

Dahlen

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Didactic Instructor of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has contributed to the education of student nurse anesthetists in the classroom. The award also recognizes commitment to the nurse anesthesia profession and educational advancement that results in high-quality patient care. To be considered for the

honor, an individual must have made significant contributions to the profession of nurse anesthesia, be recognized as an outstanding educator, have served as a mentor for faculty and nurse anesthesia students, be recognized as a professional role model, and have participated in professional activities related to a nurse anesthesia program.

Dahlen has been a certified registered nurse anesthetist since 1978, and practiced full-time in North Dakota until beginning his teaching career in

1990 in Pennsylvania. He joined the staff at Mount Marty College in 1994 as an instructor and has been with the school since, also practicing as a nurse anesthetist for Sanford Health during the summer from 1999-2001.

Dahlen said his time as a clinician has been crucial for his skills as an instructor, allowing him to connect classroom teaching with real-world experience.

"That took me a long ways," he said. "And the two years I was at Sanford got me back up

to speed with some of the changes."

Dahlen added that he predicts his field will continue to change to take advantage of such experiences.

"I would suspect newer professors would probably try to not just teach like I did, but have a combined teaching and clinical role where they'll spend time in clinical each week, and the rest of their time teaching," he said. "It hasn't gotten there yet, but I think that will become the norm."

In addition to his work as a

clinician and instructor, Dahlen's contributions to nurse anesthesia expand beyond his own patients and students. He has served as a mentor for new educators at MMC, and has also been involved with numerous committees at the state and national levels.

Such networks work both ways, Dahlen added.

"I have good relations with clinicians at many different hospitals in South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska, and I may call one of them if I have a question about

something or some change in technique," he said. "So I have people I can reach out to, too."

Ultimately, all of his work comes down to helping his students, Dahlen said.

"That's what really drives me," he said. "Seeing the students learn and seeing them progress from one level to the next — that's what's fun."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Napa

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were in the audience, as well. Commissioner Donna Freng, who also serves on the Planning Commission, was absent.

Matt Winsand, the general manager and CEO of Dakota Plains Ag Center, told the Clay County Commission Tuesday that Dakota Plains is still analyzing the locations in Bon Homme, Clay and Yankton counties.

"There are some advantages in each county," he stated to the commission. "Ultimately, it's the six (Dakota Plains) board members who get to decide where to build this thing. We're not playing any games; our board is serious about these three locations, and when we put it all together in our model, we'll pick the spot that makes the best return on our investment."

"On June 26, we'll decide which location to build it," Winsand continued. "Then we'll just start the process, basically on July 1. Whatever site is approved, we'll start with the zoning, start with the necessary process and procedures at that time."

On April 11, Winsand told the *Press & Dakotan* he was disappointed with an April 8 discussion that had taken place with the Yankton County Planning Commission regarding a TID. He said the company would look at other potential sites for a grain shuttle facility during the following 60 days.

Winsand met with the Bon Homme County Commission last week.

Prior to Tuesday's meeting, Yankton County Planning and Zoning Administrator Patrick Garrity had disseminated 11 proposals to Planning Commission members that laid out various schedules that could be set up to distribute TIF revenue generated by the Dakota Plains project.

However, the commission stopped short of allowing Garrity to present the proposals he had assembled.

Garrity began by walking the commission through the laws he felt pertained to the process undertaken at Tuesday's meeting. They include holding a hearing on the creation of a tax increment district (TID), designating its boundaries and adopting a project plan.

"What will that money be spent on?" Garrity said before citing the law directly. "In other words, 'the kind, number and location of all proposed public works or improvements within the district.' What improvements are we doing?"

At that point, Allen Sinclair, a Yankton County commissioner who serves as one of two board representatives on the Planning Commission, stopped Garrity.

"You know, we could get into an argument ... over what the TIF should pay for," Sinclair said. "Are we expected to make a recommendation as to how much we're going to pay for roads, rail, blue sky? Are we going to get into that discussion tonight?"

Garrity suggested that was what a recommendation would include. In addition to the details of the proposed public works, the law says the Planning Commission shall adopt an economic feasibility study; a detailed list of estimated project costs; a fiscal impact statement which shows the impact of the tax increment district; and a description of the methods of financing all estimated project costs and the time when the related costs or monetary obligations are to be incurred.

"From everything I can see, the only recommendation out there that would be a public infrastructure would be the road — the 435th Avenue and 306th Road," Garrity said.

Kristi Schultz, the Planning Commission chairman, noted that Dakota Plains had previously agreed to pay for the upgrade of 435th Avenue from Highway 50 to 306th Street, as well as 306th Street to 436th Avenue.

"That's what I'm talking about," Sinclair said. "We don't want to get into this. Part of the reason is, the parties aren't here."

Toby Morris of Dougherty & Company has been assisting Dakota Plains with the approval process for its proposed facility. He told the *Press & Dakotan* Monday that Dakota Plains officials would not be attending Tuesday's Planning Commission meeting because of the aforementioned exploratory process during which it had decided not to communicate any further

with Yankton County.

"I can see we need to hold a public hearing. We need to lay out the legal description and do that sort of thing," Sinclair said.

However, with no direction from either Dakota Plains or the County Commission, he saw no point in continuing the discussion beyond those measures.

"I can promise you, at least from my point of view, that after next Tuesday's County Commission meeting, we'll have a directive for the Planning Commission," Sinclair stated.

At that point, Garrity withdrew from the discussion and simply listened.

When the floor opened for public input, Greg Loest of Utica said he was continuing to have problems understanding earlier proposals by YAPG to utilize \$3.5 million in TIF funds to purchase the right to use 80 percent of the capacity of the rail loop.

"I'm having a hard time of seeing how any of the development there benefits the public," he stated.

Loest has an engineering background and added that he had not been impressed by the plans he had seen for the Dakota Plains development.

"From what I saw YAPG and Dakota Plains bring forth as a plan to the County Commission, it was slim to none," he said. "If I was sitting in your seats, I would have rejected it in a heartbeat ... To me, from an engineering and public standpoint, I didn't see an honest broker. I didn't see an honest broker

from YAPG or from Dakota Plains actually coming and laying it out on the table."

The commission had spent most of its meeting listening to an informational presentation about tax increment districts (TIDs) by Matt Archer, the deputy director of the Yankton County Office of Equalization. Director Lori Mackey was set to do the presentation but couldn't because of unforeseen circumstances.

Commission members said they learned a lot from the presentation and needed to know more before proceeding with a recommendation.

"I think the County Commission will have to reactivate it," said Commission member Butch Becker. "The County Commission has to go ahead and figure out with the road department what the needs are going to be and what they need to have protected."

The commission voted 9-0 to table the TIF discussion.

After the meeting, Sinclair said that, with Dakota Plains visiting with other counties, he didn't feel offers should be made to an entity that may not want to listen to an offer. Last week, Winsand told the Bon Homme County Commission that a proposed site at Tabor would be a better location than the one in Yankton County.

"I think that Mr. Winsand is absolutely correct when he says the site in Bon Homme County, because of the roads, is a better site than Yankton County," Sinclair said. "I think the Yankton

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