

Vermillion/Yankton Event Raised More Than \$20,000 For Make-A-Wish South Dakota



SIOUX FALLS, August 11, 2015 – Make-A-Wish South Dakota received more than \$20,000 from this year's Vermillion/Yankton Make-A-Wish fundraiser. The event was held July 22 at the Old Lumber Company in Vermillion and included a social, dinner, auction and music by Go Figure Band. Carrie Rehnke, mother of Wish Kid, Dylan, spoke about their wish trip to Walt Disney World and the impact the experience had

on their family. Organizers are Gary Madsen and Bruce and Kelly Fischbach. "Thank to you everyone involved for your generous support of Make-A-Wish South Dakota," Paul Krueger, president and CEO said. "You are helping us toward our vision of granting every eligible child's wish." Make-A-Wish South Dakota was founded in 1984 to grant the wishes of children between the

ages of 2 ½ and 18 with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Since its inception, Make-A-Wish® South Dakota has granted 1,160 wishes. Sixty to 70 wishes are granted each year to kids across the state. The average cost of a wish is nearly \$7,000. Visit southdakota.wish.org or call 605.335.8000 for more information.

Farm Bureau Adds Children's Story Time to South Dakota State Fair Schedule

HURON, SD - Children attending the South Dakota State Fair on Sept. 3 will have a new option this year for education and entertainment: story time and hands-on activities in the Education building, hosted by the South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB). Volunteers from the SDFB Women's Leadership Team will read stories aloud every half-hour, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Thursday the 3rd. Each book reading will be followed by an interactive, hands-on activity for the kids. The stories are from Farm Bureau's "accurate ag book" program, books chosen for their accurate portrayal of how food is raised and life on the farm and ranch. "We're excited to be adding this to the fair schedule, to give the kids something fun and educational to do indoors, to take a breather from all the outdoor activities. They can learn more about where their food comes from, and have some fun with the hands-on activities that go with each book," said Cindy

Foster, Chair of the SDFB Women's Leadership Team and farmer from Fulton, S.D. "The kids are going to really enjoy it, and so are we." South Dakota Farm Bureau has other activities planned for the State Fair as well, including the Century and 125-year farm and ranch recognition event at 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 3 on the Farm Bureau Dakotaland Stage. The entire schedule for the Farm Bureau Dakotaland Stage, including educational sessions and free entertainment, can be seen on www.sdstatefair.com under the "Entertainment" menu heading. Each day of the fair, Farm Bureau volunteers will also hand out free ice-cold bottles of water at its booth on Third Street, in front of the site of the new 4-H building. South Dakota Farm Bureau is the state's largest general agriculture organization, representing 15,000 farm, ranch and rural families across the state.

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 Whitewood 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.

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