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City of Drexel No Longer Asking “Where’s the Water?”

The City of Drexel, Missouri received a DNR grant to have a water system study completed in 2006. Currently, Drexel produces its own water from a city lake utilizing a 230-gpm treatment plant. The amount of water drawn from the lake is near maximum yield, which



leaves the City unable to increase its water supply capacity. Realizing the need to solve this dilemma and increase their water resources, Drexel City officials hired Larkin Group to perform a

water source evaluation and to develop options for consideration. The evaluation identified five possible supplemental or replacement sources of treated water. A sixth option added for consideration, was to dredge the lakes and make improvements to the treatment plant in order to provide greater capacity to the system. Once the estimated costs were determined, the City felt it in the best interest of its community to continue the investigation of the other five options which were more cost efficient.

Working with the City to address their question, “Where’s the Water?”, one of Larkin’s recommendations was for the City to connect to and purchase water from Tri-County Water Authority (TCWA). The TWCA is a regional water supply source that was established in the early 1990’s which utilizes a well field and ground water softening plant near Atherton, Missouri. Once this source was

determined to be the most practical, the study focused on the infrastructure required to efficiently transport and store the water. The report concluded that although Drexel's water system had reasonable pressure, fire flows were insufficient and the City did not have enough water storage available to sustain fire flows. The completed water study outlined all the recommended improvements and estimated costs for each option.



The project remained viable as voters passed a new \$4.5 million bond issue in April of 2008 to pay for construction costs of new supply main, pump station, elevated tank and internal distribution improvements.

Larkin Group is currently designing the project and the City is working on right-of-way acquisition for the project sites. The project is anticipated to be built in 2009.