



First District News

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July 2022	
Cheers to 30 Years, Greg Maag!	1
My Thoughts, Todd Kays	2
Bridge Improvement Plans	2
Grant Funding Chart	3
Picnic Information!	4
Upcoming Events	4

30 Year Career!

This June marked a major milestone for one of our employees here at First District: Greg Maag had his 30 year work anniversary!

Greg graduated from SDSU in 1980, with a degree in Business. He then worked at Northeast Council of Governments from 1990 to 1992, before he started with First District. The move to Watertown was good for the family. He was born in Watertown, so it was nice to come back to his roots.

For the past 30 years, Greg has worked as an Economic Development Officer for First District, helping the 11 counties and their communities receive and administer funding for various projects. "I like helping out the communities, especially the small communities, and getting them through their projects successfully," Greg said. "It's not a routine job. You come into work expecting to do one thing, and something happens where you do something that wasn't even on your radar. It's always something new; a big variety of projects."

Over the course of 30 years, changes occur, in policy and personnel. "Unfortunately, a change we've had to deal with is the reduction in the number of programs available," he said. "There always seems to be less and less funding available than in prior years." Greg is set to retire next year. "There's a chance I will go part time before I fully retire," he said. "I have thought about remaining at First District on an 'at needs' basis. This will still give me a lot of time to enjoy visiting my grand-kids and being outdoors, hunting and what not. But I'll miss working with the people, the different communities, and especially my colleagues at First District. I'm looking forward to having more free time with my family and to put more time towards my recreational activities."

Where will you find Greg after he retires? Most likely in a tree stand or out on a boat.





MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



As I reported to the Governing Body in June, staff has been very busy this year with managing over 200 individual projects for our members. I want to take a moment to highlight the efforts of the Grant Writing and Community Development Department. Senior Economic Development Officer Greg Maag and Economic Development Officer Christina Crouse have worked tirelessly since last October in assisting our members with State Water Plans and Grant applications for water and sewer projects throughout the First District. With the American Rescue Plan Act dollars allocated to the SDANR, Greg and Christina's efforts along with our members' commitment to continuously reinvest in infrastructure have paid off to the extent I have not experienced in my 29 years with the First District. Greg and Christina helped **30** entities with **46** projects to obtain nearly **399** million dollars in grants and loans. The table on page three reflects the "fruits of their efforts".

I need to take this opportunity to congratulate Greg Maag on his 30 years of dedicated service to the First District. Greg has been the "Go to Guy" when it comes to putting together the financing and grant applications for community and economic development projects. Once those projects are funded, he helps our members navigate the complicated myriad of regulations that come with all that "free money". Greg plans on retiring next year so if you get a chance to see him before that happens, please thank him for all that he has done to help our membership. Thanks Greg!

It was already the 4th of July and before you know it summer will be gone. I know I will be busy with community and county planning projects and a long list of home improvement honey-do's. I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in September at the picnic.

County Bridge Improvement Grants

In 2015, the South Dakota Legislature created the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) fund that provided funding for local government bridges.

To be eligible for the funding, counties must have an adopted Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan. These plans are required to be updated and submitted to the SDDOT annually to maintain eligibility for the bridge grant funding.

Last year the First District assisted ten counties with the development of their highway bridge plans. The First District is offering assistance to all of its members in developing updates to their County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plans.

This service is provided at no charge. County Auditors and Highway Superintendents recently received a letter regarding the timeline and information required to complete the plan updates by October 15, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Greg or Christina at the First District.



Page 3	Consolidated Loan	CWSRF Loan	DWSRF Loan	ARPA Grant	Total Grant and Loan Funds
Arlington (Water & Sewer)		\$2,420,443	\$1,267,700	\$1,734,245	\$5,422,388
Aurora (Sewer)		\$1,804,888		\$2,553,971	\$4,358,859
Brookings Deuel Rural Water System (Water)			\$5,607,560	\$2,703,240	\$8,310,800
Brookings (Water)			\$50,963,200	\$21,039,300	\$72,002,500
Bryant (Water & Sewer)		\$1,800,050	\$920,000	\$1,860,550	\$4,580,600
Big Sioux Community Water System (Water)			\$17,788,000		\$17,788,000
Canova (Water)				\$25,114	\$25,114
Castlewood (Water)				\$354,627	\$354,627
Clark (Water)			\$3,315,316	\$4,297,054	\$7,612,370
Colman (Water & Sewer)		\$758,100	\$230,400	\$1,486,500	\$2,475,000
Corona (Water)	\$78,200			\$312,800	\$391,000
DeSmet (Water & Sewer)		\$1,196,650	\$2,272,500	\$952,700	\$4,421,850
Flandreau (Water & Sewer)		\$2,776,087	\$2,818,087	\$2,811,664	\$8,405,838
Grant Roberts Rural Water System (Water)			\$4,360,400	\$2,433,600	\$6,794,000
Howard (Sewer)		\$2,472,000		\$2,665,864	\$5,137,864
Joint Wellfield Inc. (Water)			\$6,592,000	\$4,524,900	\$11,116,900
Kingbrook Rural Water System (Water)			\$22,850,000	\$10,008,000	\$32,858,000
Lake Norden (Water)				\$652,463	\$652,463
Lake Preston (Water & Sewer)		\$582,325	\$431,825	\$4,505,850	\$5,520,000
Lake Poinsett Sanitary Sewer District (Sewer)		\$1,809,749		\$2,790,251	\$4,600,000
Madison (Water & Sewer)		\$3,284,680	\$7,315,950	\$6,250,270	\$16,850,900
Peever (Water)	\$105,000		\$45,000		\$150,000
Rosholt (Water)		\$1,397,500	\$752,500		\$2,150,000
Shared Resources (Water)			\$70,432,400	\$39,462,600	\$109,895,000
SRWS (Water)			\$3,202,650	\$1,778,350	\$4,981,000
Volga (Water)			\$1,259,776	\$902,564	\$2,162,340
Watertown (Sewer)		\$21,247,800		\$13,156,200	\$34,404,000
Watertown Municipal Utilities (Water)			\$11,299,708	\$4,842,732	\$16,142,440
White (Water & Sewer)		\$1,832,810	\$1,786,189	\$1,449,901	\$5,068,900
Wilmot (Sewer)		\$2,040,000		\$1,962,408	\$4,002,408
Totals	\$183,200	\$45,423,082	\$215,511,161	\$137,517,718	\$398,635,161

First District
Governing Body Officers

Brenda Hanten.....Chairperson
 Codington County Commissioner

Gary Jaeger.....Vice Chairperson
 Deuel County Commissioner

Mike Bartley.....Secretary
 Brookings County Commissioner

Todd A. Kays.....Executive Director

Upcoming Dates

July 4—Independence Day, Office Closed

September 5—Labor Day, Office Closed

September 29—Picnic/Governing Body

October 10—Columbus Day, Office Closed

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS OFFICE MAY BE PRIOR TO DEADLINES LISTED HERE. CONTACT GREG OR CHRISTINA.

October 15—Bridge Improvement Plan Deadline

April 30, July 31, Oct. 31, & Jan. 31—Deadlines for Local Infrastructure Improvement Program

April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, & Jan. 1—Deadlines for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Applications

April 1 & Oct. 1—Deadlines for CDBG Applications

May 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, & Feb. 1—Deadlines for State Water Plan (SWP) Applications

Annual Picnic/Year End Governing Body Meeting

WHEN: September 29, 2022

WHERE: First District Office

**INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT OUT SOON!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

