



First District News

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March 2023

DOT Maps Due April 19

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, road district, tribal, state, 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.

On behalf of the SDDOT, First District staff mailed maps to individuals with jurisdiction over roads and asked for assistance in updating any changes in an effort to keep this roadway information current.

We encourage everyone who received a map to return their maps to First District by April 19 even if there have been no changes.

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 we all benefit through this multi-agency cooperation.



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FUNDS AWARDED

SDDANR CWSRF Loan—Aurora \$240,000, Corona \$540,000

SDDANR CWSRF Grant—Aurora \$510,000, Corona \$772,000

SDDANR CWFCP Grant—Aurora \$450,000, Corona \$1,278,400

SDDANR DWSRF Loans:

Brookings—\$40,700,000 loan

Brookings—\$1,000,000 loan with \$490,000 principal forgiveness

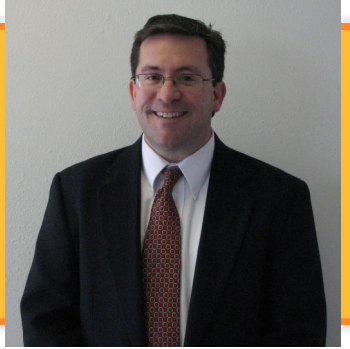
Chester Sanitary District—\$2,342,000 loan with \$1,462,000 principal forgiveness

Corona—\$159,800

Lake Preston—\$2,002,000 loan with \$1,702,000 principal forgiveness



MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



The 2023 legislative session is over and similar to previous years the legislature dealt with legislation that has some level of impact on local units of government. The following is a recap of some of those bills related to planning and economic development.

This year there was really only one bill approved which dealt directly with planning and zoning. **HB 1029** was an Act to revise certain provisions regarding the county zoning and appeals process. **HB 1029** fixed the inconsistency in County Zoning enabling legislation related to voting requirements for approval created by 2020's SB157. **HB 1029** stipulated that Conditional Use Permits shall only be approved by a majority of Board members present and voting (no super majority required). **HB 1029** also refined the life of a conditional use permit which is appealed to court. If a county zoning ordinance provision sets a time limit for commencement or completion of a special permitted use, conditional use, or variance, that "permit life" is tolled to allow commencement within a period of two years following completion of any final legal appeal of the county zoning decision.

There were several other bills that could have had an impact on local zoning decisions. One dealt with regulations regarding political signs (HB 1099) and eight bills relating to eminent domain. Three of the eminent domain bills were withdrawn by the sponsor with the remaining five eminent domain bills and political sign bill being sent to the 41st legislative day (defeated).

The bill that could have the biggest economic impact for small communities was SB 41. This cleanup bill from 2022 will provide \$100 million for an infrastructure revolving loan fund and \$100 million in grant funding for housing infrastructure. 70% of the funding is set aside for towns less than 50,000 population. The funds are to be administered by SDHDA.

Whether it is David Bowie talking about "ch ch ch changes" or Bob Dylan's "The times they are a changing", we are also experiencing change here at the First District. In March, we said goodbye to Economic Development Officer Christina Crouse. Christina spent two years with the District and was instrumental in assisting our members with obtaining a variety of grants and loans for community and economic development projects. We wish her success. Last month we also said hello to Alex Kahnke and Kelli Henricks. I hold high hopes for both Alex and Kelli and I believe they will grow into their respective Economic Development Officer and GIS Specialist careers. Finally, please join us and the Governing Body at our next Board meeting which will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at our office in Watertown. Hopefully the snow will be gone by then.

STIP MEETING

June 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., representatives from the SD Department of Transportation (SD DOT) will be in the First District office to give you a preliminary look at the 2023-2026 Tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Agendas will be sent out to the auditors at a later date.



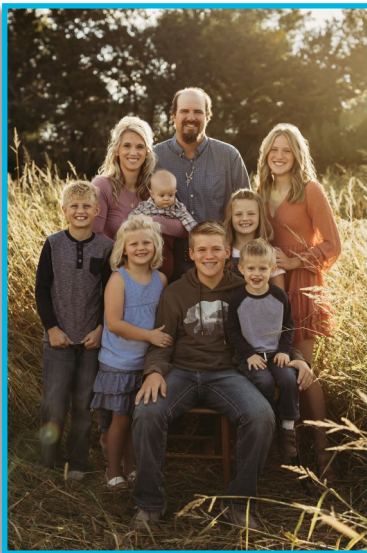
FDALG Welcomes Kelli Henricks

Hi, my name is Kelli Henricks and I am the new GIS Specialist at First District. I grew up on a small dairy farm in the northeastern part of South Dakota on the outskirts of Waubay. I moved to Watertown where I attended Lake Area Technical Institute (now College) and received an Associate's degree in Engineering/Architectural Drafting. I started working as an intern for the City of Watertown while attending Lake Area Technical Institute, which later turned into a full-time position as a Field Technician. A few years ago, I decided to switch from government and enter into the private sector and was hired with a private engineering firm called IMEG. While working there, I was also a Field Technician and worked on many various construction projects, but my main focus was on municipal type projects. As much as I loved working for IMEG, I was offered the opportunity to work for the First District, which allowed me to stay closer to my family and home instead of working the long hours of construction.



In my spare time I love spending time with my family or being outdoors. I am currently married with three small kids (all of whom are under the age of 6). We love to work on various tasks or projects on our little hobby farm where we raise a few animals. In my spare time, I love to cook/bake, read, kayak, hike, or garden. I am also currently attending online classes from SDSU, which I am hoping to be done with this year with Bachelor degrees in both GIS and Geography, an Associate's degree in Animal Science, and three certificates (Drone Technology, GIS, and Construction Inspection). I am excited to become a part of the First District staff and am looking forward to helping out with all the various South Dakota communities to help them continue to grow and prosper!

FDALG Welcomes Alex Kahnke



Hi, my name is Alex Kahnke and I am a new Economic Development Officer at First District. I was born in Aberdeen, SD, and spent most of my childhood there. In my teenage years I moved to Florence, SD, where I grew up on a farm and graduated from Florence High School in 2004. I then attended South Dakota State University, where I majored in Animal Science. In 2007, I married my high school sweetheart, Jon, and we started our family. After college graduation in 2008, I worked in several industries (animal nutrition, construction, radio, sales) and farmed with my husband. Throughout those job opportunities I was able to start many great relationships with people in the surrounding area and learned a lot from those individuals.

In 2014, we welcomed our fourth child into the world and decided to be home full-time. Jon and I operated our feedlot and raised crops. I did most of the office work and a fair amount of the feeding and baling. Those years were definitely the most challenging yet most rewarding to be able to raise our kids on the farm. Now, after nine years being home full-time and seven children, we decided farming is a part of who we are, but off-farm employment was going to be key for us moving forward.

And so, after a lot of patience and great faith, I received a phone call First District was hiring. With that, I am excited to become a part of the First District staff and look forward to assisting South Dakota communities in a new way.

**First District
Governing Body Officers**

Gary Jaeger.....Chairperson
Deuel County

Mike Bartley.....Vice Chairperson
Brookings County Commissioner

Myron Johnson.....Secretary
Codington County Commissioner

Todd A. Kays.....Executive Director

Upcoming Dates

May 4—Governing Body Meeting

May 29—Memorial Day, Office Closed

June 19—Juneteenth, Office Closed

July 4—Independence Day, Office Closed

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS OFFICE MAY BE PRIOR TO DEADLINES LISTED HERE. CONTACT ALEX KAHNKE.

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



First District Governing Body Meeting

The next First District Governing Body meeting with lunch provided will be on Thursday, May 4 at 12 p.m. at our office located at 418 18th Ave NE, Watertown.