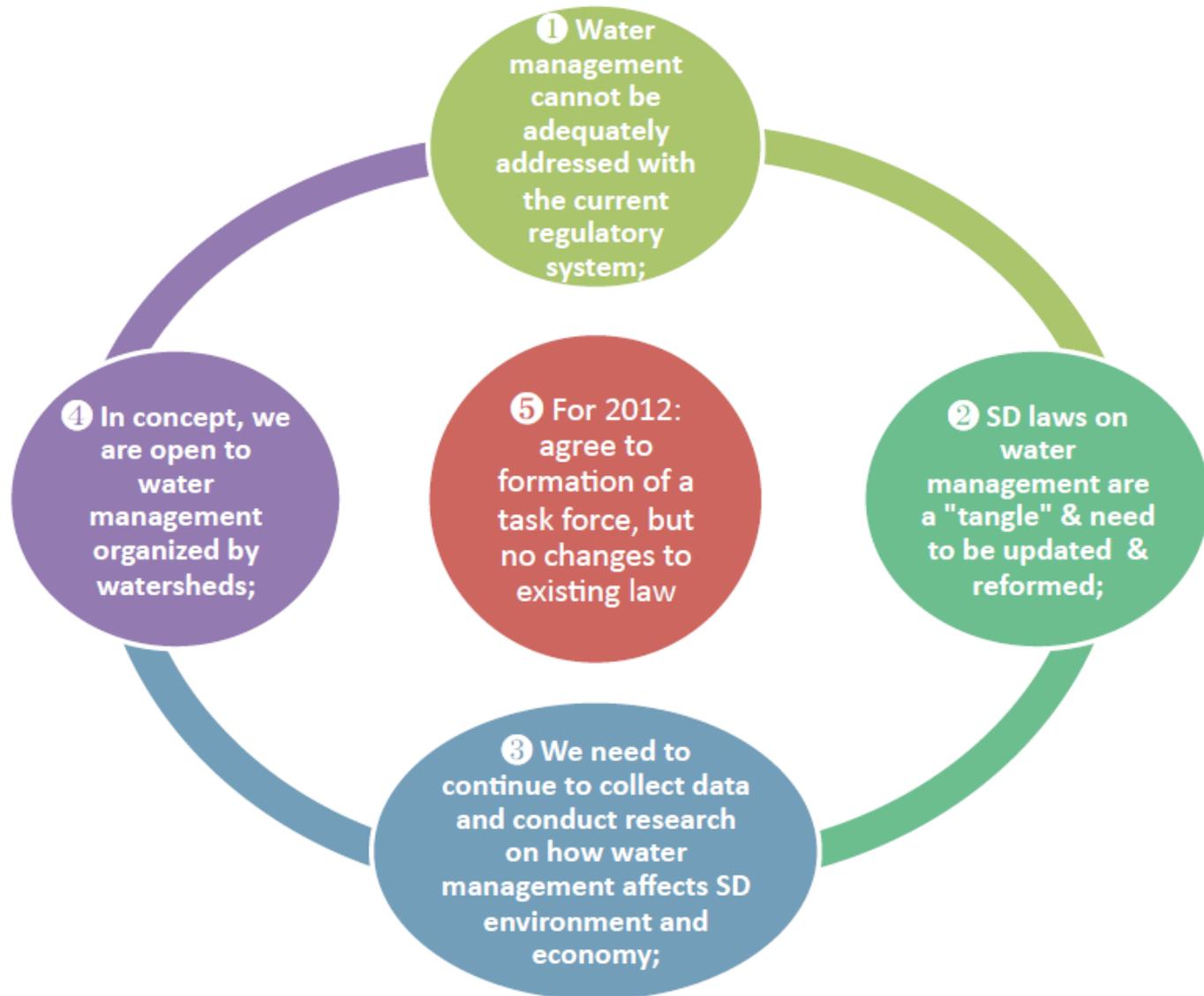


Watershed Task Force

July 1, 2013



Background:
2012 Legislative Session



Political Realities

A. Politics is the art of the possible



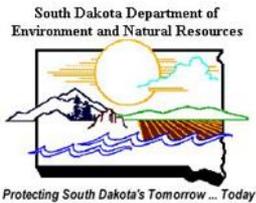
B. There is no silver bullet



C. Everyone has a scientist



E. There is no shortage of government



SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA - 2006



	SDCL Citation Number	Formed
Water Development District.....	46A-3A to 3E.....	7
Water Project District.....	46A-18.....	22
Irrigation District	46A-4 to 7.....	13
Water User/Conservancy District	46A-9.....	13
Watershed District.....	46A-14.....	25
Sanitary District	34A-5.....	39
Drainage Basin Utility District	46A-10B	1
Conservation District	38-8	69
Reg. Recycling & Waste Management District.....	34A-16.....	3
Predator Control District	40-37	NA
Ambulance District	34-11A.....	15
Fire Protection District.....	34-31A.....	64
Health Hospital District.....	34-10	1
Regional Railroad Authority.....	49-17A.....	24
Consumer Power District.....	49-35 to 40	1
Levee District.....	31-12A.....	216
Improvement District	7-25A.....	1

(Source: S.D. Secretary of State; Department of Environment and Natural Resources)



F. The debate has been, and will be, testy



Whisky is for drinking, water is for fighting.

G. Political fights: Easy to start / hard to finish



H. 10 People/10 Viewpoints



I. There isn't enough food

DEFINE



NECESSITY

Each U.S. farmer feeds, on average, 155 people per year.

J. Task Force Has a Heavy Lift



Highlights from Prior Task Force Meetings

K. Ducks: record numbers



Delta Waterfowl

The Future of Waterfowl and Waterfowl Hunting



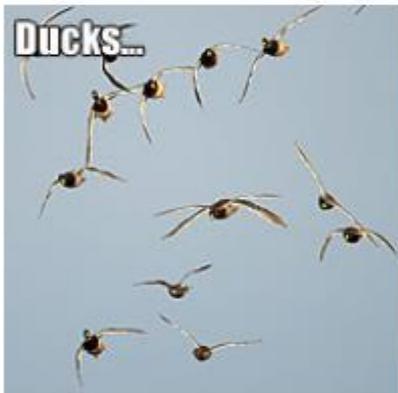
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Press Releases

*"Wow! The good-old days for ducks are right now."
— Dr. Frank Rohwer, Delta Waterfowl's scientific director*

Duck Populations Hit All-Time Record

Breeding Survey estimates 48.6 million ducks; Mallards at highest level since 1999



DELTA
MEMBERSHIPS

NATE
W!

DUCK
FFLE

HOME

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About Us ▶

Media ▶

Delta Store

Special Offers ▶

Best Hunt ▶

Search ▶

Event/Chapters ▶

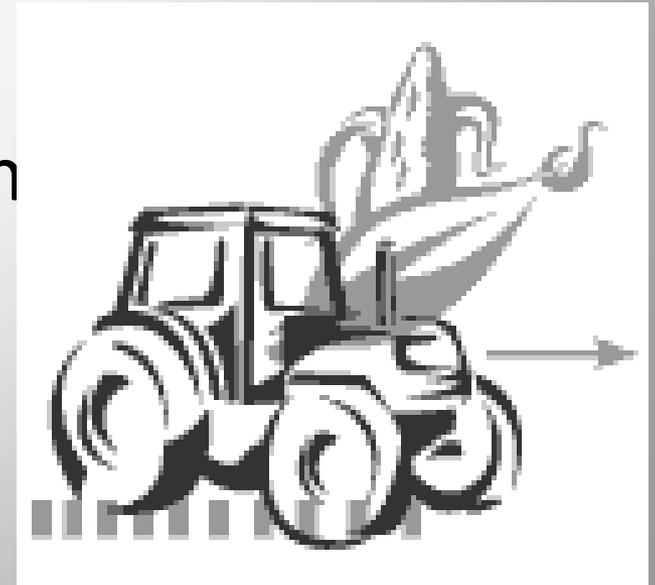
L. Tiling Evidence

1. Water limits plant growth
2. Tiling reduces runoff and erosion
3. Tiling improves field operations
4. Reduces crop stress
5. Reduces salt build up in soils
6. Enhances ability to use other conservation practices
7. Increase in yields



M. Tiling is Beneficial for SD

1. Improvement in production
2. Tiling does not “add” water to the system
3. Proven benefits
4. Strong Ag economy has a direct impact on employment and funding for schools



Guiding Principles

N. Legislative Principles

1. Production Ag is good for South Dakota
2. Regulatory and tax policy should encourage productive use of land
3. Seek a regulatory environment that is stable, predictable and fair
4. Before making changes, need to define the problem

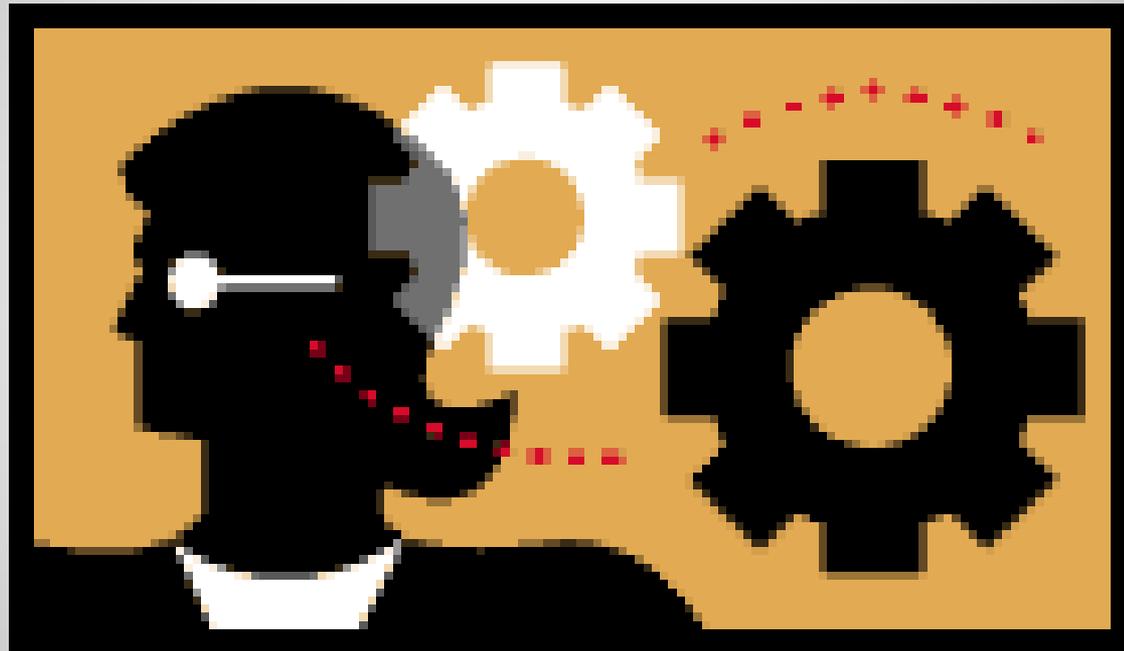


O. Water Management:

1. Respect private property rights
2. Changes must be based on science & evidence
3. Additional government structures not needed
4. Encourage communication among land owners
5. Move in the direction of water management districts



P. Defining “the problem”



Possible Legislation



5 Possibilities



Mandatory Mediation of Disputes

- Conservation Districts
- Cooperatives
- Corn Growers
- Farm Bureau
- Farmers Union
- Soybeans



Standardized Disclosure of New Projects

- Conservation Districts
- Cooperatives
- Corn Growers
- Farm Bureau
- Farmers Union
- Soybeans



Identify Water Mgmt Assets

- Conservation Districts
- Cooperatives
- Corn Growers
- Farm Bureau
- Farmers Union
- Soybeans



Fund Best Practices Research

- Conservation Districts
- Cooperatives
- Corn Growers
- Farm Bureau
- Soybeans



Water Management Districts

- Corn Growers
- Farm Bureau
- Farmers Union
- Soybeans

1: Mandatory Mediation

1. Encourage communication
2. South Dakotans talking to South Dakotans
3. Possibly allocate dollars otherwise spent on legal fees to address the problem (?)



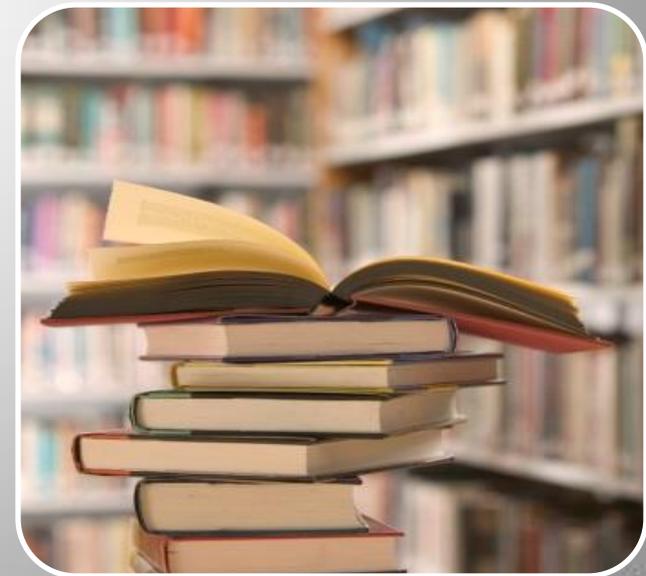
2: Standardized Notice for New Drainage Projects

1. Not a permit
2. Encourage communication
3. Engineering not a condition
4. Required for new projects



3: Catalogue Infrastructure Improvements

1. Identify existing systems & deficiencies
2. A statewide database of the improvements
3. Consider prior expenditures and designs before moving forward
4. Cost & time to assemble



4: Fund Research on Best Practices

~~Some field-scale hydrologic studies show surface runoff reduced up to 65% and peak runoff reduced up to 30% with tile drainage.~~ He stated that large-scale effects of tile drainage are not well known, with most studies having been done at the field scale. The impacts of tile drainage on hydrology have not been conclusively determined, with several models suggesting increases in water yield while others show a decrease.

Improved drainage benefits agricultural production by allowing for timelier field operations, reducing crop stress due to excess water and high water tables, reducing soil compaction, reducing the buildup of salts in the soil, and enhancing the ability to use other conservation practices.

~~In summary Dr. Hay stated that there are no simple answers for drainage impacts on hydrology and streamflow, but an understanding of fundamentals and models can help serve as a guide.~~ He finished by saying there are positive and negative water quality impacts of drainage, and work continues on methods to reduce the negative impacts.

5: Water Management Districts

1. Water does not stop at political boundaries
2. Eliminate inconsistent regulatory structures
3. Divide up state into Water Management Districts with political boundaries based on hydrology
4. Matches up to scope of Watershed Task Force



Conclusion

1. No easy fixes: tension that needs to be managed
2. Singular comprehensive solution seems impossible

Perception: “This [insert bill #] won't fix the problem in the Northeast, *but we have to do something.*”

3. The problem?
4. Identify common ground among interested parties.

