



Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

September 2010

SD HOUSING LOWERS RATES

The South Dakota Housing Development Authority has lowered its interest rates for first-time homebuyers to the lowest in its history.

The interest rate for starting step rate loans is 2.75 percent. Fixed Rate loans have been reduced to 3.75 percent, and the fixed rate plus option loan rate was reduced to 4.25 percent.

The authority was able to cut interest rates under new regulations in the Obama administration's New Issue Bond Program, which is designed to stabilize the housing market. The program allows state housing finance agencies to issue new mortgage revenue bonds backed by the U.S. Treasury Department. Income limits and purchase price limits vary by county. Please call SDHDA at 605-773-5157 with any questions.

SD PLANNERS CONFERENCE

The Annual South Dakota Planning and Zoning Conference will be **October 27 & 28, 2010 at the Ramkota Inn, Pierre, SD**. A block of rooms are available at the hotel 605 224-6877. Hunting season is right around the corner so if you haven't reserved a room, you will want to do so ASAP. Mention SD Planners Association to receive a discounted rate.

The agenda is available online at the SD Planners website www.sdplanners.com. Dwight Merriam FAICP, a nationally recognized land use attorney, planner and author, will be presenting. He has written hundreds of articles and authored or edited five

books on land use. Other speakers include SD Attorney General Marty Jackley, and Dusty Johnson, Chairman of the SD Public Utilities Commission.

Other topics discussed include; Land use and the 1st Amendment, takings, utility & pipeline ordinances, religious land uses, open meetings/records, drainage law, gaming and alcohol uses, rural subdivision transportation issues, fair housing, mock planning commission hearing, and other land use issues.

The fee will be \$80 for SDPA Members, \$100 for non-members and \$70 for students and faculty. The fee includes lunch and dinner on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday, break refreshments, and handout materials.

LWCF ANNOUNCES AWARDS

Many of you have inquired about which projects were funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program. The awarded grants can be found at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/august/19.aspx> One project in our region was funded. The City of Aberdeen received \$25,000 for playground improvements.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Val Jensen received certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council (NDC) in June. EDFP certification is a designation given to individuals who successfully complete an intensive economic development finance

training series conducted by NDC. The courses provide individuals working in the field of economic development with extensive training in credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging and the creation and implementation of development programs.

Each of the four courses are five days in length and end with a written review that must be passed before a certification candidate is allowed to continue in the EDFP program. When a candidate has completed the entire four-week series, a comprehensive examination is given.

Citibank, through the support of the Citigroup Foundation, partnered with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the South Dakota Community Foundation to offer economic development professionals from all over the State the opportunity to attend the NDC training series at no cost to participants. All courses were held at Citibank. In the past, South Dakota economic development professionals desiring NDC training had to incur the time and expense to travel to major cities in the nation where the classes are taught.

The New York based NDC was established in 1972 and is a private non-profit corporation, which specializes in economic development training and technical assistance for economic/housing development.

BOARD OF WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BWNR) MEETS SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

The BWNR will be holding their quarterly meeting on September 23, 2010 starting at 1:00 pm. The Board will be making decisions on funding applications for several of our local communities including: Groton, Hoven, Huron, Selby, and Webster.

Additionally, the State Water Plan application deadline is October 1st. Any community seeking water or wastewater funding from DENR must be on the State Water Plan before funding applications will be considered.

UPCOMING NECOG MEETING

The next NECOG meeting will be held on September 29th at 7:00 pm at the NECOG office. The featured speakers for this meeting will be Rich Vincent, Executive Director of North Eastern Work and Technical Education Center (NEWTEC). The second presentation will be Susan Randall, Executive Director of South Dakota Voices for Children and Carole Cochrane, USD School of Business who will present data about families and children and address risk factors and identify policy and program options that address the need.

NECOG HAS COMPLETED THE OFFICE RENOVATION PROJECT

NECOG's renovation project was completed in July. Stop by and check out the new lights, ceiling, and flooring. Additional, less-noticeable improvements include improvements to the heating/cooling system and new sprinkler heads.

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