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First District Association of Local Governments

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COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS...(CONTINUED)

- ◆ Education/Training— (\$5,000)
- ◆ New Tree Planting—(\$1,000)
An applicant may only receive a maximum of \$1,000 per year for new tree plantings.
- ◆ Other Activities—(\$5,000)

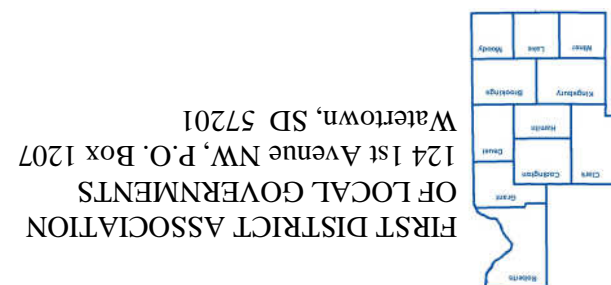
Grants have a maximum limit of \$5,000. The required match may be met through volunteer labor, donated and/or purchased supplies, or actual cash expenditures.

Grant applications will be accepted at any time during the year. Application forms are available from the state office (800-228-5254) and field service offices of the Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry.



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FIRST DISTRICT NEWS

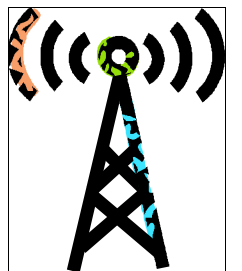
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SHOT CLOCK ON CELL TOWER APPLICATIONS FROM FCC

On November 18 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a declaratory ruling that may impact the way some communities process applications for cell towers and antennas. The FCC determined that it may define a time frame for local governments to act upon any request to place, construct, or modify a wireless service facility "in a reasonable period of time." There are three specific parts of the ruling:

- ◆ Local governments have 90 days to approve or deny collocation applications; a failure to act in the specified period of time entitles the affected telecommunications provider to file a court action within 30 days.
- ◆ Local governments have 150 days to approve or deny new wireless facilities; a failure to act in the specified period of time entitles the affected telecommunications provider to file a court action within 30 days.
- ◆ Local governments may not deny an application on the basis that a competing provider already provides coverage.



Although these rules now specify a time limit or "shot clock" for approval or denial of these types of permits, the FCC did hold that these time limits may be suspended if it is found that an application is incomplete **and** the applicant has been notified within 30 days of submittal. These rules are effective immediately. It is up to individual communities to adhere to them. As updates are made to your zoning ordinances it will be important to incorporate these rules into portions regulating telecommunications towers. Contact this office if you would like help or advice in doing so. If you have any questions regarding this article or other planning and zoning issues please contact Luke Muller.



MY THOUGHTS...

**BY: TODD A. KAYS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As I sat down and looked back over the last year I thought about my first year as your Executive Director. It truly has been a learning and growing experience even for someone who has been at the District for nearly seventeen years. My transition from Senior Planner to Executive Director has been relatively easy due to the leadership, dedication, knowledge and skills of the District Staff and the guidance from the Governing Body. I am very fortunate to not only be able to work with this competent staff but with the membership of the District. I have also thought about the challenges the economy presented to the membership of the District in 2009. I was gratified to see that our membership, both individually and collectively, focused on initiatives which will continue to positively impact their communities and counties, as well as the District as a whole. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the work activities staff engaged in over the course of the year that attempted to impact the District's economy and quality of life.

In his first year, District Planner Luke Muller experienced a baptism by fire. He was involved with developing various planning and policy issues for eleven units of government; five land use surveys; answering numerous technical planning and zoning questions while at the same time balancing the duties of the administrative zoning official for Codington County and part-time Urban Planner for the City of Watertown. I have enjoyed this year working with and mentoring Luke as he has become a very competent planner.

Ryan Hartley, Darin Stein, Amy Edleman, and Jackie Erickson continue to do wonders in the area of GIS/GPS services. This department creates and maintains a wide variety of GIS databases. In addition to maintaining the twenty-seven counties of SDDOT road centerline data and the sixty-six counties of South Dakota One Call Address Range data, the GIS staff completed two parcel mapping projects; provided GIS website hosting and maintenance for Codington and Grant Counties and

the City of Watertown; maintained 911 data sets for Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Lake and Roberts Counties; maintained Codington County and City of Watertown GIS data sets; and created countless number of maps. GIS is a very important to the District not only as an income generator but primarily as an integral component of all of the services provided by the District.

With the additional "Stimulus" funds available last year, Greg Maag and Ted Haeder were very busy in the area of project packaging also known as grant writing and administration. In 2009 Greg and Ted assisted District membership in packaging nearly 39.8 million dollars of various public infrastructure and service projects. The experience of Ted and Greg (over twenty-two years) helped facilitate the District membership receiving over 3.8 million dollars in grants and debt forgiveness. I am happy not only for Ted and Greg's successes this year but also for the communities and counties fortunate to receive State and Federal funding. I do not expect Ted and Greg's work schedules to relax as the work of project administration ramps up this spring.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not mention the lynchpin of this organization, Jan McNamara. Jan has been with the District nearly since its inception. Jan's knowledge of the District's organization, office management, reporting requirements, history, not to mention her pleasant telephone voice is indispensable.

I am very grateful and proud of our team as they have provided a wide variety of services with complete professionalism. As we start 2010 I am very confident that we have in place a strong, experienced and well balanced staff with expanded capacity in planning, GIS and information technology, and project packaging -grant writing/administration. On behalf of the entire First District staff, we thank you for the privilege and opportunity of serving your community/county and the citizens and residents of the First District and look forward to a prosperous new year.

Upcoming Dates...

- February 3 Municipal Day at the Legislature
- February 15 Presidents Day—District Office Closed
- February 22 County Day at the Legislature
- March 15 Sioux Valley Commissioners—Brookings County
- March 18 First District Governing Body

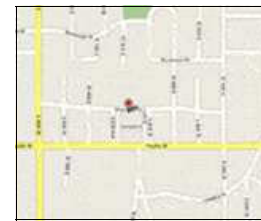
COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGE GRANTS

Through the Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry has provided financial assistance to our communities each year since 1991. A portion of the division's annual allocation of Urban & Community Forestry Assistance funds from the U.S. Forest Service is awarded to communities in the form of Challenge grants. These grants are used to fund community forestry projects which solve a specific community forestry problem and demonstrate the importance of trees in our communities.

The Division has developed the Challenge Grant Program to require increased commitment and effort from a community. The criteria for the challenge grant are outlined below (listed highest to lowest priority):

- ◆ Professional Services—(\$5,000)
- ◆ Tree Inventory/Assessment—(\$5,000)
- ◆ Existing Tree Care & Maintenance—(\$5,000)

Continued...page 4



Annual DOT Roadway Update Underway

Since 1995, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) in cooperation with the South Dakota Planning and Development Districts has been collecting city, county, township and federal roadway information using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. This information is utilized by the SDDOT for several purposes, including reporting mileage to the Federal Highway Administration and county auditors, as well as creating county and city maps.

Annually, on behalf of the SDDOT, First District staff contact individuals with jurisdiction over roads and ask for assistance in updating any changes in an effort to keep this roadway information current.

The assistance of county, city and township officials is critical to the accuracy and overall success of the SDDOT public road inventory, and we believe that we will all benefit through this multi-agency cooperation.

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SDDENR Water, Sewer, and Storm Sewer Project Financing Application Deadlines:

- ◆ Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program deadlines are the 1st day of April, July, October and January.
- ◆ Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Loan Program deadlines are currently the 15th day of April, July, October and January.
- ◆ SDDENR Solid Waste Management Financing Program deadlines are the 1st day of April, July, October and January.

2010 GOED Annual Conference Rescheduled for April 20 & 21

Mark your calendars for the 2010 GOED annual conference. This year's event has been rescheduled from April 6 & 7 in Pierre, to **April 20 & 21 in Sioux Falls.**

"This year's conference is a great opportunity for anyone involved in some aspect of economic development—whether it be a local developer, a banker, or a budding entrepreneur—to make contacts and network with counterparts from around the state," said Kim Olson, GOED director. Previous topics have included financing, website development, and responding to requests for information. For more information, contact GOED at 605-773-3301.