

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE RAILROAD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. CDT

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Jack Nelson, Vice-chairman
Steve Scharnweber
Scott Lockwood
Ralph Schmidt

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Shane Pullman, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Perry Griffith, Misty Siedschlaw, Katlyn Wieme, Jacob Howard, and Kari Kroll

OTHER PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Sally Currier – RWRR; Jeff Cooley – Civil Design Inc (CDI); Mike Kellar – Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. (RCPE); Dave Roberts – RCPE; Danny Dalton – RCPE; Chadd Thimesch - Ringneck & Western Railroad, LLC; Dan Bilka – All Aboard; and Alex Huff

Vice-chairman Jack Nelson called the meeting of the South Dakota State Railroad Board (the “Board”) to order at 11:00 a.m. CDT. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined.

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

Nelson asked for a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes from May 15, 2024.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Lockwood and seconded by Scharnweber to approve the Board meeting minutes from May 15, 2024. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Nelson opened the floor to public input.

No members of the public addressed the Board nor offered input.

Secretary Joel Jundt presented to the Board his Secretary's Report. He stated he had nothing significant to report other than the Congressional Appropriations Committee has noted there will be about a 6% cut in funding. Jundt pointed out this won't affect this year but may affect the FY25 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant and Special Transportation Circumstance (STC) grant funding.

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit presented for Board consideration a request to extend the authority to the administration fund (3042) through FY2025. In 2021, the Board and Governor Noem approved the transfer of \$540,000 from the trust fund (3044) to the administration fund (3042) to cover projected administrative operating expenses for the state fiscal years of FY2021 – FY2023. The administration fund (3042) has a current balance of \$247,000. The Department of Transportation (the "Department") requests to extend this expense authority to state FY2024 and FY2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Scharnweber and seconded by Schmidt to extend the authority to state FY2024 and FY2025 as recommended by the Department. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jack Dokken presented to the Board for their consideration the request for an adjustment to the 2021 STC grant to Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. (RCPE) for the replacement of seven structures in relation to the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with sustainability and Equality (RAISE) discretionary grant they were awarded by the US Department of Transportation.

Due to scour studies, a few of the structure project scopes needed to be changed, which necessitated increasing the cost by \$78,892. RCPE with a recommendation from the Department would require the 2021 STC grant award to go from \$800,000 to \$878,892 and also require modifications to the project's scope of work.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Lockwood and seconded by Scharnweber to approve the cost increase and scope modification to the 2021 STC grant award for the RCPE. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board, Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. CT.