West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.

Quality On Tap!

October 2022 | Volume 18, Issue 2

WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED

MANAGER'S REPORT | DANR RECOGNIZES WRLJ | ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 19

MANAGER'S REPORT

Jake Fitzgerald
Manager, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS

WR/LJ PROJECT ENGINEERS

Like so many other infrastructure projects around the world, the development of the Mni Wiconi and WR/LJ regional water projects would not have been possible without the work and expertise of professional engineers. I believe we have worked with some of the best in the rural water arena and I'd like to recognize a couple of engineers who have left an immeasurable impact on WR/LJ.

IN MEMORIAM JOHN MADDEN, P.E. (1938-2022)

Jake Fitzgerald presents John Madden, P.E. with an award plaque in 2013 for his 31 years of dedicated service to WR/LJ.

John joined DGR Engineering based in Rock Rapids, IA in the early 1970s. He started working with the WR/LJ group in 1982 when the project was still a "pipe dream." Over his 40-year career with DGR, John was influential in the organization, development, and construction of regional rural water systems in South Dakota and surrounding states. He served as President of DGR for approximately 15 years beginning in the 1980s.

John passed away on June 30, 2022 at the age of 84. Our thoughts continue to be with his family.

BRUCE JENNINGS, P.E.

Bruce graduated from SDSU's Agricultural Engineering program and started working for DGR Engineering in 1979. Like John, he also started working with WR/LJ in the 1980s at the very early stages of project development. During his 43-year career at DGR, Bruce served as a design engineer, project manager, client manager, department head for the Water Services Department, and company President from 2003-2010.

Bruce retired in March 2022 and is settled in the Black Hills area. WR/LJ will miss his vast knowledge and wisdom, and we wish him all the best in his retirement as he travels and works on his various green energy projects.

...continued on page 14

West River/ Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc.
MNI WICONI WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Fuoss, Draper – President
Richard L. Doud, Midland – Vice President
Dodie Garrity, Hayes – Sec./Treas.
Kirk Cordes, Creighton
Veryl Prokop, Kadoka
Casey Krogman, White River
Brad Smith, Vivian
Dean Nelson, Murdo
Quint Garnos, Presho
Marion Matt, Philip

MURDO PROJECT OFFICE

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PO Box 407
Murdo, SD 57559

Jake Fitzgerald ..... Manager
Amy Kittelson..... Office Manager
Kati Venard ..... Billing Secretary
Brandon Kinsley..... O & M Foreman
Ed Venard..... O & M
Steve Baker..... O & M
Brian Flynn ..... O & M

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Fax : 605-669-3022
E-Mail Address:
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PHILIP FIELD OFFICE

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Philip, SD 57567

Mike Vetter ..... O & M Foreman
Eddie Dartt..... O & M
John Kramer..... O & M
Nick Konst ..... O & M

Ph: 605-859-2829 • Fax: 605-859-2859

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WEST RIVER/LYMAN-JONES RURAL WATER SYSTEMS, INC.
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF 33RD ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2022 • PHILIP SHOP BUILDING – PHILIP, SD

Registration will be from 4:00 to 4:30 MT followed by a brief business meeting and door prizes.

Guest speaker Cheryl Chapman, PhD, PE will provide information on the Western Dakota Regional Water System. Each membership will receive a $10 water credit at registration.

WR/L-J 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

The annual meeting of West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water was held at the Murdo Shop Building in Murdo, South Dakota on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Fuoss at 4:30 p.m. (CT) and a quorum was declared present.

Manager Fitzgerald read the annual meeting notice as published in the October 2021 newsletter and the local legal newspapers, and the official proof of mailing statement that indicated 1,601 newsletters were mailed from the U.S. Post Office at Madison, SD on September 16, 2021.

Manager Fitzgerald followed with introductions of WR/LJ Directors, staff and attorney.

The minutes of the October 14, 2020, Annual Meeting were published in the October 2021 issue of Quality on Tap newsletter that is mailed to all members. President Fuoss asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion Carried.

Manager Fitzgerald presented the manager's report. He provided a system overview of annual water sales and water sources. He informed members of project updates, which included the completion of a new well north of Wall that will pump 500,000 gallons per day. The field staff finished installing all the Sensus Radio units and have installed 44 new services.

Manager Fitzgerald congratulated Mike Vetter for receiving the SD Rural Water Operations Supervisor of the year award and Kati Venard for receiving the SD Rural Water Office person of the year award.

Director Cordes presented a plaque to Judy Goldhammer in honor of the late Paul Goldhammer's contribution to rural water.

David Larson, Attorney for West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water reported there are no pending lawsuits against WR/LJ and they are legally sound. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve Manager Fitzgerald and Attorney Larson's reports. Motion Carried.

Attorney Larson conducted the election of Directors and declared that, having no opposition, incumbent Directors Quint Garnos – Zone 1A, Richard L. Doud – Zone 2, Veryl Prokop – Zone 3, and Dean Nelson – Zone 5A were re-elected to the Board of Directors along with newly elected Director Marion Matt – Zone 5.

A motion was duly made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballet. Motion Carried

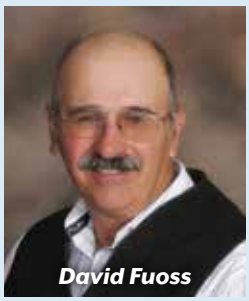
President Fuoss called for old business. There was none.

President Fuoss called for new business. There was none.

Drawings were held for door prizes.

There being no further business to address, President Fuoss adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m. (CT).

WRLJ NOTICE OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES


David Fuoss

Marion Matt

The West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc. in accordance with By-laws, Article VIII, Section I, hereby gives notice to its membership that the following seats upon the Board of Directors will be up for election at its Annual Meeting on October 19, 2022:

Zone 3A – Rural Jones County; current Director David Fuoss

Zone 5 – Municipal at Large – Municipalities in Haakon and Jackson Counties; Stanley County north of the Bad River; Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River; current Director Marion Matt

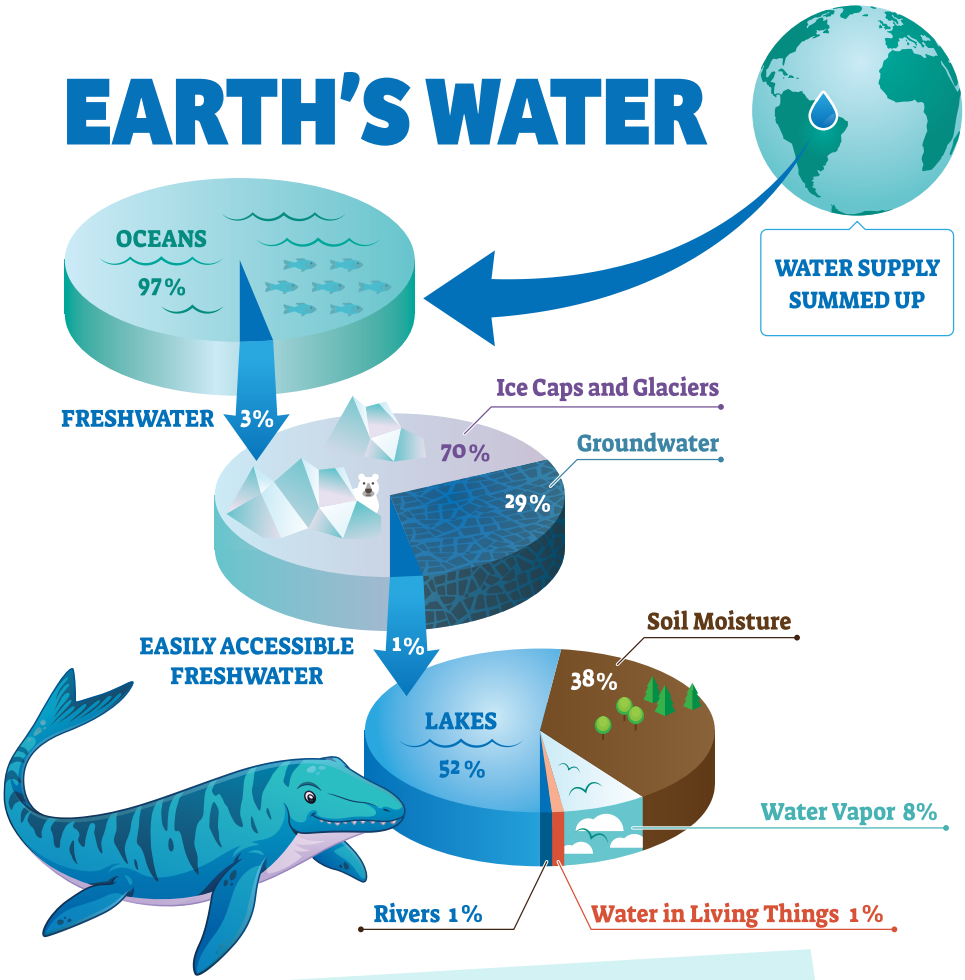
ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION:

1. Must be a member of the corporation
2. Must have contracted for a service tap in area to represent
3. Must file a petition no later than 4:00 P.M. (CT) October 7, 2022, at the rural water system office in Murdo, S.D.
4. Petition must be signed by no less than 15 members
5. No proxy voting allowed
6. Nominations will not be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting unless no petitions have been filed for a directorship

NOMINATING PETITIONS CAN BE ACQUIRED BY CONTACTING:

West River/Lyman-Jones RWS, Inc.
PO Box 407 • 307 Main St. • Murdo, SD 57559
Phone: 605-669-2931

EARTH'S WATER



How much of the Earth's surface do you think is covered with water?

If you guessed about 71%, you are right! Much of that water is saltwater, 97% of it in fact. The remaining 3% is freshwater.

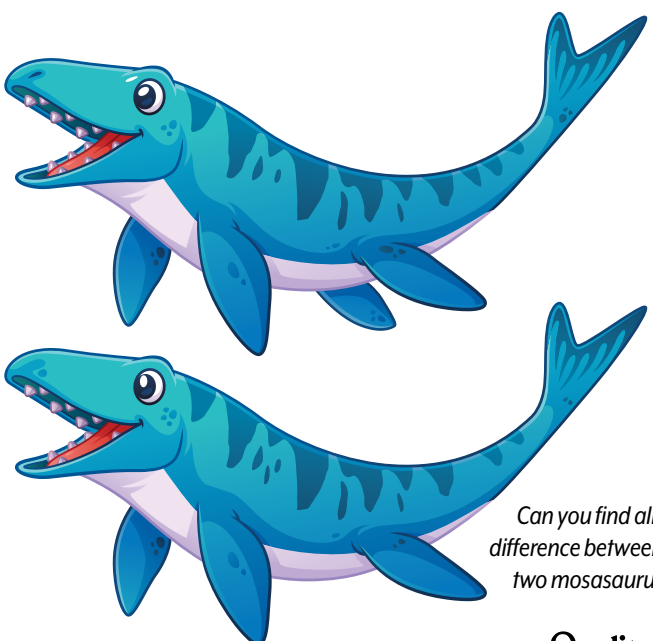
All living things on Earth need water to survive, and some of those living things, including us, need the freshwater. As you can see by the diagram, most of our freshwater is in the form of ice caps and glaciers. Only about 1% of our planet's freshwater is easily accessible. In fact, less than 1% of our Earth's freshwater is available for human use. With our growing population, it is important to care for our water resources to ensure there is clean water for everyone. **Remember, all the water on the Earth is all the water that we have.**

Water is constantly being recycled though our environment. This is known as the hydrologic cycle or water cycle.

DID YOU KNOW?

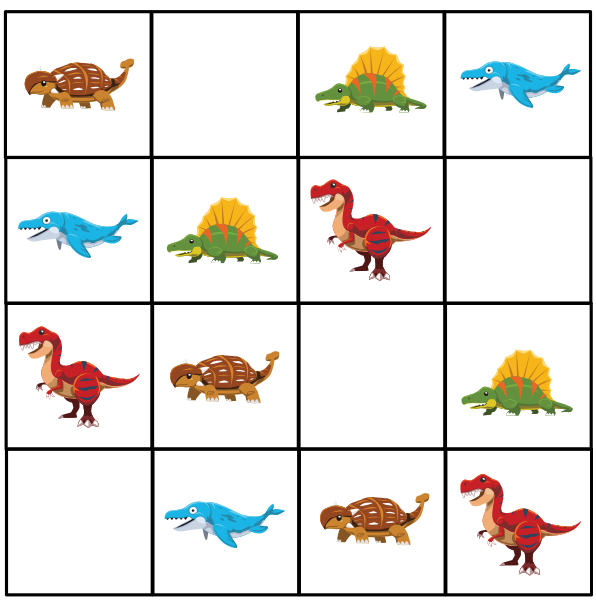
The water on our Earth today is the same water that's been here for over four billion years. That means that glass of water you drank today contains the same water that the dinosaurs drank!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Can you find all the difference between these two mosasauruses?

SUDOKU FOR KIDS



Field to Table Educates Area Youth

DONNA HENRIKSEN | CLAY RURAL WATER

The Field to Table program was started in 2001 by Burbank farmer, Ray Hall, to help educate children on the uses of crops grown in the area. Ray wanted to create an outdoor classroom for children so they could see exactly what is involved in growing a crop from the planting and harvesting of the crop to the finished product and what is done with it from there. Ray kept the program going until 2008, when Valley Ag of Gayville took over the program.

The outdoor classroom is set up into 7-9 different stations where the children spend two hours learning about a different topic ranging from planting to combining to selling the finished products. Most kids get exposure to what the value and production of livestock is in the area via the local 4-H programs; "The Field to Table" program was started to give them a similar exposure with the crop production of the area such as field corn and soybeans.

Stations that the children might go through include: Corn By-Products, Corn Growth and Development, Soybean Growth and Development, Soybeans By-Products, Dairy, Livestock, Plant Nutrition, Soils, and Machinery, such as a planter & combine. The children receive packets of educational materials and are each given a bottle of water, supplied by Clay Rural Water System.

When the event first started Hall said, "I went out about 15 feet into the corn field and plowed down a circular area; that is what we called our classroom. We had, I suppose, about 100 students attend in 2001 from 6 or 7 area schools." The event has grown over the years and is held over 3 days. In 2021, 623 4th & 5th graders attended from 13 different schools.

"It is just very important for the kids who don't grow up on farms to see all of this, "Hall said. "It used to be kids grew up on farms and just knew the basics. Today, it is important to bring those kids who live in town out here and let them enjoy the farm while learning about the crops and how they are used in everyday life."

Portions of this article were reprinted from the Sept. 12, 2008 edition of the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. Ray Hall passed away in 2020 at the age of 94.

Photo Credit: Sam Stukel, SD GF&P

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY. DO YOUR PART.

JAKE DAVIS | GF&P FISHERIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. While it's a simple message, putting these three words to use is the best way to help slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) within South Dakota. So, what are AIS exactly? Well, they are aquatic plants and animals that have been introduced into waterways where they do not live naturally. They can have harmful effects on the natural resources in these ecosystems and the human uses of these resources. They include fish, plants, and invertebrates and can be found in many aquatic systems across the state. They can impact recreation as well as infrastructure within a waterbody, and once established, they can be very hard to get rid of.

ZEBRA MUSSELS (Dreissena polymorpha).

One species that gets a lot of attention, and rightfully so, is the zebra mussel. This small shellfish is native to the Black, Caspian, and Azov Seas; however, after hitching a ride in ballast water in ships, they became established in the Great Lakes and have continued to spread.

The first detection in South Dakota was within Lewis and Clark Lake in 2015. Since that time, they have spread upstream in the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe below Oahe Dam. Additionally, they have been detected in other eastern South Dakota waters including McCook, Yankton, Cochrane, Pickerel, Kampeska, and Mitchell Lakes, as well as Dahme Quarry. Two new waters have been identified as infested as of 2022 and those waters would include Enemy Swim Lake in the Northeast as well as Pactola Reservoir in the Black Hills, which is the first positive water west of the Missouri River.

These small mussels attach to hard surfaces, such as watercraft, docks, and plants, using special structures called byssal threads. While this is an easy way to identify them as a non-native mussel, unfortunately, it is also how they can be transported from one waterbody to another. When they are juveniles, also known as veligers, they are microscopic and can be invisible to the naked eye. This is one of the primary reasons that lake and stream water cannot be transported, as the water could have zebra mussel veligers floating in it, and a person would never know.

Adults reproduce rapidly and can impact the aquatic food web by filtering high volumes of water and outcompeting native mussels. Additionally, they can impact water infrastructure by attaching to any hard surface and can reach densities where they foul equipment and clog submerged pipes.

INVASIVE CARP

Another AIS that folks often think of are invasive carps. These are the ones that jump out of the water when startled and fly through the air. The two primary species include bighead carp and silver carp. At present, they exist in South Dakota in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, as well as in the James River, the Big Sioux River below Falls Park in Sioux Falls, and the Vermillion River below East Vermillion State Recreation Area.

While they look very different than any native fish as adults, as young fish they resemble other small native fish, such as gizzard shad. Because of the similar appearance of these species and due to the popularity of gizzard shad as baitfish, areas where both species occur are closed to

noncommercial take of bait as someone may easily mistake a juvenile invasive carp for a legal baitfish and move it to another water.

OTHER AIS

Additional AIS species include plants such as curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and brittle naiad, as well as other fish species such as European rudd and common carp. Other AIS invertebrates within the state include rusty crayfish, red swamp crayfish, Asian clam, New Zealand mudsnail, and red-rimmed melania.

Several other species are not currently found in South Dakota, but occur in neighboring states and as such, are classified as AIS. Examples of these include spiny water flea, round goby, white perch, and several snakehead species. Due to the proximity of their current distribution, GFP has classified them as AIS, so possession of these species is prohibited to help prevent them from becoming established within the state. A full list of AIS and known infested waters can be found in the 2022 Fishing handbook or online at sdleastwanted.sd.gov.

SLOW THE SPREAD

So, what is South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) doing to slow the spread of AIS? The GFP AIS program utilizes a combination of outreach and education along with direct engagement with boaters as the primary methods of approach. A diverse group of users exist when it comes to South Dakota's aquatic resources, and these can range from anglers to recreational boaters. As such, every individual who recreates on the water in South Dakota is included in the target audience. The outreach and education program uses a combination of targeted emails, news releases, signage in the field, and social media posts to help spread the message of AIS awareness. Additionally, information cards are printed annually and provided to users during inspections and provided to businesses and GFP offices for distribution.

In recent years, GFP has partnered with Lawrence and Schiller, a marketing and advertising agency located in Sioux Falls, to utilize two additional outreach programs that could not be produced by the department. These include short, informational videos that are played on gas station TVs around the state. While the video is only 30 seconds long, this has shown to be an effective method to relay the message of AIS through effective audio and video content. The second approach that this partnership has provided is through the use of "Instant Experience" on Facebook and Instagram. These are short but initially, they can also be shared with an individual's family and friends on their pages to help increase viewership.

INSPECTIONS

Annually, GFP conducts roadside inspections of watercraft users and partners with local County Conservation Districts and Lake Associations to conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps, also known as "access-based" inspections. In western South Dakota, access-based inspections take place at Angostura, Deerfield, Pactola, Sheridan, Belle Fourche, and Shadehill Reservoirs. This direct engagement with users allows for the sharing of information, inspection for AIS on watercraft, and enforcement of AIS regulations. In central and eastern South Dakota, roadside inspections are the primary method used, as the sheer volume of boat ramps makes access-based inspections unrealistic.

The goal with the roadside inspections is to maximize contacts by setting up in areas that see a high number of watercraft being transported. Whether roadside or access-based, watercraft inspections are meant to be short interactions that determine the risk that AIS are present on a watercraft. One way for users to speed up the inspection process is to make sure there is no water in any compartments within the watercraft and all vegetation has been removed.

SELF-INSPECTION

Users should perform a self-inspection of their watercraft after every trip on the water using the acronym H.E.A.D.

- **Hull:** examine both sides of the hull below the waterline and the trailer.
- **Engine**: inspect the engine, look for AIS in dark areas, right angles, and rough spots, and drain water from your lower unit.
- **Anchor:** examine interior compartments, anchor, and ropes.
- **Dry:** pull all plugs and leave them out until your next launch.

REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are aimed at slowing the spread of AIS. Examples of these include the requirement of having all boat/drain plugs removed unless a watercraft, including jet skis, is in a boat ramp parking area, on the water, or being launched/loaded. Additionally, fish and bait cannot be transported in lake or stream water, and unused baitfish need to be disposed of properly.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In the end, it comes down to the actions of every user of South Dakota's aquatic resources to help take steps to minimize the risk of spreading AIS. One of the ultimate goals of the GFP AIS program is to provide individuals with the tools and information needed to help them implement best management practices when using the water. Additional information on how to help slow the spread of AIS, current species distributions, and regulations can be found at sdleastwanted.sd.gov or by contacting your local GFP office or representative. Aquatic invasive species affect all water users. That is why it will take the efforts of everyone to help make an impact. **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. EVERY TIME.**

WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED

TROY LARSON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

What does it mean to waste water? To "waste" water for most of us means to consume it unnecessarily or excessively. Maybe leaving a faucet or hose running when it could be turned off, or seeing sprinklers running while it is raining or has just rained. I often think about wasting water when running the shower or faucet waiting for the water to get hot. How many gallons does that total each year? For the rural water industry though we need to think of wasting water as "letting it flow unimpeded and undiverted down rivers," which is a quote from Mark Reisner in his book "Cadillac Desert."

In our case it is Missouri River water flowing by us that was promised to the state as part of the Pick-Sloan Program that was first authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534). This legislation called for the construction of six dams along the Missouri River; four of those are located in South Dakota. Senators Joseph O'Mahoney (D-WY) and Eugene Millikin (R-CO) successfully included amendments to Pick-Sloan that thankfully provided for the interests of people in the upper basins. The amendments created an emphasis on irrigation over river navigation and gave precedence to arid states for the use of basin water.

South Dakota gave up 520,390 acres, which was 30.4% of the land needed for the six dams. Much was promised to the state in return such as flood protection, electric power and recreation, but I will just focus on water. South Dakota was promised 972,510 acres of irrigation from the Missouri River. According to Ken Royse, Program Manager of the Missouri River Joint Water Board, this equals about 622.4 billion gallons per year.

A number of irrigation projects were planned. The most well-known, the Oahe irrigation project, was going to bring water to 16 counties in northcentral and northeast South Dakota. Construction started on the irrigation channel, but landowner opposition eventually resulted in the Carter Administration defunding it in the late 70's. Other irrigation projects also fell by the wayside. South Dakota currently only has about 24,100 acres of irrigation, which using Ken's calculations equals about 15.4 billion gallons per year.

After irrigation fell by the wayside, what happened next? To realize the promise of Pick-Sloan the state pivoted to rural water. WEB Rural Water System was the first to tap into the Missouri River for drinking water and others followed. There are currently 11 regional rural water systems drawing water either directly from the Missouri River, or like in the case of Lewis & Clark RWS drawing water from an aquifer that is recharged by the river. This does not include the other systems who are buying water from these 11 systems.

These projects are a partial fulfillment of what was promised by Pick-Sloan, but even so collectively they are a proverbial drop in the bucket. It is estimated the 11 rural water projects are currently drawing about 19 billion gallons per year. Add in the approximately 15.4 billion gallons of irrigation and that brings the total to roughly 34.4 billion gallons, which equals about 5.5 % of what was promised.

The drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and we need to start taking action now

More projects are on the drawing board to utilize the Missouri River – Western Dakota Regional Water System and Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS), which is a partnership among Aberdeen, WEB RWS and BDM RWS. Even so, the drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and we need to start taking action now. Considering how long large scale water projects take to complete, we likely are already behind the 8-ball.

What is the federal interest though in terms of helping to fund future water projects? The federal interest is the roughly 588 billion gallons and the subsequent direct and indirect economic activity still remaining for South Dakota to get what was promised as part of the Pick-Sloan promise.

There are already rumblings of projects in states like California, Colorado, Nevada and Utah trying to tap into the Missouri River. In reality any of the western states could be looking at that possibility if they are not already doing so. The sooner we get started locking up what was promised to the citizens of South Dakota the better. Let's not continue to waste water by letting it flow by us.

LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

The exact year has been lost to history, but the idea for a regional wholesale supplier of water started around 1987. Parachute pants were still popular back then, so that shows how long this project has taken!

After the idea was planted by what is now known as the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, several key people led the charge to move forward, including SDARWS' Denny Davis. With a concept in hand, which at the time was called the Southeastern South Dakota Water Supply System (quite the mouthful!), SDARWS' Bill Dempsey started beating the bushes to see which cities and rural water systems may be interested in joining.

It was determined early on that to get congressional authorization would require political support from Iowa and Minnesota, so the project was expanded into those states and renamed. Lewis & Clark RWS was incorporated in January 1990 and the first board meeting was held in April 1990. Banner Associates was hired in August 1990. Lewis & Clark shared an office with the SDARWS for a few years.

There were originally over 50 member cities and rural water systems, but in 1993 the rubber met the road in terms of signing on the dotted line, reserving a specific capacity and paying an annual cost share. Many members dropped out at that time, a decision most have deeply regretted. Brandon being the highest profile community due to their well-documented water issues, but also rural water systems like Big Sioux CWS, Clay RWS, Kingbrook RWS and TM RWS just to name a few.

After many congressional hearings, congressional authorization for Lewis & Clark was finally approved and signed into law in July 2000 for a 23.5 million gallons a day (MGD) system. Generally speaking the grant dollars for construction are 80% federal, 10% from the three states and 10% from the 20 members. No federal or state funding for operations, which are covered 100% by water rates.

Several years had passed since the members reserved their capacities, so after the project was authorized they were given the opportunity to request additional capacity but needed to pay 100% of the incremental cost to upsize the system. The capacity of what is often referred to as the "base system" was eventually increased to 44.19 MGD.

After a Final Engineering Report was completed, a Finding of No Significant Impact was eventually issued in March 2003. This was the final environmental hurdle before construction could begin. A well-attended groundbreaking ceremony was held on the banks of the Missouri River near Vermillion in August 2003.

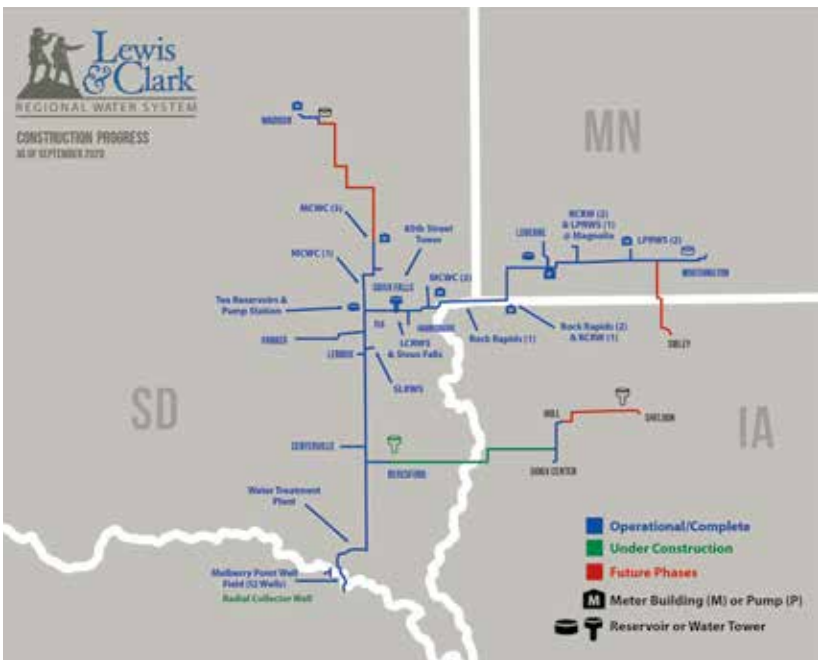
Water began flowing to the first 11 members on July 30, 2012, so Lewis & Clark just celebrated its 10 year anniversary of operations. Fifteen of the 20 members are currently connected, with Sioux Center and Hull expected to come online by the end of this year. Only Sheldon, Sibley and Madison will be left to connect. Lewis & Clark's water source is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River. The treatment plant is a few miles north of Vermillion.

Construction of the base system is an estimated 93% complete. Based on recent federal appropriations and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is anticipated all 20 members will be connected by 2025. This includes repaying the "federal funding advances" the three states generously approved to help keep construction moving forward when federal funding dropped to extremely low levels for seven consecutive years starting in 2011.

Lewis & Clark is designed to expand to 60 MGD in the future, with the members needing to cover 100% of the remaining cost to expand the system. The future is now. The drought has been a real eye opener for the members in terms of the sustainability of their water supplies. Construction is beginning this year on the expansion and completion is anticipated by 2030. No additional capacity can be generated until the expansion is fully completed.

In today's dollars the expansion is estimated to cost $114 million. Thankfully South Dakota and Iowa recently approved $15 million and $12 million respectively from the American Rescue Plan Act funding to help offset a portion of the expansion, which directly benefits homes and businesses by keeping water rates as low as possible. This leaves the members with a remaining cost share in today's dollars of $87 million.

Like our namesake explorers, the journey has been very long and arduous. Countless challenges and obstacles along the way. Through it all we have kept the faith and persevered. This has been a team effort and there have been many incredible key partners along the way. SDARWS has certainly been one of those key partners. Everyone at Lewis & Clark is very grateful to the SDARWS for all the support and advocacy through the years. Thank you!



Quality On Tap!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Murray Hulstein, Sioux Center – Chairman
Scott Hain, Worthington – Vice Chairman
Jim Hoye, Rock Rapids – Treasurer
Todd Uhl, Sheldon – Secretary
Jerry Lonneman, Lincoln Pipestone RWS – At-Large Member
Scott Buss, Minnehaha CWC – At-Large Member

SOUTH DAKOTA DIRECTORS:

Tom Erickson, Beresford – Director
Brad Preheim, Centerville – Director
Nolan Meyer, Harrisburg – Director
Nathan Vander Plaats, Lennox – Director
Robin Dykstra, Lincoln Co. RWS – Director
Ryan Hegg, Madison – Director
Adam Jans, Parker – Director
Gavin Graverson, Sioux Falls – Director
Ralph Hammer, South Lincoln RWS – Director
Sid Munson, Tea – Director

STAFF:

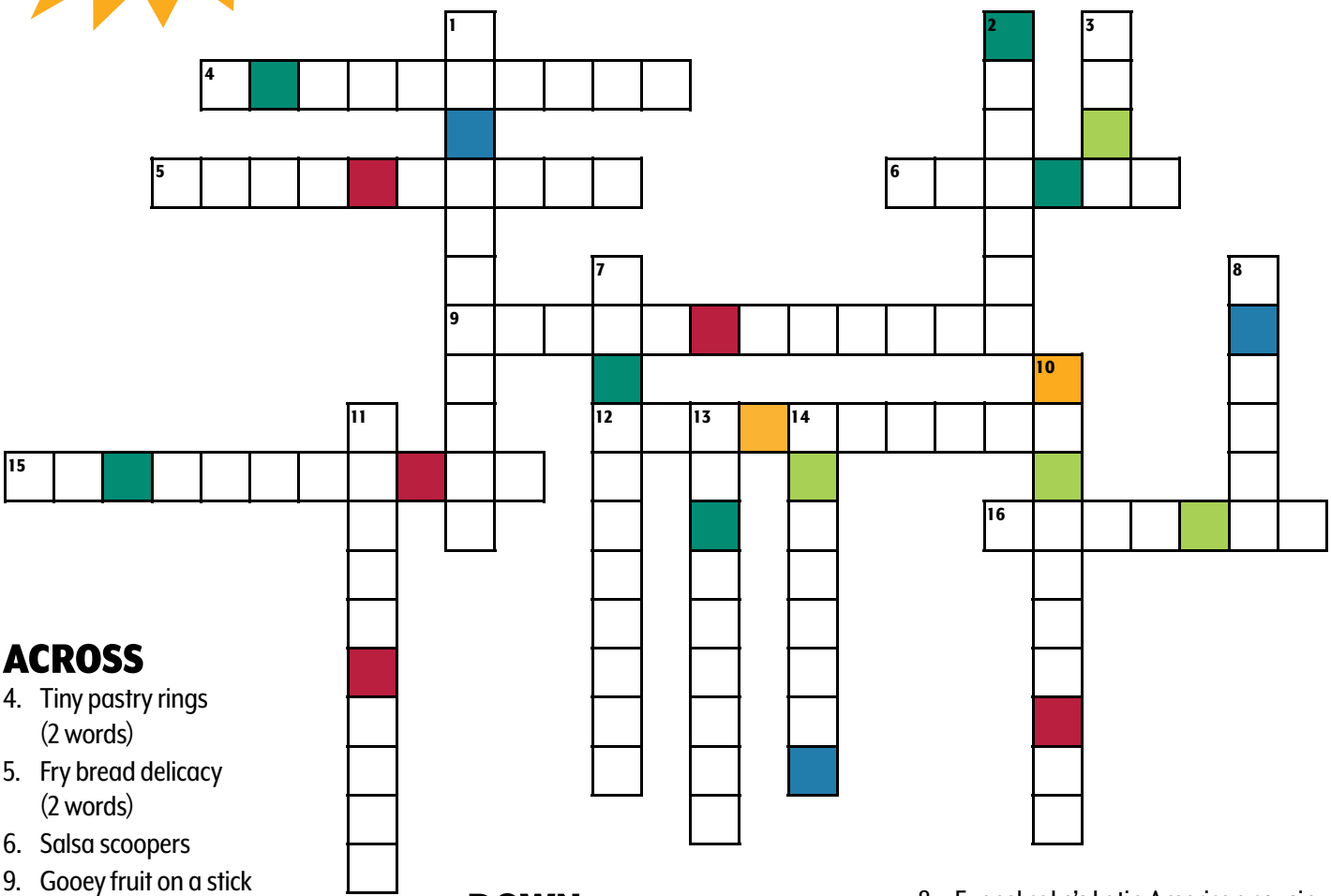
Troy Larson – Executive Director
Jim Auen – Operations Manager
Lori Seten – Business Manager
Mike Duchscher – Plant Supervisor
Todd Giffin – Maintenance Foreman
Clint Koehn – Construction Administrator
Shain Becker – Electronics Maintenance Technician
Roger Adam – Industrial HVAC Technician
Justin Walsh – Distribution Operator
Jay Nelson – Distribution Operator
Jon Anderson – Water Operator
Mike Rath – Water Operator
Jeremy Hult – Water Operator
Shawn Anderson – Water Operator
Cody Schultz – Water Operator
Jim Andersen – Water Operator
Jon Johnson – Custodian (part-time)

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

FAIR FOODS

Enter to Win $100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



ACROSS

4. Tiny pastry rings (2 words)
5. Fry bread delicacy (2 words)
6. Salsa scoopers
9. Gooey fruit on a stick (2 words)
12. Sweet and salty snack made in a kettle (2 words)
15. Deep-fried dairy chunks (2 words)
16. Frank on a stick (2 words)

DOWN

1. Fluffy sweet treat (2 words)
2. Icy dessert (2 words)
3. Greek pita sandwich
7. Tex Mex in a bag (2 words)
8. Funnel cake's Latin American cousin
10. Circular fried root veggie (2 words)
11. Deep-fried batter (2 words)
13. Limb of a gobbler (2 words)
14. Classic sidewalk stand beverage

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by October 15, 2022 to be entered into the $100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Dixie Ball with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "After Rain Comes Fair Weather" for July 2022.

RURAL WATER
ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

On August 10, 2022, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo joined Bureau of Reclamation leaders at a ribbon cutting event to celebrate a $75.5 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law into the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. The funding was allocated in March 2022, as part of a $420 million investment in rural water.

"The Biden-Harris administration is steadfast in our commitment to investing in rural America and to ensuring that every family and every community has sufficient access to safe, clean, reliable water," said Assistant Secretary Trujillo. "Through this $75.5 million investment provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the tremendous partnership of Lewis & Clark, this project will eventually benefit 300,000 people in the tri-state area, supporting families, farmers, wildlife and furthering our work to tackle historic drought conditions."

Assistant Secretary Trujillo was joined at the event by Reclamation's Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Region's Regional Director Brent Esplin, and Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Executive Director Troy Larson.

The Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization incorporated in 1990 and authorized by Congress in 2000. It is a wholesale provider of water to 20 member cities and rural water systems in a 5,000 square miles area in southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa, and southwest Minnesota. The initial ground-breaking was on August 21, 2003, construction began in earnest in 2004, and operations started on July 30, 2012. Water is currently being delivered to 15 members: Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County Rural Water System, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System, Luverne, Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Parker, Rock County Rural Water Department, Rock Rapids, Sioux Falls, South Lincoln Rural Water System, Tea and Worthington.

The project is currently 86% completed, with funding for construction provided through federal, state and local grants. The states and members have paid 100% of their cost share, and the $75.5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will go toward constructing the remaining 32 miles of pipeline for the Madison service line, the 17 miles of pipeline to Sheldon, meter buildings, a pump station and a new water storage reservoir.

When completed, the system will distribute treated water through 337 miles of pipeline. The capacity of the completed system will be 45 million gallons of water per day with the ability to expand to 60 million gallons of water per day in the future. The system utilizes a series of wells to tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, South Dakota. In addition to a traditional lime softening treatment facility, the non-looped system also includes a series of wells, meter buildings, pump stations and water storage facilities.

Manager: continued from page 2

Final day at the office for Bruce Jennings, P.E.

2023 WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT

New water rates will go into effect January 1, 2023. In June 2022, the WR/LJ Board of Directors approved a rate increase of $0.10/1,000 gallons. The current rural rate of $2.50 will be increased to $2.60 per 1,000 gallons and will apply to January 2023 water usage. The monthly minimum base fees will remain the same.

The rate adjustment is the result of ever-increasing costs to produce and deliver quality drinking water. Operation, maintenance, and replacement costs continue to rise, and the WR/LJ Board is committed to maintaining the technical and financial sustainability of the water system. These rate adjustments will help ensure the long-term reliability and affordability of water services throughout the service area.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for selecting me for this scholarship. While attending SDSU this fall, this scholarship will help me greatly. I truly appreciate this privilege!

Sincerely,

Allison Williams, Philip

Thank you so much for the $500 scholarship. We all appreciate your support of our local youth. I will use this money to pursue a degree in nursing at Sheridan College.

Thanks again,

Sierra Hilgenkamp

IS YOUR CONTACT INFO UP TO DATE?

If you have changed your landline, cell phone, or email address, please let us know. This will make it easier to contact members directly for water outages and high flow alerts.

Please email wrlj_ruralwater@goldenwest.net, call 800-851-2349 or fill out the form below and mail it to PO Box 407, Murdo, SD 57559. Thank you!

Name: _____ Account Number _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

DANR RECOGNIZES WEST RIVER/LYMAN-JONES FOR DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has announced that the West River/Lyman-Jones public water system and the system's operation specialists have been awarded a Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award.

"Access to safe and reliable water sources is essential to keeping our families safe and our economy growing," said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of South Dakota's drinking water system operators and their efforts to ensure their customers have access to clean drinking water."

The system's operation specialists are Jake Fitzgerald, Michael Vetter, Ed Venard, Brandon Kinsley, Eddie Dartt, John Kramer, Steven Baker, Nicholas Konst and Brian Flynn.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

2021

West River/Lyman Jones

To qualify for the Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award, public water systems and their system operations specialists had to meet all the compliance monitoring and reporting requirements, drinking water standards, and certification requirements for 2021.

FREE SERVICE

WR/LJ provides two free trips each calendar year to shut off/ turn on water at locations that will not be in use for a period of time. Please give advance notice by calling the main office in Murdo a couple days prior, so our field staff can make arrangements.

In observance of the following holidays, WR/LJ Rural Water offices will be closed on the following days:

October 10, 2022 – Native American Day

November 24, 2022 – Thanksgiving Day

November 25, 2022 – Day after Thanksgiving

In case of an emergency,
please call the Murdo area at 530-0932
or the Philip area at 530-1136 for assistance.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. **Online Payment:** Go to www.wrlj.com (accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Electronic Check)
2. **Pay-By-Phone:** Call 1-855-325-8898 to use our automated bill payment option.
3. **Pay-By-Phone:** Call 1-800-851-2349 and a WR/LJ customer representative will take your payment information over the phone.
4. **Electronic Direct Payment:** Your payment is automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 10th of each month.
5. **US Mail:** Mail payment along with the bottom portion of your bill.
6. **Pay-in-Person:** During regular business hours you may bring your payment to our office.
7. **24-Hour Drop Box:** Available at the Murdo office near the main entrance.

For forms or more information on these payment options, please call 1-800-851-2349.

Visit us online at: **www.wrlj.com**

West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.
PO Box 407
Murdo, SD 57559
605-669-2931 • www.wrlj.com

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PERMIT #32
MADISON, SD

WATER/WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

As we all know, everyone needs water to exist. However, for most people, our water is provided to us by some outside source, such as a public water supplier (PWS) such as your rural water system. In turn, PWSs pass along the costs of acquiring, treating and delivering this water, in the form of monthly water charges, to its customers. No matter how critical, some customers may, from time-to-time, have trouble paying for the water they need.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services has received funding to assist low-income individuals and families whose water/wastewater service has been disconnected or who are at risk of losing access to water service. If your water/wastewater service has been disconnected; or if you have been notified of pending service disconnection; or if you have overdue water service bills, there may be help available.

Eligibility for Energy Assistance is based on the number of people and income of everyone in the home. To apply contact the Community Action Agency serving your County. Applications are being accepted now.

TO APPLY, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY SERVING YOUR COUNTY:

Inter-Lakes Community Action
605-256-6518
www.interlakescap.com
serves Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, and Moody counties.

Grow South Dakota
605-698-7654
www.growsd.org
serves Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Roberts, Spink, Stanley, Sully, and Walworth counties.

Rural Office of Community Services
605-384-3883
www.rocsinc.org
serves Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, Mellette, Sanborn, Todd, Tripp, Turner, Yankton, and Union counties.

Western South Dakota Community Action
605-348-1460
www.wsdca.org
serves Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, and Ziebach counties.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is dedicated to strengthening families to foster health, well being, and independence. For more information, please visit dss.sd.gov.

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:

EAST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

132B Airport Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
605-688-6741
eastdakota.org