# SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

## Thursday, November 19, 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
Court Ecklund
Mike Ginther
David Howard
Ivan Venner

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

**DOT STAFF PRESENT**
**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Dustin DeBoer – Office of Legal Counsel

**OTHERS PRESENT**
**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Brooke Edgar – Helms & Associates;

DRAFT

Chairman Huggins called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the "Commission") to order at 2:00 p.m. CT. 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 conflict of interest waiver request for consideration by the Commission for Commissioner Mike Ginther.

Engle presented the waiver request submitted by Commissioner Ginther reporting the employment of himself and his spouse, Siblut Ginther, as the airport manager for the City of Lemmon. He also reported that he and his spouse have a fixed base operation at the Lemmon airport. Ginther plans to recuse himself from discussion and vote on matters related to the Lemmon Airport. A copy of the waiver is included in these minutes as **ATTACHMENT A.**

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Ecklund that the matters disclosed in the written waiver request from Commissioner Ginther are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Ginther, 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 annual election of officers.

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

Coleman nominated Bob Huggins as Chair of the Commission and Howard seconded. 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.

Venner nominated Rolf Johnson as Vice-chair of the Commission and Ecklund seconded. 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 15, 2025, Commission meeting minutes.

Chairman Huggins noted that on the last page, the second to last paragraph should be revised to refer to Commissioner Mike Ginther, rather than Commission. Coleman observed that the Watertown airport funding total on page two was in error. Engle informed the Commission that Dustin Coleman noted a typo on page 2 and it should read as follows:

**Watertown 3-46-0058-050-2026**
**AIP/VALE:** Parking lot structure**.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Federal Share | $ 1,548,968 |
| State Share | $ 0 |
| Local Share | $ 77,448 |
| Total | $ 1,626,416 |

A MOTION WAS MADE by Ginther and seconded by Ecklund to approve October 15, 2025 Commission meeting minutes with edits. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

*****

Huggins opened the floor to public comment.

DRAFT

Commissioner Ivan Venner addressed the Commission asking for an update on the Administrative Rules regarding the issuance of Certificates of Approval for temporary airport, expressing concerns that the current language should be reviewed to prevent unintended consequences. Commissioner Venner also inquired about the status of airports protecting Part 77 surfaces in compliance with Title 50. Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, & Transit, provided a brief update on the status of the work with local airports addressing zoning plans. Karla Engle provided a summary of the steps that will need to be taken in order to amend any Administrative Rules and that a plan is in place to address and propose changes to the Rules to address any current shortcomings.

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

*****

Kari Kroll, Office of the Secretary, presented to the Commission for their approval the proposed meeting dates for the 2027 calendar year.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Johnson and seconded by Ginther to approve the 2027 Commission meeting dates as proposed. All presented voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

*****

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail, & Transit, presented for the Commission's information the location of the next airport weather camera installations planned for 2027. The airports requesting cameras are Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Wall, and Winner.

*****

Tom Koch from the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit presented for Commission consideration a list of 70 airports for CY2027 State airport certification subject to some restrictions.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Ecklund and seconded by Venner to approve the certification of the 70 airports listed with any restrictions as recommended as presented by the Department. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

*****

Chairman Huggins asked the following three items be added to the December agenda:

1. South Dakota Pilots Association registration decal concerns
2. Request from the Chamber of Commers regarding Air Guard support
3. Comments regarding the tall structure affecting the Watertown Regional Airport

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m. CT.

DRAFT

**ATTACHMENT A**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

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

**THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Date: 11/10/2026

Name of Board Member or Former Board Member: Michael P Ginther

Name of Board, Authority, or Commission: Aeronautics Commission

Brief explanation of contract for which a waiver is requested:

a) Parties to the contract

Michael P Ginther, Siblut Ginther

b) Board Member's role in the contract

Voting member of South Dakota Aeronautics commission And Lemmon Airport manager and fixed base owner on the Lemmon municipal airport.

c) Purpose and objective of the contract

To avoid conflict of interest when the commission acts on policy directly related to Lemmon Municipal Airport

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

To insure no conflict of interest when participating in actions of the Aeronautics Commission

e) Duration of the contract

For duration of seat held on the commission

Signature of Requesting Party: Michael P Ginther Date 11-10-26

Date 11-10-26