

**South Dakota Association of County Commissioners
Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

The SDACC Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 in the Wetlands Meeting Room, Arrowwood Cedar Shore, Oacoma, SD. with the following members present: Dan Klimisch, President; Eric Jennings, 1st 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, Holli Hennies, Deputy Director, Kade Haley, Research Director.
Absent: Tiffani Landeen, 2nd Vice President

1st Vice President Jennings called the SDACC Resolutions Committee to order at 8:00 am CDT.

Roll Call was taken.

Quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Duane Sutton seconded by Dean Karsky. Motion carried unanimously.

1st Vice President Jennings, Resolution Committee Chair began discussion on the proposed Resolutions and Policy Statements.

#2026-01: Reimbursement of Court Fees for Indigent Defense Cases. Following discussion, a **motion to incorporate Resolution #2026-01 into Policy Statement #24** was made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Jim Schmidt. **The motion carried with one nay vote from Dean Karsky.**

#2026-02: Department of Corrections Juvenile Reimbursements. Following discussion, a **motion to move #2026-2 to the full membership** was made by Dan Klimisch , seconded by Joyce Kartak. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-03: Amend SD Law to Provide Additional Funding for County Roads and Bridges Due to Escalating Construction Costs Following discussion, a **motion to move #2026-03 to the full membership** was made by Jerry Doyle , seconded by Duane Sutton. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-04: Requesting the South Dakota Legislature to Reform Funding for County Veteran Service Officer Programs and Increase State Participation in The Delivery of Veteran Services. Following discussion, the Board determined that Resolution #2026-04 was already covered by multiple SDACC Policy Statements and no further action was taken.

#2026-05: Requesting the South Dakota Legislature and The South Dakota Department of Corrections to Provide Full Reimbursement to Counties for Parole Hold Inmates and To Implement Reforms to Reduce the Growing Burden of Parole Holds on County Jails. Following discussion, the Board determined that Resolution #2026-05 was already covered by SDACC Policy Statement #35 and no further action was taken.

#2026-06: Requesting Legislative Reform of South Dakota Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Laws Under SDCL Chapter 11-9. Following discussion, a **motion to amend #2026-06 by removing the portion involving the 20-year duration and move #2026-06 as amended, to the full membership** was made by Bill Floyd, seconded by Joyce Kartak. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-07: Requesting The Repeal of SDCL 10-6-138 Regarding Municipal Authority to Adopt Discretionary Property Tax Assessment Formulas Outside Municipal Boundaries. Following discussion, a **motion to move Resolution #2026-07 to a new Policy Statement** was made by Chad Preszler, seconded by Jim Schmidt. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-08: Requesting Legislative Action to Provide Sustainable Funding and Local Authority for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) And Ambulance Operations in South Dakota. Following discussion, a **motion to move Resolution #2026-08 to a new Policy Statement** was made by Joyce Kartak, seconded by Duane Sutton. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-09: A Resolution Requesting the South Dakota Legislature to Reform Road District Taxation to Ensure Adequate Funding for County Road Maintenance and Authorize the Transfer of Section Line Road Jurisdiction to County Road Districts. Following discussion, a **motion to move #2026-09 to the full membership** was made by Bill Floyd, seconded by Duane Sutton. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#2026-10: Requesting the South Dakota Legislature to Amend SDCL 7-8-10 To Provide Counties with Greater Local Control Over the Method of Electing County Commissioners. Following discussion, a **motion to move #2026-10 to the full membership** was made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Jerry Doyle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

1st Vice President Jennings declared the board at recess.

1st Vice President Jennings called the meeting back to order.

Multiple amendments, mostly style and form, to the SDACC Policy statements were discussed.

Policy Statement #3: Following discussion, no action was taken on the proposed amendments to Policy Statement #3.

Policy Statement #5: Following discussion, a **motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #5** was made by Chad Preszler, seconded by Dan Klimisch. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #6: Following discussion, a **motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #6** was made by Dean Karsky, seconded by John Claggett. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #7: Following discussion, **a motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #7** was made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Chad Preszler. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #8: Following discussion, **a motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #8** was made by Jim Schmidt, seconded by Jerry Doyle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #9: Following discussion, **a motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #9** was made by Ron Rossknecht, seconded by Jim Schmidt,. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #24: Following discussion, **a motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #24, by inserting the word “All” between “and expense”** was made by Jerry Doyle, seconded by Dean Karsky. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Policy Statement #34: Following discussion, **a motion to approve amendments to Policy Statement #34** was made by Joyce Kartak, seconded by Ron Rossknecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

(NEW) Policy Statement #37: Following discussion, **a motion to adopt a NEW Policy Statement, “The SDACC supports efforts to provide counties with adequate funding opportunities from dedicated funding sources, indexed to inflation, as necessary to maintain the roads and bridges under their control.”** was made by Joyce Kartak, seconded by Dan Klimisch. **Motion carried unanimously.**

(NEW) Policy Statement #38: Following discussion, **a motion to adopt a NEW Policy Statement, “The SDACC believes municipalities should not be authorized to impose discretionary property tax assessment formulas on property located outside their corporate boundaries unless expressly approved by the affected county commission.”** was made by Bill Floyd, seconded by Chad Preszler. **Motion carried unanimously.**

(NEW) Policy Statement #39: Following discussion, **a motion to adopt a NEW Policy Statement, “The SDACC encourages sustainable funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across South Dakota.”** was made by Ron Rossknecht, seconded by Joyce Kartak. **Motion carried unanimously.**

1st Vice President Jennings adjourned the SDACC Resolutions Committee at 10:00 am CDT.

President Klimisch called the SDACC Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:05 am CDT.

MOTION to approve the Agenda was made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Jerry Doyle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Legislative update

Eric Erickson reported a favorable post-primary legislative landscape and strong relationships with the Governor's Office. The Association will establish more precise legislative priorities before the December Board Meeting, focusing on issues including indigent legal services, EMS funding, economic development, highway and bridge funding, property tax reform, and the 3% growth cap. Counties continue to advocate for a greater share of economic development revenue and relief from growing administrative and financial burdens. Secure SD/IT funding, election-law updates, parolee hold costs, and limited state funding remain additional priorities. The Association plans continued outreach to new legislators and emphasized the need for counties to remain proactive in advancing their priorities.

A motion to approve the April 16, 2026 Minutes made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Jim Schmidt. **Motion carried unanimously.**

A motion to approve the June 24, 2026 Strategic Planning Summary made by Chad Preszler, seconded by Eric Jennings. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Financial Report

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

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

Presidents Report

President Klimisch reported on attending the NACo Annual Convention in New Orleans, where key concerns included declining reliability of federal grant funding and proposed federal changes that could make grants less secure and more difficult to appeal. NACo is also pursuing FEMA reform aimed at increasing direct payments to counties and reducing the amount of funding retained at the state level. He noted the potential significance of the Build America Act, which could increase the county share of federal highway funding to 22% while maintaining state funding levels. President Klimisch emphasized that membership engagement and retention will be a major focus moving forward, urging district leaders to clearly communicate the value of both the Association and NACo membership. He also highlighted useful NACo resources such as the County Explorer, ClearGov, NACo Research, and reiterated NACo's continued advocacy for key federal programs including Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Executive Director's Report / Staff Update

Kris reported that NACo has developed county-specific benefit summaries and she plans to obtain the Pennington County version for presentation to their commission. She and Eric E. have increased county visits and commission meeting attendance, while staff continues working to coordinate participation on the Association's many boards. Recent and upcoming workshops include the highway superintendent certification, and office personnel workshops, with convention planning now being the primary focus.

Hotel room blocks are already full, requiring additional arrangements, and proposed convention schedule changes are being considered. Kris also discussed changes to scholarship fundraising, with SDACC and SDACO now handling their fundraising separately. SDACC will fundraise for their scholarship only at Convention and SDACO will fundraise only at the SDACO Spring Workshop. The scholarship fund is currently low, particularly with two \$1,000 scholarships being awarded again this year, so additional fundraising ideas are being considered. A roping contest and bandana sales were discussed.

Holli briefed the Board on the following item: Engagifii attempted to launch the Association's new website on July 24th and ran into technical difficulties when upgrading their backend infrastructure. They have been able to get an 'incorrect' version of the new website online and continue to work to correct the remaining issues. This is the first major 'hiccup' with Engagifii and so far, the new membership management program including event registration is working well and saving staff time.

Kade is updating the Commissioners Handbook with the recent law changes and asked for volunteers to review it from a user's perspective.

Unfinished Business:

The Annual Dues Structure was discussed with a proposed change in the calculation to automatically increase the base amount by CPI each year. Following discussion, a **MOTION to propose a change to the annual dues calculation by applying the annual CPI percentage as certified by the State, if any, to both the Base Dues figure and the Dues per Capita figure** was made by Ron Rossknecht, seconded by Duane Sutton. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Board leadership was briefly discussed. There will need to be two (2) VP candidates from East River this year due to the loss of re-election of the Board's current 2nd VP.

New Business:

The board reviewed and discussed updating the Associations logo design. Options were weighed and preferences were shared. Staff will work on two preferred designs identified and work with Dan, Gary, Duane and Chad and bring final versions to the next Board meeting. The goal is to select a new logo and debut it at convention in September.

Executive Session:

Executive session was not needed.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Duane Sutton, seconded by Dean Karsky. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Hennies, Deputy Director