

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH DAKOTA CORRECTIONS COMMISSION
Remotely via Microsoft Teams
May 14, 2025
11:00AM – 12:00PM CT

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Helene Duhamel – Vice Chair
Mark Anderson
Sen. Red Dawn Foster
Rep. John Hughes
Judge Christina Klinger
David McGirr
Judge Jon Sogn
Rep. Kady Wittman

DOC STAFF PRESENT:

Kellie Wasko, Secretary of Corrections
Amber Pirraglia, Director of Prisons
Brittni Skipper, Director of Finance and Administration
René Stolsmark, Associate Director of Pheasantland Industries
Michael Winder, Public Information Officer
Carrie DeLange, Executive Assistant
Nicole Gednalske, Constituent Services Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynette Johnson, constituent, Sioux Falls, SD

WELCOME:

- Secretary Wasko welcomed all to the meeting. Attendance roll call was conducted and the quorum was met. All members were present.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

- Rep. John Hughes, District 13
- Sen. Red Dawn Foster, District 27
- Rep. Kady Wittman, District 15

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Secretary Wasko requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2024, was made by Duhamel and seconded by Sogn. A voice vote was conducted with no members opposing. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

SELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR:

- Anderson nominated Wittman for Commission Chair. There were no other nominations.
- Wittman was elected Commission Chair upon unanimous roll call vote.

SDDOC STATISTICAL REPORT OVERVIEW:

- Wasko provided a high-level overview of the 2024 statistical report. Encourages members to read the report as the information within answers many common questions.
- Hughes and Wittman commend the comprehensiveness of the report.
- Hughes acknowledged the role of judges in the system and inquired whether there is a mechanism for judges to request additional data.
- Wasko stated there is not but that the department has fulfilled requests for jurisdiction specific information in the past. Judges Sogn and Klinger concurred there is not a formal system but that the UJS and the DOC are responsive. Wasko explained that the department is open to working with the courts to produce other data that may be useful to judges.
- Commission discussed recidivism data as presented in the report.

PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- Associate Director Stolsmark provided a financial update reporting that PI all shops currently have positive operating income.
- Stolsmark reported Pierre Pups program at the South Dakota Women's Prison is no longer a PI run program as it is now a vocational program. Wasko added that Pierre Pups has also transitioned from a dog daycare to a dog training program in partnership with local animal rescues. A similar program has already been established at Mike Durfee State Prison and there are plans to expand into other facilities.
- Stolsmark reported the commissary shop continues to be profitable and the partnership with Union Supply has been positive.
- Stolsmark expressed her primary goal since being hired as the Associate Director of PI in November 2024 is to grow the business. Reports she and her team have strong support behind them and she looks forward to bringing new ideas and opportunities for growth.

LEGISLATION DISCUSSION:

- Wasko explained she does not anticipate seeing the full impact of SB 146 (2023) to be felt until 2028 or 2029. Current facility overcrowding is ongoing issue.
- Wasko explained that impacts of SB 59 (2025) will be more operational in nature.
- Wittman inquired about unintended consequences of SB 9 (2024). Wasko explained the Board of Pardons and Paroles still maintains authority to grant, deny, or continue clemency hearings.
- Wittman inquired about the possibility of expungements due to the passage of SB 83. Wasko stated she is unaware of any retroactive impacts of SB 83.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Lynette Johnson inquired whether the Project Prison Reset task force members have the data provided in the statistical report.
- Wasko confirmed that all task force members have the report.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

- A date of Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM CT was decided upon by commission members.

ADJOURN:

- Secretary Wasko requested a motion to adjourn. A motion for adjournment was made by Wittman and seconded by Anderson. The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM CT.