

# **South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC)**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

SD Corn Office: 4712 S Technopolis Dr., Sioux Falls, SD

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

### **II. Call to Order**

President Ketelhut called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

### **III. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Jim Ketelhut, Chad Blindauer, Doug Noem, Brandon Ritter, Jay Esser, Nicholas Fickbohm, Chris Nickeson

**Members Absent:** Reno Brueggeman

**Others Present:** DaNita Murray, Michael Schelling, CPA (Dakota CPA), Patrick Mahoney, Jenny Fargen, Amanda Bechen, Chris Lent (Woods Fuller), Taya Runyan (RHP Management)

### **IV. Agenda Approval**

A motion was made by Chad Blindauer, seconded by Doug Noem, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jay Esser, seconded by Nick Fickbohm, to approve the minutes of February 26, 2025, and April 15, 2025. Motion carried.

### **VI. Approval of Financial Statements**

Michael Schelling, CPA, Dakota CPA, presented the Statements of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances, Balance Sheet and Forecasted Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance as of March 31, 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter). After further review and discussion, a motion was made by Nick Fickbohm, seconded by Brandon Ritter, to approve the financial statements. Motion carried.

### **VII. Taya Runyan, RHP Management**

Gave an update on joint activities, such as trade promotion on corn value-added products and discussed joint educational opportunities.

### **VIII. Staff Updates**

**DaNita:** Provided the annual required information from the SD AG office regarding SD Codified law 1-25-2.

**Patrick:** Eide Bailly sent engagement letter for FY25 audit for Jim Ketelhut's signature; need signatures from Jim, Jay, and Chris to be signers on First Interstate Bank account

**Amanda:** gave an update on data from Unleaded 88 Day promotion.

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#### **IX. Trip approvals**

The following trip approval was approved unanimously via a motion by Doug Noem, second by Brandon Ritter for NCGA Action Team Meetings and Corn Congress, Washington D.C.: Jim Ketelhut, Chad Blindauer, Reno Brueggeman, Chris Nickeson.

The following trip approval was approved unanimously via a motion by Chad Blindauer, second by Jay Esser for US Grains Council summer meeting, Grand Rapids, MI: Taylor Sumption (SDCGA).

There is a US Grains Council trip to Panama in February 2025.

#### **X. FY26 Budget**

The budget for FY 2026 was reviewed. After informal amendments, a \$6,358,342 budget for FY26 was approved unanimously. The first motion to approve was made by Chad Blindauer, seconded by Doug Noem. The overall budget approved includes \$888,052 for research proposals, with some funding potentially subject to further information requests.

- XI.** There was a separate discussion to approve funding for year 3 of 3 (FY25) for the Dakota Lakes Research Farm. A motion was made by Chad Blindauer, seconded by Chris Nickeson to approve the funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **XII. Chris Lent, Woods Fuller and Chris Peterson, RHP Management**

Chris Lent discussed his progress on researching SD authority to create a new entity to fund projects dedicated towards increasing South Dakota corn grind and demand for SD corn. He also discussed the risk levels for various types of sponsorships and an analysis to determine how to categorize and manage that risk.

Chris Peterson discussed the checkoff process and noted that the Council makes significant amounts of financial information available. He also noted that the state is created a new ERP system for the checkoff.

#### **XIII. Other Business**

Not applicable

#### **XIV. Public Comment (none)**

#### **XV. Executive Session (not needed)**

#### **XVI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 pm via a motion by Brandon Ritter, second by Chad Blindauer. Motion approved.

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Patrick Mahoney, Recording Secretary**

**Chris Nickeson, Secretary/Treasurer**