

SOUTH DAKOTA RAILROAD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. CDT via conference call
BECKER-HANSEN BUILDING / DOT COMMISSION ROOM
700 EAST BROADWAY AVENUE, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

MEMBERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Jerry Cope, Chairman
Jeff Burket, Vice-chairman
Greg Carmon (joined at 11:02 a.m.)
Jon Kirby
Jack Nelson
Steve Scharnweber, Secretary

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Misty Siedschlaw, Perry Griffith, Kyle Weinman, and Kari Kroll

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Alex Huff and Robert Foley – Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail

Chairman Jerry Cope 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.

Cope 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) chapters 3 – 23.

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

Greg Carmon joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, reminded the Board about the obligation to file annual conflict of interest disclosures. She noted that any disclosures received would be shared at the September meeting.

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

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

Cope opened the floor to public input.

Robert Foley addressed the Board about the *Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rails to Trail*, a non-profit group. Foley shared with the Board the group's intent to become the trail sponsor for a portion of the railbanked railroad on the Napa-Platte Rail Line. The group hopes to submit a grant application for \$2 million in federal grant funding to convert the line to a trail. The application is due in January 2022.

Secretary Jundt requested department staff be prepared to present information at the Board's September meeting about the process the Board must follow in connection with this proposed trail project.

Secretary Jundt presented the following items to the Board in the Secretary's Report:

- The Department of Transportation (the "Department") has completed and submitted the application for the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for \$84 million for Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E) as approved at the June 2021 Board meeting.
- Update on the current status of the proposed federal reauthorization bill and the federal appropriations bill.
- Although the *Notice of Funding Opportunity* has not been announced, Jundt requested that the Board provide entities the opportunity to present their application requests for the Consolidated Railroad Infrastructure and Safety (CRISI) grants and the Special Circumstance Transportation (STC) grants at the September Board meeting. The Board would then decide which projects to approve submission of application(s) at their October meeting. Chairman Cope asked the Department to be prepared for this discussion in September.

Kellie Beck, Director of the Division of Finance & Management, presented for Board consideration an excess property sale in Tyndall. Beck explained that the Board had previously authorized the sale of leased property #1594 and #1627 in Tyndall to the lessee, Coop Farmers, Inc. Coop Farmers has sold its assets to Central Farmers Cooperative and the request is for approval of the sale to Central Farmers Cooperative, instead of Coop Farmers, Inc.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Kirby and seconded by Nelson to authorize the Secretary of the Department or his designee to execute all documents necessary to sell the leased property #1594 and #1627 in Tyndall to Central Farmers Cooperative, including any assignment of the existing lease. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

With no other business to come before the Board, Cope adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m. CDT