

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center
Pierre, South Dakota
July 11, 2025**

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 Hulbert in the Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

Board members present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

Tom Hulbert, William Pearson, Robert Kolbe, Francis Whitebird, Michele Christian, Lura Roti,

Board members present via Teams Conference Call:

John Fowler, Brian Sandvig, Aaron Mayer, Katherine Molnar

Board members absent:

Jon Lauck, David Grettler

State Historical Society Staff present:

Benjamin F. Jones, Braeden Kluver, Liz Almlie, Katie Wasley, Elizabeth Edwards, Maddie Ferrell, David Grabitske, Chelle Somsen

State Historical Society Staff present via Teams Conference Call:

Dedra Birzer, Cassie Vogt

Others present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

N/A

Others present via Teams Conference Call:

SDPB, Diane deKoeyer

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 Roti to adopt the agenda, Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes:

The May 7, 2025, minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were mailed and posted digitally for board members before the meeting. **Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes, Roti seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

Board Officer Election:

The Board of Trustees, following SDCL 1-18-18, voted for the Board President and Vice President. **Tom Hurlbert was nominated for President by Robert Kolbe, the nomination seconded by Lura Roti.** The nomination passed unanimously with Hurlbert abstaining. **John Fowler was nominated for Vice President by Brian Sandvig, the nomination was seconded by Lura Roti.** The nomination passed unanimously with Fowler abstaining.

State and Review Board:

The board began the duties of the State Review Board to evaluate Nominations for the National Register of Historic Places at 9:12 am.

National Register Nominations, presented by Liz Almlie:

- Stroppel Hotel and Hot Mineral Baths, Midland, Haakon County: The nomination is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Health/Medicine. The nomination had previously been tabled for revision of the nomination's boundary. After a robust discussion, **a motion was made by Roti to approve the nomination with the inclusion of a USGS Topographic map, the garage as part of the nomination boundary, clarification on the construction date of the character-defining south façade, and clarification on the Land Act of 1820. The motion was seconded by Christian.** The motion passed unanimously.
- Effting Grocery Store, Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County: The nomination is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce. The nomination had previously been tabled to make corrections to the boundary of the nomination, as well as to include additional historic photos of the building. The discussion centered around the clarity of the nomination and trying to demonstrate the complexity of this nomination. **A motion was made by Sandvig to table the nomination for the next meeting and to**

create an ad hoc committee comprised of Katherine Molnar, Tom Hurlbert, and Robert Kolbe to present a recommendation to the board at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Kolbe. The motion carried unanimously.

- Dr. Cyrus L. and Edna J. Wendt House, Canton, Lincoln County: The nomination is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture. After discussion, **a motion was made by Roti to approve the nomination with modifications suggested by the board. The motion was seconded by Christian.** The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Reports

- **Archives** – Somsen had no changes to her report. Somsen highlighted the reopening of the State Archives to the public. The archives staff has also been busy assisting researchers, including the first of four Whitlock Research fellows. Kolbe mentioned his extensive photo collection and advocated for the aggressive pursuit of items important to South Dakota's history.
- **Archaeology** – Vogt had no changes to her report. Vogt was pleased to report the aid the archaeology staff provided SHPO staff to help put on SHPO's Archaeology camp.
- **Foundation** – Forsch had one addition to her report. Next week, trustees will start to receive mailings on key museum items, areas of support, and a breakdown of key artifacts that they can speak to potential donors about. Whitebird asked about whether a trademarked orthography was going to be used in an upcoming book and provided an alternative to consider.
- **Historic Preservation** – Katie Wasley filled in for Garry Guan. Wasley updated the board that the funding for the FY25 Historic Preservation Fund was announced. Additionally, a memorandum of understanding with the South Dakota Department of Transportation that helps to fund a staff member had lapsed, but work was underway to create a new MOU. Wasley also thanked Archaeology once again for their help putting on the Archaeology camp. Jones expounded on the federal Historic Preservation Fund and its impact on funding the Historic Preservation Office, as well as the aid that DOE has provided to keep Preservation funded. Roti inquired about individuals to send a thank-you letter from the board to. Jones suggested Secretary of Education Joseph Graves.
- **Museum** – Grabitske had no changes to his report. He noted the collection was returned to the Cultural Heritage Center and highlighted the acquisition of a coat formerly belonging to William Maxwell Blackburn. Grabitske also gave an update on the progression of the building restoration, noting the HVAC unit is working order. Kolbe asked if there was a review of the exhibits before display. Grabitske confirmed there was. Whitebird expressed his appreciation for Grabitske's consistent use of the American Indian.
- **Research and Publishing** – Birzer listed updates including- Nancy Tystad Koupal being awarded the Laura's Legacy award; the continued work with Violet Catches on Lakota

translations for “Halhata na Thathanka/ Magpie and Buffalo” board book; Research and Publishing attending the Norwegian Daughters of America conference; and the arrival of the South Dakota History journal’s summer issue. Kolbe asked about resources Research and Publishing provided to potential authors. Birzer suggested hosting a workshop at the next annual conference or a History Talk on the topic. Whitebird insisted on finding ways to keep Lakota youth engaged with the Lakota language.

- **Administration** – Jones highlighted the Laurapalooza conference, the conservation of the Spotted Tail headdress, proposed rate changes that will be brought up at the next meeting and offered a tour to board members following the meeting.

Deadwood Grant Fund Balance Guidance:

Following the last meeting, the Board of Trustees requested information to help guide the grant scorers not to be hesitant in their spending. **Roti made a motion to direct the awarding of 95% of the Deadwood Revenue in grants each fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Pearson.** The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Board Meeting Schedule:

- September 12, 2025, 9:00 AM CT/ 8:00 AM MT
- December 12, 2025, 9:00 AM CT/ 8:00 AM MT

Introductions:

Newly elected board members Michele Christian, Aaron Mayer, and Katherine Molnar introduced themselves. Kolbe asked to provide comments on the sound quality in the room and the pledge of allegiance but agreed to end the meeting prior to his comments.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held September 12th at 9:00 am Central Time / 8:00 am Mountain time in the Jay Vogt Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre.

Adjournment:

Roti made the motion for Adjournment. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 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 11, 2025, 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

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