

NEWSLETTER

June 2018 ~ Volume 16

LINCOLN PIPESTONE
RURAL WATER

Our Mission -

At Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for the people in southwest Minnesota by acquiring and providing reliable, high quality, affordable water in an environmentally responsible manner through a publicly owned system.

LINCOLN PIPESTONE RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Website: www.lprw.com

Email: lprw@ltctel.com

Phone: 507-368-4248 or 800-462-0309

Hours: 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F

Manager's Comments

Welcome everyone to the 2018 Newsletter.

Since becoming a member in 1990, LPRW has patiently awaited the arrival of water delivery from the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System (L&CRWS). That day finally came last November when the water started flowing through nearly 22 miles of pipeline to a new pump station and a pair of 400,000-gallon reservoirs located near the town of Edgerton. From this new site, LPRW can deliver high quality water to our customers in the south-central portions of our system. Realizing how far a droplet of water travels from an aquifer under the Missouri River to customer taps over 130 miles away is quite impressive! However, the story isn't complete. LPRW is currently receiving one-half of our full allocation of 1.1 million gallons per day (mgd). After some final system improvements this fall from L&CRWS, our original delivery point near the city of Adrian will become fully operational. We will then have the ability to deliver our full capacity to our southern customers from two locations.



A look inside the new Edgerton Pump Station.

Another big project underway is the deployment of automatic metering infrastructure (AMI), or automatic meter reading (AMR) system. Customers will have the ability to monitor their own monthly, daily, hourly (even by the quarter hour) water consumption. The old self-read billing cards will go away, and customers will now receive monthly bills in the mail. More information can be found later in this newsletter, as well as on our website at WWW.LPRW.COM.

Other capital improvement projects in the design phase include: an upgrade to our control and monitoring system, which allows staff to monitor and control various system facilities and processes remotely; construction of a new pump station and two reservoirs at our Verdi water source; connection with the City of Dawson to provide a supplemental water source during high demand periods; and exploration of a permanent water source on the north end of our system. To meet these obligations financially, LPRW has needed to increase base rates. The last \$2 increase to the monthly minimum assigned to these capital improvement projects will go into effect this July for June water consumption.

Throughout all the challenges and commitments, LPRW has seen other achievements. LPRW recently received recognition from the Minnesota Governor's Office for all its wellhead protection activities (see page 11). We are also partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a project to reestablish Topeka Shiner habitat on stream reaches within our Holland wellfield. Hopefully we are successful in our efforts to improve environmental conditions for Topeka Shiners, all the while providing high quality water to our customers.

Jason Overby, General Manager



On November 1, 2017, LPRW became the 14th connected member to Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. Construction of a new pump station and 22 miles of pipeline between Magnolia and Edgerton allowed us to move water northward. LPRW has 1.1 million gallons per day of reserved capacity and will soon be able to use its full allocation at the Magnolia and Adrian delivery points. Our original connection, near Adrian, is expected to be operational this fall. Having two delivery points allows LPRW greater operational flexibility.

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System 2017 Water Quality Summary.

Lewis & Clark water originates from wells that tap into an underground source adjacent to the Missouri River. This source is called the Missouri: Elk Point Aquifer. Lewis & Clark does extensive testing for contaminants in our water and only the few items listed below on the Table of Detected Contaminants were found to be present in reportable quantities. The level of these contaminants is below what would be considered to be harmful.

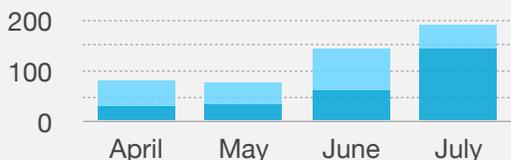
(Table of Detected Contaminants here)

Additional Parameters of Interest:		
Parameter (units):	Average Level:	Acceptable Level:
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	160	
Alkalinity (ppm)	60	
Calcium (asCaCO ₃) (ppm)	95	
Iron (ppm)	0.01	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	0.01	0.05
pH (units)	8.5	7 - 9
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2.5	0.3-3.9

*ppm = parts per million

NEW IN 2018

Automatic Meter Reading System (AMR) ~



LPRW is currently upgrading or replacing your meter, and deploying an automatic meter reading (AMR) system. The benefits of the Beacon AMR system is that customer's water meters will be read remotely through cell signal. Once the AMR unit is deployed, you will no longer need to read your own meter! Another benefit is the option to monitor your usage more closely on your computer or smart phone using **Eye On Water**. You will receive notification in the future from LPRW staff to schedule an installation appointment.

Automatic Bank Draft ~

We are excited to offer ACH. This is a worry-free way to pay your water bill. With this service, the amount of your monthly bill is automatically deducted from your bank account and credited to your utility account. To set up ACH, simply log on to LPRW.com and click the Red Tab. You can also use credit card (MasterCard, American Express or Discover), debit cards and checks. To use Visa cards you must click the Green Tab.

2018 WATER RATES

Effective June 1, 2018 - Payable July 1, 2018

\$31.53 - Minimum rate, no water used

\$2.56 per thousand 0 to 5,000

\$2.63 per thousand 5,001 to 10,000

\$2.68 per thousand 10,001 to 20,000

\$2.73 per thousand for every thousand above 20,000

Please refer to the Retail Water Rates card in your billing packet for further information or visit www.lprw.com under the billing tab. You can also call the LPRW office if you have any questions.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System

2017 Drinking Water Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from the following groundwater sources: Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System purchases water from Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System and the Osceola Rural Water System - North and your system has twenty-five wells ranging from 32 to 453 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Unconfined, Quaternary Buried Artesian and Quaternary Water Table aquifers.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, at 507-368-4248 or 800-462-0309 if you have questions about Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System's drinking water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2017.

LPRW works with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants LPRW found last year or the most recent time LPRW sampled for that contaminant. Tables show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that were tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

LPRW samples for some contaminants less than once a year as their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If LPRW found any of these contaminants from prior sampling, the table below will show the contaminants with the detection date.

LPRW may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.



Water Quality Data Tables

LEAD AND COPPER - Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA'Ss Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of results were less than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (6/22/16)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	1.03 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (6/22/16)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	4.7 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Arsenic (11/13/13)	10.4 ppb	0 ppb	1.86 ppb	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	5.8 ppm	0.31 - 5.80 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (11/13/13)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.14 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Selenium (11/05/13)	50 ppb	50 ppb	5.36 ppb	N/A	NO	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Dalapon (2013)2	200 ppb	200 ppb	0.7 ppb	N/A	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION - Tested in drinking water.

Substance (date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA's ideal goal (mclg or mrdlg)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	N/A	32.6 ppb	1.40 - 34.70 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60 ppb	N/A	19.5 ppb	1.30 - 17.60 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.31 ppm	0.90 - 1.61 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

OTHER SUBSTANCES - Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.64 ppm	0.36 - 0.78 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (if Applicable)

Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family's teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/com/fluoride/index.html>). Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise

quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa/) (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa/) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: [Are your pipes made of lead? Here's a quick way to find out](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home) (https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home).
 - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://apps.health.state.mn.us/eldo/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (https://apps.health.state.mn.us/eldo/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - Read about water treatment units:
[Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html) (http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/contaminants/lead.html#Protect) (http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/contaminants/lead.html#Protect)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/sources.html) (http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/sources.html).



Throughout the next 12 months, Governor Dayton and his Administration will visit school classrooms, water treatment facilities, research institutions, and farms to encourage Minnesotans to learn more about the challenges facing our waters, and empower every individual to take actions in their own lives to be part of the solution.

“We have a shared responsibility to protect Minnesota’s precious lakes, rivers, and streams for future generations. That starts with fostering an ethic of water conservation in our communities,” said Governor Dayton.

“Throughout the next year, we must raise awareness of the challenges facing Minnesota’s waters and highlight ways that Minnesotans can take action.”

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water recognized for exceptional commitment to protecting drinking water supply



(left to right) Plant Operator Jay Steufen, Water Resource/GIS Tech Jared Beck, Joe Weber, General Manager Jason Overby, Earl DeWilde, and MRWA Groundwater Specialist Aaron Meyer



MRWA Groundwater Specialist Aaron Meyer is presenting Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) a certificate signed by Governor Mark Dayton recognizing their protection efforts at 1:00 p.m. May 9th.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) are recognizing Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water's ongoing commitment to protecting the drinking water with a Source Water Protection Award.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water's Wellhead Protection Plan was recently amended but over the years they have undertaken many significant projects to protect their drinking water supply. LPRW has five drinking water supply management areas spread out over multiple counties. They provide education to landowners on land use practices and impacts to the water supply and promote best management practices and incentives with the goal to reduce nitrates in the water supply.

Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water is participating with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) project to prevent nitrate contamination by using perennial grains (intermediate wheatgrass). Through their own LCCMR sponsored grant project, LPRW has acquired 200 acres of highly vulnerable lands within the Verdi wellfield. The land will be restored to attain maximum ecological and water quality benefits and to provide public access.

Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcom commended Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water. "Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water has become a leader and fine example for other public water systems in the state as they seek to safeguard their drinking water," she said.

MDH and MRWA work with public water suppliers to develop and implement protection plans that include efforts to prevent contamination of the drinking water source. Prevention is used as the first step in protecting public health, and is increasingly important as Minnesota faces threats to water quality. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water is one of 495 public water suppliers in the state currently implementing protection plans.

Media Inquiries: Anne Hendrickson
MDH Communications 65-201-4171 anne.hendrickson@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us





Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water
415 East Benton St.
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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, 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 to us by mail at 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.



Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System was established as a public water system pursuant to Chapter 116A of Minnesota Statutes December 5th, 1978.



2018 Board of Commissioners
Front Row (left to right) - J. Brent Feikema, Mitch Kling (Vice-Chairman), Earl DeWilde (Chairman), Jan Moen (Secretary), Joe Weber.
Back Row (left to right) - Francis Engels, Jerry Lonneman, Ken Buysse, Bill Ufkin, Randy Kraus, Rod Spronk (Treasurer).