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To: Senator Jean Hunhoff, Lead Co-Chair
Representative Chris Karr, Co-Chair

CC: Russell Olson, Auditor General
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner

From: Hunter Roberts, Secretary

Date: November 1, 2022

Subject: Progress Report on HB 1256 – An Act to make an appropriation for the cleanup of the Big Sioux Watershed and River and to declare an emergency

The Joint Committee on Appropriations' April 23, 2021, letter of intent directed the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) to develop a management plan for the Big Sioux Watershed and River and to submit a progress report to the Committee by November 1 each year until the funds have been expended. Below is DANR's 2022 progress report for HB 1256.

Item 1: Progress and Updates on the Management Plan:
Throughout 2022, DANR staff, Nonpoint Source Watershed Project Coordinators, and Pheasants Forever staff have been conducting RBI (Riparian Buffer Initiative) outreach through two landowner workshops, one news media release, one water quality conference, and direct personal contacts. Additionally, Pheasants Forever outreach has generated an additional 31 direct personal contacts. DANR staff met with the RBI committee on February 1, 2022, to expand RBI eligible priority streams to all waterbodies found in ARSD 74:51:03. On October 11, 2022, DANR staff met with the RBI Committee to discuss adding animal waste management systems (AWMS) as an eligible best management practice for HB 1256 funding. Using HB 1256 dollars on limited AWMS improvements will help fill a resource void in the Big Sioux River watershed and creates a second avenue for HB1256 funds to benefit water quality.

Item 2: Enumeration of approved projects and respective amount of funding each project received from this legislation as well as other fund sources:
As of November 1, 2022, no projects have been approved and no HB 1256 dollars have been spent.

Item 3: The impact each project had on reducing pollution:
Since no buffers have yet been enrolled in RBI, there have been no pollution reductions documented due to implementation.

Item 4: Documentation of the sampling and metrics used in the pollution assessment:
Since no buffers have been enrolled, we do not have any specific documents or metrics to report. However, DANR continues to collect water quality samples throughout the Big Sioux River Watershed to establish pre-RBI enrollment water quality conditions.