



# 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/>

April 2024	
CEDS Survey	1
Funds Awarded	1
My Thoughts, Todd Kays	2
Dusty Johnson	3
RFBC Program	3
STIP Meeting	3
Upcoming Events	4

## CEDS Survey

As First District gears up to update its current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), we will be inviting our local government membership and economic development organizations to participate in our regional development survey. The survey is comprised of four sections. The first section pertains to the needs of the community or county, the second section deals with economic issues, the third section focuses on services provided by First District, and the last section pertains to regional issues. Responding to the survey is crucial, as this will assist Staff and the CEDs Committee in establishing background information and benchmarks for the CEDs update.



## FUNDS AWARDED

**Aurora**—\$1,751,000 DWSRF loan (\$1,030,800 DWSRF grant and \$601,400 CWFCP grant)

**Clear Lake**—

- \$3,500,000 DWSRF loan
- \$936,000 CWSRF loan

**Elkton**—

- \$778,000 DWSRF loan
- \$222,000 DWSRFC grant
- \$936,000 CWSRF loan
- \$934,000 CWSRFWQ grant

**Estelline**—\$131,000 SDOEM HMGP/BRIC grant

**Flandreau**—\$681,088 TAP grant

**Gary**—\$2,015,822 CWSRF loan (\$815,000 in principal forgiveness)

**Iroquois**—\$1,900,000 CWSRF loan (\$1,137,000 in principal forgiveness)

**Kingbrook Rural Water System**—\$14,500,000 DWSRF loan

**Lake Preston**—

- \$2,492,100 DWSRF loan (\$2,118,200 in principal forgiveness)
- \$550,243 TAP grant
- \$2,653,600 CWSRF loan (\$1,063,600 in principal forgiveness)

**Madison**—\$65,131 SDOEM HMGP grant

**Milbank**—

- \$1,218,000 SDOEM HMGP grant
- \$284,348 SDOEM Flood Mitigation Assistance grant

**North Brookings Sanitary & Water District**—

- \$1,597,450 CWSRF loan
- \$761,550 CWFCP grant

**Sioux Rural Water System**—\$11,252,165 DWSRF loan (\$600,000 in principal forgiveness)



## MY THOUGHTS... By: Todd A. Kays



The 2024 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.

The approval of **HB 1128** dealt with the issue of wells and zoning. The bill requires county and city governments to determine whether a well is established or abandoned when deciding on the implementation of specific zoning regulations, often related to concentrated animal feeding operations and others especially over the shallow aquifer. The enabling legislation defines “Abandoned Well” and “Established Well”. It should be noted, these definitions nearly mirror the language found in First District’s existing county zoning regulations.

**HB 1194** was a cleanup bill, which deals with minor revisions related to Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs).

There were several other bills that could have had an impact on local zoning decisions. **HB 1149** would have prevented local units of government from creating regulations prohibiting vacation rental homes (Vrbo, Airbnb). **SB 189** would have required Counties to provide townships additional notice and haul road agreement authority. **HB 1149** was sent to the 41<sup>st</sup> legislative day (defeated) and was withdrawn.

Similar to last year, there were ten bills related to pipelines and/or eminent domain. Nine of the bills either were sent to the 41<sup>st</sup> legislative day, tabled or withdrawn, with only **SB 201** remaining. **SB 201** is a long complex bill which does a lot of things but most importantly it stipulates the PUC is ultimately responsible for the siting of linear transmission facilities (pipelines, electric lines, etc.) within the State. Counties and cities may choose to adopt zoning regulations dealing with linear transmission facilities, but a transmission facility or route is not subject to any local land use, zoning, or building rule, regulation, or ordinance, unless the PUC requires compliance with any generally applicable rule, regulation, or ordinance as a condition of the permit issued.

With the winter of 2023/2024 in the rearview mirror, I can honestly say I did not mind it. The office had one snow day and I only had to reschedule one meeting due to weather. I hope the weather holds for this spring and summer. Speaking of which, there are several important events happening between now and fall. Please mark your calendar the following dates: April 25 (Governing Body Meeting), June 26 (SDDOT STIP Meeting), August 2, (Annual Picnic), and September 26 (Year-End Governing Body Meeting). Also, please take the opportunity to complete the CEDS survey. The survey assists First District in planning its work activities for the next five years.

Finally, it is with much regret we say goodbye to Economic Development Officer, Alex Kahnke. Alex has spent the last year working very effectively with our members in grant writing and project administration. As many of you are aware, Alex is a proud “mom”, and will more than likely be a mom again for the eighth time, when you receive this newsletter. With the new delivery, she has chosen to stay at home. To be honest, I do not know how she juggled the job with seven kids. We wish her and her family well with their new blessing. Mason Weidenbach will be leading that department as we enter construction season. Have a great Spring!

## First District Hosts Dusty Johnson

We want to thank Representative Dusty Johnson and his support staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to tour the First District office and meet with First District Staff over lunch. Staff took the opportunity to provide Dusty with information regarding various current work activities and projects being conducted throughout the District.



## Regional Food Program Update

FDALG has been working in conjunction with Regional Food Business Centers (RFBC) over the past several months in developing a plan to provide technical assistance in areas of food value and supply chain coordination to small and mid-sized food and farm businesses (producers, processors, aggregators, distributors, and other businesses within the food supply chain). The plan was approved and took effect in January. To date, FDALG has assisted six local farm businesses to find and apply for grants which will assist them in starting, expanding, or altering their businesses to support/enhance the local food chain. In addition, Jessie has been busy working alongside the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), and individuals within our member communities to find additional opportunities for funding and business growth for local food chains and programs to ensure new and evolving grants are identified and applied for. April 30, 2024, is the next deadline for a grant to support regional projects and businesses aiming for expansion and growth, with average award amounts of \$35,000—\$50,000. The purpose of the grant funds is to strengthen and support food businesses. Growers, producers (e.g. commodities, fruits, and vegetables or livestock), aggregators, distributors, and food access points (food co-ops, farmers markets, etc.) are eligible applicants. For-profit, private sector, and non-profit organizations that are small to mid-sized local food value chain businesses are encouraged to apply!



If you need technical assistance in finding grants or other opportunities or have funding available, please contact Jessie Tesch at First District.

## STIP MEETING

June 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. representatives from the SD Department of Transportation (SD DOT) will be in the First District office to give a preliminary look at the 2024-2027 tentative Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Agendas will be sent out to the auditors at a later date.

