

## WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

**Ground Water Studies** - Shallow aquifers are the primary drinking water source in South Dakota. WDDs have long supported efforts to better define the areal extent and nature of these resources, and then apply this information to the development of pro-active measures to protect and preserve these critical water resources for both current and future District residents.

**Watershed Protection & Restoration** - Watershed assessment studies better define the conditions that impact water quality and quantity, identify the likely cause(s) of any impairments, and develop best management practices (BMPs) for addressing problems and to establish appropriate total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Restoration projects implement these BMPs through voluntary cooperative efforts with land owners, with WDDs providing both technical and cost-share assistance to improve or maintain water quality and reduce the impact of high-flow events.

**Children's Water Festivals** - Each year, 4th grade students all across the state are invited to attend a multi-topic, interdisciplinary, one-day water "science fair." Students apply their water education knowledge from the classroom to "real life" situations in a fun, interactive environment. Since 1993, these events have provided the youth of South Dakota with a better understanding of the importance of water.

**Engineering Studies** - Cost-share assistance is provided to evaluate the condition of public water, waste water and storm sewer systems, dam and levee design and maintenance, and other engineering efforts. WDDs support local efforts to identify and address infrastructure problems (and solutions) before they become critical.

**Water Quality & Quantity Studies** - Independently, or in concert with others, WDDs monitor the quality and quantity of rivers, lakes and streams to provide a better understanding of the condition of South Dakota's water resources.

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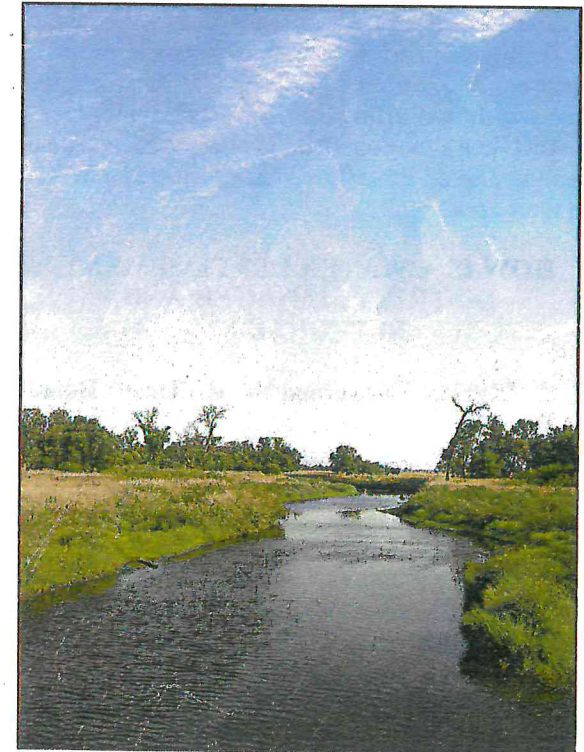
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# SOUTH DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS



## WHAT IS WATER DEVELOPMENT?

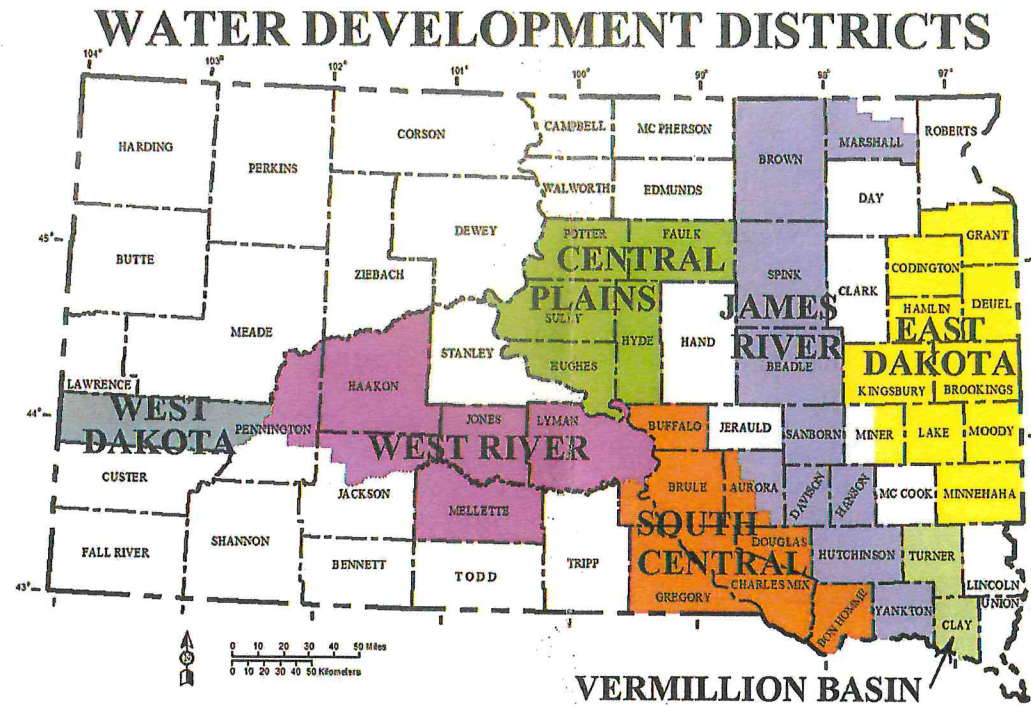
Water development can include economic development, irrigation, water conservation, domestic water supplies, lake restoration, recreation, flood control, watershed management, erosion control, drainage, water quality, and water supplies. All of these areas are interrelated with many other economic and social factors necessary to build or maintain a healthy rural and business climate in South Dakota.

## WHAT IS A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A water development district is a political subdivision of the State. South Dakota Codified Laws, Chapters 46A-3A through 46A-3E, provide the legal basis and mandate for these entities. Water development districts promote conservation, development, and proper management of district water resources according to district priorities. They provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects. While sharing many common efforts, each water development district has developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

## HOW IS A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MANAGED AND SUPPORTED?

Each District is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7 or 9 members, depending on the population of the District. Directors serve staggered, four-year terms. The Board hires staff as necessary to meet the needs of the district. Water development districts have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They may also pursue external grant support for priority activities, as well as working cooperatively with other entities or organizations with common goals and objectives.



## HOW TO GET HELP FROM A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

If an organization has a project that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the water development district in which the activity is located. District staff have extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist an organization in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors obtain funds from other sources.

## WHAT OTHER BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS?

Water development districts have worked closely with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other state and federal natural resource agencies, to examine a variety of major water issues.

Activities have included addressing drinking water, waste water and storm sewer problems, non-point source pollution management, drainage, aquifer identification, utilization and protection, hydrology studies, environmental education and general water planning studies. The information and experience derived from these efforts can be, and has been, used to predict future needs, develop long-term protection strategies and/or be applied toward local water resource concerns.

Water development districts have been very active in getting a wide range of water projects off the ground. Over the years, they have provided millions of dollars in financial support and provided technical assistance to make water development a successful reality in South Dakota. These districts have become a vital link in our State's water development process.