Tree Board Meeting

August 25, 2025 at 10:00a.m.

Present: Lowell Hansen, Jerry Skyberg, Larry Somsen & Jenni Ransom.
Also present, Tanya Flegel representing the Kingsbury Conservation District.
Absent- Jason Springer
Joining the meeting- Terry Holland & Jordan Purintun

The meeting was called to order on August 25th, 2025 at 10:00am.
Discussed a plan to remove Ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer infestation that will be coming to Kingsbury County.
The board also discussed planting a different tree species and adding diversity of those trees throughout the city for the future.
De Smet City Council would like the Tree Boards advice on how to handle this before it comes to our county.
Flegel suggests removing trees before infestation occurs in our county. The price to remove infested trees will be higher if we wait, due to the danger of removing after the tree is brittle.
The focus of tree removal would be to start in the city parks and boulevards.

For the replacement of trees, there is an application for residents from The Urban Grant Funding to match the funding through the Kingsbury Conservation District. The application, if approved, can help projects for parks, individual yards, vacant lots, or fields.
For further information on this application, residents may contact Tanya Flegel at the Kingsbury Conservation District
605-854-3183 or check out their Facebook page.
Trees are recommended to be bought from a certified nursery that requires a healthy tree for planting to our community.
The Vermillion Water Basin Grant and the Community Forestry Grant were recommended for the city to apply for funding to help remove Ash trees.
Skyberg motioned for Terry Holland and Jordan Purintun to join the tree board.
Hansen seconded to approve this suggestion, and it will go to City Council for approval.

The next Tree Board meeting will follow this fall after the City Council meeting, to discuss updates.

Jenni Ransom
Deputy Finance Officer