

South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 24th, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via Zoom | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83757695272>

Present: David Struck, Chairman; David Iverson, Vice Chairman; John Horter, Secretary; Derrick Scott, Treasurer; Dawn Scheier, Bruce Haines, Chad Schooley, April Bowar and Mike McCranie

Staff Present: Jerry Schmitz, Executive Director; Becky Cypher, Executive Assistant; Mariah Kessler, Communications Director; Maggie Vander Laan, Communications Assistant; Danielle Dykstra, Administrative Assistant; and Johnna Ringkob, Market Development & Research Director

Guests Present: Scott Ritzman, Contractor; Dr. Daniel Scholl, SDSU; Brian Jennings, American Coalition for Ethanol; Ron Lamberty; American Coalition for Ethanol; and Katie Muckenhirn, American Coalition for Ethanol

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Struck led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order – David Struck

Chairman Struck called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

Approval of Agenda – David Struck

April would like to add a Value Added Agriculture Development Center update to the agenda.

Motion:

Mike McCranie moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures – David Struck

Chairman Struck asked board members to declare any new conflicts. None reported.

Secretary's Report – John Horter

Minutes from the November 22, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion:

Mike McCranie moved to accept the Secretary's report as presented.

Seconded by David Iverson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Derrick Scott

Review Financials

Derrick said he had reviewed the financials that Scott Ritzman sent out and yielded the floor to Scott for discussion of financials. Scott reviewed the financials with the board members.

Motion:

April Bowar moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

See For Yourself Proposals – Scott Ritzman, Ritz Ag Consulting

Becky reminded the board that the See For Yourself proposal is usually discussed at the January SDSRPC meeting to allow ample time to advertise and select attendees. Scott displayed his two proposals for this year's See For Yourself project. He noted one is the traditional SFY to the PNW, and the other is an international visit to Mexico.

Motion:

Mike McCranie moved to fund Ritz Ag Consulting's See For Yourself proposal to Mexico in the amount of \$58,038 for FY26.

Seconded by Dawn Scheier.

Motion passed unanimously.

Vietnam Board Trade Mission Update – Scott Ritzman, Ritz Ag Consulting

Scott presented details of the Vietnam Trade Mission and left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

EPA/DANR Funding Request

Jerry said the EPA issued a new action plan for the Endangered Species Act. Commodity groups are partnering with DANR to hold educational sessions for farmers this winter to share information contained in the action plan. SD Wheat will be holding a session in Pierre; SD Corn will hold a meeting in Aberdeen; and we are requesting that SDSRPC host a meeting in Sioux Falls.

Motion:

David Iverson moved to fund the DANR educational session proposal in the amount of \$3,500.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

VAADC Update – April Bowar

April Bowar stated she is the board liaison for VAADC and recently attended their board meeting. April gave an update on VAADC.

South Dakota Trade – 2025 Membership Dues

Becky noted an accounting oversight with South Dakota Trade membership dues. They invoiced SDSRPC in July, however, the invoice incorrectly stated 2025 membership dues, and it was paid. The invoice should have stated 2024 membership dues. The error will create an overage in the budget if both 2024 and 2025 invoices are paid in the same year, without a correction.

Motion:

Dawn Scheier moved to pay South Dakota Trade 2025 membership dues invoice in the amount of \$15,000.

Seconded by Bruce Haines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Black Hills Stock Show Budget Increase

Mariah had sent out an email with a budget increase request for the Black Hills Stock Show.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to increase the Black Hills Stock Show budget by up to \$2,000 for a promotional item.

Seconded by April Bowar.

Motion passed unanimously.

SD BioTWIN Presentation & Funding Request – Dr. Daniel Scholl, VP for Research & Economic Development - SDSU

Dr. Scholl thanked the board for the opportunity to present today. He explained the project and gave an overview stating the potential for a ten year - \$160 million dollar National Science Foundation matching grant. The request is for a letter of intent to a 2-year commitment to participate in shared soybean research.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to submit a letter of commitment for the SD BioTwin project in the amount of up to \$30,000 for FY25.

Seconded by David Iverson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to amend his motion and submit a letter of commitment for SD BioTwin project in the amount of \$30,000 for FY25, with the intent to fund an additional \$30,000 in FY26 contingent upon approval by the Board seated at that time.

Seconded by David Iverson.

Motion passed unanimously.

American Coalition for Ethanol Funding Request

Brian Jennings, Ron Lamberty, and Katie Muckenhirn joined the meeting. Brian said he's delighted SDSRPC can use their boardroom for their meetings. He inquired whether the Council would like to be a recognized sponsor of the meeting room.

Jerry thanked ACE for the use of their room and Brian said he appreciates the consideration of their proposal. Brian, Ron, and Katie left the meeting.

Motion:

Chad Schooley moved to fund American Coalition for Ethanol's sponsorship proposal in the amount of \$10,000, as long as it meets compliance.

Seconded by David Iverson.

Motion passed unanimously.

2025 Governor's Conference on Economic Development Sponsorship

Jerry shared the sponsorship flyer for the Planting Seeds – 2025 Governor's Conference on Economic Development. The event is February 25 -27 in Pierre. Jerry will be a moderator during one of their panel discussions.

Motion:

Mike McCranie moved to sponsor the 2025 Governor's Conference on Economic Development in the amount of \$5,000 for FY25.

Seconded by Derrick Struck.

Motion passed unanimously.

USAPEEC Strategic Planning Meeting – Mike McCranie

Mike McCranie requested permission to attend the 2025 USAPEEC Strategic Planning Meeting in Lima, Peru in March.

Motion:

Bruce Haines moved to approve Mike McCranie’s travel to the 2025 UAPEEC Strategic Planning Conference in Lima, Peru.

Seconded by Dawn Scheier.

Vote taken by secret poll.

Motion failed.

USSEC SEC Update –Dawn Scheier

Dawn gave an overview of the Soy Excellence Center. She said she has been the SEC representative this past year, and her term ends in March. She wants to know if the Board would like her to continue as the representative until the end of her Council term on June 30th, or if anyone else would like to do it. Derrick Scott is the secondary USSEC rep that will more than likely transition to the primary after Dawn is off the board. Derrick is interested in fulfilling the SEC role.

Motion:

April Bowar moved to nominate Derrick Scott as the USSEC Soy Excellence Center representative for SDSRPC, effective March 2025 for a one-year term.

Seconded by Chad Schooley.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Chairman Struck called for public input at 11:54 a.m. None received.

SDSU Research Pre-Proposal Selections

Johnna reviewed the research pre-proposals that were submitted this year. The board selected those they would like presented by researchers during the spring board meeting in April.

John Horter and David Iverson left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Other Items

Adjourn

Motion:

April Bowar moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Seconded by Chad Schooley.

Motion passed unanimously.