



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works Committee, Common Council

FROM: Dale Tech PE/LS, City Engineer

SUBJECT: 2008 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award

DATE: May 20, 2009

On April 2, 2009, at its forty-ninth annual conference, the South Dakota Engineering Society presented the City of Rapid City the 2008 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for the City of Rapid City's Utility System Master Plan project.

The Utility System Master Plan was developed to address the City's high rate of growth that presents challenges related to utility infrastructure planning. Many of these challenges are related to water supply, water delivery, wastewater collection, changing source water qualities, and maintenance.

To aid in the planning of systematic growth, the City contracted with Burns & McDonnell Engineering and Ferber Engineering to update the City's Water and Wastewater Master Plans, and develop a Water System Modeling Program and a Wastewater System Modeling Program. The City's previous Water Master Plan was adopted in 1985, while the previous Wastewater Master Plan was adopted in 1979. These plans projected the community's utility requirements for 20 years, and as such, had become outdated. During the 20-year time frame, interim planning and design documents were developed to determine the utility requirements in localized areas of the community. The updated master planning documents prepared under this project incorporate these localized plans and projected the City's utility infrastructure needs for the next 20 to 25 years.

The unique utility system master plan approach used on this project provides the City with a planning document as well as a set of 'real time' GIS-based tools and processes to improve efficiency, enhance customer service, and prepare for future growth. This master plan is not just a document that sets on a shelf, rather it is an



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integrated planning tool that allows the City to grow and adapt to the changing needs of the Rapid City community. The Utility System Master Plan was completed in 2008.

Key members of the project team included numerous City staff members; Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company; Ferber Engineering Company; FMG, Inc.; KAD Engineering; Banner Associates, Inc.; Dr Perry Rahn; and Jim Bell, a volunteer citizen representative.

