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**PRESS &
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Water A Focus In 2015 Budget

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The City of Yankton has proposed a budget for 2015 consisting of \$52,786,507 in expenditures — up \$7.1 million from last year’s budget.

City manager Amy Nelson said with the new water projects coming along, there wouldn’t be a major hike beyond the usual 3 percent increase in water rates.

“The rate increase for water, we’re recommending a 3 percent (increase) — as we’ve done in the past,” Nelson said. “I realize last year we had a big jump. We’re not exactly sure how that project’s going to turn out and I would rather be good on the project and go a year once our major project is complete without raising rates.”

One area that will see a rate hike is wastewater, which will be raised 5 percent later this year.

Director of Environmental Services Kyle Goodmanson said those projects are well under way.

“The Tribute Plant Two upgrades are complete so we’ll be closing that out in the next couple of meetings,” Goodmanson said. “We’ll be holding our next design meeting for the water treatment plant Aug. 21.”

As part of its proposed 2015 city budget, Yankton is looking to give residents an easier way of paying their utility bills utiliz-



Nelson

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Dakota Plains Tabs Tabor Site For Facility

Construction Slated To Begin On \$30M Project Next Spring

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TYNDALL — After a months-long process taking many turns, Dakota Plains Ag Center has selected a site west of Tabor for its proposed \$30 million grain-handling facility.

Dakota Plains CEO Matt Winsand and consultant Toby Morris of Dougherty & Company met Tuesday with the Bon Homme County Commission to announce the grain company’s decision. The selected site, near the intersection of Highways 25 and 50, will host the proposed facility if rail service and other factors are worked out.

“Our board is full steam ahead with Tabor,” Winsand said. “We want to line things up so we can move dirt in April or May. It takes 14 to 16 months for construction, so we want to be up and running for the 2016 harvest season.”

Bon Homme County Commission chairman John Pesek emphasized his board — and county residents in general — are pleased with Dakota Plains’ decision to locate at Tabor.

“Bon Homme County wants you, and we want to work with you as much as possible,” he told Winsand.

Dakota Plains had initially held discussions with the Yankton County Commission over a proposed site near Napa Junction northwest of Yankton. However, the turbulent process resulted in an impasse with Yankton County officials.

As a result, Dakota Plains officials looked at alternative sites in neighboring counties — near Tabor in Bon Homme County and near Meckling in Clay County.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Winsand announced the Dakota Plains board has chosen only the Tabor site for a new facility. The grain company is no longer actively considering the Yankton County or Clay County sites.

“At the last board meeting (in June), we were looking at Napa Junction, Tabor, Meckling or a dual site with Tabor and Meckling,” he said. “At the end of the day, I was directed (by the board) to focus directly on Tabor.”

In a number of ways, the Napa Junction site remains the most favorable site, Winsand said. However, the Dakota Plains board ruled out the Napa Junction site because the anticipated start-up costs and ongoing expenses would be too high, he said.

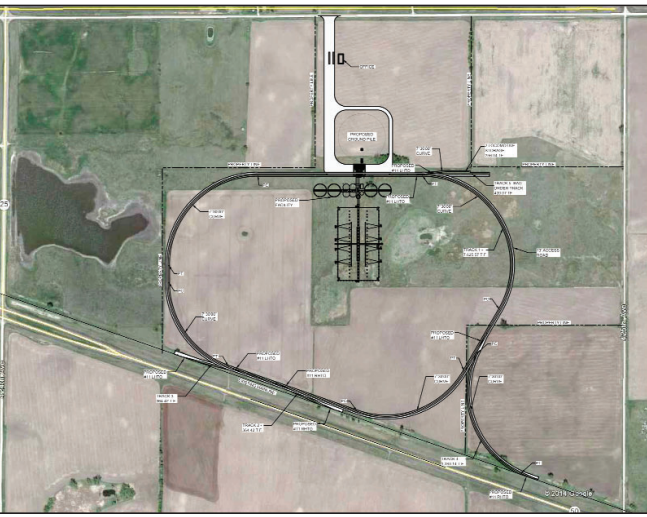
“We know the costs of doing businesses with Yankton County, and it’s very expensive,” he said. “It doesn’t make financial sense with little or no return. The cost overrides the benefits of that spot.”

In addition, the inability to



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

TOP: Dakota Plains Ag Center CEO Matt Winsand announces the company’s decision to located its proposed \$30 million grain-handling facility near Tabor, while Bon Homme County Director of Equalization Donna Zimmerman listens in the background. LEFT: This rendition, entitled the “Tabor West Exhibit,” shows an overview of the proposed Dakota Plains grain facility near Tabor. (Courtesy image)



Task Force Opens Study Of Child Sex Abuse

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — An estimated 80 percent children who have been sexually abused never tell anyone about it, the chairman of a new South Dakota task force said Tuesday at the panel’s first meeting.

“We absolutely don’t know what to do. And because of that, the conversation has never been opened up,” state Sen. Deb Soholt said.

“This is not something where there are winners and losers. There are only losers,” she said.

Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, was prime sponsor of the state law creating the task force during the 2014 legislative session. The lead House sponsor was House Republican leader David Lust of Rapid City.

The House passed the bill 69-0 and the Senate followed 35-0.

There were 2,192 children whose cases were handled

by law enforcement in South Dakota during 2013, according to Soholt. She said that number suggests another 8,000-plus went unaddressed.

The legislation was called “Jolene’s Law” in recognition of Jolene Loetscher of Sioux Falls.

Loetscher has spoken publicly about her experience as a victim and a survivor of child sexual abuse at the ages of 15 and 16 while growing up in Nebraska.

“Hearing the word victim, I’d do anything to take it away,” Loetscher said. She is one of the 15 members of the task force.

The state law calls for the task force to complete its work by Jan. 1, 2015, and to deliver a report to the Legislature on the prevalence of child sexual abuse in South Dakota and to make policy recommendations.

Among the four legislators on the task force is Rep. Jenna Haggar, R-Sioux Falls. She said she met Loetscher

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton County Commissioner Garry Moore makes a point during Tuesday’s meeting at the Yankton County Government Center.

County OKs Public Vote On Mead Funding

BY KELLY HERTZ
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The Yankton County Commission on Tuesday gave the green light to a public vote this November on using a small portion of the county mill levy for the Mead restoration project.

The move came at the request of the newly created Yankton County Historic Preservation Commission, which asked county commissioners to approve using 1/20th of the mill for historic preservation, presumably for the Mead project.

That portion would initially generate approximately \$50,000 a year, said Bernie Hunhoff, a member of the preservation commission.

“What we think could be done next is have that commitment on into the future devoting 1/20th of a mill ... so we all know that is going to be the commitment going into the future,” he said. “And we all know there will be a small but inflationary increase from year to year.”

The move would tap into the existing mill. As property values rise, so, too would the revenue devoted to historic preservation.

The county has already dedicated \$50,000 to the project.

“We agreed to reach out to the citizens of Yankton County ... and try to get their ideas on what needs to be done,” Hunhoff said. “The most pressing thing on the agenda for historic

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