

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**  
**Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center**  
**Pierre, South Dakota**  
**March 20, 2026**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by President Tom Hurlbert in the Jay Vogt Education Room, Pierre, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

**Board members present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:**

Tom Hurlbert, William Pearson, Francis Whitebird

**Board members present via Teams Conference Call:**

John Fowler, Lura Roti, Michele Christian, Robert Kolbe, David Grettler, Jon Lauck, Brian Sandvig, Aaron Mayer

**Board members absent:**

Katherine Molnar

**State Historical Society Staff present:**

Benjamin F. Jones, Braeden Kluver, David Grabitske, Garry Guan, Liz Almlie, Matthew Reitzel

**State Historical Society Staff present via Teams Conference Call:**

Dedra Birzer, Cassie Vogt, Katy Schmidt, Corey Christianson, Maddie Ferrell

**Others present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:**

N/A

**Others present via Teams Conference Call:**

SDPB, Jessica Jones

**Welcome and Announcements:**

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

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Pearson moved to adopt the agenda. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Approval of Board Minutes:**

The December 12, 2025, minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were mailed and posted digitally for Board members before the meeting. **Roti moved to approve the minutes. Grettler seconded.** The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1):**

None.

### **5. Open Meeting Law Acknowledgement**

**Pearson motioned to affirm that the board has reviewed and understands the Attorney General's *Conducting the Public's Business in Public* handout. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Administrator Reports:**

**Archives** – There were no changes to the written report. Kolbe asked Reitzel about the Archives acceptance procedure.

**Archaeology** – There were no changes to the written report. Grettler asked Vogt about the status of ongoing NAGPRA cases with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Vogt stated she believed everything was with the Corps archaeologists, who were now working on returning the objects to the appropriate tribes.

**Foundation** – There were no changes to the written report. Kolbe asked about funds available to the Historical Society for object acquisition. Jones explained that funds were available, but due to donor restrictions, they cannot be pooled to purchase items.

**Historic Preservation** – There were no changes to the written report. Guan stated that the National Park Service declined the Effting Grocery Store application on the grounds of integrity & significance.

**Museum** – There were no changes to the written report. Whitebird asked about the American Indian Advisement. Grabitske explained that it is a group of Lakota language advisors helping to make sure the Lakota language is fully represented in the new gallery. Kolbe asked about the construction process. Jones explained how the construction was funded and the role of the Office of the State Engineer in the project.

**Research and Publishing** – There were no changes to the written report. Birzer introduced a new Research and Publishing staff member, Brianna Garner. Birzer highlighted that *Badger Clark: Poetry Wrangler* was a finalist for the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America,

and that *This Far Country* by Joseph Bottom was released on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Whitebird had questions about the winter edition of the South Dakota History journal.

**Administration** – There were no changes to the written report. Jones highlighted Clarissa Drefs with the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the History Conference, and planning for America’s 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. Hurlbert asked about the status of SB 102.

## **7. Museum Deaccession**

Grabitske explained that the items proposed for deaccession were chosen because they were redundant. **Pearson moved to approve the deaccession of the proposed items. Roti seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Archaeology Deaccession**

Vogt explained that there were human remains to be repatriated to the three affiliated tribes of North Dakota. The remains come from a burial call the Archaeological Research Center received in August 2025 for an inadvertent discovery on private land. **Gretler moved to deaccession the proposed remains. Roti seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

## **9. State Review Board**

The Board began the duties of the State Review Board to evaluate Nominations for the National Register of Historic Places.

### **National Register Nominations, presented by Liz Almlie:**

Laura A. Smith House, Madison, Lake County: The house is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C- Architecture. **Lauck moved to approve the nomination. Pearson seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

Mitchell Historic Commercial District, Mitchell, Davison County: The proposed amendments to the district include additional documentation & boundary decrease and increase. **Fowler moved to approve the amendment. Kolbe seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Deadwood Fund Grant Applications**

**Deadwood Fund Grant Applications, presented by Liz Almlie, Maddie Ferrell, and Duncan Trau:**

A presentation was given with recommendations to approve eight of the thirteen applications. **Pearson moved to approve the recommendations. Mayer seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously. The approved grants include Fort Sisseton (\$15,000), 123 N Main, Mitchell (\$15,000), Canton Lutheran Church (\$15,000), Camp Bob Marshall (\$15,000), Immanuel Lutheran Church (\$5,000), the St. Wenceslaus Rectory (\$10,000), the Hyden House (\$10,000), and the Laura A. Smith House (\$10,000) for a total of \$95,000.

**11. Certificates of Appreciation/ Thank yous**

Jones expressed his appreciation for Brian Sandvig’s six years of service on the Historical Society Board of Trustees.

**12. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm Central Time / 2:00 pm Mountain Time in the Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501.

**13. Adjournment**

**Pearson made the motion for Adjournment. Christian seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, declare that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the business conducted at the March 20, 2026, 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Braeden Kluver  
Assistant to the State Historian  
South Dakota State Historical  
Society