

South Dakota Brand Board
Special Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

The South Dakota Brand Board met on March 9, 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, Matt Clair, Amy Hatheway, Adam Masters, Owen Olson, Cheyenne Tant, Tom Costello, Doris Lauing, Raydelle Sperle and Brian Walsh.

Director Trapp called the meeting to order.

Director Trapp welcomed new Brand Board members Kory Bierle and Ross Cuny.

Director Trapp asked for nominations for Board President. Motion by Johnson, to nominate Haven Stuck, second by Longbrake. Motion carried. Motion by Longbrake that nominations cease and cast unanimous ballot for Haven Stuck, second by Johnson. Motion carried.

Chairman Stuck asked for nominations for Board Vice President. Motion by Johnson to nominate Kory Bierle as Vice President, second by Cuny. Motion carried. Motion by Johnson that nominations cease and cast unanimous ballot for Kory Bierle, contingent upon approval of Bierle's appointment to the Brand Board by the full Senate, second by Longbrake. Motion carried.

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

President Stuck thanked Scott Vance and Lyle Spring for their service on the Brand Board.

Open Comment: Raydelle Sperle asked about the Brand Board office moving to a different location.

Each item in the Governor's Directives to the Brand Board Members, dated February 12, 2026, was discussed. Progress reports are due April 1, May 15, and June 30 to the Governor's office and DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts.

Directive #1. Director Trapp provided information on internal control check cashing policy and explained process of resolving checks received with incorrect payment amounts. Discussed action plan to collect additional statistics on checks received. President Stuck and Director Trapp to continue review of check cashing policy, compile and submit progress report by April 1, 2026.

Directive #2. Investigator Masters updated the Board on training with Sheriffs' offices. Brand Board Staff will speak on Cattle Theft Investigations at the SD Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Spring Conference, April 14, 2026. Board to visit with Governor's office and DANR Secretary Roberts on extension of April 1, 2026 deadline to accommodate the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Conference date of April 14, 2026.

Directive # 3. Director Trapp to schedule teleconference meeting with Brand Departments/Agencies of surrounding states to discuss administrative/investigative best practices

South Dakota Brand Board
Special Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

and further strengthen cooperative efforts. Investigator Masters stated there is good communication with livestock investigators in surrounding states.

Motion by Johnson that Investigator Masters research creating cattle theft task force and report at next Brand Board meeting, second by Longbrake. Motion carried.

Directive #5 was discussed ahead of Directive #4 as Attorney Haivala needed to attend a hearing. Attorney Haivala explained that Brand Board Investigators enforcement authority is limited to brand and ownership inspection laws per current statute. Theft is in Chapter 22 of the statutes. Directive #5 will be further discussed at next Brand Board meeting.

Bob Haivala left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Directive #4. Director Trapp provided update on electronic inspection program. Inspection Supervisor Clair stated strong likelihood of losing some brand inspectors when electronic inspection program is implemented. Update on progress of the electronic inspection program to be presented at Brand Board meeting in May 2026.

Unapproved

South Dakota Brand Board
Special Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

February 12, 2026

To: Brand Board Members
From: Governor Larry Rhoden

This Memo lays out my expectations for continuous improvement in the operations and oversight of the Brand Board and requires the Board to submit periodic reports to me.

Governor's Directives

1. *Corrective Action:* Review, further develop, implement, and maintain check cashing internal control policy
 - o Deadline: Complete implementation by March 12; review policy maintenance at 90-day intervals and require report to Board on compliance
2. *Corrective Action:* Convene Law Enforcement agencies (i.e. DPS, Sheriffs) together to integrate brand checks with other duties at traffic stops, weight stations, or ports of entry
 - o Deadline: Hold meetings with law enforcement by April 1; require report to Board of recommendations
3. *Corrective Action:* Convene together Brand Board leadership, the Executive Director, and investigators with other state brand boards, including North Dakota, to discuss administrative and investigative best practices and strategies to improve collaboration
 - o Deadline: Complete by May 15, 2026
4. *Corrective Action:* Direct the Executive Director to issue a memo to the Board detailing status of technology upgrades and present during May's Board meeting
 - o Deadline: Complete by May 2026 Board meeting
5. *Corrective Action:* Direct the Executive Director to issue memo to the Board on the benefits and consequences of expanding brand investigator enforcement powers beyond arrest authority for brand law enforcement regulations and present during June's Board meeting
 - o Deadline: Complete by June 2026 Board meeting

Progress reports detailing efforts are due April 1, May 15, and June 30 to the Governor's Office and DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts.

South Dakota Brand Board
Special Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

President Stuck reported on House Bill 1020 - to increase the cap on the livestock ownership inspection fee from \$1.00/head to \$1.65/head. The bill has been signed by the Governor. Brand Board will need to conduct an Administrative Rules hearing to set the per head fee amount for livestock ownership inspections.

President Stuck declared a recess at 12:49 p.m.

President Stuck declared the meeting back in session at 12:57 p.m.

Next Brand Board meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. MT in Rapid City, SD.

President Stuck advised executive session was needed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1 &3) personnel and legal. Motion by Longbrake to enter executive session at 1:40 p.m., second by Johnson. Motion carried. Came out at 2:17 p.m.

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

Haven Stuck, Board President

Debbie Trapp, Executive Director

These minutes were filed for the record on _____.