

**South Dakota Corn Utilization Council
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
4712 S. Technopolis Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD**

I. Call to Order

SDCUC President Jim Ketelhut called to order at 3:01 P.M.

II. Members Present:

Eric Kroupa

Nick Fickbohm

Chris Nickeson

Doug Noem

Jim Ketelhut

Chad Blindauer

Jay Esser

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

DaNita Murray

Paul Bertels

III. Paul Bertels reported on the study conducted by Farmgate Insights regarding Increasing Demand for South Dakota Commodities: What Role Can Industrial Biotech Play?

Paul then facilitated a discussion regarding investing checkoff money to build demand.

IV. Adjourn The meeting was recessed at 5:15 p.m.