



THE Groton Independent
 South Dakota
 Growing Families & Opportunities
 Vol. 136 No. 44 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



The group had a photo taken in front of the White House. Pictured standing, left to right, are Corbin Reich, Carter Barse, Jace Craig, Trey Johnson, Cole Simon, Travis Townsend, Kaleb Antonson, Seth Johnson, Ellie Weismantel, Hollie Frost, Julianna Kosel, Ani Davidson, Kelsie Frost, Trista Keith, Madeline Fliehs, Allyssa Locke, Brooklyn Imrie, Claire Davidson, Brooke Gengerke, Cassie Schultz, Emilie Blocker, Danny Feist; in front are Isaac Higgins, River Pardick, Kameryn Fliehs, Shaylee Peterson, Sierra Ehresmann, Aspen Johnson; missing is Michael Alseth. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area Youth go on Education Trip to Washington, D.C.

A group of 29 students and 11 parents/chaperones along with Carly Wheeting, Brook Tschetter and Michelle Lesnar from the World Classroom educational travel went on a trip to Washington, D.C. over the weekend. The group left on a charter bus at 9:45 p.m., Friday, from GHS and then took a plane flight from Minneapolis to Washington, D.C. As soon as they arrived, they hit the ground running, visiting a couple of Smithsonian Museums and going through the Tidal Basin to see the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial, the Franklin D. Roosevelt memorial and the Thomas Jefferson memorial. The group also got a close-up view of the original Bill of Rights and United States Constitution. On Sunday, they toured Mount Vernon which is the home to George Washington, went to the National Air and Space Museum near Dullus Airport where such things as the Space Shuttle Discovery along with the Boeing 707 and many other aircrafts were on display. They went to Georgetown, visited the 911 Pentagon Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, the World War II Memorial, as well as the Vietnam and Korean Memorials and finishing the day at the Lincoln Memorial. On Monday, the group went to the Capital for a tour, the Library of Congress, had a White House Photo Op and then finished the day at the National Harbor which was near the motel they stayed at. Tuesday morning was spent at Arlington National Cemetery where they got to see the changing of the guard ceremony as well as the changing of the wreath ceremony. Then they visited the Marine Corps War Memorial before heading back to the airport for the return home.

It should be pointed out that this group of Groton students were complimented many times for their good behavior. They represented Groton very well in Washington, D.C.

Aaron Killian was the main tour guide for the group. A charter bus driven by Reggie Franks took the group around to the sites.

Reggie Franks was the trusted bus driver for the entire time while the Groton group was in Washington, D.C. He is a PMCO - Professional Motor Coach Operator. He has been driving bus for 29 years which included a USO Charter Bus in Germany while he served in the military.

Reggie shared a personal experience with the group about the 911 incident at the Pentagon.

He said that a woman got on the bus and decided at the last minute that she had to use the bathroom. They let her off and meanwhile, the other passengers were a little upset that she could have used the bathroom facility on the bus instead of making them wait. She was gone for eight minutes.

They were on their way to the Pentagon. However, because of those eight minutes, little did they realize that it saved their lives. Reggie said had they been at the Pentagon eight minutes earlier, they would have been in the line of flight with the airplane and they would have been killed in the event. "God is good," Reggie said. He went on to say that we should be thankful every day for God has given us.

There are many photos and lots of information from the trip in the Groton Daily Independent.

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State of S.D. Estate of Roger E. Aberle
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 COUNTY OF BROWN
 IN CIRCUIT COURT
 FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 IN THE MATTER OF THE
 ESTATE OF ROGER E. ABERLE,
 DECEASED
 06PRO.019-000056
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is given that on the 11th day of June, 2019, Kaili A. Aberle, whose address is 406 West 2nd Avenue, Groton, SD 57445, was appointed as personal representative of the estate of Roger E. Aberle.
 Creditors of the decedent must file their claims within four (4) months after the appointment of the personal representative on the 11th day of June, 2019, or within sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or delivery of this written notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred.
 Claims may be filed with the personal representative or may be filed with the Clerk of Courts and a copy of the claim mailed to the personal representative.
 Dated this 12th day of June, 2019.
 /s/ Kaili A. Aberle
 Kaili A. Aberle
 406 W 2nd Ave,
 Groton, SD 57445
 Clerk of Courts
 Brown County Courthouse
 25 Market Street
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 Richard Kolker, Attorney
 PO Box 467
 Groton, SD 57445
 (605)397-8464
 tdlaw@nvc.net
 (0626.0710)
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Classifieds and Card of Thanks
 The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
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BIDS

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS: City of Webster, SD will receive sealed bids on building addition/remodeling project. For more informational 605-345-3241 or write PO Box 539, Webster, SD 57274. Due by July 1, 2019.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MOTEL * CABINS * HOUSE w/2 Apts. & 2- Stall Garage in Mobridge, SD. Sold at AUCTION on 7-15-2019 at 5:00PM. Information at 605-845-6499 or www.auctionzip.com (ID# 12450).

EMPLOYMENT

POLICE CHIEF: City of Big Stone City, SD. Experienced self-starter, able to operate as a one-person department in a border town. Working closely with four counties and two states. Big Stone City is the home of Big Stone Lake, with an outdoor lifestyle second to none. Salary commensurate with experience; full-time w/benefits. Contact Mayor Deb Wiik (605) 880-1775. EOE.

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HELP WANTED: Head Maintenance/Custodial at Haakon School District. Application online: philip.k12.sd.us salary negotiable. Contact Jeff Riekman 605-859-2679. Equal opportunity employer

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Mary Johnson read a piece about Groton's own William Pasch who is listed on the Vietnam Memorial. You can see the name inscribed on the wall on the next page with what she read on the page following. William is the son of Lois and the late Walter Pasch of Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Health Department Awards \$500,000 For Mosquito Control

PIERRE, S.D. – More than 200 South Dakota cities, counties and tribes will share in \$500,000 in grants intended to control mosquitoes and prevent West Nile virus (WNV), the Department of Health announced today.

"South Dakota has a disproportionately high number of WNV cases when compared to other states. Local mosquito control efforts play a vital role in protecting our communities," said Bill Chalcraft, administrator of public health preparedness and response for the Department of Health.

All applying communities received funding, with grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. Grant awards were based on the population of the applying jurisdiction and its history of human WNV cases through 2018.

Since its first human WNV case in 2001, the state has reported 2,601 human cases and 46 deaths. Every county has reported cases.

Including this latest round of grants, the state has provided local mosquito control programs with more than \$8 million in support, in either direct grant funding or control chemicals, since the virus emerged in South Dakota.

Area communities receiving funding are: Aberdeen, \$20,000; Bath, \$2,217; Bristol, \$778; Britton, \$6,707; Brown County, \$15,000; Claremont, \$1,896; Columbia, \$936; Conde, \$936; Frederick, \$1,417; Groton, \$2,000; Hecla, \$1,897; Langford, \$1,898; Pierpont, \$1,256; Redfield, \$4,958; Stratford, \$1,736; Warner, \$1,740; and Webster, \$3,674.

Marzahn elected as one of six justices to serve on Supreme Court at American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State

VERMILLION, S.D. – The 73rd annual American Legion Auxiliary South Dakota Girls State drew 365 girls to the University of South Dakota last week, which concluded with the traditional election of officers and presentation of awards.

Under the direction of Cheryl Hovorka, ALA SD Girls State Director, the participants who will enter their senior year of high school this fall were selected from across the state based on scholastic achievement, leadership skills and interest in government.

Success Suehne of Sioux Falls was elected ALA SD Girls State Governor and Nancy Flaherty of Watertown was elected Lieutenant Governor. Additional elections included Abigail Van Ruler of Montrose, Attorney General; Kaelyn Somsen of Webster, Secretary of State; Rhianna Welberg of Milbank, State Auditor; Ashlyn Bickett of Vermillion, State Treasurer; Emma Hagel of Hartford, Commissioner of School and Public Lands. Elected to the Public Utilities Commission were Saylor Burke of Watertown, Jayden Clark of Garretson, and Olivia Sass of Bradley.

In non-political elections, ALA Girls State delegates elected Nicole Marzahn of Groton, Miranda Chaney of Platte, Lauren Rhodes of Aberdeen, Lauren Bruening of Yankton, Rachel Beare of Aberdeen, and Katelyn Windberg of Canova as six justices to serve on the Supreme Court. Emily Kokales of Aberdeen was elected as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Emily Sue Wedel of Yale was chosen as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Lilyane Schaefer of Faulkton was elected House of Representatives Majority Leader while Ashley Gustafson of Claremont was elected House of Representatives Minority Leader. The Senate selected Yufeng Peng of Aberdeen as President Pro Tempore with Cynthia Campbell of Aurora as Senate Majority Leader and Autumn Wilkinson of De Smet as Senate Minority Leader. Ava Reiner of Tripp was selected as the Nationalist Party Chairwoman and Hannah Josko of Beresford as the Nationalist Party keynote speaker. Hannah Frost of Brandon was selected as Federalist keynote speaker and the Federalist Party elected Julia Russell of Hot Springs as party chairwoman. Bethany Larson of Huron was the recipient of the outstanding journalist award and Rachel Overstreet of Sioux Falls received the highest citizen's exam score. Isabel Myren of Pierre was selected as the outstanding ALA SD Girls State citizen and Katherine Parady of Sioux Falls was selected as the outstanding speaker. Liberty Brink of Box Elder was selected as outstanding speaker of the Senate and Kara Vetch of Aberdeen was selected as outstanding speaker of the House.

Awards were also presented to Olivia Schanzenbach of Selby, outstanding prosecuting attorney; Haroni Sahilu of Sioux Falls, outstanding defense attorney; Carissa Witt of Brookings, outstanding appellant attorney; Abigail Van Ruler of Montrose, outstanding appellee attorney; Josephine Krajewski of Yankton, outstanding circuit court judge; and Emily Killsback of Moberly as outstanding forensic investigator.

Alexandra Licht of Rapid City and Kaytlyn Hilligas of Lennox were chosen as delegates to represent South Dakota at the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C., with Alison Logue of Volin and Emily Sue Wedel of Yale serving as alternates. Katy Liester of Baltic was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Madison Thie of Sioux Falls was awarded the Bonnie Slade Memorial Scholarship, Kaia Erickson of Watertown was awarded the Helen Gottleben Memorial Scholarship, and Rachel Cutshaw of Clear Lake received the Travis Memorial Scholarship.

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STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS
 S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2020-2023 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.
 Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.
 July 9, 2019AmericInn.....Aberdeen.....7:00 PM (CDT)
 July 10, 2019HighlandConferenceCenter.....Mitchell.....7:00 PM (CDT)
 July 11, 2019Ramkota HotelRapid City.....7:00 PM (MDT)
 July 15, 2019Ramkota HotelPierre.....7:00 PM (CDT)
 July 18, 2019Webinar.....Visit www.sddot.com for a link to participate.....2:30 PM (CDT)
 Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting.
 For more information please go to www.SDDOT.com

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Notice of Hearing for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Frederick Area Budget

Frederick Area School District Board of Education will conduct a public hearing in the High School Library on Monday, July 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. to consider the forthcoming budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, as follows:

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	GENERAL	CAPITAL OUTLAY	SPECIAL EDUCATION	PENSION	FOOD SERVICE	DRIVERS EDUCATION	TOTAL
Elementary Programs	\$477,934	\$19,280					\$497,214
Middle/Junior High Programs	\$114,658	\$52,713					\$167,371
High School Programs	\$255,410	\$11,424					\$266,834
Special Education Programs			\$202,341				\$202,341
Title I Program	\$55,844						\$55,844
Guidance Services	\$58,349						\$58,349
Psychological Services			\$3,988				\$3,988
Speech Pathology Services			\$10,152				\$10,152
Student Therapy Services			\$17,750				\$17,750
Improvement of Instruction Services	\$3,950						\$3,950
Educational Media Services	\$69,701	\$22,344					\$92,045
Board of Education Services	\$66,390						\$66,390
Office of the Superintendent Services	\$89,885	\$1,109					\$90,994
Office of the Principal Services	\$150,512	\$3,007					\$153,519
Other Support Services	\$250						\$250
Fiscal Services	\$89,163	\$5,679					\$94,842
Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services	\$227,394	\$20,612					\$248,006
Student Transportation Services	\$122,862						\$122,862
Food Services		\$2,879			\$97,853		\$100,732
Special Education Administrative Costs			\$3,997				\$3,997
Special Education Transportation Costs			\$730				\$730
Other Community Services						\$4,990	\$4,990
Early Retirement	\$25,000						\$25,000
Male Activities	\$22,693						\$22,693
Female Activities	\$14,594						\$14,594
Transportation	\$10,704						\$10,704
Combined Activities	\$41,703						\$41,703
Contingencies	\$10,000						\$10,000
Transfers Out to General Fund		\$368,910		\$25,000			\$393,910
Transfers Out to Food Service	\$21,586						\$21,586
Transfers Out to Drivers Education	\$3,490						\$3,490
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$1,932,072	\$507,957	\$238,958	\$25,000	\$97,853	\$4,990	\$2,806,830
ESTIMATED MEANS OF FINANCE	GENERAL	CAPITAL OUTLAY	SPECIAL EDUCATION	PENSION	FOOD SERVICE	DRIVERS EDUCATION	TOTAL
Local Sources	\$908,662	\$825,701	\$404,231		\$42,640	\$1,500	\$2,182,734
Intermediate Sources	\$8,900						\$8,900
State Sources	\$526,414				\$300		\$526,714
Federal Sources	\$97,803				\$33,327		\$131,130
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$1,541,779	\$825,701	\$404,231		\$76,267	\$1,500	\$2,849,478
Transfers in from General Fund					\$21,586	\$3,490	\$25,076
Transfers in from Capital Outlay	\$368,910						\$368,910
Transfers in from Pension Fund	\$25,000						\$25,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED INTER-FUND TRANSFERS	\$393,910				\$21,586	\$3,490	\$418,986
CASH RESERVES	-\$3,617	-\$317,744	-\$165,273	\$25,000			-\$461,634
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE	\$1,932,072	\$507,957	\$238,958	\$25,000	\$97,853	\$4,990	\$2,806,830

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$202.91. 17625

Brown County June 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes

JUNE 18, 2019 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Feldheim at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Kippley, Sutton, and Wiese. Commissioner Kippley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes from June 11, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:
Moved by Sutton seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: Kristi Brandt \$47.25; Faulk Co. Sheriff's Office \$16,320.00; Language Line \$7,346.35; Marco \$75.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$2,431.00; SDACO \$1,236.00; SD Attorney General's Office \$405.00; SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources \$270.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$900,948.64; US Bank \$25.00.

Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,809.11; Dakota Broadcasting \$3,000.00; Groton Independent \$88.45; Hub City Radio \$300.00.

Rentals: 446-Praxair \$24.95. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Clean-All \$185.00; Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$2,132.57; Auto Glass Solutions \$337.39; AWS \$503.12; Eilers Water Conditioning \$93.00; Gardner Locksmith \$75.00; GCR Tires & Service \$907.23; Hase Plumbing & Heating \$372.58; Hoven Auto Repair \$44.00; Jason's Electric \$268.82; Leidholt Electric \$314.08; Pierson-Ford \$1,756.08; US Bank \$401.74.

Supplies: AmeriCinn \$300.00; Best Western Ramkota-Aberdeen \$295.00; Cartney Bearing \$16.97; CommTech \$970.00; Fire Safety First \$57.00; Geffdog \$1,242.69; GovConnection \$881.65; Heartland Paper \$854.25; Kauffman Museum \$6,500.00; Kessler's \$243.14; LabSource \$513.56; Mac's \$1.99; McKesson Medical \$253.56; Menards \$48.67; NVC \$27.22; Pharmchem \$28.55; Lora Schaanman \$69.50; US Bank \$19,895.26; West Payment Center \$1,750.67.

Travel & Conference: US Bank \$120.80.

Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$25.40; AT&T Mobility \$71.24; CenturyLink \$1,266.27; Dependable Sanitation \$402.00; Exec. Mgmt. \$71.43; James Valley Telecommunications \$225.10; Northern Electric \$4,125.53; NVC \$3,459.49; US Bank \$930.05; Verizon \$200.05. Other: JRWD \$33,543.39;

Safe Harbor \$1,050.00.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Sutton seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes:

Approve hiring Jordan Garlick as full-time Equipment Operator Labor Grade 4 for the Brown County Landfill @ \$18.63 per hour effective July 15, 2019.

Approve hiring Damin Bahr as seasonal help for the Brown County Highway @ \$12.29 per hour effective June 19, 2019.

Approve request and authorize advertising for hiring JDAI/Diversion Coordinator for the State's Attorney's Office.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following contracts for 2019 Brown County Fair: TMS (Theatrical Media Services) Addendum B for sound, lighting, stage roof and 4 spotlights for Wednesday – Saturday night concerts @ \$25,100; TMS (Theatrical Media Services) 1 of 3 year contract to provide Video Equipment and Services for Monday – Tuesday night Rodeo and Wednesday – Saturday night concerts @ \$35,300; Pauer Sound & Music Inc @ \$12,500 (sound equipment); Cassadee Pope @ \$26,000 (entertainment); Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen for operation of Grandstand concessions; Keyli Sawatzky, Phyllis Donat, Cindy Schnabel, Rick Dias, Kathy Novstrup, Florence Kraus, Tayler Wolff, Ashley Seeklander, Joy Braun, Susan Gerlach, Judy Gulleon, Cathy Jorgenson, Karin Porter Bartell @ \$40 (Judges); Duane Jark @ \$40 (Judge - decline mileage); Carol Green @ \$40 (Judge - decline payment); Randy Woehl, Deb Stamm, Jeremiah Johnson @ \$100 (Judges); Brett Levos @ \$150 (Judge). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

LOTTERY APPLICATION:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chair sign application submitted by the Richmond Lake Association for a lottery to be held at Anchors Away on July 6, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the following May 2019 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MEAL REIMBURSEMENT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to adopt the State Meal Reimbursement Rates effective July 1, 2019:

Meal reimbursement made only for out of County travel
In-State Out-of-State

Breakfast \$ 6.00 \$10.00
Lunch \$14.00 \$18.00
Dinner \$20.00 \$28.00
\$40.00 \$56.00

Qualifying time for meal allowances:

Breakfast - leave before 5:31 a.m. - return after 7:59 a.m.
Lunch - leave before 11:31 a.m. - return after 12:59 p.m.
Dinner - leave before 5:31 p.m. - return after 7:59 p.m.
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign cooperative agreement with Aberdeen School District 6-1 to establish an educational program for youth placed in the Juvenile Detention Center, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FIREWORKS PERMITS:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following Fireworks Public Display Permits: Bullet Sports, DBA Brown County Speedway for a Fireworks Display to be held on June 22, July 3, July 5 and July 16, 2019 at the Fairgrounds Grandstand infield. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP BONDS:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the following Townships Bonds (Treasurer and Clerk): PORTAGE #1 – Mary A. Ewing Thorpe, Tonya Hansen; GREENFIELD #2 – Karen Lunzmann, Valerie Weisser; FREDERICK #3 – Dennis Walworth, Jill Gisi; ALLISON #4 – Dillon Cutler, Arlene Hixon; LANSING #5 – Dixie Clark; ONEOTA #6 – Karla Engelhart, Neil Schaanman; BRAINARD #7 – Charles Dennert, Diane Bruns; SHELBY #8 – Michael Knecht, William Colby Crawford; NORTH DETROIT #9 – Candi Beck; CLAREMONT #10 – Donald J. Wegleitner, Justin Wegleitner; COLUMBIA #11 – Marty Weismantel, Patricia L. Daly; WESTPORT #12 – Guyna Dehne, Doug Fjeldheim; CARLISLE #13 – Ashlee Nelson; ORDWAY #14 – Kerry Howell, Mike McHugh; CAMBRIA #15 – Monte McNickle, Brenda Johnson; RIVERSIDE #16 – Steve Simon, Bruce Sippel; GROTON #17 – Joyce Walter, Jeff Howard; HENRY #18 – Matt Oswald, Darlene Sass; BATH #19 – David Stahl, Scott Sperry; ABERDEEN #20 – William Donaldson, Marguerite Donaldson; MERCIER #21 – Rodney Artz, Daryl Reick; NEW HOPE #22 – Alan Borchard, Milton Haselhorst; WARNER #23 – Sarah Swanson, Robert Seaton; GEM #24 – Loel Schott, Bob Simon; EAST HANSON #25 – Lyncee Monson, Betty Schinkel; GARDEN PRAIRIE #26 – Craig Dunker, Todd Osterman; EAST RONDELL #27 – Dennis Rossow, Kathy Williams; PALMYRA #28 – Renae Martin, Greta Thorpe; OSCEOLA #29 – Lanny Mikkonen, Chris Sumption; SAVO #30 – Calvin Raisanen, Judy

Bretsch; LIBERTY #31 – Todd Lunzman, Janet Elsen; RAVINIA #34 – Chad Nelson, Patrick Keatts; HIGHLAND #35 – Dan Misslitz, Deanna Nelson; FRANKLYN #36 – Chelsea Gappa, Shirley Stein; RICHLAND #37 – Diana Kopetsky, Debra Heine; LINCOLN #39 – Tawney Beitel-spacher, Terry Nash; BATES #44 – Kathy Dobberpuhl, Betty Geist; GARLAND #46 – Chris Podoll, Derek Kiefer; PUTNEY #48 – David LaMee, Mark Thompson; WEST HANSON #49 – Alyssa Lord, Matt Menzia; HECLA #50 – Susan Rosendahl, Mary Tisher; PRAIRIEWOOD #53 – Heidi Carrels, Robert Jensen; WEST RONDELL #57 – Jim Fischbach, Allen Ryckman; SOUTH DETROIT #59 – Mark Perkins, Faye Hoines. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chair sign applications for Special Malt Beverage Licenses, submitted by Stacey Gossman DBA Big Fella's for a special event for Nicole Sparling Wedding to be held at 400 24th Ave NE (Fairgrounds Clubhouse) – SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. Special License effective June 15, 2019. Jacque Hein Wedding to be held at 400 24th Ave NE (Fairgrounds Clubhouse) – SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. Special License effective June 29, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following lease agreements: Watertown Human Service Agency for lease of the Richmond Lake Youth Camp on July 30 – August 1, 2019; Mark Ablen for lease of the Granary Rural Cultural Center on July 5 -7, 2019; Aberdeen Downtown Association for lease of trailer with 40 corral panels, 6 picnic tables and 1 stage for Concert Series on June 13, July 11, August 2 and August 24, 2019; Aberdeen Downtown Association for lease of trailer with 40 corral panels, 6 picnic tables and 1 stage for Concert Series on June 13, July 11, August 2 and August 24, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve and authorize the Chair sign documentation to assign a claim against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting a lien. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the May 2019 Auditor's Report of Account with the County Treasurer in total amount of \$21,671,093.34 (total amount of actual cash

@ \$4,214.97, Cash items (bad checks) @ \$785.03, US Bank @ \$45,722.14, Dacotah Bank @ \$13,624,142.12, Petty Cash/Change Funds @ \$2,600., Fund Investments @ \$7,993.629.08). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 137 – FIRST READING:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve First Reading of Ordinance #137, an Ordinance to amend Title 4 – Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation of Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agricultural District (M-AG): Lot 2 Bruns Hanson Addition in the SW ¼ of Section 32-T127N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD (39546 112th St.). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDIT ENTRANCE CONFERENCE:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize Chair to sign Engagement Letter submitted by Glenda Goens, SD Department of Legislative Audit, for the Audit being conducted for fiscal year 2018. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING JURISDICTION:

Commissioner Kippley offered the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #R22-19

JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING ACTIONS OF PLANNING DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS AND ZONING BOARDS DURING TRANSITION TO REPEAL CITY OF ABERDEEN EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING JURISDICTION

WHEREAS, Brown County and the City of Aberdeen provide for the health, safety, and property of their residents and citizens through the comprehensive zoning ordinances adopted by their respective governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aberdeen desires to repeal its extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, persons seeking to comply with the zoning regulations within three miles of the City's corporate limits during the repeal transition period should not be put to additional inconvenience, cost, or uncertainty by the respective planning departments or by the procedures to appeal matters or request hearings before the respective planning commissions and boards of zoning authority; and

WHEREAS, the public is best served if actions and decisions of the County and City planning departments, planning commissions, and boards of zoning authority that continue to serve the principles, policies, and objectives of the zoning regulations of the County and City during the transition for such repeal are formally authorized or, if already taken, ratified as the approved

action or decision of the authority having jurisdiction over such matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the actions and decisions of the County and City planning departments, planning commissions, and boards of zoning authority that continue to serve the principles, policies, and objectives of the zoning regulations of the County and City during the period of time necessary to effectively repeal the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the City of Aberdeen are hereby authorized or, if already taken, ratified as the approved action or decision of the authority having jurisdiction over such matter.

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese. Roll call vote: Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Resolution adopted.

JDAI/DIVERSION COORDINATOR:

Commissioner Kippley gave an update of the JDAI/Diversion Coordinator Grant Award.

BROWN COUNTY BURIAL PLOTS:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize Chair to sign Burial Permission Form submitted by Riverside Memorial Cemetery for an individual to use Block 90, Lot 30, Grave Space B for her/his interment. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LITP EXTENSION OF GRANT AGREEMENT:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize Chair to sign an Extension of Local Infrastructure Improvement Program Grant Agreement. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SDDOT FUNDING AGREEMENT:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize Chair to sign the SD Department of Transportation Funding Agreement to receive Highway Infrastructure funds to be used strictly for the replacement or rehabilitation of bridge(s) identified in poor condition and incorporated in the agreement. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts per SDCL 1-25-2(1, 4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Sutton seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:05 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Sara Swisher, Chief Deputy Auditor

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Notice of Hearing for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Groton Area Budget

Groton Area School District Board of Education will conduct a public hearing in the High School Library on Monday, July 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to consider the forthcoming budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, as follows:

**Groton School
June 24, 2019**

Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING
June 24, 2019

Vice-President Weismantel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Fjelstad, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Absent: Gengerke. Others present: Superintendent J. Schwan, Principal Sombke and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Rix, second Pharis to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Harder, second Fjelstad to approve consent agenda - District bills. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Agency Advanced Pays, 22,893.06. CAPITAL OUTLAY: Agency Advance Pays, 16,870.03. SPECIAL ED: Agency Advance Pays, 52.75. ENTERPRISE: OST - Agency Advanced Pays, 237.51.

Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members present to speak, the board proceeded with their remaining agenda items.

Mr. Lowell Harms requested the board consider a policy amendment which allows home-schooled children to participate in school activities. Current policy prohibits non-enrolled students from participating. Moved by Rix, second Fjelstad to refer the issue to the Personnel, Policy and Curriculum Committee to determine whether a policy change is warranted. Motion carried.

There were no board committee reports given.

The following items were reported in Administrative Reports: boiler work progress, tuck-point project timeline and bond levy review.

Smith joined the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER CONTINGENCY FUNDS

WHEREAS: The General Fund Contingency Account consists of \$50,000

THEREFORE: Be it resolved to transfer \$6,900 to Architect & Engineering Services.

Date of Resolution, June 24, 2019.

Steven R. Smith, President..

M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Moved by Pharis, second Fjelstad to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY

WHEREAS: The following budget function levels set by the Board of Education were not adequate to meet the operating needs of the District in Capital Outlay

THEREFORE: Be it resolved, that the Board of Education, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, adopts the following supplemental budget in Capital Outlay by allocating \$12,550 from Cash on Hand to Mild SPED Equipment (\$70), Debt Services (\$10,930) and Athletic Equipment (\$1,550).

Date of Resolution, June 24, 2019.

Steven R. Smith, President

M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Moved by Pharis, second Fjelstad to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The following budget function levels set by the Board of Education were not adequate to meet the operating needs of the District in Special Education

THEREFORE: Be it resolved, that the Board of Education, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, adopts the following supplemental budget in Special Education by allocating \$2,950 from Cash on Hand to Preschool Transportation (\$2,950).

Date of Resolution, June 24, 2019.

Steven R. Smith, President

M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Moved by Pharis, second Fjelstad to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The following budget function levels set by the Board of Education were not adequate to meet the operating needs of the District in Special Education

THEREFORE: Be it resolved, that the Board of Education, in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12, adopts the following supplemental budget in Special Education by allocating \$2,950 from Cash on Hand to Preschool Transportation (\$2,950).

Date of Resolution, June 24, 2019.

Steven R. Smith, President

M. J. Weber, Business Official (Resolution carried.)

Quotes for fuel oil, diesel and gas were opened and read as follows: MJ's Sinclair: #2 Diesel - 2.549, #1 Diesel - 2.855, Ethanol - 2.307, Lead-Free - 2.51, and E-85 - 1.863; Ken's Shell Express: #2 Diesel - 2.5430, #1 Diesel - 2.8149, Ethanol - 2.255, Lead-Free - 2.5098 and E-85 - 1.9295. Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to award fuel contract to Ken's Shell Express. Motion carried.

Quotes for official newspaper were opened and read as follows: Groton Independent - legal line rate \$0.304 per line, classified advertising \$3.00 per week, local open display advertising \$3.50 per column inch and current subscribers: 135. There were no other quotes received.

Moved by Rix, second Fjelstad to award newspaper contract to Groton Independent. Motion carried.

Moved by Fjelstad, second Weismantel to hire Linda McInerney as bus route driver for 2019-20. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Pharis to approve administrative Negotiated Agreement for 2019-20 with salaries to be published in July. Motion carried.

Moved by Fjelstad, second Rix to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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EXPENDITURE BUDGET	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Pension Fund	Bond Redemption	Capital Projects	Food Service	Enterprise Fund
Elementary Programs	1,063,428	111,675		0				
Elementary Summer Program	7,184							
Middle School Programs	526,271	31,775						
High School Programs	979,339	73,600						
Jr. Kindergarten	32,876	900						
Class Size Reduction Program								
NCAI/Hi Tech Programs	1,000	4,000						
Destination Imagination	6,894							
Mild/Moderate Disabilities		450	485,952					
Severe Disabilities		800	172,271					
Residential Programs			35,000					
Early Childhood Programs		2,100	33,257					
Opportunity Classroom	49,983							
Limited English Proficient	6,008	350						
Title I Programs	107,867							
Counseling Services	69,652							
Medical Services	42,381	200	2,000					
Psychological Services			14,166					
Speech Pathology Services		550	36,759					
Physical Therapy			40,000					
Occupational Therapy			64,000					
Recreational Therapy								
Curriculum Development	5,780							
Instructional Staff Training	25,133							
Title I Prof Development	5,365							
School Library Services	62,499	8,005						
Technology in School	85,314	141,490						
Election Services	3,800							
Legal Services	3,000		400					
Audit Services	14,000							
Board of Education	120,500							
Office of the Superintendent	143,612	400						
Office of the Principals	301,347	1,250						
Other Support Services	1,000							
Fiscal Services	183,937	6,400						
Architect & Engineering	5,000					1.0E-10		
Building Construction Services								
Other Facilities Acq & Constr		197,600						
Building Care & Upkeep	721,089	25,500						
Vehicle Maintenance	359,899	10,000						
School Lunch							254,240	
Title I Evaluation Services	1,028							
Special Ed Administrative			17,048					
Special Ed Transportation			18,388					
Special Ed Other Costs			5,910					
Out-of-School Time Program								78,935
Driver's Education								12,922
State Unemployment	4,000							
Early Retirement	16,148							
Debt Service		802,600			211,023			
Athletics	216,693	22,500						
Forensics	14,143	1,150						
Other Co-Curricular	25,366							
Contingency	50,000							
Transfers Out	25,000	500,000						
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,286,536	1,943,295	925,151	0	211,023	1.0E-10	254,240	91,857
MEANS OF FINANCE	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Pension Fund	Bond Redemption	Capital Projects	Food Service	Enterprise Fund
Local Sources:								
Taxes	3,850,096	1,707,200	904,550	0	200,200			
Regular Tuition								9,500
Summer School Fees								
Transportation Fees	700							
Interest Earned	5,000							
Food Service Sales							151,700	
Co-Curricular Revenue	146,200							
Other Local Revenue	27,700		8,600					62,000
Total Local Sources	4,029,696	1,707,200	913,150	0	200,200		151,700	71,500
County Sources:								
State Fines	37,500							
Revenue In Lieu of Taxes	100							
Total County Sources	37,600							
State Sources:								
State Aid	1.0E-10							
State Apportionment	46,000							
Wind Farm Revenue	170,000							
Bank Franchise Tax	66,000							
Mentor Teacher Program	9,500							
State Cash Reimbursements							900	
Other State Revenue	750		5,000					
Total State Sources	292,250		5,000				900	
Federal Sources:								
Federal Wetlands	5,000							
Small Rural School Achievement	16,000							
Title IV, Part A	10,000							
Title I, Part A	77,151							
Improving Achievement	6,000							
Title II, Part A	27,465							
Federal Cash Reimbursements							57,000	
Other Federal Revenue	0	500						
Total Federal Sources	141,616	500					57,000	
Other Sources:								
Transfer In	500,000	0					25,000	
Sale of Surplus Property	50							
Total Other Sources	500,050	0				0	25,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	5,001,212	1,707,700	918,150	0	200,200	0	234,600	71,500
Cash on Hand	285,324	235,595	7,001	-0	10,823	-0	19,640	20,357
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCE	5,286,536	1,943,295	925,151	0	211,023	1.0E-10	254,240	91,857

Aging S.D. dams creating potential for destruction

By: Nick Lowrey

The last 12 months have been the wettest in South Dakota in more than a century and as a result, dams across the state have suffered significant damage, creating the potential for flooding, loss of life, destruction of property and the need for expensive repairs.

Across South Dakota and the Great Plains, extensive snow melt and heavy rains have eroded spillways, plugged outflows, caused leaks and led a few dams to fail completely. The wet weather has exposed weaknesses in the state's system of dams that in many cases are aged and worn.

A leak in the Quinn Dam near Phillip in central South Dakota in March forced the closure of U.S. Highway 14, one of the state's few east-west highways, while engineers determined the threat level. Murdo Dam, a 1930s-era Works Projects Administration dam just outside the town of Murdo in Jones County, saw its spillway severely erode this year.

State officials eventually determined that Quinn Dam wasn't in imminent danger of failure and re-opened the highway. Officials still are trying to determine the extent of damage to Murdo Dam and what to do about it.

"It seems like every year there's one or two that go out," said Ron Duvall, water rights permitting administrator for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The issue of aging dams and reservoirs isn't unique to South Dakota. In March, the 90-year-old Spencer Dam on the Niobrara River in northeastern Nebraska failed and washed out homes, farms, businesses and infrastructure downriver; one man remains missing.



Homes, farms, businesses and public infrastructure were wiped downriver from the Spencer Dam on the Niobrara River in northeastern Nebraska, which failed due to heavy water and ice flows in March. The failure of the 90-year-old dam, which took place not far from South Dakota's southern border, also led to the death of one man who was washed away and remains missing. Photo: Courtesy state of Nebraska

Estimates by the Association of State Dam Safety officials peg the cost of needed maintenance for the country's more than 87,000 non-federal dams at roughly \$66 billion. Around 15,500 of those dams, if they failed, could cause serious damage to property or could kill people. Just fixing those state-managed "high-hazard" dams would come at a cost of around \$20 billion.

South Dakota's share of those costs is much smaller, though state officials do not have a firm repair estimate. Still, there are more than 2,500 dams in the state that qualify for listing on the National Inventory of Dams, meaning they hold more than 50 acre feet of water — about 16.25 million gallons — or have the

potential to kill people or cause significant property damage if breached.

The maintenance problem has been slowly building over decades and it comes with another, potentially more expensive wrinkle. The lakes behind the dams are deteriorating too, placing the state's multi-million dollar fishing and boating industries in peril.

South Dakota reservoirs support much of the state's \$270 million annual recreational fishing industry and its roughly \$85 million annual boating industry, but dams and the reservoirs behind them are starting to show their advanced age.

Most of the dams in South Dakota were built more than 60 years ago as part of a decades-long boom in dam construction that swept the country beginning around the year 1900. Dams were built to control water for irrigation, to store drinking water and create opportunities for recreation. The dam building boom also set the stage for recreational fishing and boating to become multi-million dollar industries.

A combination of decayed flooded vegetation, sedimentation and too many nutrients flowing in from upstream changes the way lakes function and often decreases both the quality of the water and its fish carrying capacity. The process takes decades but if left unaddressed, a lake can be rendered nearly lifeless and full of toxic bacteria.



Record rainfall in the spring caused the spillway at the Murdo Dam to wash away; officials are still trying to decide what to do next to repair the dam. Fixing aging dams in South Dakota and across the nation can be a multi-million dollar venture for governments and private owners. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Most dams in S.D. are several decades old

Nearly all of South Dakota's reservoirs were built during the first half of the 20th century. A whole bunch of them were built during the Great Depression when the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were created. Age and an increase in severe weather events have taken their toll on those depression-era dams.

The reservoir known as Lake Hiddenwood northeast of Selby was created by an earthen dam built in 1927. The dam washed out after heavy rains in the spring of 2018, and destroyed a bridge. The reservoir, owned by the Game Fish & Parks Department, is home to a state recreation area; the park there remains closed.

Hidden Timber Dam, a WPA project east of Mission, was overwhelmed by snowmelt from back-to-back blizzards and heavy rains and breached this spring. What's left of the dam still is owned by the South Dakota Office of School and Public Lands, which now is responsible for many dams built by public programs in the first half of the 20th century.

"It had a significant amount of silt in it," School and Public Lands Commissioner Ryan Brunner said of Hidden Timber Dam.

GFP now controls about half the CCC and WPA dams. Some of the remaining dams were built on federal land and are now managed by federal agencies, but many more were given to the state for purposes other than recreation and now are managed by the office of School and Public Lands.

Most of South Dakota's roughly 2,550 nationally inventoried dams, however, are privately owned. They serve a variety of functions, from holding livestock water to forming family fishing ponds. But nearly all such dams are too small or don't present enough danger to lives or property to get regular inspections from DENR, the agency responsible for state-regulated dams.

Dams that could kill people if they fail are designated as "high-hazard." The state has 91 high-hazard dams of which 44 are regulated by DENR. The remaining 47 high-hazard dams are owned, operated and maintained by various federal agencies.

For the most part, privately owned dams considered high-hazard are really only a danger to the person who owns them, said Whitney Kilts, an engineer who heads up the DENR dam safety inspection program. Privately owned dams, however, tend to have the most problems.

The few high-hazard dams rated as being in poor shape are privately owned, Kilts said. There's not much the department can do to fix those impaired dams. Kilts' job is to inspect and let the owners know there's a problem. Dam owners are responsible for making repairs at their own expense.

BILLIONS NEEDED TO FIX NATION'S DAMS

Each year, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials estimates the potential costs of making repairs to all of the nationally inventoried dams in the United States. This chart shows the ownership category and hazard level, as well as estimated total dam repair costs as of 2018.

Non-Federal total: 87,640 dams; \$65.9 billion to repair

Non-Federal High Hazard: 14,343 dams; \$20.4 billion to repair

Federal total: 3,828 dams; \$4.8 billion to repair

Federal High Hazard: 1,286 dams; \$3.3 billion to repair

Source: Association of State Dam Safety Officials

Jeane Goodman, chief engineer of DENR's water rights program, where the state's dam safety program is housed, can issue a formal order to the owner to force them to make repairs, but that doesn't happen often. Goodman said she can't remember ever issuing such an order.

Because repairs can be costly and there are few, if any, dam repair assistance programs, some dam owners choose not to make the repairs at all. A private owner of a poorly rated high-hazard dam can sign an affidavit absolving the state of liability if the dam fails, Duvall said.

State-owned, high-hazard dams, meanwhile, are in pretty good shape, Wiltz said. A good example is Bednar Dam in Ziebach County about a mile northwest of Dupree, she said. With a storage capacity of 176 acre-feet, it is managed by the Office of School and Public Lands.

If Bednar Dam fails, the town of Dupree likely would be in the path of the resulting flood. During a regular inspection in 2015, Wiltz found a hole on Bednar Dam. The report was delivered to the Office of School and Public Lands and when Kilts returned in 2018, the

hole had been fixed.

The Office of School and Public Lands spent about \$28,000 repairing the dam in 2017, Brunner said. In all, the office spent a combined total of \$84,190 on dam maintenance between 2017 and 2018 to repair three dams, he said.

In 2019, Brunner said, the Office of School and Public Lands is planning to spend more than \$500,000 replacing the spillway on Elm Lake north of Aberdeen, adding to the roughly \$1.25 million the office has spent on dam repair over the past six years. All the money has come from special appropriations made by the state Legislature.

"Anytime we've presented a high-hazard dam that needs repair, the governor and legislature have provided funding," Brunner said.

Oftentimes, local groups or nearby cities will pitch in, he said. The Elm Lake dam project, for example, is projected to cost more than \$1.5 million. The city of Aberdeen and a few other partners will contribute about \$1 million.

A similar but smaller project will repair the Leola Dam on the southern edge of the town of Leola in McPherson County. Leola Dam is considered low hazard because it is downstream from the town. A county highway runs across the dam so the Office of School and Public Lands is working with McPherson County to repair and improve the dam both for safety and to improve the lake for fishing and swimming, Brunner said.

"It's a neat community resource," he said.

Jason Jungwirth is a GFP fisheries biologist who became the department's aquatic habitat and access coordinator last year. Part of Jungwirth's job is to help figure out how that department will prioritize dam maintenance efforts. An ongoing effort is underway to devise an aquatic habitat management plan that will incorporate dam maintenance. Exactly what the dam maintenance plan will look like going forward hasn't been figured out yet, Jungwirth said. But, for now, if one of GFP's high-hazard dams needs urgent repairs, the department works with its engineers to get the work done.

Jungwirth said a greater concern for GFP right now revolves around the status of reservoirs behind many of the dams in the state.



In addition to water control, many dams in South Dakota create reservoirs that provide opportunities for recreation. These young anglers tried their luck recently on the lake formed by the Brakke Dam in Lyman County. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Reservoirs below aged dams face challenges

Lakes all over the state, but particularly in the southeast, have seen their productivity and water quality slowly decline over the past few decades, Jungwirth said.

When built, the reservoirs were great places to fish because they were full of places for fish to hide, breed and hunt. Reservoirs produced a lot of fish that people could catch. But as they've gotten older, many of the trees, bushes and rock piles have rotted away or been covered in silt.

As productivity and water quality decline, the lakes see less use. That can be a problem for nearby communities which get an injection of cash from the state's anglers and boaters. Of the roughly \$271 million anglers spend

in South Dakota, only about \$47 million was spent on the massive federally owned reservoirs along the Missouri River. Most of the spending is done around smaller reservoirs, many of which are owned by the state.

Jungwirth said GFP has used fish stocking to help counteract the effects of age on state reservoirs. Stocking can be effective over the short term, even in unhealthy lakes, but it masks the underlying larger problem and has kept the problem of aquatic habitat loss out of the public eye.

"(Habitat) hasn't been a focus for a lot of years," Jungwirth said.

Jungwirth's position was created in 2018 specifically to devise a long-term solution to the fish habitat problem. The process will be expensive and take decades to complete, but by the end of this summer, Jungwirth said, the department should have a new aquatic habitat and access plan to guide future state efforts to improve fishing and water quality.

"Water is essential for all life," Jungwirth said. "The better, cleaner the water is, the more life it'll support."



Jason Jungwirth is a state Game, Fish & Parks fisheries biologist who is working to develop a plan to improve the state's system of dams and the reservoirs below them. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

News Watch

Lake Mitchell, on the northern edge of Mitchell, is a good example of what can happen when a reservoir gets old.

The 600-acre lake sits on the Firesteel Creek watershed, a roughly 360,000-acre area full of farms, ranches and feedlots. The Lake Mitchell dam was built in 1928, mostly to create a massive storage tank for the city of Mitchell's drinking water. It is one several dams in South Dakota that is owned and maintained by a city.

Like many of South Dakota's reservoirs, Lake Mitchell has long collected the excess fertilizer, livestock wastes and loose topsoil that runs off of fields and pastures within its watershed. Since the 1970s, Lake Mitchell has sometimes closed to swimming and other forms of recreation that involve immersion, said Mitchell Public Works Director Kyle Croce. The closures have been due to toxic blue-green algae blooms and high concentrations of bacteria from runoff.

Runoff is a problem for South Dakota reservoirs because once moving water hits the lake, all of the fertilizer, feces and dirt suspended in it settle to the bottom. The dirt, over time, builds up and makes the lake shallower, which means it warms up faster. The dirt also covers up the rock piles, flooded trees and other cover in which fish species such as bass, bluegill, perch and walleye use to breed and feed.

The presence of fertilizer, and to a lesser extent animal feces, when combined with warmer, shallower water creates an ideal place for toxic blue-green algae to thrive. Blue-green algae isn't actually algae; it is a cyanobacteria, one of the Earth's oldest forms of life.

Cyanobacteria are one-celled organisms that use photosynthesis, much like plants, to make their own food. As such, they rely on many of the same sorts of nutrients as plants like corn or soybeans. Cyanobacteria also tend to grow in colonies. When the water is shallow, warm and chock full of phosphorus and nitrogen, cyanobacteria colonies become massive, floating, slimy, sometimes toxic blooms. The blooms can get so big that they block sunlight from reaching aquatic plants which can lead

to a reduced oxygen level in the water. Like all living things, fish need oxygen to survive.

There are several types of cyanobacteria that produce toxic chemicals through the course of their lives. When those bacteria die and their cell walls break down, those toxins — known as cyanotoxins — are released into the water. People and pets who come into contact with cyanotoxins can develop rashes, diarrhea, cramps and difficulty breathing.

The presence of cyanotoxins and fecal coliform bacteria, such as E. Coli, are two of the biggest causes for lake closures or listing by the state as unsafe for swimming, water skiing or any other type of recreation that involves water contact.

Lake Mitchell has been on the DENR list of impaired water bodies for several years, Croce said. It is just one of a growing list of South Dakota reservoirs that have problems with siltation and too many nutrients. Adding to the list of issues is an ever-shrinking amount of aquatic habitat.

South Dakota does have a few successful models to borrow from. The state of Nebraska, for example, has been working on the habitat and water quality of its lakes, almost all of which are reservoirs, since 1997.

Nebraska created a \$5 aquatic habitat stamp that anyone who wants to fish in the state has to buy. The stamp funds Nebraska's aquatic habitat program, which has placed artificial habitat structures and built sediment catch ponds upstream from bigger lakes. In some cases reservoirs have been completely drained so nutrient-laden sediments can be bulldozed out, lake beds can be re-sculpted and more permanent habitat structures can be placed.

A notable example of draining and dredging is Conestoga Reservoir, located a few miles southwest of Lincoln, Neb. The lake was emptied, dredged and the bed was re-sculpted. Sediment catch ponds were created at the reservoir inlet. The project was completed in 2018.

Jungwirth said he and a few other GFP staffers have made trips to Nebraska to view that state's progress. One lesson learned so far, he said, is that making improvements to any lake requires buy-in from nearby communities. Big projects are too complex and too expensive for one agency, city or non-profit to tackle on its own, Jungwirth said.

Dredging the nutrient-laden silt out of Lake Mitchell would cost from \$6 million to \$10 million, Croce said. "For a small municipality in South Dakota, that is overwhelming," He said.

Still, removing at least some of the phosphorus and excess dirt is necessary to get the water quality back to par, Croce said. A group called "Friends of Firesteel" has formed with a goal to raise money to rehabilitate Lake Mitchell, he said.

Earlier in 2019, the city commission approved an agreement to seek help in writing grants to help pay for a planned wetland restoration project on a \$4.1 million piece of property the city bought along Firesteel Creek about a mile and a half west of Lake Mitchell. The goal is to create a filter to catch sediment before it hits the lake.

Jungwirth said many South Dakota reservoirs, if cleaned up, might have the potential to boost local economies. After the statewide aquatic habitat plan is finalized, Jungwirth said his goal is to identify a lake near a city that needs restoration and do what he called a demonstration project.

The idea would be to completely restore the chosen lake, a project that could take up to 10 years, and show other communities how they can benefit from a cleaner, more useful reservoir.

While Mitchell no longer uses Lake Mitchell for drinking water, cleaning the lake up could have big economic benefits for Mitchell, Croce said. The city sits on Interstate 90 and about 70 percent of the lake's shoreline is publicly owned. As a prime spot for recreation-based tourism, any improvements would enhance the quality of life for Mitchell residents and its economy, Croce said.

"I think there's a lot of potential in this area," he said.

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