

South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC)

Board Meeting

Minutes

August 5, 2025

4712 Technopolis Drive, Sioux Falls, SD

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

II. Call to Order

SDCGA President Jim Ketelhut called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

III. Members Present:

Nick Fickbohm

Doug Noem

Chris Nickeson

Jay Esser

Reno Brueggeman

Chad Blindauer

Jim Ketelhut

Members Absent:

Brandon Ritter

Others Present:

DaNita Murray

Amanda Bechen

Jenny Fargen

Gerry Heuer

Patrick Mahoney

Joshua Haiar, Reporter, South Dakota Searchlight

IV. Agenda Approval

President Ketelhut indicated Item VI on the original agenda relating to financial statements will not be presented by Michael Schelling, CPA and Item X will be replaced by discussion on NCGA priorities, as Jim Seurer, CEO, Glacial Lakes Energy was not able not attend meeting. A motion was made by Doug Noem, seconded by Chris Nickeson to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Reno Brueggeman, seconded by Jay Esser and carried to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes as presented.

VI. Approval of Financials

Michael Schelling, CPA was unable to attend meeting; thus financial reports will be presented at a future date.

VII. Staff Updates

DaNita – reported the Midwest Ag Export Summit will be held in Sioux Falls on August 13, 2025. US Grains Council will be hosting a foreign delegation in South Dakota October 22-25, 2025 and is looking for a host for a farm tour.

Amanda – reported on the Corn Cob Open, held yesterday at Madison Country Club, was successful with 144 golfers and 36 teams. The 40th annual Corn Conference is scheduled for January 17th, 2026. Any ideas are welcome for theme or potential speakers. SD Pork, SD Soybean and SD Corn are jointly hosting a tailgate event at the SD State football game September 27, 2025.

Patrick – Charles Bailley, CPA's will be conducting the annual audit for SDCUC the week of August 18th.

VIII. South Dakota Corn Agriculture Law Paper Presentations

Rodney Axson, who placed third in the competition, presented his paper on "Foreign Land Holdings and the False Representation of Chinese Owned Land".

Second place finisher, Jake Frier, presented his paper on "When Grain in the Bin Isn't Money in the Bank"

IX. Nate Franzén, President Ag Banking, First Dakota National Bank

Mr. Franzén gave a presentation on the current state of the ag economy, where it has been, where he thinks it is headed, and what it will take to make a successful profitable operation today.

X. NCGA Priorities

DaNita handed out a summary of 23 NCGA program priorities, wanting input on future emphasis. It was consensus that "Com Reputation" should not be included in the top 10. After discussion, the following were ranked as the top five:

1. Ethanol Engagement, Research, and Promotion
2. Biofuels Public Policy
3. Sustainable Aviation Fuel
4. New Uses and Products
5. Tax Policy

XI. SD Corn Endowed Dean Joseph Cassady, SDSU

Dr. Cassady was accompanied by and introduced Dr. Rosie Nold, head of the Ag Leadership Program and Dr. Karen Sanguinet, Department Head of Agronomy. He discussed the evolving Ag Leadership Program and gave an update on the proposed pork facilities expansion, which SD Corn is helping fund.

XII. Flynn Wright

Laura Arnett and Mel Peterson gave a presentation on the FY 2025 objectives and recapped the results of various campaigns throughout the year, with a highlight being the Unleaded 88 promotion with Quick Star.

Board Recess

A motion was made at 12:30 PM by Reno Brueggeman, seconded by Chris Neckeson to recess the meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Reno Brueggeman at 2:38 PM, seconded by Nick Fickbohm, to go back into session. Motion carried.

XIII. Other Business

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MOU between SD Corn Utilization Council and SD Corn Growers Association was reviewed. After discussion of current rent in the Sioux Falls market, a motion was made by Reno Brueggeman, seconded by Jay Esser to approve the MOU, including the rent increasing to \$74,175.

XIV. Executive Session

No Executive Session

XV. Public Comment

No public comments.

XVI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chad Blindauer, seconded by Chris Nickeson to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerry Heuer, Recording Secretary

Chris Nickeson, Secretary/Treasurer