

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH DAKOTA CORRECTIONS COMMISSION
Remotely via Microsoft Teams
October 1, 2025
11:00AM – 12:30PM CT

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wittman at 11:04 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Kady Wittman – Chair
Sen. Helene Duhamel – Vice Chair
Mark Anderson
Rep. John Hughes
Judge Christina Klinger
Judge Jon Sogn

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sen. Red Dawn Foster
David McGirr

DOC STAFF PRESENT:

Brent Fluke, Deputy Secretary of Corrections
Amber Pirraglia, Director of Prisons
Brittini Skipper, Director of Finance and Administration
René Stolsmark, Associate Director of Pheasantland Industries
Michael Winder, Public Information Officer
Nicole Gednalske, Constituent Services Coordinator
Angela Smith, Associate Director of Education and Programs
Carrie DeLange, Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynette Johnson, constituent, Sioux Falls, SD
Beth Warden, media, Sioux Falls, SD
John Hult, media, Sioux Falls, SD

WELCOME:

- Chair Wittman welcomed all to the meeting and attendance roll call was conducted. The quorum was not met at the start of the meeting. Since the agenda did not require any major actions to be taken, Chair Wittman opted to proceed with the meeting.

REVIEW OF OPEN MEETING LAWS:

- Chair Wittman confirms all members have been provided the most recent version of the state's open meeting laws guide. No questions were raised.

PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- Associate Director Stolsmark provided a financial update reporting that all shops currently have positive operating income.
- Stolsmark emphasized her focus on helping shop supervisors view themselves as business managers rather than just foremen and highlighted recent improvements including updated marketing techniques and a more professional showroom for clients.
- Rep. Hughes inquired about the commissary shop and the reason for the transition to Union Supply, also expressing interest in more local sourcing. Stolsmark explained the primary goal of bringing the commissary in-house was to create more offender jobs with transferable skills, noting the warehouse operates similarly to Amazon.
- Chair Wittman asked about whether a price comparison was done between Union Supply and the former vendor. Director Skipper states it was shared with the commission at the time of transition, but it could be shared again.

PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES REBRAND:

- Stolsmark reviewed the desire to rebrand PI to help market a renewed commitment to the mission of prison industries.
- Stolsmark indicated a long-term goal of PI is the development of a reentry certificate program to highlight industry skills, including forklift and pallet jack operation.

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP:

- Angela Smith provided an overview of the STC Welding Program, noting that 10 minimum-custody, gate-pass eligible offenders are currently enrolled in the 7th cohort. Since August 2022, 66 students have completed the program, with 84% remaining employed one year post-graduation. Tuition has been funded through the SD Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) with Upskill and QUEST grants.
- Smith reported on current program funding efforts, explaining that STC submitted Prison Education Program (PEP) applications for the welding program and the new diesel technology program to pursue Pell funding. Funding approvals are expected within 12 months, with full Pell eligibility anticipated by October 2026.
- Smith provided an update on the diesel tech program, which received a \$1.5 million Future Fund grant for equipment purchases. The DOC has identified on-site space and is preparing infrastructure and participant selection. STC is engaging industry partners and planning staffing, with program launch anticipated within 12–18 months, ideally aligning with PEP approval.
- Mark Anderson questions how incarcerated women could be afforded similar opportunities. Smith explains that these discussions are happening, but space and logistics are limiting factors.

MEETING FREQUENCY DISCUSSION:

- Chair Wittman expressed desire to meet more often. Members discussed possibility of quarterly meetings. Chair Wittman stated that she plans to set another meeting in 2025. A scheduling poll will be sent to all members to determine the date and time of the next meeting.
- Anderson concurred with desire to meet more often. Recalled in the past, the meetings were more frequent, in-person, and sometimes included tours of the correctional facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Lynette Johnson feels more legislators should have an interest in the correction commission meetings beyond just the members. Concurs with Wittman that the commission should meet more often.
- Lynette Johnson expresses concern with the rebranding of Pheasantland Industries as she feels PI has a good reputation and does not need changed.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING:

- The next meeting was not scheduled.

CONFIRMING OF QUORUM:

- Attendance roll call was conducted for a second time. The quorum was met.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Chair Wittman requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from May 2025, was made by Anderson and seconded by Wittman. A voice vote was conducted with no members opposing. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

ADJOURN:

- Chair Wittman requested a motion to adjourn. A motion for adjournment was made by Anderson and seconded by Wittman. The meeting adjourned at 12:30PM CT.