

**South Dakota Association of County Commissioners
Board of Directors Board Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026
MINUTES**

The SDACC Board of Directors met on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Dan Klimisch, President; Tiffani Landeen, 2nd Vice President; Gary Drewes, Past President; Chad Preszler, Treasurer; Joyce Kartak, Jim Schmidt, Bill Floyd, Duane Sutton, Ron Rossknecht, Charles Verhulst and Jerry Doyle. Commissioner John Claggett participated via Zoom.
Staff present: Eric Erickson, SDACC Lobbyist, Holli Hennies, Deputy Director, Kade Haley, Research Director.
Absent: Eric Jennings, 1st Vice President, Dean Karsky.

Quorum was established.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST.

Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Motion to approve the proposed agenda was made by Schmidt, seconded by Sutton. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the December 10, 2025, minutes was made by Doyle, seconded by Kartak. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the January 21, 2026, minutes was made by Floyd, seconded by Preszler with the correction of adding Jerry Doyle's name and Duane Sutton's name to the members present. Motion carried unanimously.

The SDACC Financial Report was given by Treasurer Chad Preszler. **A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Sutton, seconded by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.**

The President's Report was given by Dan Klimisch. He spoke of attending the NACo Legislative Conference and the takeaway being cuts being made at the Federal level will be felt more and more at the State and Local levels. The demand in services is not going to decrease and the message to the SD Counties through the District meetings should be to plan for tough years.

The Executive Director's Report was given by Holli Hennies. Topics included association membership levels, staffing/office update, county visits, district meetings, the new membership management software program Engagifii, future turnover with the upcoming elections, the Greenbook, committee/liaison meeting update, 2026 legislation session summer study topics, request for SDACC resolutions, SDACC scholarship application status, upcoming Board Meeting dates and events.

Further discussion was held regarding the importance of membership in the Association and the return on the investment. As budgets get tighter, District representatives must stress the value of being a part of the Association. Staff will work on creating a resource for District representatives to utilize.

SDACC Lobbyist, Eric Erickson provided an update on the 2026 legislative session. 2026 was an incredibly busy session – some days having 3, 4, or 5 different matters going on in different committees at the same time. The Lobbying team was great and did an amazing job of backing each other up when necessary. Roger Tellingheisen has retired and further discussion will be held on how to replace him and his expertise in elections.

Eric spoke of the different dynamics in each of the Chambers and how that affected the outcome of legislation. Other topics discussed: property tax bills and TIF legislation. Indigent legal expenses remains a high priority. The Association worked with the townships this year for several items including notification requirements and RAIF funding.

The Board supported joining with the Municipalities and the Associated School Boards Association, or alone as the SDACC, in giving Senator Randy Deibert an award for being a champion for local control.

Secretary Michael Houdtshell joined the meeting to answer questions regarding the implementation of SB96. Timing was discussed, sales tax collection estimates were explained, etc. The guidance given is there is no express authority in current State Law for a Board of Commissioners to pass the ordinance implementing the sales tax and then directly place the question/referral on a ballot.

Lunch break at 12:19 p.m., reconvened at 12:51 p.m. CDT.

Eric continued with the interim EMS legislative summer study – the only one Counties will be involved with this summer. Other topics briefly discussed: Court-ordered evaluation funds, cybersecurity funding, property tax/assessment software upgrades through the DOR RFP, project rural health transformation, other items to prepare for the 2027 legislative session such as legal publications, highway funding, wheel tax cap increase, open meetings requirements/video recording, etc.

A motion to extend the lobbying services agreement for SDACC Lead Lobbyist Eric Erickson's for an additional year, at the same compensation as the prior agreement dated April 22, 2025, was made by Sutton, seconded by Kartak. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Finance Committee Update – Deputy Director Holli Hennies provided an update from the Finance Committee. Three meetings have been held to date. The Committee analyzed the various cash and investment accounts, assets and liabilities. Recommendation was made to move \$100,000 into a 12-month CD with SD FIT which has been completed.

Discussion was held regarding carpet replacement. The Board supports having them professionally cleaned first, before going the replacement route if necessary. No update is available on the repair of the back parking lot concrete and drainage issues.

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of the conference room chairs. Any chairs in relatively good condition will be swapped and placed in the upstairs conference room. The downstairs conference room chairs will be replaced. **Motion by Schmidt and seconded by Doyle to authorize the purchase of Chair #3 from Klein's Office Furniture in Pierre to replace the downstairs conference room chairs utilizing the Building Contingency Funds available and any overage from the regular checking account. Motion carried unanimously.**

Unfinished Business:

SDACC Annual Membership Dues Structure – Discussion was had regarding the current membership fees. **Motion by Kartak and seconded by Doyle to move to adjusting the membership base amount annually by CPI and to direct staff to prepare estimates and place the item on the August agenda for further discussion and/or action. Motion carried unanimously.**

Strategic Planning – Summer Session - The Board wishes to schedule a summer strategic planning session and directed staff to reach out to Mark O'Connell to check his schedule and coordinate potential dates.

Executive Session – None.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sutton, seconded by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. CST

Respectfully submitted,
Holli Hennies, Deputy Director