

**South Dakota Association of County Commissioners
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
MINUTES**

The SDACC Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 in SD Counties Meeting Room, located at 211 E Prospect, Pierre SD. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Dan Klimisch, President; Eric Jennings, 1st Vice President; Tiffani Landeen, 2nd Vice President; Chad Preszler, Treasurer; Gary Drewes, Past President; Dean Karsky, Ron Rossknecht, Duane Sutton, Jim Schmidt, Joyce Kartak, Jerry Doyle, Charles Verhulst, Bill Floyd.

Members absent: John Claggett

Staff present: Kris Jacobsen, Executive Director; Holli Hennies, Deputy Director; Kade Haley, Research Director; Eric Erickson, SDACC Lobbyist.

Quorum was established.

President Klimisch called the meeting to order at 10:00 am CDT.

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Bill Floyd seconded by Jerry Doyle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

A Motion to approve the September 8, 2025 Minutes made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Joyce Kartak. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The SDACC Financial Report was given by Treasurer Chad Preszler. **A Motion to approve the Financial Report** was made by Ron Rossknecht, seconded by Charles Verhulst. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Klimisch appointed Dean Karsky, chair; Chad Preszler, Eric Jennings, and Jerry Doyle to a financial review committee, to examine current loans and investments.

The SDACC 2026 Budget was presented by Deputy Director Holli Hennies. Hennies indicated that there would be new and ongoing expenses that included the contract for the Engagifii Association Management Software being implemented, as well as \$25,000 towards the building contingency fund to begin planning for office repairs and maintenance in the future. Hennies also discussed the income for the new Amazon partnership program. The Board also discussed having a yearly CPI increase built into the dues structure. **A motion to approve the Proposed 2026 Budget** was made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Chad Preszler. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The President's Report was given by Dan Klimisch. Klimisch stated that he had attended a recent NACo Board meeting in Texas. Among the items discussed were the federal budget cuts and their possible impacts on counties, concerns on land use and regulation for AI and nuclear energy production, as local governments may be prevented from having any regulatory authority on these. The different NACo EDGE programs, including the Deferred Compensation Program, Public Promise Insurance and Procurement programs were discussed as well. President Klimisch also stated that he had learned about a program in Utah in which the state provided health insurance to volunteers of local ambulance services. He indicated

that this had helped tremendously with staffing these services, which rely heavily on volunteers, and thought that it was an idea that should be explored in South Dakota.

President Klimisch also indicated that he would like to have a follow up to the strategic planning session, that was previously held in the spring of 2024. This would be planned for the summer of 2026.

WIR Representative, Gary Drewes updated the board indicating that the WIR Board had been holding regular meetings via zoom. Drewes stated that in June, the Senate passed the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act, and that the house also passed it on December 9th. This bill would provide funding for 2026 as well as back-funding for years 2024 and 2025. Drewes also informed the board of the 2026 WIR conference, which will be held May 5-8th, 2026 in Hawaii.

Executive Director Kris Jacobsen provided an update to the board. She indicated that SDACC staff had been holding weekly meetings to keep everyone on the same page. Jacobsen stated that she would be attending the NCCAE and Presidents meeting in Washington, DC, on January 14-16th, along with SDACC President Dan Klimisch and SDACO President Myron Hertel. She included that SDACC district meetings had been held and attended by herself, Deputy Director Hennies, or a member of the SDACC Board of Directors. Jacobsen provided an update on the CLERP Program, indicating that there were some counties voicing concerns with the increase in assessments in 2025. She included that in 2024, the CLERP Committee approved over 1.3 million dollars in claims. So far in 2025, there had been \$436,986.82 in approved claims. Discussion on the assessment process and trends in crime and costs was held. Jacobsen also stated that work on the office HVAC system replacement was completed and paid in full. She indicated that there was still follow up needed in regard to a broken seal on one of the pumps for the heating. Jacobsen informed the board that the Auditors had held an election training to help clarify some of the changes that were passed during the last legislative session. She also indicated that the Treasurers are still dealing with the implementation and problems associated with the state's new SDCARS software. Jacobsen stated that she has been attending many committee meetings in representation of the association, including SDPAA, SDML WC, SD Health Pool, SD FIT, Statewide Court Security, SecureSD, GRIT, and multiple NACo committees. She also stated that there had been some confusion regarding the structure and responsibilities relating to the district meetings. After discussion, it was suggested that the office create a short informational document to help provide some clarity. Jacobsen also informed the board that the association would again be holding weekly legislative update zoom meetings for the membership, on Wednesdays, as well as weekly email updates each Friday.

Deputy Director Holli Hennies updated the Board on the most recent Court Ordered Competency Fund applications. 24 applications were received and 23 are being recommended for approval. The Association receives \$35,000 annually from the Department of Social Services, and this round of applications has depleted that amount. She also updated the Board on the status of the implementation of the new association management program Engagifii.

Research Director Kade Haley provided the board with an update. Haley stated that he had been working to establish reliable sources for county data, as well as collecting and organizing information. He stated that he was able to get county revenue and expenditure data from the Department of Legislative Audit for 2024, as well as prior years, back to 2020. He indicated that this would allow for a more accurate year over year examination. Haley stated that he had been working to revamp and update the County Green Book for the upcoming legislative session. He indicated that he had greatly expanded the information included and that it should provide a more comprehensive look at county demographics and financials. A rough draft of the publication was provided to the board for review and suggestions.

SDACC Lobbyist Eric Erickson provided the board with a legislative update. Topics discussed included the recommendations of the Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force, the Governor's property tax relief proposal, data centers, changes to mine licensing and regulation, indigent legal and medical expenses, economic development, energy production, airport funding, among others.

Senator Randy Diebert provided the board with his outlook on the upcoming session and areas of interest.

A motion at 2:45 pm CST to move into Executive Session for personnel matters was made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Ron Rossknecht. Motion carried unanimously.

President Klimisch declared out of Executive Session at 3:00 pm CST. Motion to approve a 2.9% wage increase for 2026 and distribute a total of \$3000 in appreciation bonuses for 2025 made by Jerry Doyle, seconded by Ron Rossknecht. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chad Preszler, seconded by Jerry Doyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kade Haley, Research Director