

**South Dakota Brand Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2026**

The South Dakota Brand Board met on May 13, 2026, in Rapid City, SD. Members present were Haven Stuck, Jake Longbrake, Jarrod Johnson, Kory Bierle and Ross Cuny. Brand Board staff and others present were Debbie Trapp, Bob Haivala, Amy Hatheway, Owen Olson, Cindy Longbrake, David Smith, Todd Hanson, Doris Lauing, Raydelle Sperle, Cheyenne Tant, Tom Costello, Jana Hunt, Bob Mercer.

Board Pres. Stuck called the meeting to order.

Motion by Johnson, to adopt agenda, second by Longbrake. Motion carried.

Motion by Longbrake to approve the Brand Board Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2026, second by Bierle. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson to approve the Brand Board Special Meeting Minutes dated March 9, 2026, as amended, second by Cuny. Motion carried.

Director Trapp presented financial information as of April 30, 2026. Motion by Longbrake to approve the Financial Report as presented, second by Bierle. Motion carried.

Fund Balance:

- Brand Fund \$2,773,634.58
- Inspection Fund \$277,577.09
- Theft Prevention Fund – Restricted - Ownership to be established - \$334,641.54  
Unrestricted – \$119,747.87

Year to Date Revenue/Expenses/Transfers:

- Brand Fund: Revenue - \$335,996. Expenses - \$338,347  
Transferred Out to Inspection Fund - \$400,000
- Inspection Fund: Revenue - \$1,518,785, Expenses - \$1,880,773  
Transferred In from Brand Fund \$400,000
- Theft Prevention Fund: Restricted – Received \$68,752; Paid Out \$28,273  
Unrestricted – Received \$38,071; Expenses \$123

Brand Enforcement Report: Investigator Olson reported there were two shipper permit violations; Attended the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Conference Brand Board session; Working on operations policy. Director Trapp presented Investigator Master's report on creating a Multi-State Joint Task Force - He had contacted neighboring states' Brand Departments and FBI – waiting to hear from two states – others were receptive. Attorney Haivala explained what it takes to get credentials, support from the Governor's office is needed and asked how expenses for a task force be covered. Task Force Strategy will need to be discussed further.

Brand Inspection Report: Director Trapp presented the Brand Inspection Report for

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April 2026 as follows: Livestock Markets – 68,098 head, Locker Plants 554 head, Locals – 56,851 head, Lifetime Horse Permits –79 head, for a total of 125,582 head. Year to date inspections are 1,353,651 head, which ranks the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest out of the past five years.

Director Trapp reported the following: Attended the Western States Livestock Rural Enforcement conference –two of the speakers are from SD- Richard Shore, former USDA Investigator and former SD Brand Board Investigator and Make Varilek, Corson Co. Deputy. Inspection Supervisor Clair and I met with Motor Carrier regarding Joint Road Checks; Supervisor Clair joined Motor Carrier on road check set up at Blunt Junction; Monthly Average Brand Statistics January – April, 2026 - Brand Application = 45; Approved brands =35; Brand Transfers = 59. Interviewing for assistant accounting position.

**Open Comment:**

Doris Lauing commented on Governor’s Directive report and financial reports.

Raydelle Sperle commented on combining Brand Fund and Inspection Fund into one fund.

Inspection Supervisor Clair informed the Board that Herreid Livestock had verbally requested to have their open market status cancelled rather than pay for net cost of having a brand inspector there but is undecided now. No action taken.

Inspection Supervisor Clair presented information on Hold BB 833. No action taken pending receipt of additional information.

Discussed Brand Inspector Salary Policy. No action taken.

Discussed Full time Livestock Investigator position. No action taken.

Board discussed ownership inspection fee amount and rules hearing process. Reviewed projected revenue calculations based on different per head amounts. Additional information to be reviewed at next meeting. No action taken.

Longbrake left the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Board Pres Stuck declared a recess at 1:50 pm and resumed the meeting at 2:03 pm.

Director Trapp explained the current internal control procedure for documenting payments received prior to receipting and depositing payments. Volume of payments received greatly increases during fall run and brand renewal years. Board Pres Stuck and Director Trapp to continue work on internal control cash/check processing and deposit policy to be presented at next Brand Board meeting.

Director Trapp reported on items discussed at the Brand Board session during the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Conference.

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Discussed meetings with surrounding States' Brand Departments – everyone facing common issues such as funding and enforcement.

Electronic Local Inspection Program was demonstrated by Inspection Supervisor Clair. Director Trapp explained how the programs operates, and projected equipment cost is \$950.00/inspector. Inspector training will start this summer.

Next Brand Board meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2026, at 11:00 am MT in Rapid City, SD.

Motion by Johnson to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) personnel and legal at 3:28 p.m. second by Cuny. Motion carried. Came out at 4:17 p.m.

As no other business came before the board, motion by Cuny to adjourn the meeting, second by Bierle. Motion carried.

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Haven Stuck, Board President

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Debbie Trapp, Executive Director

These minutes were filed for the record on \_\_\_\_\_.