 **BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT**

**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 28th, 2022**

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**Location:** Dell Rapids City Hall, 302 E 4th St, Dell Rapids, SD 57022

**Time and Date:** 09:00-11:00 Tuesday, June 28th, 2022

**Attendees:** Barry Berg, Michelle Burke, Travis Entenman, Jay Gilbertson, Brett Henning, Warren Jackson, Alexa Kruse, Emily Oyos, Carolyn Rudebusch, Jeremy Schelhaas, Brian Top, Dan Wehmeyer, Justin Weiland

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**Meeting called to order at 9:05am by Minnehaha Conservation District Board Supervisor, Travis Entenman.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

Add introductions.

Motion Carolyn Rudebusch, seconded Jay Gilbertson, motion carried.

**Introductions:**

See attendees (above).

**Approval of March 22nd, 2022 meeting minutes:**

Motion Jay Gilbertson, seconded Warren Jackson, motion carried.

**NRCS Programs Update by Dan Wehmeyer:**

* RCPP wrapping up, establishing timeline for next batching.
* Collecting records for CSP.
* Barry says, looks like batching date of Sept. 23, ranking in Feb, obligate Mar/Apr timeframe.
* Backlog of technical assistance.

**City of Sioux Falls Update by Colin Chatterton:**

* Colin Chatterton out ill for some time, provided update via text to Barry Berg.
* Finishing up infrastructure projects and planning future projects for NPS funds.
* Jeremy recently got some bills/discussion for the Tuthill project.

**Big Sioux River Project Update by Barry Berg:**

* 2021: RAM 64.1 acres, 13,764 L. ft.; SRAM 119.7 acres, 25,518 L. ft.
* 2022: RAM 37.7 acres, 8,281 L. ft.; SRAM 147.2 acres, 21,871 L. ft.
  + Segment 4 (2021-22) totals (thus far): RAM 101.8 acres, 4 miles; SRAM 266.9 acres, 9 miles
* Since the start of SRAM in 2013 during Segment 2 we have completed…
  + RAM: 390.1 acres, 95,492 L. ft.
  + SRAM: 2,095.2 acres, 361,794 L. ft.
    - Total RAM and SRAM: 3,295.3 acres, 86.6 miles
* Have a few contracts finishing up, just waiting on money in the account to make payments.
* RAM is picking up more interest than it has in the past.
* Lots of calls about alternative water systems, so we (Barry and Alexa) made a new contract for water. A grazing plan isn’t required, but it is good outreach for them to come in and work on a grazing system/plan and nudge them in that direction. 5-6 new producers, installed a few this spring and summer, and have a few yet to do. 75% cost-share. One of these producers has fenced his draws already on his own.
* Getting ready for GRTS report, end of the fiscal year.

**Big Sioux River Project Information & Education Update by Alexa Kruse:**

* …

Information

Lots of in-office work with new employee and Barry

Scanning/digitizing paper contracts and other documents

CRP Training with Barry

Meeting with ISG about Hartford’s new water treatment plant

Repeat of job vacancy announcement for another Project Coordinator (or two)

Posted to job boards Friday, still want to send out a few emails

Repeat of job vacancy announcement for another Project Coordinator (or two)

Lawyer stuff for Madison street CRP/RAM

Education

Several classrooms–Harrisburg feedback

Earth Day fair at USD

Presentation to FBSR’s public policy group

Big Sioux Water Festival (Brookings)

ISG’s Covell Ave. signage

Riverfest application

Outreach

Earth Day cleanup & Remedy beer with FBSR

Continuing application for billboards

Lunch & Learn with ISG

Postcards for RCPP

Future…

Advertising

Mailers/postcards for programs

Brochures for each program

Tabling

Sioux Empire Fair

Riverfest

SD State Fair

Getting together a tour for county commissioners

**ARPA, RBI Updates by Jay Gilbertson:**

* SD received a large sum from the federal government, upwards for $550 million of ARPA funds have been allocated, and there are lots of loan dollars ($700 million)
* RBI received $1mil (even though the $3mil from the appropriations committee hasn’t been used), but at least now it is opened up that other people could apply for ARPA for NPS purposes.
* Rocky Knoephling received $5mil for the Lower Big Sioux/James
* RBI is not having the number of applications they were hoping (2-3 queries from people outside of the eligible area), because there are better programs with better pay in the BSR watershed.
* When CREP comes in October, that’ll be the death-knell in the BSR basin.

**Upper Big Sioux River Project Update by Jeremy Schelhaas:**

* They lost their project coordinator, talks with city of Watertown about keeping that project going, hard to get a straight answer from the city on what they want to do, what their plans are going forward. They wanted to have a proj. coordinator to continue their project, and to expand to the southern edge of Watertown. Talks with NE Glacial Lakes to expand the project there, not sure who the project sponsor will be, but had a few more talks since. Ask Watertown to get down to Estelline to meet the BSRP.
* Moving forward with Day County to be the sponsor and get NE Glacial Lakes, they are more amiable to spreading southward from Watertown and covering that greater area.

**Other Business:**

* Barry: After we get through this Fall push, might take some time to get ahold of Dennis Skadsten. MNPB on mussels, mucket mussels. Native boundaries out to the Splitrock. Mucket mussels in streams, unlike other invasive species, their favorite food is E. coli bacteria. Every single mussel can filter 15-20gal of water per day. Is the BSR native habitat for mucket mussels? Is there a possibility to partner with DENR and GFP to see about an introduction to the BSR? Pollution is an issue, in the 1800s they were dredged and used for buttons.
* Carolyn asks, at one point there was a question about the Agripure cheese factory North of Watertown and that discharge. Jay says they are operating under a discharge permit from DANR. They are meeting their discharge standards.

**Motion to adjourn meeting by Carolyn Rudebusch, seconded Justin Weiland, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:24am.**