

## Clay County Historic Preservation Commission Working To Preserve Local History

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The community of Vermillion has many great attractions to draw visitors. One that may often be overlooked is the historic buildings in the community.

In an effort to change that, Jim Wilson and the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission have been working together with property owners in the community to restore and promote the history of the area.

"Our goal is to protect and enhance historic resources in the community," Wilson said. "There are currently three historic districts in Vermillion that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and 17 individually listed properties."

The three historic districts are the Downtown Vermillion Historic District, developed in 2003; the Forest Avenue Historic District, developed in 1987; and the Vermillion/University Historic District, developed in 1975.

Wilson said the Vermillion/University Historic Districts was one of the first established in the state.

"The area is about 50 percent rentals, but that is changing," he said. "In the past few years a couple of the homes have been purchased and are being turned back into single family homes. We are also working on providing new signage leading into the district."

Wilson said a proposed fourth district in Vermillion is for the South Downtown area and will be presented to the state board in December.

"We try to be active in the community," Wilson said. "We haven't had a lot of new additions to the register recently, but we have been able to print several different publications including The Guide To National Register Of Historic Places in Clay County, of which we have given away more than 6,000 copies since it was printed

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JIM WILSON

in 2011."

The book includes photos and summaries of all the National Historic Clay County properties as of 2011.

Other publications include: A walking tour booklet for downtown, a walking tour booklet of the University of South Dakota Campus, a pictorial of the St. Agnes Church stained glass windows, a pictorial of the St. Patrick's Church in Wakonda, and more.

"We have done a history of the courthouse," Wilson added. "Nancy Carlson surveyed every rural cemetery in the county compiling all the information and taking photos. Jim Stone did a barn survey where he surveyed all of the more than 50 year old barns in the county. It was more than 400 barns total. He compiled more than 3,500 pages of information and we will publish it to the website in the next six months."

Wilson said Clay County is very rich in historical property, so having such a proactive group is important.

"We are trying to grow the interest in the city to help promote and protect these buildings," he said.

In order to do that, he offered a presentation at the Vermillion City Council meeting recently where he outlined the benefits available to owners of historic properties.

"There are several benefits available," he said. "But first we have to clear up a misconception, listing on the National Register in and of itself places no restrictions on what an owner may do with their property."

He said there are two main financial

benefits to property owners: a 20 percent income tax credit and an eight year property tax moratorium.

"The tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic income producing buildings that are 'certified historic structures,'" he said. "The building must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places individually or as a contributing building in an historic district. The rehabilitation work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for rehabilitation and it must be a substantial renovation."

Wilson added that the tax credit equals 20 percent of the capital investment in the rehabilitation.

"The property tax moratorium is a South Dakota program available to any building listed on the National Register," he said. "The work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation but if approved the rehabilitation work cannot be assessed for eight years."

Any individual or party interested in having their property or properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places should contact The South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre.

Wilson said the historic preservation specialist for the southeastern part of the state will assist you in determining potential eligibility and preparing a nomination. All nominations deemed potentially eligible by the Historic Preservation staff will be presented before the South Dakota Historical Society Board. The Board meets quarterly. If approved by the State Board, the nomination is forwarded to the National Park Service in Washington D.C. for approval or denial. The process from beginning to end usually takes about six to nine months.

Full details on the process can be found at <http://www.cchpc.org/index.php/resources>

## Regents Want Tuition Freeze For State University Students

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The state Board of Regents agreed Tuesday that a tuition freeze should be the top budget request for South Dakota's public universities in the 2016 legislative session.

The regents now hope that Gov. Dennis Daugaard would recommend the freeze as he did two years ago to the Legislature.

The governor's support in his December 2013 budget speech led lawmakers in the 2014 session to approve the freeze for South Dakota students at the state universities.

The legislators also approved a tuition buy-down for the four public technical institutes that the governor recommended.

The regents last summer asked for a second year of freeze but the governor withheld his recommendation because state funding looked tight at the time. The Legislature didn't consider a freeze.

The regents, who govern the state universities, made affordability the emphasis in this summer's budget request.

Their goal over the next three years is to bring the ratio of funding from students and state government back to 50-50.

Ten years ago state government paid approximately 52 percent and students paid about 48 percent. But the ratio flipped in 2008 and students paid as much as 62 percent in recent years.

Getting close to even again would require freezes in 2016, 2017 and 2018. "That's a pretty big request for three years in a row," said Monte Kramer, vice president of finance and administration for the university system.

South Dakota charged more for tuition than the surrounding states in the 2013-2014 academic year and at \$8,221 per year was higher than the national average of \$6,267.

The freeze would cost approximately \$4.7 million to cover 3 percent raises for university employees, provide an additional 1 percent bonus for faculty and absorb inflation for normal expenses and operations.

The regents also want to ask the governor for his support for \$3 million to use on need-based scholarships. The universities currently receive \$200,000. The goal is for \$3 million annually for the next three years.

Altogether there are 12 priorities on the regents' budget request. Some are for ongoing funding, such as the tuition freeze, and others are for one-time funds, such as replacement of technology network equipment.

Kramer said the final version would be submitted to the governor in the next two weeks. Then Daugaard would decide what he plans to recommend from the list to the Legislature.

Regent Harvey Jewett of Aberdeen, the board's senior member, said Daugaard seems more willing to provide one-time funding than commit to ongoing increases and is focused on achieving a AAA bond rating and paying down debt.

"He's very, very careful. He doesn't feel at risk, and he's not, with that one-time money," Jewett said. "He doesn't know what he's going to have four years from now."

Another long-time regent, Terry Baloun of Sioux Falls, said the board should develop a set of strategic plans for one, three, five and 10 years.

Jewett said he didn't want to sound pessimistic. "It's an absolute station-keeping budget," he said. "This isn't going to provide a dent in anything."



Daugaard

## Task Force Assigned To Take Next Steps On Setting Up River-Basins Management

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – South Dakota's new task force on excess surface water meets this week to begin discussing where the lines should be drawn for nine new natural-resource districts.

The Legislature created the panel as part of calling for districts that would cover each of the major river basins.

The group also will suggest the alignments for three sub-districts within each one.

The river-basin framework came from the Legislature's previous advisory task force on watersheds.

Lawmakers approved the concept earlier this year but in a compromise stripped out all tax authority and regulatory power, at least for the time being.

One of the arguments made by advocates during the legislative debates was that water doesn't observe county lines. That's reflected in the topographic quilt of the nine basins.

Many counties such as Codington, Yankton, Davison, Hughes and Pennington are each in multiple basins, while other counties such as Brown and Lawrence are each in just one.

The basin configurations are:

The Red River and Minnesota River in portions of Brookings, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Marshall and Roberts counties;

The Big Sioux River in portions of Brookings,

Clark, Clay, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Turner and Union counties;

The Vermillion River in portions of Brookings, Clark, Clay, Hamlin, Hutchinson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Turner, Union and Yankton counties;

The James River in portions of Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brown, Clark, Davison, Day, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hanson, Hutchinson, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner and Yankton counties;

The Upper Missouri River trench in portions of Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Edmunds, Faulk, Haakon, Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Walworth and Ziebach counties;

The Lower Missouri River trench in portions of Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Hand, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Lyman, Pennington, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Union and Yankton counties;

The Little Missouri River, Cannonball River, Moreau River and Grand River in portions of Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Meade, Perkins and Ziebach counties;

The Belle Fourche and Cheyenne River in portions of Butte, Custer, Fall River,

Haakon, Lawrence, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington and Ziebach counties; and

The White River and Niobrara River in portions of Bennett, Fall River, Gregory, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Todd and Tripp counties.

The task force's first meeting is Thursday at the Capitol starting at 10 a.m. CT in room 413. It has eight members, including four current legislators.

The state law creating the districts requires the legislative membership have political balance.

The two Republicans are Sen. Arthur Rusch of Vermillion and Rep. John Wiik of Big Stone City, and the two Democrats are Sen. Jason Frerichs of Wilmot and Rep. Steven McCleerey of Sisseton.

Frerichs and McCleerey are from the same legislative district and are farmers and ranchers. Rusch is a retired circuit judge and Wiik is a parts manager.

The four non-legislators are:

Paul Casper, a Lake Preston farmer who's been a leading promoter of soybeans;

Former state Rep. Kim Vanneman of Ideal, whose family produces wheat; Karl Jensen, a White-wood rancher active in soil and water conservation; and

Denny Kiner, a Davison County commissioner with experience in drainage-board issues.

Frerichs and Vanneman

served on the previous watershed advisory group.

The panel has another immediate responsibility this year. That is to help develop a pilot plan for water management on the Red and Minnesota rivers.

In turn the panel is to work next year on recommending guideline to be used by districts in developing their water management plans.

The group also is to make other recommendations next year on additional elements for the state laws governing the districts.

The current members are appointed until Jan. 1, 2017. Then another set of appointments will come up, to be made by the House speaker and the Senate president pro tem, for a new term running until Jan. 1, 2019.

The task force has authority in the state law to establish the size of the governing council for each of the nine districts.

The law also provides an opt-out process if citizens within a district's boundaries want to attempt to shut down the council.

That would require a petition drive signed by 5 percent of the voters in the district followed by a majority vote of at least 60 percent who want to repeal it.

2015



### Fall EMT Course

Vermillion Fire EMS Department is pleased to announce that through a partnership with Sanford Vermillion Hospital we will be offering an EMT Course in Vermillion this fall.

Course will start August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and run thru December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Classes will be held Monday & Thursday from 6pm-10pm and 1 Saturday per month from 8am-5pm.

For more information or to register as a student please contact our station at 605-677-7098.



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