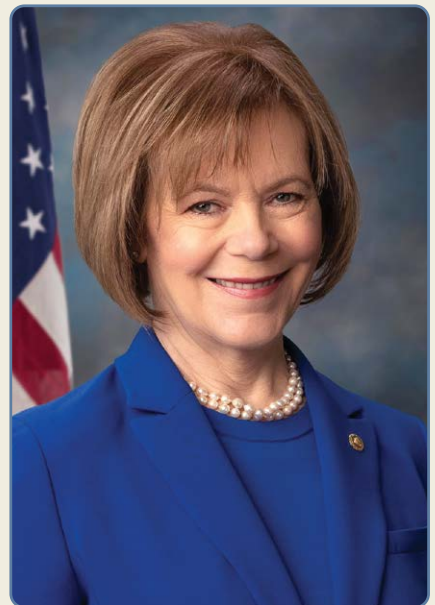
The Bureau of Reclamation announced fantastic news on February 13 that L&C will receive \$60M in FY23 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding! "These funds will be used to award three projects that are part of the 44.19 million gallons a day (MGD) base system – Sibley service line, Sibley meter building and Phase 3 of the water treatment plant. Among other things, Phase 3 includes adding two more solids contact basins, a second gravity thickener and an additional lime slaker," said Larson.



Senator Klobuchar



Senator Rounds



Senator Smith

Madison Service Line – Segments 2 & 3A

Halme, Inc. of Lake Norden, SD started constructing this 16 mile segment of 16-inch PVC pipe in early October and is making good progress. They started at the Crooks' pump station, as seen in the background of the photo at right, and are working north. Halme has installed 33,750 feet of the 84,750 feet total (40% complete) as of early February. This winter they are installing pipe in select wet areas that would be more challenging to cross other times of the year (note water in the trench in the bottom left photo below). October 2023 is the substantial completion deadline.



Hull Pump Station & Sheldon Meter Building



Sheldon
meter
building



Hull pump station

Remarkably fast progress is being made by West Branch Construction of Boyden, IA on the Hull pump station and Sheldon meter building. Construction started on both projects in October and has continued through the winter. The exterior and interior walls, as well as the floors, are complete at both facilities and work is underway on the roofs. Interior HVAC and electrical work is underway; installation of the process piping will start soon. West Branch estimates they will reach substantial completion in late spring, well in advance of the October 2023 substantial completion deadline. The Hull pump station includes two 125 h.p. pumps that are part of the 44.19 MGD base system. A third pump that is part of the expansion to 60 MGD was included in a cost saving move and will be paid for with non-federal funding.

Madison Service Line – Segments 3B & 4

Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids, SD is constructing Madison – Segments 3B & 4. These 16.2 miles of 16-inch PVC pipe are the last needed for the Madison service line. They started construction in early October and got a good start by installing 28,718 feet of the 85,573 feet total (33.5% complete) before shutting

down for the winter in mid-December. August 2024 is the substantial completion deadline.



Site B Collector Well Finally Nearing Completion

The 22 MGD collector well was supposed to be operational last June, but it took much longer to get the surge tank than expected, and the associated components have been repeatedly delayed. Countless other challenges have plagued the snake-bitten project. Welfl Construction of Yankton is now only waiting for one final component and expects the well will finally be operational in March. "This desperately needed additional capacity will allow us to meet what are expected to be much higher water demands this summer. The last two summers have been very challenging to say the least," said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

One of the other challenges is the drainage channel that is not functional as designed. The channel caused significant erosion damage to the river bank during the pump testing. The new plan is to attach 24-inch piping to the exterior pipe that protrudes from the building and then run it underground to the river where an outlet structure will be located. This warranty work will be done in the spring.



Surge tank installed



Process piping
being painted



Annual Technical Conference Recognition

The SD Association of Rural Water Systems' Annual Technical Conference was held in Pierre on January 10 – 12. Operations Manager Jim Auen was honored with the Rural Water Operations Supervisor of the Year Award! Well-deserved recognition for the outstanding job Jim did last year navigating L&C through a very challenging summer of limited well capacity and water restrictions, as well as beating the bushes to address unexpected chemical shortages due to a supply chain disruption. Director Jim Hoyer of Rock Rapids was recognized for 20 years of rural water service, as well as Directors Larry Pedley of Sibley and Scott Hain of Worthington for 15 years each. Not bad for city slickers!

Out of 19 entries, congratulations to the City of Tea, its residents and staff on winning the Best Tasting Water Contest! Director Sid Munson took the sample from his home faucet, so L&C staff presented him with a yard sign he can proudly display this spring. Shout out as well to the L&C operations team! Water produced by L&C has won six of the last eight years.



Jim Auen



Tea City Administrator Dan Zulkosky and Sid Munson



FROM THE PIPELINE



Senator Joni Ernst stopped by Director Larry Pedley's movie theater on September 26 to visit about issues impacting Sibley and L&C. Larry has served on the Sibley City Council for 33 years and on the L&C Board for 16 years.



Senator John Thune held an economic development bus tour and roundtable discussion with Hartford community leaders on October 12. Executive Director Troy Larson, who has lived near Hartford since 1990, was invited to participate. Troy addressed the importance of water to economic development and efforts underway to bring additional Missouri River water to the central and southern portions of eastern SD. Mayor Arden Jones is at left, below.





Luverne Mayor and L&C Director Pat Baustian met in St. Paul on January 25 with Governor Tim Walz. They discussed the ongoing efforts by the four MN members and local legislators to seek approval from the Legislature this session to use up to \$22 million of the total \$39 million in federal funding advances MN previously provided to L&C to cover 100% of the members' share of expanding the System to 60 MGD. Walz expressed his strong support. With future inflation indexing, the four members' share of the expansion is estimated to be a combined \$15.2 million.



Congressman Dusty Johnson's Legislative Director Liz Lloyd gets a L&C update from Troy in Sioux Falls on November 8



Jacob Bossman (left), a long-time aide to Senator Chuck Grassley and a State Representative, and Troy catch up at Banner Associates' tailgate party prior to a SDSU football game on October 8

It was good to see former directors Don Sweeter (left) of South Lincoln RWS and Dennis Weeldreyer of Lennox at the annual Thanks-for-Giving meal



Lime Drying Beds Contract Awarded

A \$7,421,489 contract was awarded on December 20 to Lidel Construction of Sioux Falls for the construction of three additional lime drying beds at the water treatment plant. L&C already has three existing drying beds. Of this total, the base bid of \$6,089,740 is for the final two drying beds that are part of the 44.19 MGD base system. A \$1,331,749 bid alternate incorporated a third drying

bed that is part of the expansion to 60 MGD. Constructing the expansion drying bed as part of this contract instead of a separate contract later, resulted in a nearly half price savings. Non-federal funds will be used for the expansion drying bed. Work is expected to begin this June and the substantial completion deadline is October 2024.

Beresford Pump Station Challenges

Four variable frequency drives (VFDs) for the pump motors at the Beresford pump station were supposed to arrive last June. The final two finally arrived onsite on February 2, with the first two arriving a week earlier. D.W. Proehl expects to have the pumps, motors and VFDs installed and operational by late February. This will allow Carstensen and Chlor-Serv to begin pigging, flushing and disinfecting the lines between Beresford and Hull.

The delays with the Beresford pump station have had a ripple effect of delaying other projects. Once the Beresford pump station is operational, Caldwell Tanks and D.W. Proehl will be able to reach substantial completion on the Beresford water tower and the Sioux Center and Hull meter buildings respectively.

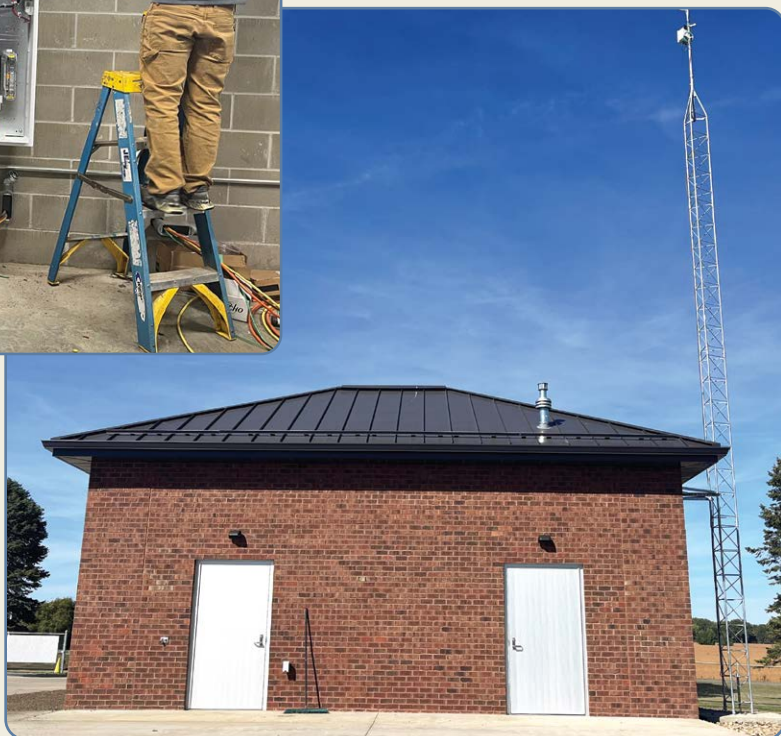
“The supply chain challenges have been maddening. With all these dominos finally falling into place, we expect to deliver water to Sioux Center and Hull by April 1,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.



Motors and VFDs being installed at pump station



Sioux Center meter building



Beresford & Sheldon Water Towers

Caldwell Tanks of Louisville has completed the pedestal floor and the interior masonry walls for the 2.5 million gallon Beresford water tower. Electrical work is ongoing. The project has been delayed because of the delays with the nearby pump station (see page 8). Now that the pump station is back on track, they anticipate reaching substantial completion in late March.

Construction is progressing on schedule for the one million gallon Sheldon water tower. Caldwell finished the tank welding in December and will return this spring to paint it. October 2023 is the substantial completion deadline.

Change orders were approved to remove the pedestal sandblasting for both towers, which is only for aesthetics. The deductions were \$34,195 for the Beresford pedestal and \$23,200 for the smaller Sheldon pedestal.



Work on the Beresford dome before it was painted



Floor being poured at Beresford



Sheldon water tower



Interior masonry wall and metal studs at Beresford

Iowa - Segments 4 & 5 Construction

\$920,000 Change Order Required for Davis-Bacon

Construction started in early October on this 17 mile segment of 16-inch PVC pipe between Hull and Sheldon. Eatherly Constructors of Leawood, KS installed 28,639 feet of pipe of the 90,004 feet total (32% complete) before halting work for the winter in early December. They will resume this spring as conditions allow. October 2023 is the substantial completion deadline.

This project was bid without the Buy American provision required for the use of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds because of the Administration's lengthy delay finalizing the language. A temporary waiver for all Bureau of Reclamation projects expired on January 12. Staff, engineers and Reclamation officials are working on different avenues to exempt the remainder of the

project from the Buy American provisions because of the significant increase in cost that would result and the delay of having to cancel orders for foreign materials and then re-order domestically. Long lead times are the norm.

One provision that cannot be waived with BIL funding is using Davis-Bacon prevailing wages. **In December a \$920,000 change order was approved to add Davis-Bacon wages to this contract.** This change order was fully vetted by the engineers and Reclamation officials. "As a taxpayer this was a tough pill to swallow, but we don't make the rules and had no choice," said Executive Director Troy Larson.



Dakota MainStem RWS Presentations Given

As a member of the Steering Committee for the newly named Dakota MainStem Regional Water System, Executive Director Troy Larson has shared a presentation about the proposed system with over a dozen different groups and organizations and has more upcoming dates on his calendar. He has also taken a leadership role in recruiting additional Steering Committee members. As of mid-February there are 25 utilities on the Steering Committee, along with several Advisory members. “The handwriting on the wall is becoming increasingly clear for many cities and rural water systems in the region that they will need another source of water in the next 20 to 40 years. This applies to the majority of L&C’s members as well. As L&C has painfully demonstrated, it takes decades to construct large-scale regional water systems so it is important we start now. We may already be behind the 8-ball,” said Larson.

Two other regional water systems are already in the planning phases. Water Investment in Northern South



Dakota MainStem presentation to the Madison Rotary Club

Dakota (WINS) is a partnership among WEB RWS, Aberdeen and BDM RWS. Western Dakota Regional Water System is working to address water needs in the western part of the state. This leaves a “gap” in the central and southern portions of eastern SD that Dakota MainStem is trying to fill. By extension it would also benefit L&C’s members in IA and MN.

Dakota MainStem would not compete with existing utilities; like L&C it would provide an additional source of water to address their long-term water needs. The idea is for this to be a wholesale provider of treated water from the Missouri River to its member utilities. It ties back to the unmet water promises made to SD in the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944 and the construction of the four mainstem dams in the state, thus the name.

Crooks Pump Station Improvements Contract Awarded

Water Expected for Madison in Mid-2024

A \$781,500 contract was awarded in November to D.W. Proehl of Sioux Falls to add three pumps at the Crooks’ pump station. Of this total, \$667,845 is for two 75 h.p. pumps that are part of the 44.19 MGD base system. The bid alternate of \$113,655 is for a third pump that is part of the expansion. As expected, there was considerable cost savings to include the expansion pump in this project instead of a standalone project later. Non-federal funds will be used for the expansion pump. The pumps have been ordered, but because of the long lead time the substantial completion deadline is not until July 2024. **This was the last contract L&C needed to award in order to deliver water to Madison.**

DN Tanks of Dallas will start construction this spring on the one million gallon ground storage reservoir east of Madison; August 2024 is the substantial completion deadline. August 2024 is also the substantial completion deadline for the Madison service line (see pages 2 and 3). “If all three pieces of this puzzle fall into place without any delays, we will be delivering Madison’s long-awaited water by late summer of 2024,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.





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Operations Update

\$2.2 Million Change Order Approved for Expansion High Service Pumps

In 2022 L&C delivered a record 7.713 billion gallons for a daily average of 21.1 million gallons; an increase of 3.9% from last year. “We’ve set records each year since we started operations in July 2012 and we expect a big bump in 2023. Sioux Center and Hull will be connected this spring and the collector well is finally coming online, so well capacity will no longer be a limiting factor,” said Operations Manager Jim Auen.

A \$2.7M contract was awarded in December 2021 to PKG of Fargo for improvements to the high service pump station. Unfortunately, this project has been repeatedly delayed by supply chain issues. The contract includes adding two 1,250 h.p. pumps and variable frequency drives (VFDs), as well as additional A/C units and a

third carbon dioxide unit. April 2023 is the substantial completion deadline, but that is now when PKG expects the VFDs to arrive. PKG has been doing as much advance work as they can. Assuming the VFDs are not delayed further, they expect to reach substantial completion by late May. “The improvements are needed by this summer when demand increases, so at this time we do not anticipate the delay will impact operations. What it really comes down to is having backup in case we lose a pump,” said Auen.

Two additional high service pumps that are part of the expansion to 60 MGD were planned to be bid in early 2024 as part of a larger treatment plant improvement project. In order to save time and money, in January the

Board approved a \$2,223,117 change order to instead add these two expansion pumps to PKG’s contract. PKG will now install four high service pumps. Non-federal funds will be used to pay for the two expansion pumps.



A/C units installed to replace the ineffective louvers in cooling the high service pump station