

Meeting Minutes South Dakota Recreational Trails Program Advisory Council

June 23, 2026, Pierre, SD – Foss Building

1. Call to Order

K. Kinsman called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Chair-Kitty Kinsman (Bicycling)*

Sam Greear (Single Track)

Diane Hiles (Snowmobiling)

Members Absent:

Mel Fish (OHV)

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners

Stephanie Rissler*

Travis Theel*

Dean Kirkeby

State Park Staff Present:

Kerri Richards

Al Nedved

Jeff VanMeeteren

Adam Kulesa*

FHWA Staff Present:

Lance DeMers

**attended virtually*

3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No conflicts of interest were identified

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to offer comment

5. Agenda Approval

A motion was made by D. Hiles and seconded by S. Greear to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Previous Project Updates

A summary of the status of projects that were selected for funding at the 2025 council meeting was presented by SDGFP staff.

7. Recreational Trails Program Funding

A summary of the Recreational Trails Program funding was presented, including breakdowns of overall funding, de-obligated funds, and motorized / non-motorized funding split.

8. Fiscal Year 2025 Applications

a. Motorized

The group reviewed the following motorized proposals:

GFP Black Hills Snowmobile Trail Groomer: Purchase a replacement Tucker Sno-Cat for the State operated snowmobile trail system in the Black Hills.

GFP Black Hills Snowmobile Trail Purchase Trail Easements: Purchase trail easements for the snowmobile trail system in the Black Hills where development is encroaching on the trail.

The council discussed balancing funding between purchasing the annual snowmobile groomer and securing long-term easements in the Lead area, where development pressures threaten key snowmobile trail connections. The Council authorized staff to shift groomer funding toward easements if agreements could be completed withing the fiscal deadlines.

Motion was made by D. Hiles to approve the list with the flexibility as discussed, second was made by S. Greear. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Non-Motorized

The group reviewed the following list of non-motorized proposals:

Palisades – New Trail Construction

Creating a loop through Palisades State Park to enhance the park expansion that was completed last year.

Sandy Shore Trail Project

Supplement the funding that was awarded at the 2025 council meeting due to higher engineer estimates on project costs based on a higher water table and other construction costs.

George S. Mickelson Trail Maintenance

This project addresses surface maintenance needs along the Mickelson Trail throughout the year to use and weather events or other needs that arise throughout the year. These efforts continue to maintain the trail.

Aberdeen – Aberdeen Nature Area Multi-Use Trail System with Skills Park

Aberdeen proposes Phase 1 construction of a natural-surface multi-use trail and beginner bike skills area within a 14-acre wooded park, introducing soft-surface trail options not currently available in the city.

Black Hills Works Foundation – Legacy Trail

This project constructs 3,253 feet of ADA-accessible shared-use trail and sidewalk on nonprofit-owned land to link schools, neighborhoods, and future city greenway segments.

Box Elder – Community Park Trail Phase 1

Box Elder plans to build 6,440 feet of new gravel multi-use trail and replace deteriorated concrete sidewalks within the Community Park.

Brookings – Dwiggins-Medary Trail

Brookings proposes 460 feet of new concrete trail connecting Dwiggins–Medary Park to Brookings High School and the new skate park.

Chamberlain – Roam Free Trail Improvements

Chamberlain will overlay the aging Roam Free Trail with 1 inch of new asphalt to eliminate cracks, hazards, and deteriorated surface conditions.

Colton – Colton Recreation Trail Phase 1

Colton proposes constructing an 8-foot-wide concrete loop trail through Redway Park, linking ballfields, the pool, picnic areas, and tennis courts.

Falls Area Single Track (FAST) – The Great Trail Build (Destination Bear)

FAST seeks to build 4.25 miles of new singletrack trails at Great Bear Recreation Park, adding beginner, intermediate, hiking-only, and advanced terrain to complete a 10-mile destination-level trail system.

Fort Pierre – Rec Trail Rehab

Fort Pierre proposes paving 1,200 feet of existing gravel trail to create a fully hard-surfaced, continuous route.

Harrisburg – Showplace Trail Project

Harrisburg plans a 1,620-foot, 10-foot-wide asphalt trail linking neighborhoods west of Cliff Avenue to Central Park, reducing dangerous walking routes through industrial areas.

Hartford – 12th Street Trail Extension

Hartford proposes building 2,670 feet of 10-foot-wide asphalt trail to link the citywide trail system with Swenson Park.

Hot Springs – Historic Staircase Reconstruction

Hot Springs seeks to fully reconstruct three historic pedestrian staircases that are severely deteriorated and unsafe, replacing them with ADA-compliant structures that retain historic character.

Lake Madison Development Association – Lake Madison Recreation Trail Phase 1

Phase 1 constructs 6,250 feet of gravel shared-use trail linking Woodland Marina to Walker’s Point and filling a key safety gap around Lake Madison.

Lower Brule Community College – Narrows Little Bend Trail

LBCC proposes realigning the Little Bend Trail into a sustainable, contour-aligned path that avoids sacred sites and eliminates severe erosion.

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe – West Brule Pedestrian Pathway & Lighting

The Tribe proposes a 1,550-foot concrete pedestrian trail with lighting along BIA Route 10, connecting housing, the playground, the Rec Center, and Buche Foods.

Wessington Springs Chamber & Development – Old Grade Trail Project

Wessington Springs aims to upgrade the Old Grade Nature Trail with a stable gravel surface, defined trailhead, and wayfinding signage, improving access, safety, and usability.

Worthing – Worthing Recreational Trail Phase II

Worthing proposes 1,400 feet of 10-foot-wide asphalt trail to complete a loop around the Recreational Complex, improving connectivity between amenities.

Motion was made by S. Greear to approve the selected projects and funding as discussed and displayed in the project summaries, second was made by S. Greear. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by D. Hiles and seconded by S. Greear to adjourn.