

**1. Grant Recipient: Belle Fourche Development Corp**

**a. Grant Amount: \$1,200 – Annual Meeting Sponsorship**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Sponsor Annual Meeting held on January 19, 2022. To inform Belle Fourche Development Corp. members and community of the economic development happenings and accomplishments of 2021 and 2022

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy sponsors economic development organization annual meetings across the region as it creates an opportunity to connect with community and business partners and celebrate the successes around economic growth in the area. Black Hills Energy is also recognized at each event as a Corporate Sponsor.

**2. Grant Recipient: Black Hills Special Service Cooperation**

**a. Grant Amount: \$2,500 – Community Education Booklet**

Type of Grant: Marketing

Purpose of Grant: Black Hills Community Education, a department of Black Hills Special Service Cooperation, produces education programs to support workforce, continuing education, and community engagement activities. Black Hills Energy funding supported the cost of publishing, printing and mailing course booklets for the fall 2022 season and the winter/spring 2023 season that contain Community Education classes available to Black Hills residents in communities across the region. The number of diverse courses averages 200 per year. The course booklet is produced locally: printed by the Rapid City Journal and mailed by Western Mailers. Many of the courses offered are tailored to people seeking skills needed to enter and grow in the workforce, such as GED prep and English as a Second Language.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy, like all businesses, benefits from a stronger local economy where people can gain skills that help them engage and grow in the workforce. Classes offered by Black Hills Special Services also offer hobby and skills building outside the workforce, encouraging community connections that enhance quality of life. Black Hills Energy logo is printed on the front and back of each booklet.

**3. Grant Recipient: City of Box Elder**

**a. Grant Amount: \$5,000 – Housing Study**

Type of Grant: Housing Study

Purpose of Grant: To offset the cost of a housing study of the local market in Box Elder for both short and mid-term housing needs. The report will provide community leaders the relevant data needed to make important decisions concerning specific housing policy alternatives and intervention strategies that will impact the area for many years to come.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: The City of Box Elder is located in Black Hills Energy territory and seeing unprecedented growth due to activity around Ellsworth Air Force Base. Black Hills Energy supports, and benefits from, the strategic and thoughtful development of the area to support new homes and businesses.

**b. Grant Amount: \$1,500 – Sponsor Expo**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: This informational and learning event was intended for elected officials, state agencies, business enterprises, local chambers and military to educate and bring awareness to the upcoming growth of the area. The event highlighted new business, transportation and infrastructure investments, planned housing developments, and school growth plans.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: The City of Box Elder is located in Black Hills Energy territory and seeing unprecedented growth due to activity around Ellsworth Air Force Base. Black Hills Energy supports, and benefits from, the strategic and thoughtful development of the area to support new homes and businesses. Black Hills Energy was recognized as a sponsor and had a display at the event.

**c. Grant Amount: \$2,400 – City Website**

Type of Grant: Marketing

Purpose of Grant: Black Hills Energy grant funds were used to update/refresh/redesign the City of Box Elder's website, including access to critical forms, information and data needed to effectively begin and grow a business in Box Elder. Box Elder does not have a separate economic development organization and uses the City website to distribute relevant economic information to those interested in doing business in Box Elder.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: The City of Box Elder is located in Black Hills Energy territory and seeing unprecedented growth due to activity around Ellsworth Air Force Base. Black Hills Energy supports, and benefits from, the strategic and thoughtful development of the area to support new homes and businesses. Black Hills Energy was recognized as a sponsor and had a display at the event.

**4. Grant Recipient: Custer Area Economic Development Corporation**

**a. Grant Amount: \$500 – Build Dakota Informational Session**

Type of Grant: Organization Development

Purpose of Grant: Support for a Build Dakota Breakfast to inform local businesses who are struggling to find qualified employees about the Build Dakota Scholarship program available through Western Dakota Tech. The Build Dakota Program connects student from a variety of technical fields to industry partners.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy benefits from increased engagement in the workforce. Black Hills Energy was recognized as an event sponsor.

**b. Grant Amount: \$790 – Fuel the Growth Registration**

Type of Grant: Professional Development

Purpose of Grant: Registration/tuition for "Fuel the Growth" basic economic development course. The workshop was held in September 2022 at Black Hills State University in Rapid City. Grants funds were used to enable 2 Custer Area Economic Development employees to attend the training.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports the development of local economic development professionals. The workshop teaches basic economic development practices, including workforce development, business recruitment and retention, entrepreneurship, strategic planning, community development, and marketing/attraction. Strong local leaders facilitate stronger economic growth.

**5. Grant Recipient: Deadwood Lead Economic Development Corporation**

**a. Grant Amount: \$2,000 – Annual Meeting Sponsorship**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: The Deadwood/Lead Economic Development Corp Annual Meeting was held in December 2022 at Lodge in Deadwood. The purpose of this event was to recognize stakeholders for their support over the past year and showcase the successes around workforce development, housing and business expansion, and recruitment.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy sponsors economic development organization annual meetings across the region as it creates an opportunity to connect with community and business partners and celebrate the successes around economic

growth in the area. Black Hills Energy is also recognized at each event as a Corporate Sponsor.

**6. Grant Recipient: Elevate Rapid City**

**a. Grant Amount: \$6,000**

Type of Grant: Business Recruitment

Purpose of Grant: Grant funds were used to cover the cost of a property database management & MLS platform subscription through the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The platform will ensure that western South Dakota communities have an independent commercial property listing service and marketing tool, and also enable local economic development organizations to be more competitive during the state's RFI process and initial site selection stages.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports tools that enable growth in our local communities. Black Hills Energy will be listed as a sponsor on local economic development organization websites utilizing the platform.

**7. Grant Recipient: Main Street Square**

**a. Grant Amount: \$3,000**

Type of Grant: Organizational Development

Purpose of Grant: Strategic Planning Meeting used for facilitator and venue. This strategic planning session assisted in setting the course of their organization for the next 3 years to meet demands of expanding Rapid City Downtown footprint and services.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports professional development for economic development organizations and community leaders/public officials who work and support economic growth in the region. Main Street Square is a critical resource to the vitality of the Rapid City downtown area. As a key area within the Black Hills Energy territory, it benefits us to help maintain growth and engagement in downtown Rapid City.

**8. Grant Recipient: Rushmore Region Alliance**

**a. Grant Amount: \$3,000 – Fuel the Growth**

Type of Grant: Organizational Development

Purpose of Grant: 2nd Annual "Fuel the Growth" ED workshop was held in September 2022 at Black Hills State University Rapid City campus. The Fuel the

Growth conference is specifically for state and regional economic development professionals to hone economic development skills and best practices, to learn industry trends, and to connect with other economic development professionals. Fuel the Growth brings premier economic development training to West River making attendance affordable and accessible to west river organizations.

Benefit to BHE: Black Hills Energy supports the development of local economic development professionals. The workshop teaches basic economic development practices, including workforce development, business recruitment and retention, entrepreneurship, strategic planning, community development, and marketing/attraction. Strong local leaders facilitate stronger economic growth. Black Hills Energy was recognized as a major sponsor for the event.

**9. Grant Recipient: South Dakota Agriculture & Rural Leadership Program**

**a. Grant Amount: \$2,500 – Leadership Program**

Type of Grant: Professional Development

Purpose of Grant: Grants funds use to support the SDARL 18-month series of 12-seminars offering intensive study and experiential training for future leaders. Funding was utilized to complete the final five seminars. Each class is composed of 26-28 individuals who are actively involved in farming and ranching, or who work in agribusiness, cooperatives, related organizations, and rural community leadership.

Benefit to BHE: Black Hills Energy supports SDARL program that benefits from job creation and opportunities from the agriculture industries. This brings new workforce talent into the rural communities served by Black Hills Energy.

**10. Grant Recipient: South Dakota School of Mines**

**a. Grant Amount: \$3,000 – CEO Business Plan Competition**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: SD Mines Competitive Entrepreneurial Opportunity (CEO) Program is a comprehensive semester-long program that immerses students in learning to draft a business plan and culminates in a pitch competition for cash prizes. The student business plan competition was held on Dec 3, 2022, at SD Mines. The funds go directly to students in the form of prize money. Students in the past have used funds to build prototypes, do market research and eventually form their business.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Retain talented and young individuals located in the Rapid City area. The grant benefits the service territory by promoting the SD School of Mines and creating new businesses.

**11. Grant Recipient: Southern Hills Economic Development Corporation (SHEDCO)**

**a. Grant Amount: \$1,000 – Annual Meeting**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Sponsorship of Annual Meeting held on January 28, 2022. The purpose of the event is to inform SHEDCO members and community of the economic development happenings and results for 2021 and 2022. Banquet hosts approximately 100 area business owners who are members of SHEDCO.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy sponsors economic development organization annual meetings across the region as it creates an opportunity to connect with community and business partners and celebrate the successes around economic growth in the area. Black Hills Energy is also recognized at each event as a Corporate Sponsor.

**12. Grant Recipient: Spearfish Economic Development Corp**

**a. Grant Amount: \$1,000 – Annual Meeting**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Sponsorship of Annual Meeting held on January 20, 2022. To inform SEDC members and community of the economic development happenings and results for 2021 and 2022.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy sponsors economic development organization annual meetings across the region as it creates an opportunity to connect with community and business partners and celebrate the successes around economic growth in the area. Black Hills Energy is also recognized at each event as a Corporate Sponsor.

**b. Grant Amount: \$1,000 – Outdoor Marketing**

Type of Grant: Cooperative Marketing

Purpose of Grant: Support marketing efforts to attract quality businesses and a growing workforce by advertising the outdoor recreation opportunities and Spearfish community quality of life.

Benefit to BHE: Spearfish EDC business/outdoor marketing campaign will potentially bring new business and manufacturing to the Spearfish area which will also create new job opportunities and business growth for the area.

**c. Grant Amount: \$2,000 – Workforce Marketing**

Type of Grant: Cooperative Marketing

Purpose of Grant: Funds used to attract additional workforce to Spearfish; campaign goal is to attract new residents/workers to fill existing positions within the Spearfish business community.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports Spearfish Economic Development workforce campaign that creates jobs for the community and attracts new workers to the area.

### **13. Grant Recipient: Sturgis Economic Development Corporation**

#### **a. Grant Amount: \$1,000 – Annual Meeting**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Sponsorship of Annual Meeting held on March 22, 2022.

Benefit to BHE: Black Hills Energy sponsors economic development organization annual meetings across the region as it creates an opportunity to connect with community and business partners and celebrate the successes around economic growth in the area. Black Hills Energy is also recognized at each event as a Corporate Sponsor.

#### **b. Grant Amount: \$5,000 – Dakota Resources Entrepreneurship Support Systems Gathering**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Sponsorship of Dakota Resources Entrepreneurial Support System Gathering held in Sturgis on Nov 2 and 3, to support entrepreneurs in the community. Education and awareness for community leaders to understand the benefit of building a culture of a small business ecosystem.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports the growth of large, small, and entrepreneurial businesses throughout the region. Black Hills Energy was recognized as an event sponsor.

#### **c. Grant Amount: \$1,000 – Small Business Basics Class**

Type of Grant: Sponsorship

Purpose of Grant: Small Business Basics Class in Sturgis was a training for existing businesses or those interested in starting a business to learn basic information to help their business succeed.

Benefit to Black Hills Energy: Black Hills Energy supports this program that will train potential new entrepreneur business leaders that creates jobs for our community. Black Hills Energy was recognized as a sponsor.

**Black Hills Power, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy**  
**2022 Economic Development Grant & Community Sponsorship Report**

**Exhibit I**

Total Grant Costs: \$45,360 (Exhibit A, line 18, 2022 Actual)