



What's in a Newsletter.....

Educating our members is a vital aspect of our organization's responsibilities. There is a Chinese Proverb that goes as follows:

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people."

The Black Hills Council of Local Governments has not produced a newsletter for many years. This is one of the ways that we plan on keeping our members informed.

We promise that we will keep our newsletters short and to the point and provide information on those issues that our members are currently facing.

We are here for our members, we work for them. So in order to perform our job to the best of our abilities, we take our knowledge and share it with our members. From there, it is our job to listen to the wants, issues, and concerns of our members and provide guidance in a manner that will implement the outcomes identified by our individual members and the region as a whole.

Special Points of Interest

- GOED Conference
April 14-15
Pierre
- SDML District X
Meeting – April 21
Whitewood
- SDML District IX
Meeting – April 22
Custer
- BHCOLG Board
Meeting – April 23
Rapid City
- State Water Plan
Application
Deadline May 1
- SRF Applications
for Stimulus Funds
Deadline – June 15
- Western Planners
Conference
September 9-11

Who We Are.....

The Black Hills Council of Local Governments (formally known as the Sixth Planning District) is a quasi-public agency that provides technical assistance of various types to voluntary member units of local government in the western portion of South Dakota. There are five other such Regional Planning Districts serving other parts of South Dakota.

Black Hills Council has been in existence since 1972. Our region is comprised of eight counties: Harding, Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, Pennington and Bennett. The purpose of Black Hills Council is best reflected by its mission statement: *"...a technical assistance organization created by local government working on problems that they identify."* A Board of Directors oversees and governs the general functioning of Black

Hills Council and the Board is comprised of representatives from all of the units of local government in our membership.

Since its inception, Black Hills Council has been actively involved in assisting its members with a multitude of projects and activities relating to community development, comprehensive planning and zoning, economic development, environmental issues, and assistance with and administration of grant and loan applications.

Currently, Black Hills Council has a committed staff working to help our members in all facets of community and regional planning. Give us a call with any of your questions or concerns or if you have a potential project in your jurisdiction that you would like help with getting started.

Stimulus: Managing Expectations.....

Meet the Staff

Blaise Emerson

Executive Director
bemerson@iw.net

Bill Lass

Senior Community
Development Planner
wglass@iw.net

Denise Livingston

Community
Development Planner
dlivingston2@iw.net

Lola Lincoln

Administrative
Assistant
lelincoln@iw.net

1602 Mt. View Road,
Suite 104
PO Box 9686
Rapid City, SD
57709-9686

(P) 605•394•2681
(F) 605•394•2684

Almost everyone has heard of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)* more commonly known as the “Stimulus Act.” This Federal Legislation is intended to restart the nation’s economy through increased spending funded by the Federal Government. Mostly, this funding is being channeled through existing programs with an emphasis on spending the monies quickly. Therefore, a lot of temporary changes are occurring within these programs to realize that goal.

Unfortunately, there has been confusion and misinformation as to what the ARRA means to

our members. This confusion has come about both due to the accelerated nature of the program changes and also due to a fair amount of rumors about stimulus funding. One such rumor is that there are suddenly large amounts of money available with few strings attached for nearly any local government project – but this is far from fact. However, the ARRA *is* having significant implications upon some of the programs that Black Hills Council works with regularly. Therefore, it would be advantageous for entities that are considering projects (particularly sewer or water related projects) to be aware of these implications. Please contact our staff for more information.

Director’s Perspective.....

The Black Hills Council of Governments has seen significant changes over the last few years with the retirement of three senior staff members, the most significant being Van Lindquist retiring as Executive Director after 37 years of service. With changing faces comes changing ideas, we will continue to strive to provide services to all our members in an

effective and efficient manner. I will be exploring how we can partner with other organizations, funding partners, and other agencies to provide a wider range of service to our region. Please feel to call, e-mail or stop into the office if you have question, concerns or ideas that need to be addressed.

BLACK HILLS COUNCIL
OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS
PO Box 9686
Rapid City, SD 57709-9686