

# LINCOLN COUNTY RURAL WATER FEATURE

## ANNUAL MEETING OFFICIAL NOTICE

According to Article VII, Section 1, the Annual Meeting of the Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc., will be held at 7:00PM Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the American Legion Hall in Harrisburg SD. Registration will begin at 6:30PM.

This newsletter announcement will serve as the official notice to all members.

The Annual Meeting is held so members can elect directors, review the financial status of the Corporation, vote on proposed amendments of the By-Laws or the Articles of Incorporation, and vote on proposed resolutions.

As outlined in Article V of the By-Laws of Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc., two petitions were successfully submitted. Incumbent Joe Burns for District 1. Incumbent Chris Hofer for District 3. No nominations will be received from the floor at

the Annual Meeting of the members.

All members are urged to attend the annual meeting.

Otto Hagedorn  
Secretary

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JOE BURNS



CHRIS HOFER



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



It is once again time for the Annual Meeting of the Lincoln County Rural Water System. It just doesn't seem that long ago that past President, Roger Lamp, was calling the annual meeting to order. I say "past"...as many of you know, Roger decided not to seek re-election to the board, but instead to retire, and do all those things retirement offers. By the way, Roger, how's that new camper working out? I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger for his 30 years of service to the LCRW board, and also for serving as our representative on the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Board. LCRW has experienced many changes during this time. Under Roger's leadership, LCRW has a clear view as to the direction this system is headed. The Board of Directors and I are grateful for his leadership over the years he has been with this company.

At the last reorganization meeting of LCRW, I was given the opportunity to serve as your president. This is the first time I have had to write a "Message from the President" for the newsletter. With that in mind, I would like to tell you a bit about myself. I have lived in this community all my life, and farm on the farm I grew up on. I can remember many years ago, my father attending informational meetings, to inquire about the interest of forming an organization for the purpose of supplying a good source of water to offer to rural farms and acreages. Fortunately, our farm was able to hook onto the system at an early opportunity. The water from the system was of much higher quality than the water from our farm well. Livestock loved it. Their health and productivity improved immensely. It didn't take us long to use LCRW as our sole source of water. What a huge improvement to our quality of life! Today, I can't imagine going without this good water source.

I'd like to share an experience I had approximately a year ago. It was late January 2017, when I had the misfortune of breaking my arm. I fell off the top of an eight foot ladder, and landed on the frozen ground. After surgery, I found my arm in a cast and all of a sudden, instantly, I'm realizing what limited mobility means. I'm looking for shoes with velcro, trying to pull up pants with one hand, and struggling to slide a belt through each of the loops on my jeans. Until my fall, I had taken for granted my need for a dual set of well working arms and hands. Fortunately, after quick healing, I regained full mobility, and returned to my duties on the farm. This got me to thinking about our water system. When you are unable to use one of your limbs, or have no water, you quickly realize how dependent we become on things we otherwise take for granted.

"Maybe some day, we can be driven to the Annual Meeting in our autonomous car."

Our employees work tirelessly to provide high quality and uninterrupted water service. Change is always happening, even in LCRW. Due to the increased work load, the system has hired a third water distribution specialist. His name is Christopher Peters, and he lives in Sioux Falls with his family. There is so much to learn about the system, but he has some very experienced instructors in both Dan Schwarz and Aaron Koch. Christopher is a fast learner and we are happy to have him as part of the LCRW family.

Change is something that is happening all around us. As change is happening in our lives, change is also happening in the water industry. With the advancement in technology, LCRW is able to supply it's customers with high quality water from wells and a treatment plant that is located 60 miles away. The days of hard water are pretty much a thing of the past.

A few years ago, LCRW invested in and implemented the use of remote meter reading. This gave us the ability to read your water use, while driving by your meter. With the improvement in meter technology, we are now replacing some of these meters with new and improved models. LCRW staff may be knocking on your door to replace these units soon.

In the agriculture industry, CASE IH is advancing technology with the development of an autonomous tractor. With the use of computers, cameras, and sensors, this tractor can work in your field without the need for an operator. Can you envision the implication of this technology in the future? Will technology take the farmer out of farming? In my retirement years of farming, I was looking forward to being able to sit in my GPS auto steer environmental controlled tractor, doing some type of useful task. Now I will be replaced by a computer. Maybe some day, we can be driven to the LCRW Annual Meeting in our autonomous car. If you would like to learn more, of course, check out You Tube.

Enough of my ramblings. Please mark March 20 on your calendar for the LCRW Annual Meeting. I hope to see all of you there.

Merlyn Smeenk  
President

## FROM YOUR MANAGER

As you will see in the Board President’s report, Lincoln County Rural Water hired a third water distribution specialist this past year. We hired Christopher Peters in October to work with Dan and Aaron as a water distribution specialist.



This brings our crew to six employees. Sheila Hart has been with LCRWS since February of 1995. Dan Schwarz worked with this system from 1986 to 1996 then left to pursue other dreams only to come back to work with us in March of 2001. Nancy Oaks started in October of 1999 as part time office assistant. In August of 2014 Aaron Koch joined us and now Chris in October of 2017. I joined the LCRWS staff in May of 2006.

There are many projects in the future of Lincoln County Rural Water and I will discuss a few in the next several paragraphs.

The SDDOT did not get land acquired so they did not get the project started last year. They plan to widen and regrade SD 115 from 85<sup>th</sup> St. to 273<sup>rd</sup> and hope to go out to bid in April of 2018. We have worked with DOT to finalize our agreements with them so that our water lines can be relocated during this project. We have a little over 3 miles of pipe affected by this project of which 89% are presently in private easements. Since we are in private easements approximately 89% of the relocation costs will be at the expense of the State, leaving 11% for the water system to pay. The estimated total cost to relocate the water lines for LCRWS is more than \$1.3 million. We are doing what we can to reduce any relocation costs that will be the responsibility of Lincoln County Rural Water.

The City of Tea will be completing grading and utility improvements on 271<sup>st</sup> St. along the north side of Tea. This project will impact LCRWS as we will need to abandon a 2 ½” water main along the north side of 271<sup>st</sup> for the length of the project. We have made some modifications to the remaining existing water mains to compensate for the loss of that water line. This project is planned to start spring of 2018 and be completed in November of 2018. This project was to have happened last year but land acquisitions were not completed. There will be periods of water supply interruptions in the surrounding area while modifications are made to our water lines.

Another project in the not so distant future is the overpass and possible interchange at I-29 and 85<sup>th</sup> St. Our plan is to install a larger diameter water line through that intersection to improve water supply to the west side of our water system. Our understanding is that this DOT project is planned for 2020. Sioux Falls is also planning improvements on 85<sup>th</sup> street from the interstate east to Hughes Ave. during the same time period.

“Our staff will be calling you to schedule a time to change out your meter in your home or business, please return the call so that we can proceed toward completing this update.”

The City of Sioux Falls is planning grading and utility improvements along 85<sup>th</sup> St. from Louise to Hughes Ave this construction season. LCRWS will need to update and relocate some valves and other fittings with this project. As with other projects there may be periods of reduced pressure and water supply interruptions. We will make all efforts to keep these interruptions as minimal as possible.

In 2017, LCRWS purchased a Vermeer trailer vac machine. This will allow our water distribution specialists to safely excavate our water lines with minimal chance of damaging other utilities to determine the exact location. With 270 miles of water line to locate it will take several years. We plan to locate and gps our entire water system in the next six to seven years.

When the original system was constructed in 1971 this entire water system consisted of country roads, farm ground and small developments. Fences, highline poles even rock piles were used as markers for the location of the water lines. We are now being encroached on by the cities of Sioux Falls, Tea and Harrisburg. Along with that comes widening and grading of roads. Many of those original markers have moved or have been taken away completely. It is our plan to locate this entire system as fast as possible.

Another improvement we are planning is to work toward upgrading our meter reading to an AMR or AMI meter reading system. We presently have a drive-by system that requires us to drive the system getting the meter reading from your home and business. With the new system we will be able to get readings from the office. Our staff will be calling you to schedule a time to change out your meter in your home or business, please return the call so that we can proceed toward completing this update.

Thank you,  
Robin L Dykstra, Manager

ACH & CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Funds are deducted from checking or savings on or about the 8th of the month)

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Funds are deducted on or about the 1st of the month)

Signature required but call office with card info

I (we) hereby authorize Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc. to initiate entries to my (our) checking or savings account at THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION listed below, and, if necessary, initiate adjustments for any transactions credited/debited in error. This authority will remain in effect until Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc. is notified by me (us) in writing to either change accounting information or cancel it in such time as to afford Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc. and THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Water Bill Account # \_\_\_\_\_

(Name - Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address - Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email Address - Paperless Yes No)

**Your statement will be e-mailed to you if you provide an address. You will need Adobe Reader to open the file. Go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) to get the download free. Run the program to download.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Financial Institution)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Financial Institution - Branch, City, State, and Zip)

Financial Institution ABA Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(9-Digit Number)

Vendor Checking or Savings Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK TO ASSURE ACCURATE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Please return to:

Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc.

PO Box 36

Harrisburg SD 57032

Fax: (605) 767-5125

Email: [office@lincolncoruralwater.com](mailto:office@lincolncoruralwater.com)

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

When a property is sold, the membership does not automatically roll-over to the new owner. The membership transfer fee is \$500 with \$200 refundable when you sell. If you purchased your membership between 1/1/71 and 1/1/78 your refund will be \$150.

If you are selling the property yourself, please make sure the buyers are aware of this. Notify your realtors if they are handling the sale.

If you discontinue a membership and no longer pay minimums, the reinstatement fee will be \$1500 which includes a fee for system improvement/system upgrades, a \$200.00 deposit and a set cost of an 18" diameter meter pit including installation.



## LEAKING TOILETS



In an average residence, 22 gallons of water are lost to leakage each day and the most common culprits are leaking toilets and dripping faucets. This daily leakage volume is about equal to the amount of drinking water a family of 3 needs for two full weeks. It is not uncommon to find toilets leaking much more water than the average 22 gallons. Silent toilet leaks can account for up to 300 gallons a day of lost water without anybody noticing the leakage. This size of leak costs over \$500 a year and should be repaired immediately. A dye tablet or 10 drops of food coloring can be used to check a toilet for leaks. Place the tablet or food coloring into the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl after waiting 10 minutes, replace the flapper.

## AUTOMATIC AND ON-LINE PAYMENTS

ACH payments are available with a signed authorization form. Payments are processed on or about the 8th of the month. Automatic debit/credit card payments are available with a signed authorization form and are charged on or about the first of the month. Call the office at 767-2966 or go to our website [www.lincolncoruralwater.com](http://www.lincolncoruralwater.com) to obtain an authorization form or use the one provided in this newsletter.

We now have a new service available to pay your water bills with a credit or debit card on-line on our website. Go to [lincolncoruralwater.com](http://lincolncoruralwater.com) and select forms at the top of the page. You will not be directly linked to your account, so have your statement and credit or debit card handy.



**LINCOLN CO RURAL WATER  
SYSTEM INC**

**PO BOX 36**

**HARRISBURG SD 57032**

**PHONE: 605-767-2966**

**FAX: 605-767-5125**

**EMAIL:**

**office@lincolncoruralwater.com**

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The office has noticed that many of your phone numbers are obsolete. When you have a couple of minutes, please call the office to update them. Thank you.



**NON-WATERING  
HOURS WILL EX-  
TEND FROM  
12:00 NOON TO  
5:00PM**

Lincoln County Rural Water System, Inc is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).