



BIG SIOUX RIVER PROJECT Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am, June 25th, 2025

Location: Minnehaha Community Water, Corp, 47381 248th St, Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Attendees: Deron Ruesch, Jeremy Schelhaas, Michelle Burke, Troy Lambert, Gordon Herber, Jose Alvarez, Tyson Cerkowniak, Jaelynn Dreckman, Barry Berg

1. **Call to order Minnehaha Conservation District Project Sponsor** - (Gordon Herber called meeting to order at 9:07am)
2. **Approval of Agenda** - (Approved by Gordon Herber)
3. **Approval of March 25th 2025 meeting minutes** - (Approved by Gordon Herber)
4. **Big Sioux River Project Segment 4 update (Barry & Jaelynn)**
 - BSRP hired Jaelynn Dreckman last November and was informing any new faces since then.
 - Finished segment 5 PIP with the 319 grant funds with a total of \$525,000: Barry worked on redoing the segment 5 PIP which was originally done for over a million. We were given \$525,000 so had to cut the budget in half which took some time but it has been sent off to Pierre, SD.
 - Working on SRAM and RAM with Tanner and Jeremy for this year: In Union county, we have finished 4 RAM/RBI projects on Bruele Creek. Upcoming in the next few weeks, we will be working on 3 water tanks in Brookings county, Moody county, and Minnehaha county. One costing \$71,000 which will be coming from Dells SRF.
5. **Website & Social Media Updates (Jaelynn)** - In the past few weeks, the website has seen an increase in site sessions by 36% with 91% of the audience coming from Google. We updated the applications on the website for a smoother process. Facebook has seen 34% increase in views since March. Followers on our facebook has increased from 236 to 306. We will be attending Ag Appreciation Day on August 6th and Downtown Riverfest on September 20th.
6. **NRCS programs update (Deron Ruesch)**
 - Status of funding and employees for the future?: RCPP is looking to get renewed early fiscal year, October 1st. NRCS had 14 contracts totaling 1.2 million and over 3,000 acres. NRCS has obligated 2 million for the upcoming time. Deron attended the Willow Creek Watershed meeting. The farmers had mentioned in order for them to want to do cover



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crops they are wanting \$100 per acre per year. On July 10th, NRCS will be hosting a Plant Establishment Field Day from 9:30am -2:00pm.

7. City of Sioux Falls/South Dakota State University Big Sioux Stewardship Summit

- Quick update on City of Sioux Falls: Started the initial planning for the Big Sioux Summit in 2026 which will be the same week in April. There are no new projects as of now and no changes in the foreseeable future.

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

- RBI update: In 2023, \$3 million was approved for RBI on the Big Sioux River and all has been spent. Hunter has asked for more for the RBI program and we still do have state wide money available to use. The money has helped put tons of acres on the ground.

9. Other business - Need to look into Signage for Justin Vyn

10. Adjourn - (Adjourned at 9:31am by Gordon Herber)