

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center
Pierre, South Dakota
December 12, 2025

1. Call to Order:

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:02 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:

William Pearson

Board members present via Teams Conference Call:

Tom Hurlbert, John Fowler, Michele Christian, Robert Kolbe, David Grettler, Jon Lauck, Brian Sandvig, Francis Whitebird, Katherine Molnar, Aaron Mayer

Board members absent:

Lura Roti

State Historical Society Staff present:

Benjamin F. Jones, Braeden Kluver, David Grabitske, Corey Christianson, Garry Guan, Liz Almlie, Maddie Ferrell, Duncan Trau, Matthew Reitzel

State Historical Society Staff present via Teams Conference Call:

Dedra Birzer, Cassie Vogt, Kevin Larsen, Katie Wasley, Katy Schmidt

Others present in the Jay Vogt Education Room:

N/A

Others present via Teams Conference Call:

SDPB, Catherine Forsch, Cynthia Clark, Cammie Schmidt, Charles Eagleson, Michael Runge, Beverly Posey, Bonny Anfinson, Trevor Santochi

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.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Lauck moved to adopt the agenda. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimously.

3. Approval of Board Minutes:

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

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

None.

5. Administrator Reports:

Archives – There were no changes to the written report. Reitzel answered Hurlbert’s question about the level of water penetration in the Cultural Heritage Center’s annex.

Archaeology – There were no changes to the written report.

Foundation – There were no changes to the written report.

Historic Preservation – There were no changes to the written report. Guan highlighted the site visit to the current state penitentiary and the award the Historic Preservation office received for their kids' archaeological camp.

Museum – There were no changes to the written report. Whitebird commended the museum staff for their work with the American Indian advisors.

Research and Publishing – There were no changes to the written report. Whitebird asked if Research and Publishing used the Lakota Language Consortium in a recent publication. Birzer stated that Research and Publishing had used Violet Catches for their recent Magpie and Buffalo book. Kolbe asked about programs to encourage nonprofessionals to pursue publication. Birzer informed Kolbe about the September History Talk program, which offered suggestions to people interested in writing down their stories.

Administration – There were no changes to the written report. Jones highlighted the annual history conference and the push to grow teacher attendance.

6. Museum Deaccession

Corey Christianson answered Board questions about the deaccession requests of twelve items spanning from the Spanish-American War through the Second World War. After discussion

concerning the wording of the deaccessions, **Lauck moved to table the deaccessions to the next meeting and clarify the verbiage in the deaccessions. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously.

7. 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 Nomination, 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. Discussion centered on the nomination boundary, clarifying Section 7, and comparing the nominated building to nearby examples. **Lauck moved to table the nomination for the next meeting. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

Klampe-Mann House, Clark, Clark County: The house is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C- Architecture. Discussion centered on the use of fieldstones as part of the building's construction and the possibility of nominating the building under criterion A or criterion D. **Lauck moved to approve the nomination. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

2026 SHPO Work Plan, presented by Garry Guan:

State Historic Preservation Officer Garry Guan presented on the FFY 2026 Annual Work Plan with a budget of \$896,513. The budget includes general operations, subgrants, Geographic Information System computerized mapping, contract projects, estimated budget figures, and newly proposed projects. The office solicited public comments for the work plan. **Grettlar moved to approve the 2026 SHPO Work Plan. Christian seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

Recess:

Board President Tom Hurlbert called for a ten-minute recess at 10:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m.

8. Preservation Items

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

A presentation was given with recommendations to approve five of the nine applications. **Pearson moved to approve the recommendations. Mayer seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously. The approved grants include the Doland Opera House (\$25,000), Roslyn Auditorium (\$10,000), Keystone School (\$25,000), Campbell House (\$15,930), and Hot Springs City Hall (\$250,000).

State Property Tax Moratorium, presented by Duncan Trau:

A presentation was given with the recommendation to approve all six of the applications.

Pearson moved to approve the six State Property Tax Moratorium applications. Kolbe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The approved applications included The Fairmont Creamery, A.W. Ewert Mansion, 51 Dakota Street, 109 N. Duluth, 1203 S. 1st Ave, and 335 N. Duluth.

Deadwood Historic Preservation Fund Budget Analysis:

State Historic Preservation Officer Garry Guan reported on his analysis of the prepared budget. He recommended approval based on whether administrative rules are followed, and the proposed projects follow the scope and intent of historic preservation by the legislature.

Deadwood Historic Preservation Fund Budget Presentation – Kevin Kuchenbecker

Kuchenbecker presented the proposed Deadwood Historic Preservation Fund Budget for calendar year 2026. **Pearson moved to approve the budget proposal. Sandvig seconded the motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

9. Tentative 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the schedule for 2026 and agreed to move the June 1st meeting to June 3rd to coincide with the end of the annual history conference.

The next meeting will be held on March 20th at 9:00 am Central Time / 8:00 am Mountain Time in the Jay Vogt Education Room, Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501.

10. Adjournment

Pearson made the motion for Adjournment. Christian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.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 December 12, 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