

**South Dakota Association of County Commissioners
Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

The SDACC Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 in the Wetlands Meeting Room, Arrowwood Cedar Shore, Oacoma, SD. with the following members present: Dan Klimisch, President; Eric Jennings, 2nd Vice President; Gary Drewes, Past President; Chad Preszler, Treasurer; Joyce Kartak, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, John Claggett, Jerry Doyle, Bill Floyd, Dean Karsky, Ron Rossknecht and Charles Verhulst. Staff present: Kris Jacobsen, Executive Director; Eric Erickson, SDACC Lobbyist, Kade Haley, Research Director, Holli Hennies, Deputy Director. Absent: Connie Hohn, 1st Vice President

2nd Vice President Jennings called the SDACC Resolutions Committee to order at 8:31 am CDT.

Introductions were made & a roll call was taken simultaneously.

Quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION to amend the agenda to move up the legislative update from Eric Erickson and approve the amended agenda was made by Duane Sutton seconded by Dean Karsky. Motion carried unanimously.

SDACC Lobbyist, Eric Erickson provided an update on the upcoming 2026 legislative session. Potentially 4 people will be running for Governor.

There will be a special legislative session on September 23rd to address the proposed men's prison. The recommendation by the Prison Reset Task Force was unanimous. Law Enforcement has expressed concerns about what programs are going to be cut i.e. treatment, reentry, etc. Further discussion was had regarding the number of State prisoners who are being housed in County jails. Counties are paying for parole violators; the State is not reimbursing Counties for the full cost of housing.

The property tax task force is progressing.

The EMS summer study has also met. It appears there is no appetite for the Counties to take responsibility.

Potentially there could be a request for funding from the Legislature in the next session for an incentive program mirroring the juvenile diversion program of a \$750 payment for each successful diversion for an adult offender. Discussion that the parole system is broken, and the costs are on the backs of the Counties and should not be when the individual is deemed a ward of the State.

One resolution was submitted by the South East District for consideration. The resolution supporting the request for revision of real estate transfer fees in the state of South Dakota was discussed. This resolution

is proposing to raise the real estate transfer fee in SDCL 43-4-21 from fifty cents for each five hundred dollars of value to three dollars for each one thousand dollars of value.

MOTION was made by Dan Klimisch and seconded by Duane Sutton to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried with one no vote from Dean Karsky.

John Claggett requested a position paper for this resolution be created.

The proposed policy statements were reviewed. A change was made in statement #31 changing the word 'endorses' to 'encourages'.

After further discussion, a new statement was proposed as follows: "The SDACC requests the state fully fund the costs of parolees, including without limitation incarceration, medical, and legal fees."

MOTION was made by Duane Sutton and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve the policy statements as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The SDACC Resolutions Committee adjourned at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened as the SDACC Board of Directors.

MOTION to approve agenda was made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Chad Preszler. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION to approve the April 8, 2025 minutes was made by Bill Floyd, seconded by Duane Sutton. Motion carried unanimously.

SD Bureau of Finance and Management

A presentation was given on Governor's Rhoden's Homeowner Tax Relief Proposal by Bureau of Finance Commissioner Jim Terwilliger and Department of Revenue Secretary Michael Houdyshell. This proposal is aimed at providing meaningful property tax relief for owner occupied properties. This is an optional county sales tax of up to 0.5% that is referable to a public vote and the use of the optional sales tax is to be 100% dedicated to directly lowering the county property taxes.

Financial Report

The SDACC Financial and Budget Report was given by Treasurer Chad Preszler.

MOTION to approve the Financial Report was made by Dean Karsky, seconded by Charles Verhulst. Motion carried unanimously.

Presidents Report

The President's Report was given by Dan Klimisch. Dan attended the annual NACo meeting in Philadelphia. The overarching theme was the fundamental shift of items from the federal level to the local and the increasing costs that are going to come with of which there are no resources to support. Significant cuts are being made to non-profits who are in turn coming to the local governments seeking assistance. Another large concern is the elimination of FEMA and its impact on counties.

Legislative update cont.

There is talk of revisiting portions of SB216. Additional information is currently being gathered by the Dept. of Revenue on the assessment software that Kansas recently implemented. Data centers are going to be another hot topic item, more specifically relating to SB177 in 2025 sales and use tax refund for goods and services related to data center operations. The 2026 legislative session may be an opportune time for the counties to have success in getting help with the medical costs for indigent care and implementing a statute of limitations.

Executive Director's Report / Staff Update

Kris spoke of the following items:

- Weekly staff meetings are being held on Monday mornings
- She attended NACO in Philadelphia with 12 SD participants.
- She has been completing County visits.
- Work will start soon on replacing the HVAC system. Total cost is estimated at \$190K, and a deposit of \$37k was paid for the equipment.
- CLERP claims have been worked. So far this year there have been 13 claims for \$437k.
- Upcoming SDACC elections: WIR Representative, NACo Representative and the 2nd Vice President (East River). No candidates have expressed interest so far.
- Convention agenda is almost finalized. Registrations are coming in slow, the number of vendors are down at 39 confirmed (need to run at the 50 mark), sponsorships are flat. Governor Rhoden has been invited as the closing speaker, his schedule for September has not been confirmed.
- Four resolutions will be coming from the Elected Officials.

Holli spoke of the following items:

- Working on acquiring a new management association software package. A contract will be presented at the Board Meeting in September.
- Working on a partnership agreement with Amazon which will result in a new revenue stream for the association.
- Completed an update to the SDACO Management Agreement and their Constitution, Bylaws and Policies.
- Also working on other updates such as the employee manual, standard operating procedures, etc.

Kade spoke of the following items:

- The Commissioners handbook updates have been completed
- Assisted in gathering data for the mental health committee.
- Scholarships are done. Chad Preszler gave a brief update on the process.
- Prepared the SDACO 2026 Budget and presented it to them last week.
- Learning how to use MS Power Query and other data management tools.
- Currently working on gathering data on TIF's.
- Finishing processing the last round of CLERP – received several comments on the high assessments.

CLEAR Subcommittee Updates

Property taxes – Gary Drewes

No clear lead has emerged from the Property Tax Task Force as of yet and the group is not sure where to go from here. They are inclined to pause for now and see what comes of the task force.

Indigent Legal and Medical – Eric Jennings

The group has met once and determined the focus should be on the legal and medical costs for the indigent. Other items discussed were funeral costs, the state indigent office of appeals, Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates, county liens, etc. The root of many issues is the decline in mental health.

Emergency Services – Joyce Kartak

The group met once to date. It appears all ambulance services are struggling with a multitude of issues. Volunteerism is declining. It's hard to keep an EMT license with all the requirements. The oversight needs to be moved back to the DOH. Discussion was had on designating emergency services as essential which would result in another unfunded mandate to the counties. The summer study group does not appear to have an appetite for making it essential.

Collaborations – Dan Klimisch

The group focused on Emergency Management, Veterans Service Officers and Equalization software. Roadblocks exist from the State in the loss of the LEMPG grant if Counties choose to collaborate positions. There may be a request for funding to update and consolidate the numerous different types of software being used.

SD Towns and Townships

A presentation / request was given in regard to the RAIF program and the Counties permitting process. They intend to seek 2 pieces of legislation and request the association formally support them in their efforts by providing a letter of support. Their stated goal is to 'be on the Governor's preferred list' in order to receive funding.

1. The first bill would require counties (later clarified to be the applicant) 60-days' written notice before issuing a conditional use permit.
2. The second is to present a bill that allows the RAIF to receive perpetual funding from multiple revenue sources.

The Board discussed and took no action on the 60-day notice issue. They requested additional information asking for clarification on the revenue source that will be pursued for the continuation of RAIF as they are not supportive of any monies that would be diverted from the counties. The request will be discussed at the September 8 Board meeting.

Representative Will Mortenson

Representative Mortenson spoke to the group on behalf of the Dusty Johnson campaign requesting what are the most challenging issues SD Counties are facing.

The feedback provided was the major overarching issues are within the criminal justice system which includes the costs born by the counties for prosecution, defense, jails, paroles, indigent medical and legal expenses, mental health issues, etc. Basically, all of the constitutionally unfunded mandates placed on the counties. A variety of other topics were also discussed.

Unfinished Business:

The HVAC system replacement update was covered in the Executive Director's Report.

New Business:

The Court Ordered Evaluation Claims will be considered by the Executive Board per the program rules established.

Executive Session:

Executive session was not needed.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Dean Karsky. Motion carried unanimously. The Board adjourned the meeting at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Hennies, Deputy Director