



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Velder  
President

Julie Stoll, PhD  
Vice-President

Karen Holzer  
Treasurer

**Member at Large**  
Dillon Haug

Levi Kessler

Talli Nauman

Nicole Schiffrar

Terry Smith

**Member Liaison**  
Jeanie Kirkpatrick

Harold W. "Bill" O'Donnell

Susan Petersen

Susan Sanders

Donovin Sprague

David Super

**Emeritus**  
Paul Higbee

**Laura Hovey Neubert, Executive Director**  
**605.786.3344**

[www.westriverhistoryconference.org](http://www.westriverhistoryconference.org)

3213 West Main St., PMB 178  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**EMAIL:** [westriverhistoryconf@gmail.com](mailto:westriverhistoryconf@gmail.com)

May 20, 2026

Kevin Kuchenbecker  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic 1876 City of Deadwood  
Sherman St.  
Deadwood, South Dakota

Dear Kevin:

The 34th annual gathering for the West River History Conference (WRHC) is set for October 1-2, 2026, Historic Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City, South Dakota.

The conference needs your help to keep registration costs as low as possible. We are hoping to add the **City of Deadwood Historic Preservation** as a sponsor again this year.

Our goal is to preserve the historic record of western South Dakota through supporting:

\**Original Research* – host an academic forum for presenters both amateur and professional to gather as cohorts

\* *Education* – offer learning opportunities to enhance professional research of the region's early beginnings

\* *Voice* – maintain a digital archive of conference academic research at Leland Case Library, Black Hills State University

\**Modern Access*– foster community outreach using 21st century technologies.

Please find this letter as a request for support of \$500 or any size gift. As a supporter, you may expect the many outlined benefits in the attached flyer.

For 34 years, WRHC has offered a rich variety of presentations from many important South Dakota historians including: Herb Blakely, David Wolff, Ben Jones, Arley Fadness, Paul Higbee, Shebby Lee, Jim Aplan, and others. WRHC is proud of their support and leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, Kevin! We appreciate you and your terrific volunteer team...**and all you do for historic preservation in our great state!**

Respectfully

**Laura Hovey Neubert**  
Executive Director