

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 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
Court Ecklund

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ivan Venner

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Kellie Beck, Karla Engle, Jack Dokken, Jon Becker, Tom Koch, Nancy Hiller, and Kari Kroll

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Brooke Edgar – Helms & Associates; Charlie Baker – KLJ; and Waylon Huber – Bowdle Municipal Airport

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.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, presented new conflicts of interest waiver requests for consideration by the Commission for the two new commissioners.

First, Engle presented the waiver request from Commissioner Ivan Venner related to his employment as the airport manager for the City of Hot Springs. Venner plans to recuse himself from discussion and vote on matters related to the Hot Springs Airport. A copy of the waiver is included in these minutes as **ATTACHMENT A**.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Johnson that the matters disclosed in the written waiver request by Commissioner Venner are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Venner, who abstained. The motion carried.

Next, Engle presented two waiver requests from Commissioner Court Ecklund related to his hangar lease at Lincoln County Airport as well as his employment at Henry Carlson Construction, which occasionally enters into contracts with the Department of Transportation (the “Department”), and

various airports for construction projects as the general contractor. He also noted that ASCO/Dakota Seal are paving contractors that are affiliate companies of Henry Carlson Construction that perform similar work for the Department and various airports as paving and seal-coating subcontractors. Ecklund plans to recuse himself from discussion and vote on matters related to the Lincoln County Airport and on projects awarded to Henry Carlson Construction and its affiliates. Copies of the waiver requests from Commissioner Ecklund are included in these minutes as **ATTACHMENT B**.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman that the matters disclosed in the written waiver request by Commissioner Ecklund regarding his hangar are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Ecklund, who abstained. The motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Venner that the matters disclosed in the written waiver request by Commissioner Ecklund regarding his employment are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Ecklund, who abstained. The motion carried.

No other members of the Commission disclosed a conflict or requested a waiver.

Huggins opened the floor to nominations for the election of officers.

Huggins turned the gavel over to Vice-chairman Rolf Johnson for the election of the Chair.

Rolf Johnson nominated Bob Huggins as Chair of the Commission. There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken on the election of Huggins as Chair. All present voted aye by roll call vote, except Huggins who abstained. Huggins was elected Chair.

Huggins asked for nominations for Vice-chair.

Dustin Coleman nominated Rolf Johnson as Vice-chair of the Commission. There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken on the election of Johnson as Vice-chair. All present voted aye by roll call vote, except Johnson who abstained. Johnson was elected Vice-chair.

Huggins asked for a motion to approve the October 16, 2025, Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Dustin Coleman noted a typo on page 4 when referring to Jack Dokken's title as program manager. Chairman Huggins asked a "0" be added to the Aberdeen project financing breakdown on page 2 instead of leaving the space blank to stay consistent.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Venner to approve the October 16, 2025, Commission meeting minutes with edits. 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.

Kellie Beck, Director of Finance & Management, shared that there was nothing to report in the Secretary's Report per Secretary Joel Jundt.

Nancy Hiller, Office of Air, Rail, & Transit, presented for the Commission's consideration the following state share funding increases on Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant projects:

Wessington Springs Municipal Airport AIP #3-46-0080-17-2023

Reconfigure Taxiway A (540'x35') - Phase 3: Electrical Relocation; and Phase 4: Construction Engineering and Administration

The federal grant amount amendment was approved to cover the increase of Geogrid and Aggregate base course as almost the entire hangar taxilane showed excessive stability issues due to the high-water table. The quantity for seeding, fertilizing, and mulching was increased to provide positive drainage. The state share needs to be amended accordingly.

| | Federal (90%) | State (5%) |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Final project | \$242,136.81 | \$13,452.05 |
| Original grant | \$223,000.00 | \$12,389.00 |
| Change | \$19,136.81 | \$1,063.05 |

Pierre Regional Airport AIP #3-46-0044-49-2023

Procurement of a Replacement Index B 1,500 Gallon Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Vehicle

The federal grant amount amendment was approved to cover supplemental equipment that was bid with the project, but no bids were received. The equipment was procured by soliciting quotes separate from the ARFF truck. Equipment included external defibrillator, thermal camera, medical kit, and miscellaneous standard equipment. The state share needs to be amended accordingly.

| | Federal (90%) | State (5%) |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Final project | \$919,806.39 | \$51,100.36 |
| Original grant | \$904,500.00 | \$50,250.00 |
| Change | \$15,306.39 | \$850.36 |

Canton Municipal Airport AIP #3-46-0007-17-2024

Construct taxiway (380' x 25') - Phase 2: Construction and Engineering Services

The federal grant amount amendment was approved to cover drainage improvements to a small area on the east edge of the project limits which was discovered after bid opening. The state share needs to be amended accordingly.

| | Federal (90%) | State (5%) |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Final project | \$219,800.10 | \$12,211.12 |
| Original grant | \$216,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Change | \$3,800.10 | \$211.12 |

Belle Fourche Municipal Airport AIP #3-46-0072-19-2023

Phase 3 Construction -Hangar area drainage improvements to relocate existing electrical cables servicing airport beacon, windcone and Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS);
Installation of a taxiway vehicle access with electrical gate

The federal grant amount amendment was approved to cover electrical utility relocation cost increases. The state share needs to be amended accordingly.

| | Federal (90%) | State (5%) |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Final project | \$275,832.72 | \$15,324.04 |
| Original grant | \$272,000.00 | \$15,111.00 |
| Change | \$3,832.72 | \$213.04 |

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit confirmed that none of the projects were completed by Henry Carlson Construction or its affiliates.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Howard and seconded by Coleman to approve the state share funding for the projects in Wessington Springs, Pierre, Canton, and Belle Fourche. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Hiller then presented three fuel tax fund requests for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Venner recused himself from the meeting at 2:26 p.m. due to a disclosed conflict of interest regarding the Hot Springs Airport request.

Hiller presented the request from Hot Springs Airport for \$1400 to be used on the local share cost of the 2024 Pavement Maintenance project.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to approve the request from Hot Springs Airport for \$1400 of its fuel tax funds. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Venner who abstained. The motion carried.

Venner rejoined the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Hiller then presented fuel tax fund requests from Mitchell and Miller Airports. Mitchell Airport requested \$4000 to be used on the local share cost of the 2024 Pavement Maintenance project. Miller Airport requested \$640.66 to cover the cost of light bulbs purchased for the runway.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Howard to approve the fuel tax fund requests for the Mitchell and Miller Airports. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Tom Koch from the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit presented for Commission consideration a list of 68 airports for CY2026 State airport certification subject to some restrictions as set forth in the list attached to these minutes as **ATTACHMENT C**.

Koch also noted that the Howard Municipal Airport is not included in this list due to trees penetrating the minimum 20:1 approach airspace. Hence, the airport is not meeting South Dakota minimum requirements for public use airports. Contingent upon trimming the trees to bring the airport to minimum State requirements, the Department recommends approval for public use with the restriction of daylight use only.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Venner to approve the Howard Municipal Airport for public use with the restriction of daylight use only contingent upon the trimming of the trees to meet South Dakota minimum 20:1 approach requirement. All present vote aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Coleman to approve the certification of the 68 airports listed in ATTACHMENT C with any restrictions as recommended by the Department. All present vote aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Koch then presented for the Commission's consideration a request from Bowdle Municipal Airport to change operation status to a public use airport from its current private use status. On October 14, 2025, the Department staff inspected the airport and determined the airport met the State and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for public use.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Venner and seconded by Ecklund to approve the change of operation status for the Bowdle Municipal Airport to public use. All present vote aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m. CT.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR STATE BOARD WAIVER
PURSUANT TO SDCL 3-23-3

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Date: 11/07/25

Name of Board Member or Former Board Member: Ivan Venner

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: Aeronautics Commission

Brief explanation of contract for which a waiver is requested:

a) Parties to the contract

I am an employee as the airport manager for the City of Hot Springs.

b) Board Member's role in the contract

I will formally abstain from voting, making motion or any proposal that would directly benefit the City of Hot Springs.

c) Purpose and objective of the contract

The City of Hot Springs receives Federal and State grant funding for the city airport by approval from the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

d) Consideration or benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party.

As an employee of the City of Hot Springs, I would stand to benefit by participating in the vote, making any motion or proposal for funding.

e) Duration of the contract

I will formally abstain from voting, making any motion or proposal that would directly benefit the City of Hot Springs for the duration of my appointment on the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission.

Signature of Requesting Party:  Date 11/07/2025

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR STATE BOARD WAIVER
PURSUANT TO SDCL 3-23-3

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Date: 11/19/2025

Name of Board Member or Former Board Member: Courtney Ecklund

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: Aeronautics Commission

Brief explanation of contract for which a waiver is requested:

a) Parties to the contract

I lease space in a privately owned hangar from an individual who owns the hangar and, to my knowledge, holds a land-lease with the Lincoln County Airport.

b) Board Member's role in the contract

Lessee, on a month-to-month basis of hangar space for storage of an airplane.

c) Purpose and objective of the contract

Aircraft storage

d) Consideration or benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party

Lincoln County Airport receives State and Federal funding that would be subject to review and approval by the SDAC.

e) Duration of the contract

Ongoing

Signature of Requesting Party: 

Date 11/19/25

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR STATE BOARD WAIVER
PURSUANT TO SDCL 3-23-3

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Date: 11/19/2025

Name of Board Member or Former Board Member: Courtney Ecklund

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: Aeronautics Commission

Brief explanation of contract for which a waiver is requested:

a) Parties to the contract

Henry Carlson Construction/ASCO/Dakota Seal and SDDOT/Various airports.

b) Board Member's role in the contract

Employee of a potential General contractor/paving contractor on airport projects.

c) Purpose and objective of the contract

Performing General Contractor/Construction services.

d) Consideration or benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party

Henry Carlson Construction is a General Contracting firm that occasionally enters into contracts with the SDDOT/various airports for Construction projects. ASCO/Dakota Seal are paving contractors that are affiliate companies of Henry Carlson Construction that similarly perform work on for SDDOT/various airports as a paving/seal-coating subcontractor.

e) Duration of the contract

Ongoing

Signature of Requesting Party: 

Date 11/19/25



Division of Finance & Management
 Office of Air, Rail & Transit
 700 East Broadway Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501
 O: 605.773-3574 | dot.sd.gov

SDDOT recommends Aeronautic Commission approval to operate the following airports as public use airports for CY2026 with the restrictions as noted.

| <u>AIRPORT</u> | <u>RESTRICTION</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Aberdeen Regional Airport | None |
| 2 Arlington Municipal Airport | None |
| 3 Belle Fourche Municipal Airport | None |
| 4 Bison Municipal Airport | None |
| 5 Britton Municipal Airport | None |
| 6 Brookings Municipal Airport | None |
| 7 Buffalo - Harding County Airport | None |
| 8 Canton Municipal Airport | None |
| 9 Chamberlain Municipal Airport | None |
| 10 Clark County Airport | None |
| 11 Corsica Municipal Airport | None |
| 12 Custer County Airport | None |
| 13 DeSmet - Wilder Field | None |
| 14 Cheyenne Eagle Butte Airport | None |
| 15 Edgemont Municipal Airport | None |
| 16 Eureka Municipal Airport | None |
| 17 Faith Municipal Airport | None |
| 18 Faulkton Municipal Airport | None |
| 19 Flandreau Municipal Airport | None |
| 20 Gettysburg Municipal Airport | None |
| 21 Gregory Municipal Airport (Flynn Field) | None |
| 22 Groton Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 23 Herreid Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 24 Highmore Municipal Airport | None |
| 25 Hot Springs Municipal Airport | None |
| 26 Hoven Municipal Airport | None |
| 27 Huron Regional Airport | None |
| 28 Isabel Municipal Airport | None |
| 29 Kadoka Municipal Airport | None |
| 30 Kimball Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 31 Lake Andes Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 32 Lake Cochrane Seaplane Port | Daylight Use Only |
| 33 Lemmon Municipal Airport | None |
| 34 Madison Municipal Airport | None |
| 35 Martin Municipal Airport | None |
| 36 McLaughlin Municipal Airport | None |

ATTACHMENT C

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 37 | Milbank Municipal Airport | None |
| 38 | Miller Municipal Airport | None |
| 39 | Mitchell Municipal Airport | None |
| 40 | Mobridge Municipal Airport | None |
| 41 | Murdo Municipal Airport | None |
| 42 | Onida Municipal Airport | None |
| 43 | North Sioux City – Graham Field | None |
| 44 | Parkston Municipal Airport | None |
| 45 | Philip Municipal Airport | None |
| 46 | Pierre Regional Airport | None |
| 47 | Pine Ridge - Oglala Sioux Airport | None |
| 48 | Platte Municipal Airport | None |
| 49 | Presho Municipal Airport | None |
| 50 | Rapid City Regional Airport | None |
| 51 | Redfield Municipal Airport | None |
| 52 | Rosebud Sioux Tribal Airport | None |
| 53 | Sioux Falls - Joe Foss Field | None |
| 54 | Sisseton Municipal Airport | None |
| 55 | Spearfish - Black Hills/Clyde Ice Field | None |
| 56 | Springfield Municipal Airport | None |
| 57 | Sturgis Municipal Airport | None |
| 58 | Tea - Marv Skie/Great Planes Airport | None |
| 59 | Timber Lake Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 60 | Vermillion - Harold Davidson Field | None |
| 61 | Wagner Municipal Airport | None |
| 62 | Wall Municipal Airport | None |
| 63 | Watertown Municipal Airport | None |
| 64 | Webster - Sigurd Anderson Airport | None |
| 65 | Wessington Springs Municipal Airport | None |
| 66 | White River Municipal Airport | Daylight Use Only |
| 67 | Winner - Bob Wiley Field | None |
| 68 | Yankton - Chan Gurney Municipal Airport | None |