



Upcoming Events

- BH Community Economic Development Board Meeting – April 13
- GOED Annual Conf. – April 20-21
- 2010 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference – April 22
- BHCOLG Board Meeting – April 29, 2010

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

www.blackhillscouncil.com

Capital Improvement Plans.....

A very important -- yet often overlooked planning tool available to local governments -- is the Capital Improvements Program (or CIP). The CIP is a multi-year, prioritized list of future capital improvement projects along with cost estimates and potential funding sources. The CIP typically encompasses a time horizon of approximately five years and should not be overly complicated but rather a simple budget plan for upcoming capital projects. Examples of projects appearing in a CIP could include: major water or sewer projects, storm water projects, improvement or construction of new public facilities or buildings, major street projects, purchase of vehicles or equipment, etc. Typically, only major capital projects or purchases are reflected in the CIP rather than regular and ongoing costs associated with smaller purchases, or operation, maintenance and repair costs. Having a CIP in place translates into real advantages for local governments. Simply completing the CIP process is an excellent way of making sure *all*

potential projects and needs are identified because all interested parties/departments and the public are involved in creation of the plan. Also, because entities with a CIP have already identified and prioritized major needs, they are, therefore, in a better position to undertake projects and assemble financing packages in a time-effective manner. Having needs already identified also puts entities in a better position to take advantage of new funding programs or opportunities that may come along. Over the past year, we have seen this happen first hand as entities with projects and costs previously identified were able to take advantage of funding available through various stimulus programs--whereas other entities were not able to respond quickly enough. Finally, having a CIP in place allows entities to more effectively utilize limited local monies for projects.

If you have an interest in developing a CIP, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you with the process.



Project Spotlight – Provo Township Water.....

Long-time residents in the Black Hills area may be familiar with the old Black Hills Army Ordnance Depot which was located near Edgemont. This vast, 21,000-acre U.S. government ordnance and ammunition-handling facility was in operation from 1942 to 1967. An impressive water system was constructed to serve the facility's population of 1,800 persons. Remnants of the Ordnance Depot remain today, including the original water system, which has continued serving a small number of area residents and ranches ever since the depot facility was decommissioned in 1967. This water system, now nearly 70 years old, had fallen into serious disrepair. The water tower had large holes in the roof thereby exposing the water supply to outside contamination. The tower reservoir also leaked substantially and during winter months large, dangerous ice sickles would hang from the tower (see photo). The natural water temperature is a stifling 130 degrees and the original system held this scalding water in a cistern directly beneath the pump house. A large portion of the pump house floor had

become unstable and actually moved when walking on it. If the floor had ever given way and plunged a person into the scalding water, the ramifications would have been dire. All these problems are now being alleviated through the current rehabilitation project. The old water tower is no longer being used and instead a nearby existing 500,000 gallon concrete reservoir has been modified to provide for the system's storage needs. New segments of water main have been constructed, as well as a new pump house and controls. The total cost of the project is just over \$500,000 with the vast majority of the funding being provided through grant funds. Black Hills Council has provided technical assistance related to these funding sources. Andersen Engineering is the project engineer and Barker Concrete and Construction is the prime contractor on the project. Planning and development of this challenging project has been ongoing since 2003 and soon construction will be complete.

Director's Perspective.....

One issue that the Council has been involved with over the years has been transportation. Whether this was highways, railroads or airports, a diverse transportation network is a key component for continual growth and development of the region.

The Council was involved early on and continues to advocate for the Heartland Expressway. The Heartland Expressway has grown over the years as other segments have been identified and now a corridor from Mexico to Canada has been identified. This new corridor is called the "Ports to Plains" Trade Corridor. This transportation corridor is vital for the continued development of North America's energy and agricultural heartland. The next key segment for this corridor in our region is the Theodore

Roosevelt Expressway (TRE), which is from Rapid City to Canada through the Port of Raymond in Montana. The initial corridor has been identified as US Hwy 85 north of Spearfish to Williston, ND then west on US Hwy 2 to Montana Route 16 and north to the Canadian border.

The Council will continue to advocate for the development of both the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and the greater "Ports to Plains" Trade Corridor. For more information on this please visit the following websites:

www.portstoplains.com

www.trexpressway.com