

2010 Legal and Public Notices

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Bidders may obtain Bidding Documents from A & D Technical Supply, 4320 South 89th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127 (800-228-2753 ext 4 or 402-592-4950 ext 4) from 8:00 a.m. Until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in accord with the Instructions to Bidders.

“All successfully awarded contractors and/or sub-contractors must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to beginning work on the project. To complete this requirement, the website can be found at www.sam.gov.”

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held for this Project at the Construction Manager's office, 800 West 23rd Street, Yankton, South Dakota on August 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Local time. Further information regarding this Conference is contained in the Instructions to Bidders.

The owner and Construction Manager reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

Each sub-bid must be accompanied by a five percent certified check or 10% bidder's bond of the total amount of the Base Bid payable to the Construction Manager. A performance and payment bond in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price with a corporate surety approved by the Owner and Architect/Engineer will be furnished by the Construction Manager.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order Nos. 11246 (Equal Employment) as amended, 11518 (Small Business Concerns), and 11625 (MBE) as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under these orders are explained in the specifications.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title 40 CFR 33.240 and Executive Order 12138 (WBE). The requirements for bidders and contractors under this regulation that concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications.

The contractor must comply with the minimum rates for wages for laborers and mechanics as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, and to waive any irregularities of any bid. The Owner also reserves the right to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder as may be determined by the Owner. No bidder may withdraw a bid until 30 days after the bid opening.

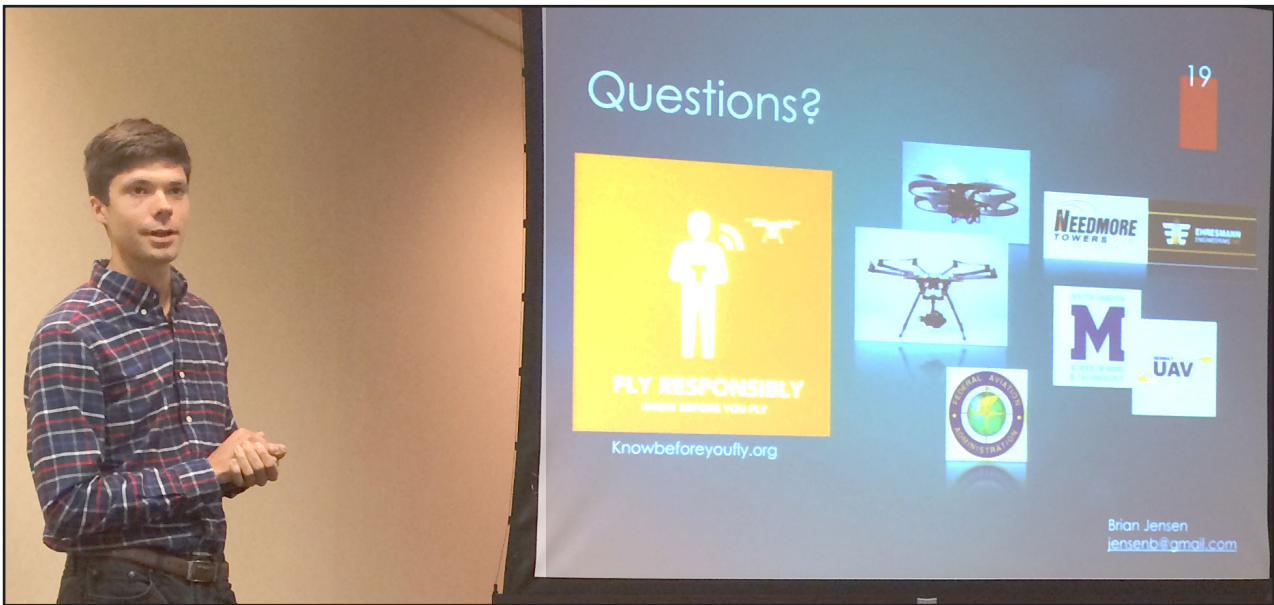
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Brian Jensen, a Watertown native who lives and works in Yankton, speaks at Wednesday's 1 Million Cups gathering at the Avera Pavilion. Jensen has been working with Ehresmann Engineering of Yankton in a consulting role in that businesses' use of drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Drone

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ing presentation at 1 Million Cups. “So I presented where the technology was, where it’s going and what I could do.”

Jensen, a Watertown native, earned his Bachelor's degree at South Dakota School of Mines in 2010 and a Master's degree in Engineering Management earlier this year from the University of Colorado. He has been actively involved in the construction of and software development for drones – more specifically known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

What Jensen sought was a positive response from Ehresmann Engineering.

“I think in the back of their minds they knew what was out there,” Jensen said. “I’ve been looking at different applications for where this could be used in our local economy.”

Following some back-and-forth conversations, Jensen now serves as a kind of consultant for Ehresmann Engineering,

which owns a couple of its own drones. It’s a matter of marrying the two – knowledge of the technology and knowledge of the towers – together, according to owner Pete Ehresmann.

“It’s really early in the stages for us,” Ehresmann said. “The technology has gotten a lot better. It’s improved dramatically over the last few years, and I think it’s going to increase faster and faster over the next 12-18 months.”

For a company like Ehresmann, for example, there’s also a safety concern.

Instead of having workers climb towers that may reach 200-300 feet high, a drone could provide the same kind of mapping and examination – if certain points or bolts need inspection.

That’s key for using a drone, Ehresmann said, providing its engineers with a complete map of a structure, ground to top, rather than a simple photo or video.

That capability, Jensen said, is what makes drones – or UAVs – such an emerging tool for businesses.

A 2013 study by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) found that the drone industry

landing the plane.”

Drones can also benefit rural areas for non-agricultural purposes, Steffen said. He pointed to foreign countries which use drones for flying defibrillators to first responders at accidents.

“You can get there in five minutes as opposed to 30 minutes with an ambulance,” he said. “Drones have also been used to help find stranded hikers.”

Steffen creates his own drones with parts he orders from the Internet. He also uses a YouTube site which shows how to build drones. For his latest creation, he showed a camera carrying multi-copter that he controls from the ground.

Why not just buy a drone that’s ready for use?

Besides saving money, Steffen says he can build a drone tailored to meet his needs. In addition, he can make adjustments and repairs as needed, which he may find more difficult with a manufactured drone that’s unfamiliar to him.

“I’m an engineer at heart, and I have pride in saying I’ve built something that works and does the job well,” he said.

Success didn’t come immediately, however. His first creation didn’t get far off the ground, so to speak.

“I crashed my first multi-copter,” he said. “But when it crashed, I knew how to fix it because I had built it myself.”

Drones are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with the agency implementing new legislation for commercial applications, Steffen said. As a hobbyist, he falls under the FAA hobby rules.

Drones collect valuable information, but the data must still be analyzed and put to use, Steffen said.

“People are skeptical about

how much usefulness there is with the extra information, but the use of aerial applications is big worldwide. Countries other than the U.S. use drones,” he said. “I compare it to a farming standpoint. You’re using tractors instead of a horse-drawn plow.”

Drones provide an autonomous vehicle with more efficiency and precision, Steffen said. “You can rule out pilot error, but you’re increasing the chance for mechanical error,” he said.

As a new and developing industry, drones will undergo dramatic changes in a short period of time, Steffen predicted.

“The technology will change within the next five years,” he said. “By the time I graduate (from college), drones will be mainstream. It’s already being used by UPS, Amazon and Google.”

Steffen realizes technology doesn’t exist in a vacuum. He noted the privacy issues and other concerns which accompany drone usage.

“There are malicious people who will use it,” he said.

In that respect, precautions are needed to address any problems which may arise from drones, Steffen said. “There is nothing to be afraid of, but (you need to) embrace it cautiously,” he said.

However, the positive aspects of drones will far outweigh any drawbacks, he predicted.

“As we are more creative, there is no limit to what the imagination can think of,” he said.

Follow @RDockendorf on Twitter.



Cole Steffen of Crofton, Nebraska, creates his own drones. His work earned him a Promoting Agricultural Youth (PAY) scholarship from the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Business Committee.

EPA: Clean Water Rule In Effect Despite Court Ruling

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency says it is going forward with a new federal rule to protect small streams, tributaries and wetlands, despite a court ruling that blocked the measure in 13 central and Western states.

The EPA says the rule, which took effect Friday in more than three dozen states, will safeguard drinking water for millions of Americans.

Opponents pledged to continue to fight the rule, emboldened by a federal court decision Thursday that blocked it from Alaska to Arkansas.

“We see this (rule) as very hurtful to farmers and ranchers and we’re going to do everything to stop it politically,” said Don Parrish of the American Farm Bureau Federation, one of several farm and business groups that have filed suit against the regulation.

Lawsuits to block the regulation are pending

across the country, and the Republican-controlled Congress has moved to thwart it. The House has ignored a White House veto threat and passed a bill to block it, and a Senate committee has passed a measure that would force the EPA to withdraw and rewrite it.

Four senators who oppose the regulation said that while well-intentioned, the water rule imposes excessive burdens on small farmers and ranchers.

The senators — two Democrats and two Republicans — said in an opinion column Friday that the EPA has “created considerable and potentially costly confusion for many American businesses and communities who are just trying to do their jobs well.”

The column, written by Sens. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D. and Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., shows opposition to the rule comes from both parties.

The EPA counters that the rule merely clarifies which

smaller waterways fall under federal protection after two Supreme Court rulings left the reach of the Clean Water Act uncertain. Those decisions in 2001 and 2006 left 60 percent of the nation’s streams and millions of acres of wetlands without clear federal protection, according to EPA, causing confusion for landowners and government officials.

The new rule would force a permitting process only if a business or landowner took steps that would pollute or destroy the affected waters — those with a “direct and significant” connection to larger bodies of water downstream that are already protected. That could include tributaries that show evidence of flowing water, for example.

In practice, the rule means that developers can no longer pave over wetlands and oil companies can no longer dump pollution into streams unhindered, restoring Clean Water Act protections to more than half the nation’s streams, supporters say.

But opponents call the rule an example of federal overreach and fear a steady uptick in federal regulation of nearly every stream and ditch on rural lands.

Thursday’s ruling by U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson in Fargo, N.D., is “a significant and rightful win for states’ rights,” said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Chaffetz called the EPA rule “arbitrary and subjective” and said it “should never see the light of day.”

More than half the states have sued the EPA in hopes of delaying or blocking the rule. State officials from Georgia to New Mexico to Wisconsin have suggested the regulations could be harmful to farmers and landowners who might have to pay for extra permits or redesign their property to manage small bodies of water on their private land.

The federal ruling Thursday was in North Dakota, where officials from that state and 12 others argued the new

Property Tax Rate Won't Jump

RALSTON, Neb. (AP) — Ralston’s mayor says the Omaha suburb’s residents won’t face a 34 percent property tax increase to help solve the Ralston Arena’s financial problems.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reports that Mayor Donald Groesser and the City Council discussed a possible 20-cent increase to its 58-cent levy during a Tuesday budget discussion.

Groesser said in a news release Thursday that the figure was “nothing more than a comment made at one of many City Council budget meetings.” He says he will propose an increase of 2.5 cents in the levy, which would amount to \$25 a year on a \$100,000 house, and propose a restaurant tax.

Some lawmakers have already said that a cold reception would await Ralston if the city were to seek more state aid.

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