

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. CT

Becker-Hansen Building/ Commission Room – 700 E. Broadway Ave, Pierre, SD 57501

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Jerry Rieber, Vice-chairman
Bob Huggins
Chris Funk
Rolf Johnson
David Howard

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Karla Engle, Jon Becker, Tom Koch, Nancy Hiller, and Kari Kroll

DOT STAFF PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Brock Antijunti and Dustin DeBoer

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Casey Pamperien –Pierre Regional Airport; Channing Wagner – Spearfish / Black Hills Airport; and Kent Penney - KLJ

Vice-chairman Jerry Rieber called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 2:04 p.m. CDT. Roll call was taken. A quorum was determined.

Rieber opened the floor to the Commission to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) Chapter 3 – 23.

No members of the Commission disclosed a conflict or requested a waiver.

Rieber welcomed Dave Howard to the Commission.

The election of a new chairman was held due to the resignation of Chairman Taylor. Rieber asked for nominations for chairman. Commissioner Rolf Johnson nominated Bob Huggins for chairman. No other nominations were made.

Rieber requested a roll call vote on the nomination for chairman. All present voted aye by roll call vote, except Huggins who abstained. Huggins was elected Chairman.

Rieber asked for a motion to approve the May 15, 2025 Commission meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Huggins and seconded by Funk to approve the May 15, 2025 Commission meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

It was agreed by the Chairman and the Commission members that Rieber would continue to preside over this meeting.

Rieber opened the floor to public comment.

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

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, presented for Commission consideration the amendments to ARSD chapter 70:02:04 – airport licensing. She began by explaining the rule adoption process followed by an explanation of how the Department of Transportation (the “Department”) met the requirements for considering these rule changes. Next, she explained the purpose and effect of the proposed rule changes. She also answered the questions from Commissioners Huggins and Coleman that were provided to her before the meeting. She asked that the Commission make an additional edit to ARSD 70:02:04:07, deleting the phrase “established or requesting a certificate of approval after July 24, 1974”. Lastly, she made note of the one written comment that was timely received by the Department and provided as a handout to the Commission. The comment was from Jonathan Perout, who is the Airport Operations Manager at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport and the President of the Airport Manager’s Association. Perout asked for the background and reasoning for two rule changes. First, Perout mistakenly believed the distance between public/private airports was being reduced to two miles, but the Department explained that the distance was actually being expanded to six miles. Second, the Department explained that ARSD 70:02:04:06 was being repealed because it was redundant.

Rieber called for testimony from the public. No members of the public addressed the Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Huggins and seconded by Johnson to approve the proposed changes to ARSD Chapter 70:02:04, included the additional edit to ARSD 70:02:04:07 as recommended by Engle during the rules hearing. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025 – 6.1 was adopted.

Secretary Joel Jundt presented the Secretary’s Report. He shared that on May 2, 2025 the Trump administration released its “skinny budget” and the full details of the proposed budget. For Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and its programs, the proposed budget would benefit aviation with a

\$5.7 billion increase - primarily to address air traffic control issues. The bad news is that the same budget proposal would cut Essential Air Service funding by \$308 million from the current \$588 million. The House's reconciliation bill did not include a cut to the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. The Senate is working on its budget reconciliation bill so the Department will have to wait and see what the final outcome will be. The Department has been in contact with the three EAS airports managers (Watertown, Pierre, and Aberdeen) and they are aware of the possible cut and have been in contact with South Dakota's Senators.

Jon Becker from the Office of Air, Rail and Transit presented for Commission consideration a fuel tax fund request from the Pierre Regional Airport for reimbursement of various air rescue and firefighting (ARFF) equipment, which was not AIP-eligible. The total request is for \$20,488.80. Pierre's current fuel tax balance is \$194,407.96.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Funk and seconded by Johnson to approve the fuel tax fund request of \$20,488.80 to the Pierre Regional Airport. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Becker presented for Commission consideration the following Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications:

Canton 3-46-0007-018-2025

IIJA: Airport master plan update, narrative, AGIS, exhibit A, land use plan

Federal Share	\$ 181,298.00
State Share	\$ 4,771.00
Local Share	\$ 4,771.00
Total	\$ 190,840.00

Canton 3-46-0007-019-2025

AIP: Airport master plan update, narrative, AGIS, exhibit A, land use plan

Federal Share	\$ 167,352.00
State Share	\$ 4,404.00
Local Share	\$ 4,404.00
Total	\$ 176,160.00

Faith 3-46-0076-018-2025

IIJA: Renummer 13/31 to 14/32, obstruction analysis and obstruction lighting plan, obstruction lighting

Federal Share	\$ 89,432.00
State Share	\$ 2,353.00
Local Share	\$ 2,354.00
Total	\$ 94,139.00

Faith 3-46-0076-019-2025**AIP:** Replace MIRLs guidance signs, controls, electrical vault, windcone

Federal Share	\$ 965,068.00
State Share	\$ 25,396.00
Local Share	\$ 25,397.00
Total	\$ 1,015,861.00

McLaughlin 3-46-0031-017-2025**IIJA:** Construct revenue-producing hangar phase 4 site improvements

Federal Share	\$ 137,750.00
State Share	\$ 0.00
Local Share	\$ 7,250.00
Total	\$ 145,000.00

Vermillion 3-46-0056-022-2025**AIP:** Construct partial parallel taxiway

Federal Share	\$ 1,472,500.00
State Share	\$ 38,750.00
Local Share	\$ 38,750.00
Total	\$ 1,550,000.00

Vermillion 3-46-0052-023-2025**IIJA:** Construct partial parallel taxiway

Federal Share	\$ 166,250.00
State Share	\$ 4,375.00
Local Share	\$ 4,375.00
Total	\$ 175,000.00

Wall 3-46-0069-016-2025**IIJA:** Reconstruct and rehab partial apron

Federal Share	\$ 103,445.00
State Share	\$ 2,722.00
Local Share	\$ 2,722.00
Total	\$ 108,889.00

A MOTION WAS MADE by Funk and seconded by Johnson to approve all AIP and IIJA grant applications as presented. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Becker presented for Commission consideration airport weather camera installation. He shared that he surveyed medical air transport operators regarding their preferred airports for aviation weather camera installations. Based on their feedback, the following airports were identified:

- Aberdeen
- Chamberlain
- Custer
- Eagle Butte
- Gregory
- Huron
- Parkston
- Pine Ridge
- Rosebud
- Sisseton
- Spearfish
- Vermillion
- Wagner
- Watertown
- Winner

The installer has provided a cost estimate ranging from \$12,500 to \$13,500 per installation. Based on this estimate, installing weather cameras at all 15 airports would cost approximately \$202,500.

The next step is for the Aeronautics Commission to consider approving the amount of funding and prioritization of where to install these proposed cameras to enhance weather reporting and flight safety.

The Commission asked that the Department inquire about which airports would like to participate and provide a cost estimate to make a financial participation decision. Becker said he could have the requested information by the July 17, 2025 meeting.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Vice-chairman Rieber adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m. CT.