



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

## Community Resources Department

300 Sixth Street

Donald Jarvinen, GIS Coordinator  
GIS Division  
city web: [www.rcgov.org](http://www.rcgov.org)

Phone: 605-716-3676  
Fax: 605-394-6621  
e-mail: [don.jarvinen@rcgov.org](mailto:don.jarvinen@rcgov.org)

December 4, 2012

Mayor Sam Kooiker  
300 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: County Boundary Survey

Dear Mayor Kooiker:

The Rapid City GIS Division, acting in its role as the Pennington County GIS, has contracted for an investigation into the location of the Pennington/Meade County boundary. There are some uncertainties as to the exact location of the northern Pennington County boundary with Meade County (and possibly Lawrence County also).

The line consists of two distinct parts, each with its own issues. The "straight" part of the line, from the Wyoming border to the Cheyenne River, is defined as a line ten miles north of latitude 44 degrees north. It was set in the field in 1879, with monuments consisting of piles of rock or wooden posts. Some of these monuments have been found and surveyed, but most have not. The GIS Division is contracting for an initial investigation of this line to determine the feasibility of finding and surveying the original monuments, or possibly placing new monuments.

East of the "straight" part, the line is defined by the Cheyenne River. An opinion by the Pennington County State's Attorney's office in 2010 placed the boundary at the center of the river, which is unfortunately a moving target. In that opinion, there appears to be a question as to whether or not the center of the channel is indeed the boundary. This creates difficulties for the Meade and Pennington Departments of Equalization, along with difficulties in maintaining data in the GIS. In 2010, for example, the Homestake Mining Company wanted to sell some land near the river, but there was a disagreement between the counties over which county the land was in. It would be much better if the line could be defined without reference to the river, but this will likely require legislative action.

The tax parcel map data sets used by Pennington and Meade Counties have some under- and overlaps along the "straight" part, which unfortunately include some residences. This causes uncertainties as to which county should be taxing the property and providing services. The part along the Cheyenne River has several very large discrepancies, some of which measure almost



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

a quarter of a mile. Investigation of this part of the line is not within of the scope of the current project, but will likely require survey services sometime in the future.

Thank you for your support of this project. It is likely that the GIS Division will undertake a larger project to set the location of the line from the Wyoming border to the Cheyenne River as result of the initial investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Jarvinen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald Jarvinen  
GIS Coordinator

cc: Ms. Bonny Petersen, President, Rapid City Common Council  
Mr. Lyndell Petersen, Chairman, Pennington County Commission  
Mr. Alan Aker, Chairman, Meade County Commission