

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
ARC Conference Room, Archaeological Research Center
Rapid City, South Dakota
July 12, 2024**

Call to Order:

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Tom Hurlbert in the Conference Room of the Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

Board members present in the ARC Conference Room:

Tom Hurlbert, Francis Whitebird, William Pearson, Robert Kolbe, John Fowler, Brian Sandvig, and David Grettler

Board members present via TEAMS Conference Call:

David Patterson

Board members absent:

Michelle Dennis, Lura Roti, Jon Lauck

State Historical Society Staff Present:

Benjamin Jones, Cassie Vogt, Megan Ostrenga, David Grabitske

State Historical Society Staff Present via TEAMS Conference Call:

Jamie Hageman, Chelle Somsen, Dedra Birzer, Catherine Forsch (Foundation)

Others Present via TEAMS Conference Call:

SDPB, Kevin Kuchenbecker, Bob Mercer

Welcome and Announcements:

President Tom Hurlbert led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a welcome to the members of the board, staff of the Historical Society and guests.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Sandvig to adopt the agenda as presented; Kolbe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes:

The April 4, 2023, minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were mailed and posted digitally for board members before the meeting. **Sandvig made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments, Pearson seconded motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1):

There was none.

Election of Officers: Board President and Vice President

Pearson nominated Tom Hurlbert as President. Sandvig Seconded the nomination. After Discussion, Trustees agreed to nominate current Officers; Tom Hurlbert as President and John Fowler as Vice President for an additional term. A vote was held to **elect Tom Hurlbert as President and John Fowler as Vice president.** The motion carried unanimously.

Reports (No Action Needed):

- **Administration: Benjamin Jones, State Historian and State Historical Society Director**
Jones reported on the Spotted Tail-Newell donation, 2025 History Conference combined with West River History, the History and Civics Summit, staff updates, History 605 and America 250. Jones highlighted the National America 250 convening.
- **Archaeology: Cassie Vogt, State Archaeologist**
Vogt reported on research, GIS requests, NAGPRA and Burial Activities, Grants, Outreach, Repository and Archives, Mining Reviews and State Land Permits, staffing and the Plains Anthropological Conference. Vogt highlighted the flooding east river, permit reviews, and approvals.
- **Archives: Chelle Somsen, State Archivist**
Somsen reported on digitization projects, outreach, Archives month, personnel, and quarterly statistics. Somsen highlighted processing collections, outreach, and staff updates.
- **Historical Society Foundation: Catherine Forsch, CEO**
Forsch reported on the Capital Campaign, the Chehupa Winter Count restoration, Press Publications, Adopt a Collection in the State Archives, Gifts, and Upcoming Meetings/Events. Forsch highlighted the History conference. Forsch highlighted staff updates.
- **Museum: David Grabitske, Assistant Society Director**
Grabitske reported exhibitions, collections, and interpretation. Grabitske highlighted the renovation. Grabitske highlighted the Spotted Tail donation artifacts, the Chehupa Winter count conservation, and the loan of the horse effigy.

- **Preservation: Benjamin Jones, Interim State Historic Preservation Officer & Director of Historic Preservation**
Jones reported on staff updates, National Register and National Historic Landmark Listings, budget items, contract projects, education and outreach projects, and City of Deadwood items. Jones highlighted staff updates.
- **Research & Publishing: Dedra McDonald-Birzer Editor-in-Chief and Publisher**
Birzer reported on staff updates, book awards, 2024 book releases, monthly History Talks, the *South Dakota History* journal, and *History Notes* newsletter. Birzer highlighted America 250 publications, *Giants in the Earth*, and recent releases.

New Business:

- **Grettler appointment to SHRAB:** Grettler introduced himself to the board. **Sandvig made a motion to approve appointment of David Grettler to SHRAB board. Kolbe seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.
- **Archaeologist Vacancy:** A discussion was held regarding the Letter of Resignation of Jennifer Winter in the elected Archaeologist board member. **Sandvig made a motion to put out a call for Archaeologists to submit their candidacy in the election cycle planned for Spring of 2025. Pearson seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.
- **Building Renovation Update:** Grabitske provided an update on the status of the Cultural Heritage Center Renovation.
- **Museum Renovation Update:** Grabitske provided an update on the status of the museum design and progress. Prior to the meeting, the Gallery Plan as of that time was mailed and posted digitally for board members.
- **Deadwood Grant Process Subcommittee:** During a discussion at a previous meeting, members expressed interest in the Deadwood Grant Award process. Jones recommends two or three board members to join a sub-committee regarding the Deadwood Grant, to offer suggestions to the process, along with Preservation staff. Tom Hurlbert nominated himself as a member. Pearson also volunteered as a member. Deadwood Historic Preservation Kevin Kuchenbecker also offered his expertise. Liz Almlie from the Preservation Office would be available for supporting the sub-committee's work. **Kolbe made a motion to create a Deadwood Grant sub-committee. Fowler seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.
- **Potential Deaccession of Items Discussion:** Grabitske discussed two potential items that will be listed for Deaccession at the next meeting, September 13. Both items were presented before the board with details to support the deaccession.

Other Business:

- **Miscellaneous Questions/Comments:** Kolbe discussed the recent use of photos and a potential Certificate of Recognition. Kevin Kuchenbecker made a public comment.
- **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT or 8:00 a.m. MT at the Mackay Building Library Commons in Pierre.

Adjournment:

Fowler made the motion for Adjournment. Pearson seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, declare that these minutes are true, and an accurate reflection of the business conducted at the July 12, 2024, meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.
State Historian and Director
South Dakota State Historical Society

Jamie Hageman
Administrative Assistant
South Dakota State Historical Society