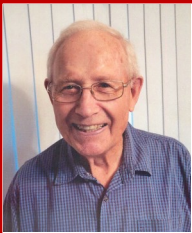


SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS

351 WISCONSIN SW STE 101, PO BOX 903 HURON, SD
 • PHONE (605) 353-1439 • FAX (605) 352-5322
 EMAIL: SDATAT@SDTOWNSHIPS.COM - WEB: WWW.SDTOWNSHIPS.COM

WINTER 2024

Six Honored With Service Awards— 254 years!



Dale Leonhardt: has been the clerk for 50 years on the Whitewood township board in Kingsbury County. Dale and Mavis have been married for 65 years and have 2 children, Bruce and Lisa, and 7 grandchildren. Dale has served on the rural water board and Oldham school board.



Jerry L Roghair: is from Okaton, SD. He has served on the Scovil township board in Jones County since 1983, 39 years as treasurer, and one year as a supervisor. He's teaching his wife, Connie, the treasurer's position. Jerry and Connie have raised 4 children, Abigail, Elijah, Jessica, and Rachel, and they also have one grandchild.



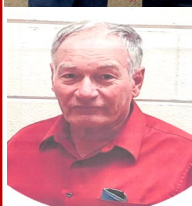
Milford "Bud" Brock: I from Hitchcock, SD. has been supervisor on the Pleasant View township board in Beadle County for 42 years. Together, Bud and Gail, his wife, have farmed for 65 years. They have 3 children, Craig, Tony, and John, and have 6 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. His son Craig has taken over the farming operation, and Craig's daughter, Kara, is the 6th generation to farm the family farm. Bud is active in his church, and agriculture organizations, one being the Beef Industry council.



Marlon Brandt: lives in Elkton, SD and has dedicated 40 years as treasurer on the Elkton township board in Brookings County. He and his wife, Carolyn, have 3 children Allen, Janelle, and Natalie. They also have one granddaughter, Luella.



James Puffer: lives in Hitchcock, SD and has devoted 42 years to being a supervisor for Pleasant View Township board in Beadle County. Jim has also served on the state board SDATAT as Treasurer and as President for years 2011-2018. Jim and Marlene, his wife have 3 children, Melissa, Mike, and Marci, and also have 8 grandchildren. Jim has also active in his local church.



Darald Baum: lives in Gary, SD and has dedicated 40 years of service to the Norden township board in Deuel County as their supervisor.. He and his wife, Peggy have 6 children, Jamie, Corey, Sara, Scott, Kayla, and Leia, and many grandchildren.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Column	2
Annual Meeting in Pictures.....	3
EMC Safety Dividends Tami Schwebach.....	4
Scholarship Application.....	5
Errors & Omissions Ins. Legal Insight.....	6
Winter in South Dakota Greg Vavra	7
Affidavit of Voters and Road Closed Notice	8
Snow, Maintenance and Safety Laws.....	9
New SDATAT Directors.....	10
Updates with Emergency Management	11



President's Corner

By Peter Fahlberg

Southeast South Dakota was enjoying a mild winter until early January when the weather pattern changed. Some snowfall events, wind, and cold temperatures put us back into the winter grind of plowing roads and dealing with equipment in subzero conditions. A few inches of snow on a Friday followed by stiff northwest winds and plummeting temperatures next day left the country side with many impassable roads.

Then the phone rang at midnight on Saturday, Lincoln County calling with a request to assist an ambulance crew needing to reach a farmhouse in my township. In a few minutes I transitioned to outdoor clothing, headed out the door and took the grader into town to meet the ambulance crew. It was a 7 plus mile trek to reach the farm, driving into the wind. As the V-plow on the front punched through each drift at 13 mph, the snow exploded into a blinding cloud which sometimes took a couple seconds to clear. It took a fair amount of mental discipline to wait for the road to reappear, verify I was still on course, and watch the next drift go poof.

We reached the farmhouse, I cleared a bit of space on the yard for the ambulance to turn around while the crew loaded the patient. Then we headed off to the next exit on I-29 at which the ambulance headed north to Sioux Falls, and I returned home at a much slower pace.

On the way back I had some time to think, and realized the significance of all the reflective signs along the way and how they helped me guide the machine as the head-

lights picked each one out of the darkness. Then the thoughts moved on to how many of the little reflector markers around township culverts are damaged or missing. And furthermore how the township has the responsibility for upkeep on all those markers.

So with this story I encourage and urge all township officers to put in the necessary effort to maintain signs and reflectors on the township road system. When performing the annual culvert inspection, note any repairs needed to markers near the culverts as well as markers for road curves, and all the other road signs in the township. As township annual meeting time draws closer, put this on the agenda and see to it that sign maintenance is authorized and carried out. There might be push back on this as some of those little culvert reflectors are annoying for mowing and snow removal operations, as well as getting by with large farm equipment. But when people are out on your roads in adverse conditions responding to emergencies, those reflectors and signs become very important, and the drivers will appreciate your efforts to keep all of them in place.

Pete

Did you receive an EMC dividend this year?
Consider using the dividend to replace damaged or missing reflectors or signage.
Evening and winter travelers will appreciate efforts to keep winter driving safe with markers for road curves and culverts..

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS(SDATAT) ISSN 1072-2505

Published quarterly to provide information, education and technical assistance to local governments, by the

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS, PO BOX 903, HURON SD 57350

Registered with the Library of Congress.

Peter Fahlberg, President..... District 13	Vicky Olsen, Director..... District 11	Rod Hofer, Exec. Board.....District 4
Tom Bisek, Vice President.....District 3	Steven Munk, Director.....District 12	Jim Kunkle., Director.....District 2
Travis Paulson, Secretary.....District 5	Dustin Leiseth, Exec Board.....District 8	
Mike Vande Weerd, Treasurer...District 9	Annette Steilen, Director..... District 10	VacantDistrict 1
Jim Urban, Exec Board.....District 6	Jim Puffer, Director..... District 7	Vacant..... District 14

*If readers have any comments, corrections, submissions or display ads for this publication, call: 605 353-1439 or FAX (605) 352-5322.



The 44th Annual SDATAT Conference in Pictures



Greg Vavra—SDLTAP



SDATAT Board:

Vicky, Jim K, Matt, Steven, Dustin, Travis, Rod, Jim P, Tom & Pete



Cliff Reuer—SDLTAP



Sean Kelly—Cedar Tree Invasion



PUC Chris Nelson



Tami Schwebach— Insurance



Tom Kirschenman- GFP



Amanda VanderPlatts- OEM



Clint Ehlers— Culvert Install



Chamberlain Mayor Claussen



Brule Auditor Pam Petrak



Dept Revenue-Darrin Garry



Clerk & Treasurer Training Sessions

Brule Auditor Pam Petrak

Dustin Leiseth-SDATAT Director

Kim Tripp— Wall Lake, Minnehaha

Pete Fahlberg— SDATAT President



Insurance Matters— By Tami Schwebach

In regards to the Safety Dividend Program with your SD Association of Towns and Townships and EMC Insurance Company, I am just thrilled to report that this year's dividend is the largest ever paid, \$232,157.58. This is about \$60,000 more than any year's previous dividend and brings the total dividend paid to \$1,656,267. When the early board of directors set up this program with EMC Insurance Company, with the help of our founders, Pete and Marie Schwebach, I don't think any of them would have known how beneficial this program would be in the long run.

I think most township officers are familiar with the Safety Dividend Program, but as a refresher, your association and EMC Insurance Company created the program in 1990 to provide insurance coverage for small towns and townships at a reasonable premium with the prospect of participating in dividends realized from good risk management practices. This program is available for any town or township that is a member of the Association and has their insurance with EMC Insurance Company. There is no extra cost involved in participating. At the end of every dividend year (July 31st) EMC reviews the insurance premiums paid by the participating members compared to losses paid and expenses, and if premiums paid are greater than the losses, there is a dividend for that year. If claims payments are larger than the premiums, there is not a dividend for that year.

When a dividend is paid, half goes to your Association to help with projects and expenses, and they pay half back to the participating entities. Last year there were 493 participating small towns and townships. Dividends are directly based on the premiums paid by each entity; the more they pay for their insurance, the larger the dividend. This year's individual dividends will range from \$77 to over \$2,000. If the dividend is less than your township's dues, the dividend will be applied to those dues and will show as a credit on your dues statement. If the dividend is more than your dues, the Association will send you a check.

Whether or not a dividend is paid is directly tied to claims, which is of course directly tied to your efforts as township boards to practice good risk management. I think that you all did a fantastic job of signing your roads and taking care of problems, so as a result, we had very few claims reported.

- There was a small workers compensation claim, a supervisor slipped on ice and injured his shoulder.
- Water damage to a building caused by freezing.
- Glass damage to a motor grader.
- An individual hit a soft spot on the road and wrecked the oil pan in his car. The township was aware that road was bad and hadn't put any gravel down or put out any flags to alert the public of the hazard on the road.
- There were a couple additional payments made for property damage from the derecho in May of 2022.
- There was a claim for an electrical box that was damaged by a payloador operated by the township.
- Collision damage to a city vehicle. Operator ran it into a fire hydrant.

There was a claim involving a fatal collision at an intersection; however only one of the four roads leading into the intersection was a township road, the others were county. The accident occurred on county roads, and as a result, any claims filed against the township were dismissed.

Overall, claims payments were fairly small, which certainly contributed to the large dividend paid this year. Thank you all for your good risk management and safe practices! Through your hard work in reviewing your signs and monitoring your road conditions, every township officer and every small town official has helped contribute to this dividend, but more importantly, you have helped to keep your roads and communities safe for your residents. Please keep up that good work!

INSURING TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS

Schwebach Insurance Agency

402 Garfield, Dell Rapids, SD 57022



Safety Dividend Group Plan Approved By Your Association

1-800-657-8005

Underwritten by  Insurance Companies

**Safety Dividend Plan
Available Through All
Employers Mutual Agents**



2024 SDATAT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The South Dakota Association of Towns & Townships is offering one \$1000 and one \$500 scholarship to two senior high school students who reside in South Dakota, are currently attending a South Dakota public, private, parochial high school or a home school program, and lives in a town or township that is a **current member of SDATAT**. (A membership list is available on the sdtownships.com website) or contact your local town/ township board. Graduates of the class of 2023 are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The student must use the scholarship for a college, university, or vocational school which has a physical presence in South Dakota. Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with their essay on this year's topic:

Consider the meaning of "paying it forward" as it relates to service and volunteerism. What are the potential positive effects and/or perceived negative affects? Provide a detailed real life example or experience to support your position. Reflect in your essay how this principal influences you today and in your near future.

Guidelines for the essay are:

- Essays must be no more than 500 words, and must be typed with double spacing.
- Applicants should **not include** identifying information such as their name, school, town or township, or their local officials anywhere in the essay or on the essay itself.
- Essays will be judged on: following guidelines, originality, depth of subject matter in relationship to the title, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The application may be accompanied by no more than two, one-page support letters.

The completed application, typed essay, and letters of support, if any, should be submitted in one envelope addressed to: SDATAT Scholarship, PO Box 903, Huron, SD 57350.

Deadline for the application is April 1, 2024. No late applications will be considered.

The scholarship award will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon notification of enrollment at a SD college, university, or technical school in September of the winner's second year of study.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Your phone number _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ School Presently Attending _____

Local Unit of Government where you reside: Town or Township _____ / County _____

Is your small town/township a member of SDATAT? _____ Yes _____ No (list at sdtownships.com web site)

Parent's names _____

Hobbies or activities of interest: _____

Future Goals _____

***You may submit one typed double spaced page with additional information about yourself.**



Errors & Omissions Insurance Considerations

SDATAT Attorney Kody R. Kyriss

Riter Rogers, LLP
 319 S. Coteau – P. O. Box 280
 Pierre, SD 57501-0280
 Office Phone: 605-224-5825



Errors and Omissions Insurance is a significant tool that various entities, including townships, should utilize. Without errors and omissions Insurance, entities like townships are leaving themselves susceptible to various consequences.

An errors and omissions (E&O) insurance policy is a specialized form of liability insurance policy. Also referred to as professional liability insurance, E&O is specifically designed to protect an entity—in this case, a public one—against allegations related to them failing to provide professional services. Entities with E&O coverage are protected against the costs of lawsuits or settlements that stem from mistakes the entity's professionals and employees may make in the course of providing services. E&O insurance also covers claims of negligence, misrepresentation, and inaccuracy.

There are various events that would trigger E&O coverage. First, there is the demand for damages. If a township and/or a township supervisor receive a written or non-written notice demanding something of you as a result of a professional incident – it doesn't have to be monetary – you need to contact your E&O provider immediately. Second, any civil or administrative action taken against a township and/or a township supervisor as a result of a professional incident is a reason to contact a township's E&O provider immediately. Third, investigations can be time-consuming and nerve-racking. E&O insurance will also assist a township and/or a township supervisor through the investigations process and subpoenas that they might have to comply with as a result of a professional incident.

E&O insurance is crucial for townships and township board supervisors. As an example, E&O insurance assists a township board of supervisors in the event a resident of a township attempts to bring civil action against them for an allegation of failing to maintain a township structure, whether that be a culvert or small bridge. As stated above, E&O insurance would protect the township from any claim that the township and/or its employee made a mistake, error, or omission in their professional services.

A township board of supervisors choosing to not have E&O insurance could be catastrophic. Without E&O insurance, an individual or entity would be in a better position to threaten litigation against the township and its respective board of supervisors. The township and board of supervisors would be put in a vulnerable position knowing that there was not an available "pot" of money for the potential litigant to draw from. Additionally, without E&O insurance, a township supervisor *may* be in a position in which the litigant could sue him/her in his/her individual capacity, not just as a township supervisor. In conclusion, without E&O insurance, a township and its respect board of supervisors are put in position in which a lawsuit

could not only bankrupt the township, but also significantly impact each township supervisor on an individual basis.

E&O insurance exists to help various entities like townships feel like they can make decisions that are best for its residents and supervisors without feeling threatened by litigation. E&O insurance is very similar to other professional insurances such as medical malpractice and legal malpractice – both of which are usually carried by their respective members. If nothing else, E&O insurance can help any township and its supervisors go to bed at night knowing that there is a shield there for them in the event it is necessary.

This article is not intended to provide legal advice to our readers. Rather, this article is intended to provide some common-sense answers to complex legal questions. If you have specific questions you are encouraged to contact the attorney of your choice or questions should be placed through the SDATAT office by calling 605 353 1439 or email to: sdatat@sdtownships.com



**TRAFFIC
SOLUTIONS
INCORPORATED**

Traffic Solutions Inc. offers a full range of barricade, sign and traffic control services as well as pavement marking.

We have signs and barricades available for sale and rent.

Traffic Solutions Inc. has over 75 years of combined services and offer superior products across the entire Midwest.

We are available anytime... day or night.
 Our office number is 605 368 9765



Lonnie Heibult 605 360 4958
Sam Wurtz 605 360 2497
Blaine Weippert 605 941 5832



WINTER IN South Dakota IS BACK!

By Greg Vavra, SDLTAP Program Manager

Winter in South Dakota has returned with a vengeance. Along with heavy snow in some areas, the strong winds and frigid temps make it much more difficult for snow removal. The fine snow packs hard and can be very challenging to clean off without creating bumps or even worse, plowing the gravel in the ditch. Farm tractors with dozers and scoops are often a residents only way out but can also make plowing snow after the next storm even more difficult.

It is very important that when plowing snow to the shoulder, we maintain a wing angle to taper the drift upward towards the fence line. It is critical that the wing does not drag on the ground and creates a snow ridge that becomes harder and harder to move each time we plow.

Please be aware that you do not have the authority to work within the public right of way without a contract with the township. If you are doing this on your own and damage your equipment or worse yet become involved in an accident, the township insurance may not cover you. Please work with your township if you are going to be plowing within the ROW. Also know the law about pushing snow across a public ROW. You

are not allowed to place private snow within the public ROW or push snow across the public ROW as defined in Codified Law.

31-32-3.1. Intentional dumping on highway right-of-way prohibited--Violation as misdemeanor.

No person except as provided in § 31-32-3.2 may intentionally dump any load of any material or cargo on or within the highway right-of-way. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Source: SL 1987, ch 212, § 1.

Please remember that it takes time and money to plow the road, if you need to get out and have the equipment, please **contact the board prior to beginning**. The forecast ahead looks like warmer temps, especially in July and August. Any damage to the roadways we can avoid this winter will make springtime maintenance much easier for everyone. Be safe out there and remember, pack a winter survival kit, and don't travel in difficult conditions unless there is an emergency. Stay safe and we will see many of you at the annual county – townships meeting just ahead.



DUST CONTROL



BENEFITS & FEATURES

- SMOOTHER RIDE
- DELIVERS SAFER ROADS
- HEALTHIER ENVIROMENT
- ELIMINATES HAZARDS
- LESS DAMAGE TO VEHICLE
- COST EFFECTIVE
- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
- PET FRIENDLY WHEN USED PROPERLY



CRAIG
MALONEY
Trucking & Excavating

43167 279TH STREET | PO BOX 379 | FREEMAN, SD 57029
605-366-9305

Call 911
to alert emergency responders
24 hours ahead
If your township road work
requires it be closed to traffic

The most effective way to keep the dust under control!



SCHEDULE TODAY!

605-225-9822

Use this Form at Your Next Annual Meeting When You Have a Voter You Question as Being A Resident of the Township.

Affidavit of Voter Registration and Residence

This personal identification affidavit shall be in the following form and is to be signed by a voter at the polling place who is challenged as being unqualified when offering to vote at any township election or upon any question arising at any township meeting relating to a person's voting eligibility. The judges, or township clerk, if no judges are present, must have the person sign an affidavit attesting to the person's qualification to vote.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that my name is listed as (print) _____
on the official voter registration list, that I am that person, and that I currently reside at

Located in _____ County, _____ Township.

A person who makes a false affirmation is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor pursuant to § 8-3-9.

Voter signature _____ Date _____

Witness to Signature _____ Date _____

Source:
General Authority: SDCL 8-3-9
Law Implemented: 8-3-8

7/1/2023

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A road may be closed by a special meeting of the board. The meeting may be held after the closing if it is an emergency. If it is a long standing problem, it is suggested to have the road closure as an agenda item at a regular meeting.

The resolution should state it as being a safety issue and shall remain closed until the safety issue is abated.

To make sure the public has notice, you may want to publish a list of those roads closed. See example below.

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the _____ Township Board has determined the following described road is considered _____ dangerous and hazardous for travel, and therefore closed to vehicle travel until further notice due to safety concerns.

The road or road segment is described as:

FURTHER the warning signs shall be posted at the beginning and ending points along the closed road.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20____

_____ Township, _____ County

_____, Chairman Board of Supervisors

Attest _____, Township Clerk



HRGreen®

Building Communities.
Improving Lives.

Since 1913, HR Green has provided solutions that build communities and improve lives.



DUST ELIMINATOR



Your local source for fugitive dust control.

Call Today!



AliceAnn Krantz
abkrantz@bx-cc.com
800-568-2299

Road Ditch Not Draining? We Can Dig It!



Right of Way Drainage
Culvert End Clean-outs
Water Application
Material Hauling
Roadside Mowing
Reseeding / Removal



www.jastdesignllc.com
(605) 204-6650
We Can Dig It!
JASTDesignLLC@outlook.com
Hartford SD 57033

Snow Removal & School Routes

31-13-1.3. Designation of full and minimum maintenance roads at annual meeting--Map. The board shall, at its annual meeting, designate which township roads are full maintenance roads and which are minimum maintenance roads. The board of township supervisors shall publish any resolution designating a township road as minimum maintenance if the road is a school route. The designation is final, after a lapse of thirty days, unless appealed as provided in chapter 31-3. Following its annual meeting, the board shall submit to the county auditor an official map showing each road on the township road system, including any road designated as a minimum maintenance road.

31-13-29. Authority of township to open snowbound roads used for school bus routes. When any highway within any township is regularly traveled by a bus or other motor vehicle used for free transportation of school children, the township board may, in its discretion, open snowbound roads and keep them passable for such vehicles. Such expense shall be paid from the general road fund.

Note: Be sure to contact the **School District, Post Office and Emergency Services** of changes along with proper signage.

Notice to the Traveling Public

31-32-10. Duty of governing body to give notice of dangerous road--Time for notice--Guards--Guards along abandoned roadway--Violation as petty offense.

If any highway, culvert, or bridge is damaged by flood, fire or other cause, to the extent that it endangers the safety of public travel, the governing body responsible for the maintenance of such highway, culvert, or bridge, shall within forty-eight hours of receiving notice of such danger, erect guards over such defect or across such highway of sufficient height, width, and strength to guard the public from accident or injury and shall repair the damage or provide an alternative means of crossing within a reasonable time after receiving notice of the danger. The governing body shall erect a similar guard across any abandoned public highway, culvert, or bridge. Any officer who violates any of the provisions of this section commits a petty offense.

Important:

⇨ Call 911 to alert emergency responders 24 hours ahead if your township road work requires it be closed to traffic . ⇩

31-13-20. Payment from township funds for county repair and maintenance of mail routes--Expense limitation. The expense of repair and maintenance pursuant to § 31-13-19 shall be paid, on the presentment of itemized and verified vouchers approved by the county highway superintendent to the county auditor, by warrants drawn on the county treasurer payable out of funds belonging to the township which are in the hands of the county treasurer or out of the first funds belonging to such township which thereafter come into the county treasury; but such expense incurred by the county highway superintendent shall not exceed the sum of * two hundred dollars for any one mile of road during any year. * 2024 Legislation to increase to \$2500

TOWNSHIP MERGES

Consider a merge with an adjacent township as a good solution for townships that have depleted populations. Think about this before its too late and begin conversations with your neighboring townships.

There has been some successful merges in the last couple years— it takes planning ahead!

We have guideline information office and legislation was updated last year to make the process easier.

South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships Welcome Three New Directors to the State Board



Jim Kunkle was voted to the board November 14th at the Brown County Association of Townships meeting. He will represent District 2 Brown, Edmunds and McPherson counties.

Jim and his wife Nina live in Aberdeen Township in Brown county. They have adult children, a son and twin daughters. He has served 5 years as supervisor and this year accepted the treasurer position.

Jim hopes to bring his experience with road maintenance, culverts, drainage issues and interest in zoning issues to the state level .

Vicky Olsen represents the At Large District 11 which consists of Aurora, Brule, Charles Mix, Douglas and Hutchinson counties.

She was affirmed by the SDATAT board at the December 6th meeting.

Vicky hales from Torrey Lake Township Brule County and farms with her husband Steve. She is an experienced book keeper as well, raising three adult daughters.

After 26 years on her township board as clerk, she is ready to get more involved in township governance and legislation.

Matt Cavenee will be the District 7 Director when Jim Puffer’s term ends in April. He was voted by the Beadle County Township Assn. meeting November 7th, 2023.

Matt is a project coordinator and rancher along with his wife Stephanie, raising 2 high school age boys.

He has been a supervisor for Pleasant Valley Township in Hand County for 6 years and will represent the counties of Beadle, Hand and Jerauld. His experience with NRCS and conservation will bring a great perspective as SDATAT moves to support township interest in the state.

2023 Sponsors

of SDATAT Annual Conference

- Platinum: Glacial Lakes Energy
- Milbank Winwater Works
- SD Public Assurance Alliance
- TrueNorth Steel
- Diamond: Agtegra
- IMEG, Inc.
- Schwebach Insurance
- Subsurface, Inc.
- Gold: SD Pork Producers



Roadway Ditch need Mowing? We Can Cut It!



- Right of Way Drainage
- Culvert End Clean-outs
- Water Application
- Material Hauling
- Roadside Mowing
- Reseeding / Removal



www.jastdesignllc.com
 (605) 204-6650
 We Can Cut It!
 JASTDesignLLC@outlook.com
 Hartford SD 57033

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATES FOR TOWNSHIPS

By Amanda Vander Platts

The SDOEM Public Assistance team had a productive 2023, and we're looking forward to continuing to work with South Dakota townships in 2024 to make it easier for all of the townships in South Dakota to participate in our program. In 2023, our office paid out almost \$5 million in disaster funding to townships across the state for damages that were incurred from Federally declared disasters going all the way back to the Spring snowstorms and flooding in 2019. We want to make sure that the next time a disaster strikes our state and damages our public infrastructure, we're able to help as many townships as possible collect funding from our program to put their townships back together. Part of our efforts include outreach and training at township and county meetings across the State. So please, keep our staff in mind if you'd like someone to present at your next meeting.

During 2024, we will be coming out to counties across the state at the request of the County Emergency Managers and conducting trainings on how to use our new disaster management software, Crisis Track. Going forward, anytime our office requests preliminary damage assessments (PDAs), we will be asking everyone to submit their damage information through Crisis Track using one of three methods: the Crisis Track website, the Crisis Track App on your phone or tablet, or the Crisis Track self-report weblink. Each County Emergency Manager will decide how they would prefer to have damage information submitted for their County. At least one person in your township should be familiar enough with the Crisis Track software to submit damage information through Crisis Track the next time there is a potential disaster in our state. Please reach out to your County EM to request information about upcoming trainings and meetings, and plan to have one or two people from your township attend an upcoming training to familiarize themselves with the use of the software.

Townships should continue to work on obtaining their UEI numbers if they have not already done so. To be paid for projects that are funded through the Public Assistance program, a township must have a valid UEI number. Townships must go to SAM.gov and register, then submit paperwork to validate their township. SDOEM PA staff can assist by sending out step by step instructions and walking you through the proper documentation that is needed for the validation process. Obtaining a UEI can take time, so it's best to get it done now. Not having your UEI can delay payment in the event of a disaster.

Towards the end of 2023 it was brought to our attention that the IRS has been purging expired tax ID numbers. Several townships have been notified that the tax ID that they have on file in the State's accounting system is no longer valid. All townships should have a valid tax ID number; either a TIN

(Taxpayer Identification Number) or EIN (Employer Identification Number). When the IRS issues a tax ID, they will send a letter 147c out with verification of the number. If your townships does not know whether your tax ID is expired, or you cannot locate your original IRS letter, you should call the IRS Business and Specialty Tax Line, 1-800-829-4933 (7am to 7pm, M-F), have an IRS agent look up your townships Tax ID, and request that a new letter be sent to you. The person from your township who calls the IRS must be an authorized representative for your township for them to speak to the IRS on behalf of the township. Townships must have a valid tax ID to be paid for projects that are funded through the PA program.

SDOEM has four full time Public Assistance staff, and six reservists, available to assist townships with any questions or concerns they have regarding our grant program or a townships projects in a disaster. Please give us a call at 605-773-3231 if you need assistance, or information. You can also visit our website, <https://dps.sd.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management/recovery/public-assistance> and view information about current disasters, general information about Public Assistance grants, and short training articles and presentations about the public assistance grant program, including Crisis Track.

MILBANK
Winwater™
 COMPANY

SERVING SOUTH DAKOTA'S TOWNSHIPS AND COUNTIES
 WE ARE YOUR WATER MANAGEMENT
 AND ROAD STABILIZATION EXPERTS
 CARRYING A FULL LINE OF PRODUCTS
 TO MEET ALL YOUR TOWNSHIP NEEDS

- **STEEL AND POLY CORRUGATED CULVERTS**
- **ROAD STABILIZATION FABRICS**
- **EROSION CONTROL FABRICS**
- **FULL LINE OF PIPE, VALVES AND FITTINGS IN MANY SIZES FOR NEARLY ALL APPLICATIONS**

MILBANK WINWATER WORKS
 102 EAST 22ND AVE.-PO BOX 350
 MILBANK, SOUTH DAKOTA 57252
 PHONE#800-743-2972

South Dakota Association
of Towns and Townships
PO Box 903
Huron, SD 57350

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 13
Huron, SD 57350



L. G. EVERIST, INC.

We Deliver Solutions!
To Repair and Maintain your Gravel Roads

Liz McCarty
605.330.6579
eamccarty@lgeverist.com

Joe Hickman
605.330.6584
jshickman@lgeverist.com

EB EQUIPMENT BLADES WEAR PARTS | EQUIPMENTBLADES.COM
605.368.5221

WEAR PARTS FOR EVERY MAKE & MODEL

- ✓ Grader Blades - Carbide
- ✓ Snow Plow Blades - Carbide
- ✓ Wear Steel
- ✓ Carbide Bits & Boards
- ✓ Hardox® Wear Parts
- ✓ Custom Manufactured Blades
- ✓ Skid Steer Edges
- ✓ Loader Edges
- ✓ Dozer Edges
- ✓ Scraper Edges
- ✓ Excavator Edges

WWW.IMEGCo

Collabrative partners building strong CONNECTIONS

Civil Engineering | Environmental Services | Landscape Architecture | Land Surveying

IMEG
The FUTURE. Built Smarter.
formerly **CLARK**
imegcorp.com