

# **SOUTH DAKOTA RAILROAD AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

## **September 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. CDT**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Cope, Chairman  
Jeff Burket, Vice-chairman  
Steve Scharnweber, Secretary

**MEMBERS PRESENT  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Jon Kirby

**DOT STAFF PRESENT:** Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Misty Siedschlaw, Perry Griffith,  
Kyle Weinman, and Kari Kroll

**DOT STAFF PRESENT  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Joel Jundt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Scott Van Den Top – D&I Railroad Co. (D&I); Bruce Lindholm – Grant Solutions; Ed Van Gerpen – Bon Homme County; Janet Wagner – Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail; Ron Wagner - Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail; Bob Foley - Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail; Jon Corey - Rapid City, Pierre & Easter Railroad (RCP&E); Dean Krogman - Rapid City, Pierre & Easter Railroad (RCP&E); Dan Kippley – Ellis & Eastern; Paul Hegg – Encore Park; Ralph Schmidt – Sisseton Millbank Railroad; Steve Coomes – WATCO; P.J. Forbes – WATCO, and Kley Cameron - WATCO

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Dick Huff; Alex Huff, Jerry Vest – RCP&E; John LeSuer – Slover & Loftus; and others

Chairman Jerry Cope called the meeting of the South Dakota State Railroad Authority (the “Authority”) to order at 11:00 a.m. CDT. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined.

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

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

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Cope asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2021 Authority meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Burket and seconded by Scharnweber to approve the June 16, 2021 Authority meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

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Cope opened the floor to public input.

Ed Van Gerpen of Bon Homme County shared with the Authority his opposition to the proposed Rail to Trail project being pursued on the state-owned Napa to Platte rail line.

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Cope asked for a motion for the Board to enter into executive session.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Scharnweber and seconded by Burket to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Executive session began at 11:12 a.m. CDT.

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Cope called the meeting back into session at 12:34 a.m. CDT. A quorum was determined, the same members were present (Cope, Burket, Kirby, and Scharnweber.)

Ron Wagner, Janet Wagner, Bob Foley, and Jon Corey, of the Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail organization, presented their proposal for a trail project on a portion of the state-owned Napa to Platte rail line.

Members of the Authority asked questions of the trail proponents, including inquiries about grant application submission timelines, public involvement and outreach, and likely conditions on use of the right of way. The Authority took no action. This matter will be on the October 2021 Authority meeting agenda for further discussion.

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With no other business to come before the Authority, Cope adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.