



# First District News

418 18th Avenue NE | PO BOX 1207 | Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: (605) 882-5115 | Fax: (605) 882-5049 | Web: <http://association.1stdistrict.org/>

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## ArcGIS Online Mapping Available to Counties and Communities

First District, through a partnership with ESRI, has expanded its field collection and mapping capabilities. The District uses ArcGIS Online, a cloud-based web mapping site, to store GIS datasets and a mobile app called Collector for ArcGIS to actively update the data in the field.

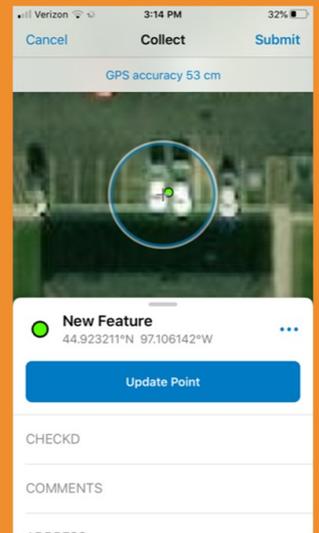
Collector for ArcGIS is an easy to use app that runs on all Apple or Android smart phones and makes it simple for city or county employees to collect and update a wide variety of data, such as gas shutoff valves, manholes, street signs, fire hydrants, and even trees. The app allows you to collect a GPS location and add additional information, such as feature type, size, or the last time it was maintained. The information collected is then instantly available on the county GIS website. Collector uses the GPS receiver in your cell phone but will easily link up to more powerful receivers, such as Trimble’s R1 GNSS receiver, capable of collecting data at 6-inch accuracy.

Collector for ArcGIS also makes it possible for local users to take their GIS information out into the field with them and use it wherever they are.

The ArcGIS Online/Collector for ArcGIS combination is a powerful tool and a major leap forward for local government access to GIS. In addition, the partnership between ESRI and First District is very affordable—even for small communities. The app can display utilities data obtained from your local engineering firm! The system is password protected, meaning all of your information is secure and will only be available to the people you designate.

If you are interested, please contact Ryan at the First District office for more information.

*The picture to the right shows a phone screen capture of a “ArcGIS Collector” point between two cars in our office parking lot. Note the level of accuracy where Ryan Hartley was standing (0.53 centimeters).*



**GO GREEN!** If you would like the Newsletter emailed to you, please email [suzie@1stdistrict.org](mailto:suzie@1stdistrict.org)

## MY THOUGHTS...

By: Todd A. Kays



In my last newsletter article I encouraged this office and our membership to not follow where the path may lead, but to go where there is no path and leave a trail. Well I can tell you that lately all existing and new paths lead to Covid-19. It is intertwined in our personal and professional lives.

Here at the office we are continuing to be closed to the general public. Our members may schedule an appointment to meet face to face with staff, however, you will be asked to wear a mask and accept established social distancing standards. Further, staff is not traveling and having face-to-face public/private interaction with the membership, unless absolutely necessary and social distancing guidelines are implemented. While for some this may appear to be overkill, we do have staff and family members who are Covid sensitive and I believe that the long-term health of this organization is based upon the health of our employees and the health of our membership.

While at times cumbersome, we have found our staff and membership have been able to work efficiently and effectively on a wide variety of work activities. We continue to communicate via Zoom video conferencing, phone, text, email, and regular mail.

I am not trying to be a “Nervous Nelly”, but I do not want this organization to be a “Typhoid Mary”. This disease makes you very sick and is extremely contagious. I know this because both of my college-age daughters are currently battling it. In June, I was cautiously optimistic that by fall, we would have this chapter of life behind us and we would be living and working as we once were. Now I hope it will be my Christmas present.

On a more positive note, the District looks forward to utilizing the recently received supplemental funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to enhance the region’s planning and preparation activities and response to economic injuries which are a result of the coronavirus and other potential future pandemics/ disasters. The two-year funding program will provide the FDALG the capacity to provide services which will comport with the EDA pre-approved Scope of Work elements regarding preventing, preparing, and responding to coronavirus. Specifically, in technical assistance activities which promote the development and implementation of strategies, projects, etc. which enhance the region’s economic resiliency.

Finally, due to Covid we had to cancel this year’s annual picnic. Not to worry, we will incorporate our annual picnic with the First District 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to be held next year.

## Governing Body Year End Meeting

The next First District Governing Body meeting will be on Thursday, September 24th at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be held via Zoom. If you are interested in attending the Zoom Meeting, please contact Suzie at [suzie@1stdistrict.org](mailto:suzie@1stdistrict.org) for the link/call in number.



## CARES Act Provides RLF Funds

First District was recently notified of an approval of \$1,560,000 to capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) through the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) as a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Award. EDA's overall mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

With that mission in mind, the particular scope for this RLF award is three-fold:

- To alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic,
- To provide permanent resources to support economic resiliency, and
- To further the long-term economic adjustment objectives of the region served by this award.

This Revolving Loan Fund will assist borrowers in the following geographic region: Brookings, Codington, Clark, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Moody, and Roberts Counties in South Dakota. First District will have 24 months to disburse the funds to small businesses.

Loan terms will depend on use of funds, with an interest rate of no more than 2.5%. Money can be used for: land, buildings, equipment, inventory, or working capital. We look forward to having another financial resource to offer businesses during these unprecedented economic times. If you have any questions, contact Paula, Amy W., or Shelby with First District Development Company.



## First District Receives CARES Act Funds

As part of the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) CARES Act Recovery Assistance, EDA is providing a supplemental financial assistance grant award of up to \$376,000 to the First District Association of Local Governments, of Watertown, South Dakota, to help the District respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic.

The scope of work requires First District to undertake one or more of the following pre-approved activities: (1) the development of an economic recovery and resilience plan, tied to the applicant's approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, to address the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, (2) the provision of technical assistance, as necessary, to local governments, businesses, and other stakeholder organizations, and (3) the funding of appropriate technology and staff support for these pandemic-response activities.



The CARES Act, signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on March 27, 2020, provided EDA with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

