 **BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT**

**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**September 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 Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

**Attendees:** Barry Berg, Michelle Burke, Travis Entenman, Jay Gilbertson, Alexa Kruse, John Parker, Carolyn Rudebusch, Deron Ruesch, Jeremy Schelhaas

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**Meeting called to order at 9:06am by Minnehaha Conservation District Project Sponsor, John Parker.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion Jay Gilbertson, seconded John Parker, motion carried.

**Approval of June 28th, 2022 meeting minutes:**

Motion Carolyn Rudebusch, seconded Jay Gilbertson, motion carried.

**NRCS Programs Update by Deron Ruesch:**

* Kudos to Michelle and her staff, 25 RCPP contracts officially obligated for $1.1 million; 2 animal waste already in construction; couple of livestock pipelines and tanks going in.
* 2,400 postcards mailed by Alexa; obligation deadline is October 21st.
* Another RCPP project alongside SDSU called expanding Soil Health through Carbon Markets; focusing on no till, strip till, nutrient management, cover crops; research project to determine the carbon footprint of growing corn; they have $5.25 million for those contracts.
* RCPP sign up is out for Minnehaha County next year; CIS for EQIP are partners, and NRCS staff can write specific proposals.
* CSP Certifications happening right now.
* EQIP Cover crops are being planted (working on practices and certifications for that); about 4 terrace projects going in this fall.
* NRCS has hired an Urban Conservationist named Rachel Fry, stationed out of the SF office.

**City of Sioux Falls Update by (none present):**

* Barry contacted City of SF employees, they’re in a reset mode where they’re looking to hire two new people (Colin has moved on and Holly is at a different meeting).
* The city has also put a tentative date out there for Dec. 8th for the Big Sioux Summit, and this year they are going to bring in the Sustainability component to expand the meeting (all day).
* Shade over $1.8 million in SRF for City of Sioux Falls.
* Just under $300,000 in SRF for the 3rd Street Project to replace sewer and water lines in City of Dell Rapids
* $90,000 or so to use up for Dell Rapids SRF by December, shouldn’t be an issue (ag waste and crop practices planned).

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

* Since June, we’ve finished up the RAM and SRAM contracts, had to run around and get a few more signatures.
* Have been assessing some of the sites, interesting things happening with the derecho, some concrete was piled in pastures, and it has since been removed.
* Taking pictures, working with new producers, and working with John on some contracts for the coming spring with trees/fabric.
* Finished up with tree/grass sites from this year, taking photos and visiting those.
* 2 RAM and 1 SRAM applications for 2023.
* EQIP/RCPP all RCPP has been obligated for first round.
* Updating Tracker for Segment 4, working on pollution reductions in Step L.
* Made some changes to the website about cover crop applications through RCPP.
* Delving into cover crop projects.

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

* Alexa update on I&E and informed the committee that she has sent in her resignation. She informed the committee that she loves her work but must pursue teaching as her passion.

**CREP Update by Jay Gilbertson:**

* Information on the CREP program. 1.5 million/year for 10 years in the Big Sioux River Basin. Proposal is waiting approval.

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

* Northeast Glacial Lakes and Poinsett project area combined into NE Glacial Lakes Project. Ongoing talks about project and where stakeholders want to proceed.

**Other Business:**

* Soil Health Coalition meeting January 24th and 25th. FBSR purified water from the Big Sioux River to make “Flow Rider” beer. Plans to hire two new employees to fill Alexa’s position and support position for project.

**Motion to adjourn meeting by Jay Gilbertson, seconded Carolyn Rudebusch, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:20am.**