

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. CT

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Bob Huggins, Chairman
Rolf Johnson, Vice-chairman
Dustin Coleman
David Howard
Kassidy Nelson

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Jack Dokken, Jon Becker, Tom Koch, Nancy Hiller, Brock Antijunti and Kari Kroll

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Mercer – KELOLand

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VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Brooke Edgar – Helms & Associates; Channing Wagner – Eagle Aviation;
and Ivan Venner – Hot Springs

Chairman Huggins called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 2:00 p.m. CDT. Roll call was taken. A quorum was determined.

Huggins 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.

Huggins asked for a motion to approve the September 18, 2025 Commission meeting minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to approve the September 18, 2025 Commission meeting minutes. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Huggins opened the floor to public comment.

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

Secretary Joel Jundt presented the following items as his Secretary's Report:

- He noted that this was Commissioner Cassidy Nelson's last meeting. Commissioner Nelson's term ends October 30, 2025 and he asked to not be reappointed. Secretary Jundt thanked him for his service to the Commission. Chairman Huggins also thanked him.
- Jundt informed the Commission there have been no developments on the status of the annual Federal appropriation bill and informed the Commission he expected another continuing resolution. Although the Federal Government is shut down, employees of the Federal Aviation Administration are considered "essential employees" which means they continue to work and provide reimbursements.

Jundt then presented for Commission information the current aeronautics funding. He stressed that the numbers are based on anticipated funds. According to the funding projections, the aeronautics fund will reach a peak at \$22 million in FY2032 before the fund starts to decrease. The reduction in funds beginning in FY2032 is due to an expected large runway replacement project.

Jundt addressed the Commission and asked for Commission approval of the proposed CY2026 Commission meeting dates.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Howard to approve the CY2026 proposed meeting dates. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jon Becker, Office of Air, Rail, & Transit, presented for the Commission's consideration the following Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications:

Aberdeen 3-46-0001-057-2025

VALE/AIP: Install pre-conditioned air unit on existing passenger boarding bridge.

Federal Share	\$ 251,750.00
State Share	\$ 0
Local Share	\$ 13,250.00
Total	\$ 265,000.00

Pine Ridge 3-46-0045-019-2025

IIJA: Procure self-powered blower attachment and power broom.

Federal Share	\$ 184,300.00
State Share	\$ 4,850.00
Local Share	\$ 4,850.00
Total	\$ 194,000.00

Sturgis 3-46-0054-024-2025

AIP: Construct parallel taxiway – 3,169 LF taxiway.

Federal Share	\$ 3,082,139.00
State Share	\$ 81,110.00
Local Share	\$ 81,109.00
Total	\$ 3,244,358.00

A MOTION WAS MADE by Nelson and seconded by Coleman to approve the Aberdeen, Pine Ridge, and Sturgis AIP and IIJA grant applications as presented. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Commissioner Coleman recused himself from the meeting.

Becker then presented for the Commission's consideration an AIP and IIJA project for the airport in Rapid City.

Rapid City 3-46-0048-067-2025

IIJA: Phase 2 TSA checkpoint, install mechanical and electrical equipment, Including architectural construction services.

Federal Share	\$ 5,557,859.00
State Share	\$ 0
Local Share	\$ 292,519.00
Total	\$ 5,850,378.00

Rapid City 3-46-0048-069-2025

AIP/ATP: Terminal renovation and expansion – construct ticketing and baggage area including architectural construction services. State participation is SB144 funds.

Federal Share	\$ 20,000,000.00
State Share	\$ 3,460,644.00
Local Share	\$ 1,052,632.00
Total	\$ 24,513,276.00

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Howard to approve the Rapid City AIP and IIJA grant applications as presented. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Coleman who abstained. The motion carried.

Becker presented a request for Commission approval of funds for the Black Hills Fly-in. Specifically, the City of Spearfish requested \$1000 in support of the 2025 Black Hills Fly-in held on September 11 – 14 at the Spearfish Airport.

Chandler Wagner of Eagle Aviation shared with the Commission the details of the 2025 event.

The Commission discussed adding criteria to funding requests for such events.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Nelson to defer action on this request until the next meeting. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Becker then presented to the Commission a request to clarify that the weather camera installation, including Spearfish, are paid at 75% state share and 25% local share rather than the exact dollar amount in the original discussion. The Spearfish installation was \$14,412.94 which was higher than the \$13,500 originally thought when the Commission first took action on the installations.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to clarify that weather camera installations are paid at 75% state share and 25% local share and not an exact dollar amount. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jundt asked for Commission guidance on creating criteria for fly-in funding requests. The Commission discussed what the criteria would look like and then discussed reconsidering the request from the City of Spearfish.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Howard and seconded by Coleman to approve the request from the City of Spearfish for \$1000 support for the 2025 Black Hills Fly-in event that happened in September 2025. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit presented to the Commission the 2025 Annual Aeronautics Report for the Governor. He shared that the report was created in the same fashion as the past report.

Chairman Huggins made a request to add two more pieces of information:

- *Wind turbine construction across South Dakota has increased substantially, with many structures now exceeding 600 feet above ground level. Under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 77 regulations, structures above 499 feet are considered potential obstructions to air navigation. Despite this, several 600-foot turbines have been approved near airports and flight paths. The FAA guidance requires that a Safety Risk Management Panel (SRMP) be conducted locally when there are objections to the structure being built. To the best of our knowledge, no*

SRMPs have been conducted for wind farms in South Dakota, even though turbines of this height could directly affect visual flight operations and radar coverage.

- *The Commission is now reviewing airport zoning regulations and FAA tall structure construction filings in greater detail. The Commission intends to provide formal comments on any proposed wind turbines exceeding 499 feet above ground level when such structures pose a potential threat to navigable airspace. In coordination with the FAA, the Commission also plans to participate in future SRMP processes to ensure that local aviation safety concerns are fully evaluated before project approval.*

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to approve the 2025 Annual Aeronautics Commission Report for the Governor as presented with the addition of the two items requested by Chairman Huggins. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. CT.