

FIRST DISTRICT NEWS

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First District Association of Local Governments

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Update:

Status of Rural Health Survey



In the July newsletter, it was noted that the First District, in conjunction with the SD Department of Health, would be undertaking a survey of health care providers, counties, municipalities, and local economic development officials in an effort to identify and quantify, on a statewide basis, information regarding how South Dakota health care facilities and communities are recruiting and retaining health care professionals. It was identified that the survey was to be distributed during the first week of August. Due to changes with the development of the survey instrument, it is anticipated that the survey will be mailed and/or emailed to survey respondents during the first week of November, with the survey follow-up, analysis, and generation of the report to occur after the first of the year.



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SD Planners Conference: October 26-27 in Huron

The 2011 South Dakota Planners Association (SDPA) Conference will be held on October 26th and 27th at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron, SD. The conference this year will feature presentations regarding a variety of salient planning topics. The first day's presentations vary from sessions regarding planning for diversity, practical exercises and lessons for planning and zoning administration, and a presentation by FEMA-NFIP representatives regarding the implementation of flood protection zones. The South Dakota State Demographer will be present to discuss population and demographic information on the second day. Other presentations will focus on TIF Districts (in counties), preparing your community to invest in economic development, and technical administrative tasks.

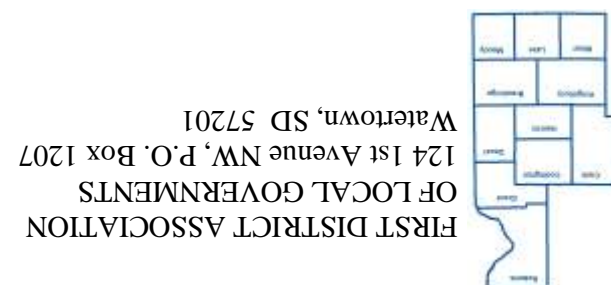
Registration for the event is open now. The cost is \$80.00 for SDPA members and \$100.00 for non members. This year will be a good opportunity to not only hear from the speakers but, on a less formal level, to get to know others in the field of planning and zoning in the state, as well as share experiences. For more information regarding this year's conference, contact the First District office or visit SDPA's new webpage at <http://www.sdplanners.com/>.

Dates to Remember...



- October 26-27—SD Planners Conference, Huron

- November 11—Veterans Day Holiday, First District office closed
- November 24-25—Thanksgiving Holiday, First District office closed
- December 15—First District Governing Body meeting, Maroney Rural Learning Center, Howard, 5:00 p.m.
- December 26—Christmas Holiday, First District office closed
- January 2—New Years Holiday, First District office closed





My thoughts...

By: Todd A. Kays,
Executive Director

Recently the First District and Planning and Development District III (District III) received good news regarding a grant application submitted to the USDA for a Rural Community Development Initiative Project. The news was well received, as this was the third attempt to secure funding for the Rural GIS Training Network (RGTN) project. The award provides funding for the next three years.

The RGTN will significantly enhance the capacity of county governments to effectively utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in development related programs and services. Local units of government have numerous GIS applications. Unfortunately, many of those units of government are also limited in both the understanding and utilization of GIS in public safety, planning, infrastructure and economic development related functions. Virtually everything local government does has a geographic element. GIS training will build the technical foundation that will enable our members to share staff resources, make informed development decisions and remove barriers to business and housing growth. The "technical isolation" of many local units of government makes staff capacity sharing essential.

First District and District III will deliver training in three different formats. First, the two districts will sponsor at least one major GIS conference per year that will introduce new resources and concepts to a larger recipient audience. Second, each district will host a minimum of four (two per district) regional GIS training events on an annual basis. Finally, there will be opportunities for local training.

While the First District currently provides many of the activities to our membership identified in the grant application, the funding will further enhance the delivery of those existing services.

Preliminary planning activities for the implementation of this program are currently being developed. I would anticipate outreach efforts to begin within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

If you have interest or specific training needs, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ryan Hartley.

On a personal note, since this is the last newsletter of the year, please accept my early holiday wishes (only 70 shopping days left). I look forward to seeing many of you at the next Governing Body meeting at the Maroney Rural Learning Center in Howard.

RLF Loan Awarded to Watertown Business

Dorale's Footwear and Fashions, formerly known as the Shoe Shop, is no stranger to the uptown Watertown shopping scene. Dorale's Footwear and Fashions has been owned and operated by Derwin and Jean Dorale since 2001. The business realized in 2010 that it had outgrown its previously leased location and began searching for a larger location to house the business.



With a loan from First District's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), Home Federal Bank in Watertown, and the Urban Renewal Board in Watertown, the Dorale's purchased an existing building in a new location to allow them room to grow. The increased space has allowed Dorale's to expand their business to include women's clothing, purses, jewelry and handbags. Dorale's Footwear and Fashions still carries a variety of shoe brands and styles for both men and women and is focused on providing personalized attention and service to its customers. Dorale's Footwear and Fashions is located at 5 S. Maple in uptown Watertown. Stop by and check out their newly renovated location.

Changes in Community Development Block Grant Program Emphasize Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons

The State of South Dakota will receive approximately \$6,048,891 in 2012 to fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. A minimum of 70 percent of the State's allocation, as a whole, will be used to fund projects that primarily benefit low and moderate-income persons.

Since the potential demand for funds could exceed the amount available, eligible applicants selected for funding will be those communities having the greatest need and whose applications most adequately address locally determined need of low and moderate-income persons, consistent with one or more of the following purposes:

1. Promote more rational land use;
2. Provide increased economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons;
3. Correct deficiencies in public facilities that affect the public health, safety or welfare, especially of low and moderate-income persons.

Funds will be distributed from three separate programs that address distinct areas of need. Of the approximately \$6,048,891 CDBG funds received by the State, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) will be available through the Special Projects Account, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) will be available through the Imminent Threat Account, and the remainder of the annual allocation will be available for distribution through the Community Projects Account.

One requirement of the CDBG program is that all funds be obligated to projects within 15 months of the State receiving the funds from HUD. To maintain our timely status, the State is incorporating application deadlines for the Community Projects Account. Historical program information for the past three years reveals the State has obligated more funds than it was allocated in order to regain a timely status. This indicates there is an adequate funding demand for eligible activities on a continuing basis. Application deadlines will be April 15, July 15, and October 15. There is a maximum ceiling of \$500,000 per grant application.

The CDBG program has provided funding assistance to many projects within the friendly confines of First District. Water projects in DeSmet and Estelline received funding, along with wastewater projects in Aurora, Canova, Gary, New Effington, Oldham and Summit. Water and wastewater related construction activities are not the only projects to be completed with CDBG dollars. A domestic abuse shelter in Brookings, a clinic in Bryant, a Head Start facility in Madison, and a combined community center and fire hall in Reville all benefited from assistance provided through the CDBG program.

Please email Greg Maag (greg@1stdistrict.org) or Ted Haeder (ted@1stdistrict.org) or contact them by phone at (605) 882-5115 for additional information pertaining to the CDBG program.