

FIRST DISTRICT NEWS

124 1st Avenue NW | P.O. Box 1207 | Watertown, South Dakota 57201-6207

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Edenstrom announces his retirement...

Todd Kays hired as new Executive Director

Edenstrom to Retire

It was with mixed emotions that Dick Edenstrom, Executive Director of the First District Association of Local Governments, announced his retirement effective November 30, 2008.

In his letter to the Governing Body Chairman, Edenstrom wrote, "It has been my pleasure and honor to work with you and to lead First District for the past eight years. This opportunity to lead First District is due in large part to the excellent reputation First District has well earned, thanks to the efforts of the Governing Board and professional staff. I can't begin to describe the countless rewards I have received from the Governing Board, First District staff, municipal and county officials, and the private sector of First District. First District is a great organization, and I hope you continue to be as proud of the organization as I have been to be associated with you."

Dick and his bride-to-be, Joann, are looking forward to fishing on the Missouri, as well as spending time at their home in the Black Hills. Please join us in wishing Dick all the best in his retirement.

Kays to be new Executive Director

On September 25, 2008, the First District Governing Body selected Todd Kays, currently serving as our Senior Planner, as Dick's successor. Todd has been with First District for 15 years and is well versed in the operation of the organization. The Governing Body has great confidence in Todd continuing the record of success and professionalism that we have earned. Please give Todd your full support as he assumes the position of Executive Director on December 1, 2008.



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September 2008 Unemployment Rates

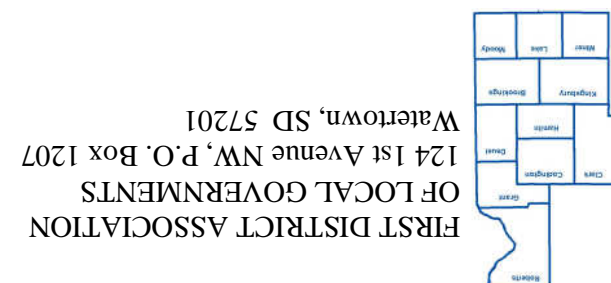
Brookings	3.1%
Clark	2.6%
Codington	3.9%
Deuel	2.7%
Grant	2.5%
Hamlin	2.8%
Kingsbury	3.3%
Lake	3.1%
Miner	3.6%
Moody	7.0%
Roberts	4.0%
South Dakota	3.1%
United States	6.1%

- ### First District Governing Board Officers
- Pat MaroneyChairman
Miner County Commissioner
 - Craig AtkinsVice Chairman
Codington County At-Large
 - Ron Smith..... Secretary
Moody County At-Large
 - Dick EdenstromExecutive Director

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First District Association of Local Governments

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~ ~IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER~ ~

**The South Dakota Planners Association 15th Annual Planning and Zoning Conference
October 29 & 30, 2008
Ramkota Inn, Watertown**

Hear updates of state and national litigation affecting land use policies at the 15th Annual Planning and Zoning Conference sponsored by the South Dakota Planners Association.

Other sessions will include:

- Pedestrian & Bicycle Planning
- Tax Incremental Financing
- Mixed-Use Development
- Sign Regulations
- Wind Energy Development
- Adult Uses

—And the always popular basics session: “How to Plan”

In addition, mobile tours of Watertown’s historic downtown and the Redlin Art Center will be available. The preliminary agenda, registration form and hotel information are posted at www.secog.org. Registration is \$50 per day for non-SDPA members and \$40 per day for SDPA members.

For more information, contact Ted Haeder at 605-882-5115 or ted@1stdistrict.org.

FDDC Receives REDLG Award

First District Development Company (FDDC) was recently notified that it has been selected to receive a Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) award from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., and USDA Rural Development.



The funds, which total \$1,040,000, consist of a \$740,000 zero interest loan and a \$300,000 grant. FDDC will use the funds to recapitalize its revolving loan funds. Unlike FDDC’s other revolving loan funds, the REDLG funds will be available for use in all counties east of the Missouri River, with the exception of the city of Sioux Falls due to its population.

It is anticipated that FDDC will receive the funds in January of 2009.

**Loan and Grant Funds Available
to Counties and Communities**

**USDA Rural Development Community
Facilities Loan/Grant Program**

Community Facilities loan and grant funds are used to develop community facilities for public use in rural areas and incorporated communities of no more than 20,000 persons. Eligible entities that can apply for funding are municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, tribes and not-for-profit corporations.

Funds may be used to construct, enlarge or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. Examples of types of projects financed include hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, police and fire stations, jails, fire and rescue vehicles, medical and educational communications, child care centers, city buildings, courthouses, airports, schools, fairgrounds, etc.

Interest rates are set quarterly by USDA Rural Development. Grant assistance may be available for project costs. Grant funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility, and availability of funds.

**USDA Rural Development Water and
Waste Disposal Loan/Grant Program**

USDA Rural Development administers a water and wastewater loan and grant program to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural America. The purpose of this program is to develop water and waste disposal systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage

in rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less.

Funds are available to public entities, such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, tribes and not-for-profit corporations. The maximum term on all loans is 40 years. Interest rates are set quarterly by USDA Rural Development. Grant funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility, and availability of funds.

**Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) Community Projects Account**

The State of South Dakota receives funds each year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG program. The Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) administers the program. Counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible to apply for CDBG funding.

Examples of eligible projects include community centers, fire halls, water and wastewater projects, medical facilities, libraries, rural water system expansions, etc. Projects must meet other program criteria and requirements.

There is currently no deadline for applications; they can be submitted at any time.

If your county or community has a potential project, please contact the First District staff for additional information or assistance with any of these programs.