

THE CHALLENGE

The Lewis & Clark Regional Water System formed in 1990, when 20 cities and rural water systems in northwest Iowa, southeast South Dakota and southwest Minnesota pooled their resources to tackle common water issues, such as poor quality and limited access. Lewis & Clark began delivering water in 2012. Today, the system serves water to 15 of its 20 members.

A funding shortfall has delayed connections to the remaining five members, including Sioux Center, Hull, Sheldon and Sibley, with economic development projects on the line. It is past time to finish what Iowa started, to provide the safe drinking water these communities deserve and to grow the economy.

"Sheldon is unable to recruit wet industries until we have Lewis & Clark water. We simply do not have the quantity or quality of water needed to be considered by an industry that counts on a high volume or a high quality water source. Every delay in the hook up to Lewis & Clark gives us a higher potential in missing an economic development opportunity."

– Todd Uhl, Sheldon Public Works Director
and Lewis & Clark Director

ECONOMIC IMPACT

A finished Lewis and Clark Regional Water System will serve an estimated 300,000 people, including people who travel into member communities to work, shop and play. The water system already has paid off for economic development, attracting businesses and creating jobs in communities that would have been bypassed without this critical service. For example:

- Agropur chose Hull for its cheese manufacturing plant because of Lewis & Clark's emergency connection with Sioux Center and the promise of future water from the system.
- Rock Rapids sells a significant portion of its water to nearby Lyon-Sioux Regional Water System, enabling that system to serve area homes and businesses.
- Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort near Larchwood depends on Lewis & Clark to provide water via Rock Rapids and Lyon-Sioux Regional Water System.

\$617,387,196
TOTAL PROJECT COST

REQUEST

\$1.7 million funding advance from the state

This zero-interest loan will be repaid with federal dollars available once the four remaining Iowa communities and one in South Dakota are connected to Lewis & Clark (repayment is expected to begin in FY2025).

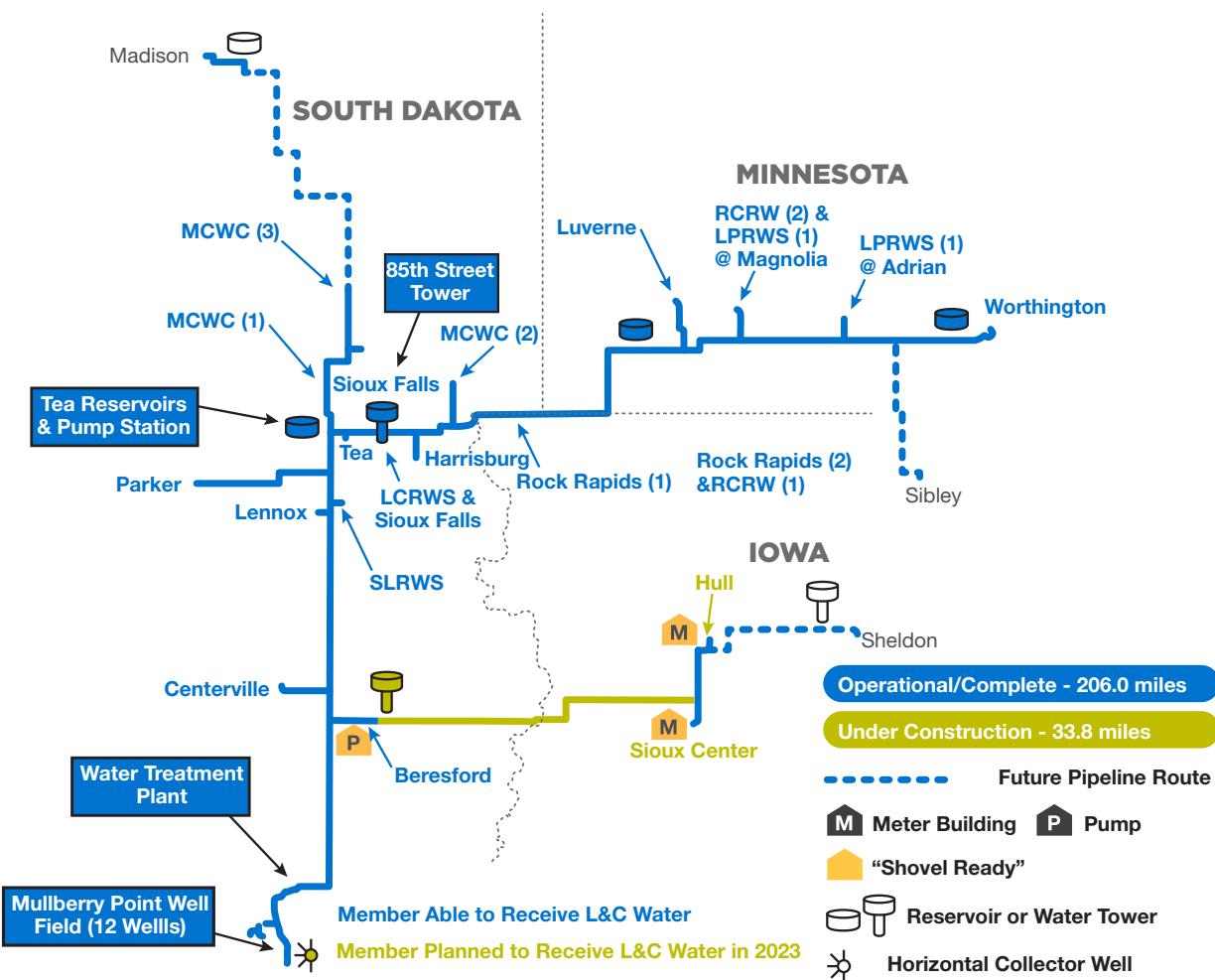
This funding will be used to construct a water tower in Sheldon. Lewis & Clark intends to award a contract in the summer of 2021 to prevent further delays in water service to Sheldon, which also impacts the timeline for providing water service to Sibley. FY21 federal funding for Lewis & Clark (\$17.5 million) will be used to connect other Iowa communities.

Further buildout of Lewis & Clark will be put on hold until the state is repaid.

"We currently have two businesses in the food processing industry that have expressed genuine interest in Sibley. The water usage capabilities, along with the quality of water that Lewis and Clark Regional Water System provide, may be the tipping point that brings these businesses to our town as opposed to a neighboring state that we are currently getting compared to."

– Cory Dykstra, Sibley Utilities Superintendent

LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS AS OF OCTOBER 2020



"Lewis & Clark connecting to Sioux Center will be just in time to supplement our supply as our consumption is nearly growing beyond our current ability to serve. Also, our well supply has seen an increase in our nitrate levels that nears the Iowa DNR limit. Blending Lewis & Clark water with our supply will allow us to serve the safe quality water Iowans expect."

– Murray Hulstein, Sioux Center Utilities Manager and Lewis & Clark Vice Chairman