



Roxsand

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Importance of Planning for Effective Work

By: Reed Schade / AVP Midwest Production - Sioux Falls, SD

Early on in my career I had an opportunity to work on a 3-year construction project that was very complex and demanding. Unfortunately, the company I was working for underestimated the requirements to effectively construct the project. The issues started with a 6-month project delay because permits were not properly acquired, which immediately condensed the project schedule. Once we had the proper permits, the project leadership assembled a team with minimal experience in the specific type of work. From there things spiraled downward. The equipment we had was in poor working condition, not sized properly, and repeatedly broke down leaving crews at-a-stand still for days. Once an area was prepared, our material suppliers couldn't provide the volumes needed in a timely manner. This caused vulnerable work areas that were exposed to the elements. Repeatedly damaged work areas were re-prepared only to be compromised again. All this rework diminished crew morale and needlessly exposed workers to the same risks repeatedly.

Thankfully changes were made, and the project started to move in the right direction. After that experience, I have these 7 items etched in mind before planning a task. At all our locations we take on all types of tasks from a simple bearing change to new plant construction. Production season in the Midwest is weeks away and plants are being repaired and reassembled. This is a helpful checklist to use when approaching new project:

7 Elements of Effective Work

- 1. Information** - What is the scope of the work? Is the scope well defined and a timeline established? What outcome are we looking for? Do our team members understand their roles and responsibilities?
- 2. Environmental** - Do we have access to the work area? Do we need any special permits, or do we need to notify anyone? How will weather play a role in the task?
- 3. Manpower** - Do we have the right people? Do we need assistance from specialized vendors?
- 4. Equipment** - Do we have the correct equipment? Is the equipment in a serviceable condition?

5. **Tools** - Are there any specialized tools required for tasks?
6. **Material** - Are the materials readily available?
7. **Safety** - With the plan in place, what special considerations must be addressed to complete the task safely?

Even with careful planning not every task goes exactly as planned. Last time I checked, crystal balls were still out of stock on Amazon. But if we plan for the foreseen, the unforeseen becomes a little less burdensome when they pop up.



East Sioux Quarry 8'x20' Diester screen rebuild and ready for the production season.



Carson Weideman at DRW modifying a head pulley.



Brian Pies and Lee Wright from Summit rebuilding a dewatering screen.

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Ace Ready Mix – Sioux Falls

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Candy Klingensmith – February 24

L. G. Everist

Elizabeth McCarty – February 24

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Wendy Sorensen – February 25

Myrl & Roy's Paving

Brian Painter – February 27

East Sioux Quarry

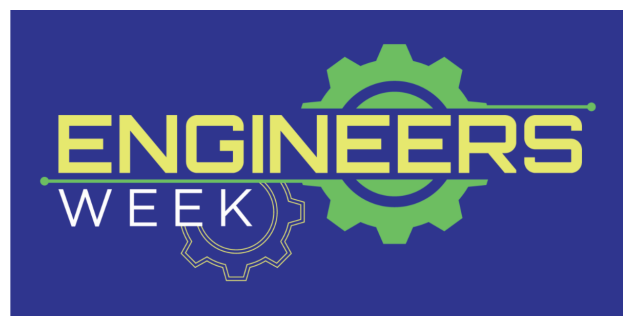
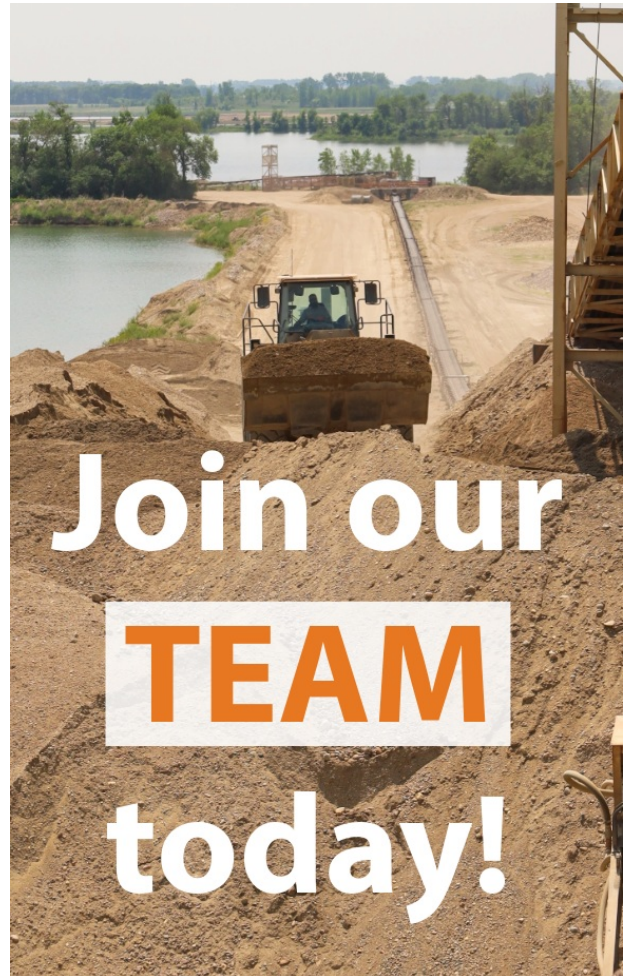
Dawn McInroy – February 28

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Gunnar Kangas – February 29

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