



BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am, December 16th, 2025

Location: Dell Rapids Council Chambers, 317 E. 4th St, Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Attendees: Deron Ruesch, Jeremy Schelhaas, Michelle Burke, Troy Lambert, Gordon Herber, Tyson Cerkowniak, Jay Gilbertson, John Parker, Daniel Wehmeyer, Travis Entenmen, Steve McFarland, Roger Albertson, Jeffery Meadows, Scott Buss, Matt Weiss, Jaelynn Dreckman, Barry Berg

1. **Call to order Minnehaha Conservation District Project Sponsor** - (Gordon Herber called meeting to order at 9:02am)
2. **Approval of Agenda** - (1st - Roger Albertson, 2nd by Gordon Herber, Approved by Gordon Herber)
3. **Approval of June 25th 2025 meeting minutes** - (1st - Jay Gilbertson, 2nd Gordon Herber, Approved by Gordon Herber)
4. **Big Sioux River Project Segment 4 update (Barry & Jaelynn)** - Segment 4 was supposed to end July 31st but due to the shutdown of the government the funding was tied up. The PIP was approved but waiting for the letter which we are guessing we will receive in January. In segment 5 we asked for \$1.2 million from DANR but received roughly \$525,000. The waste management facility will end up wiping out Dell Rapids NPS funds. Sioux Falls NPS has a couple million and we do have some projects coming up and the opportunity for more funds soon. We also have a SRAM manuscript that is being worked on to show the benefits of the program. The final report should be complete soon as well with final reductions.
5. **Website & Social Media Updates (Jaelynn)** - Our followers on every social media platform have increased over the past year. Along with the increase in followers, we have seen an increase in views and overall interactions on all of our social pages. Our website had 725 sessions this year with 96.2% being new users. In 2026, we plan to redo the layout of the website to make it easier to navigate but to also include more.
6. **Shared Resources Water Treatment Facility (Scott Buss)** - In 2021, we needed more water and realized we needed to use our shared resources. The water treatment plant will be open in Oct/Nov of 2026. The progress has been steady with pipelines being installed. Working on getting all other facility needs lined up to be done at the same time as the plant.



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7. NRCS programs update (Deron Ruesch)

- First, a thank you to the partners. Due to the missed month of field work and planning they are behind. CSP/EQIP are working on getting payments out. The deadline was extended to January 15th, 2026. New Regenerative Ag program with the allocation of funds not being for sure yet.

8. City of Sioux Falls/ Summit?

- New drainage products in the works. Will be continuing our partnership with BSRP for the SRAM and RAM Programs/

9. South Dakota DANR Riparian Buffer Initiative (Jeremy Schelhaas)

- RBI update: All funds were spent. 67 RBI buffers totaling to roughly 1,00 acres. At first the program started with nothing but has now taken off. The future of RBI is unknown but money is still coming in from the state. BSRP programs and RBI will continue to work together as they have complimented each other well and allowed more producers to join.

10. Other business - Friends of the Big Sioux has installed a floating island on Lake Alvin to bring awareness. Jay Gilbertson spoke on PFAS. EDWDD has partnered with SDSU to form a lab that can test for PFAS. There have been several wells lost by the airport due to PFAS contamination. Further testing to be done on PFAS and testing for micro plastics.

11. Adjourn - (Adjourned at 10:23am by Gordon Herber)