

Hydrologic Subbasins in South Dakota

## Concept: Basin Natural Resources Councils (11):

**Representation:** Council members elected from those serving on the conservation district boards of supervisors within the Basin; elected by conservation district supervisors. Size of the Council could range from 5 to 11 or more, dependent on the size of the basin, but all three categories of conservation district supervisors must be represented. For example, on a seven member board, three landowner/occupier, two urban area, and two taxpayer of real property. Each conservation district has 3 landowner/occupier, 1 urban, 1 taxpayer of real property. Conservation districts are the only local government covering every inch of the entire state and whose focus is natural resources.

**Duties and powers:** taxing authority to support technical & financial assistance, limited regulatory, maintain registry of water assets inventory, issue drainage permits, coordinator for local efforts, \_\_\_\_\_

**Impact on other entities:** No other entity would be eliminated or significantly altered at this time.

**Red:** Marshall, Roberts

**Little Minnesota:** Roberts, Grant, Deuel and maybe Marshall, Codington, Brookings

**Big Sioux:** Roberts, Day, Codington, Clark, Hamlin, Grant, Deuel, Kingsbury, Brookings, Lake, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Union

**Vermillion:** Clark, Kingsbury, Miner, Lake, McCook, Minnehaha, Turner, Lincoln, Yankton, Clay

**James:** McPherson, Edmunds, Brown-Marshall, South Brown, Marshall, Day, Potter, Faulk, Spink, Clark, Hand, Hyde, Beadle, Kingsbury, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Aurora, Davison, Hanson, McCook, Douglas, Hutchinson, BonHomme, Yankton

**Upper Missouri Trench:** Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, Stanley, Hughes, Sully, Potter, Walworth, Campbell, McPherson, maybe Edmunds, maybe Hyde

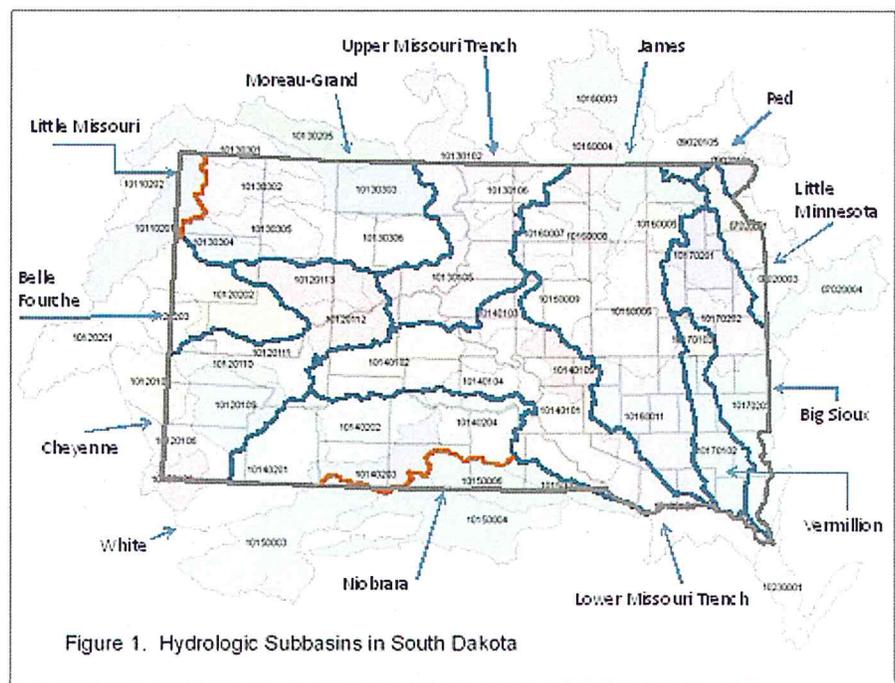
**Lower Missouri Trench:** Stanley, Haakon, East Pennington, Jackson, Jones, American Creek, Hughes, Sully, Hyde, maybe Faulk, Jerauld, Brule-Buffalo, Aurora, Hamill, Clearfield-Keyapaha, Gregory, Charles Mix, Douglas, BonHomme, Yankton, Union

**Little Missouri and Moreau-Grand:** Harding, Perkins, Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, Butte, Tri-County

**Belle Fourche:** Butte, Lawrence, Elk Creek

**Cheyenne:** Butte, Tri-County, Elk Creek, Ziebach, Haakon, East Pennington, Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Shannon

**White and Niobrara:** Shannon, Bennett, Jackson, Todd, Mellette, Jones, American Creek, Hamill, Clearfield-Keyapaha, Gregory



## Talking points for basin natural resources councils:

A difficulty in addressing watershed management is that our current political boundaries do not follow the geographic boundaries of our major watersheds.

This concept could be a practical/realistic/achievable step in the development of basin level watershed management. If so desired, it could be the first step to further implementation.

It is fairly simple to create and administer.

It does not eliminate or make major changes to current governments.

Because it uses a statewide natural resource-based local government to draw its council members from, auditors would not have to hold special elections or re-set voting areas. Conservation district supervisors are elected on a nonpartisan ballot at the general election.

It creates a coordinating body that could provide technical and financial assistance to local governments on natural resources issues.

It provides a site for a central registry of water assets and watershed-level drainage permits (both rural and urban) - as recommended by several organizations during previous Watershed Task Force testimony.

It emphasizes local leadership and cooperation.

To a certain extent, the conservation districts and their partners in the Belle Fourche basin and the Little Missouri/Grand-Moreau basin are already implementing this concept.

### Details:

Why should the Red be a separate basin? Red is a small part of South Dakota but a major national basin different from the other basins in South Dakota because it flows north to Canada and the Hudson Bay.

Little Minnesota is also different from the other basins in South Dakota. All other South Dakota basins flow to the Missouri River. The Little Minnesota does not enter the Missouri River; it flows directly to the Mississippi.

# South Dakota Conservation Districts

