

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE RAILROAD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. CDT

Becker-Hansen Building/Commission Room – 700 East Broadway Avenue, Pierre, SD

MEMBERS PRESENT

VIA COFERENCE CALL: Jeff Burket, Chairman
Scott Lockwood
Jack Nelson
Ralph Schmidt
Steve Scharnweber
Greg Carmon

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, and Kari Kroll

DOT STAFF PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Paul Coppock, Misty Siedschlaw, and Rocky Matson

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Mark Trottier – Dakota, Missouri River & Western Railroad Inc. (DMVW); Clint Sayler – DMVW; Ross Lane – Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. (RCPE); Shellee Currier – Watco Companies LLC; Dan Bilka – All Aboard; and Dick Huff

Chairman Jeff Burket called the meeting of the South Dakota State Railroad Board (the “Board”) to order at 11:00 a.m. CT. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined.

Burket opened the floor to the Board members to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to the South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) chapter 3 – 23.

No members disclosed any conflicts of interest, and no waivers were requested.

Burket asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 Railroad Board meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Lockwood and seconded by Scharnweber to approve the February 25, 2026 Railroad Board meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Burket opened the floor to public input.

No members of the public addressed the Board or offered input.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, presented for Board consideration a request to amend the legal services agreement with Slover and Loftus, LLP to increase the maximum amount that may be expended by the Department of Transportation (the “Department”) by \$50,000. She generally described the additional work that has required the assistance of this legal firm.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Carmon and seconded by Lockwood to authorize the Department Secretary, or his designee, to execute all documents necessary to amend the agreement to increase the maximum amount that may be expended by the Department of Transportation by \$50,000. All present voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

Secretary Jundt presented to the Board the following items in his Secretary’s Report:

- **Federal Update:** Nothing significant to report. The Department is still waiting for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to send out the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Special Transportation Circumstance (STC) grant funds.
- **State Legislature:** The Department’s budget for FY2027 was approved. The Legislature did not approve the Governor’s recommended budget to increase the budget authority for the Railroad Capital Improvement line item by \$40.6 million. The Legislature did approve an additional \$30.6 million, giving the Department total budget authority of just over \$44 million. Railroad Capital Improvement budget authority is used when the Department administers STC grants. As discussed in past meetings, the Department anticipates receiving additional funding from FRA for STC funds. Dependent on the timing of the grants and when contractors are doing the work, the Department may need to request additional budget authority for Fiscal Year 2027, which would be accomplished by requesting an amendment of that year’s budget bill.

Jack Dokken presented for Board the consideration weed spraying contracts for the state-owned Napa-Platte Line as well as the portion of the Mitchell-Rapid City Line (MRC) where the Department is the trail sponsor. He requested approval of the following weed spraying agreements/contracts:

- Pennington County Weed Board for the Interior to Rapid City portion of the MRC at a maximum cost of \$7,200.
- Dakota Helicopters Inc. for the Kadoka to Interior portion of the MRC and the entire Napa-Platte Line. The contract may not exceed \$60,000.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Lockwood and seconded by Schmidt to approve the contract for noxious weed spraying with Pennington County for \$7,200 on that portion of the MRC from Interior to Rapid City and a contract with Dakota Helicopters, Inc., not to exceed \$60,000, for that portion of the MRC from Kadoka to Interior and all of the Napa-Platte Line. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jack Dokken presented the 2026 Annual Railroad Maintenance Plans to the Board for consideration. He explained that the Department will be responsible for maintenance of the Napa-Platte Line now that there is not an operating lease on that line.

Clint Sayler of Dakota, Missouri Valley & Western Railroad Inc. (DMVW) shared DMVW's plan for maintenance on the Britton Line for 2026.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Lockwood and seconded by Carmon to approve the 2026 Annual Railroad Maintenance Plan by the Department for the Napa-Platte Line and DMVW on the Britton Line. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board, Burket declared the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m. CT