

South Dakota Science and Technology Authority Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2020
Lead, South Dakota

The Board of Directors of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) convened at 8:00 AM Mountain Time (MT) on Thursday, June 25, 2020, in the Education and Outreach (E&O) Building Conference Room at the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, 630 East Summit Street, Lead, South Dakota. To maintain physical distance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cloth face masks were encouraged, and a conference number was posted on the agenda with an invitation for members of the public to participate in the meeting by telephone.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Ani Aprahamian (by phone)
Vice Chairperson Dana Dykhouse (by phone)
Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Lebrun (by phone)
Mr. Roger Musick (by phone)
Chairperson Casey Peterson (in person)
Vice Chairperson Ron Wheeler (by phone)
Dr. Robert Wilson (by phone)
Dr. James Rankin, ex-officio (by phone)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT

None

SDSTA STAFF

Mr. Colton Clark, Communications Intern (by phone)
Mr. Tim Engel, Legal Counsel (in person)
Ms. Nancy Geary, Chief Financial Officer (in person)
Mr. Mike Headley, Executive Director (in person)
Ms. Mandy Knight, Administrative Services Manager (by phone)
Mr. William McElroy, Deputy Director of Operations (in person)
Ms. Staci Miller, SURF Foundation Director (by phone)
Mr. KC Russell, Cultural Diversity Coordinator (by phone)
Ms. Constance Walter, Communications Director (in person)
Ms. Natasha Wheeler, Administrative Assistant (in person)

ALSO PRESENT DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Mr. Cash Anderson, Legal Counsel Intern (in person)
Mr. Paul Christen, Former SDSTA Board Member (by phone)
Ms. Darla Drew, Rapid City Arts Council Development Director (by phone)
Ms. Gina Gibson, SURF Artist-in-Residence (BHSU) (by phone)
Mr. Alex Portal, Black Hills Pioneer Journalist (by phone)
Ms. Kara Semmler, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Noem (by phone)
Mr. Jim Wefso, Homestake Opera House Board Member (by phone)
Ms. Debra Wolf, E&O Director (BHSU) (in person)

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Casey Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM (MT). Roll call was held. Dr. Ani Aprahamian, Mr. Dana Dykhouse, Ms. Pat Lebrun, Mr. Roger Musick, Mr. Ron Wheeler, Dr. Bob Wilson and Dr. Jim Rankin were present by phone. Chairperson Peterson was present in person.

Chairperson Peterson then asked audience members to introduce themselves. He said if anyone from the audience had any questions or comments for the board to address, to please complete the public comment form located at the sign-in table and time will be given at the end of the agenda to discuss.

ITEM 2. APPROVE AGENDA

Chairperson Peterson asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Chairperson Peterson asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 3. APPROVE MINUTES

Chairperson Peterson asked for any comments on the March 19 or March 25, 2020 Minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Dr. Wilson to approve the March 19, 2020 and March 25, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 4. GENERAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

SDSTA Legal Counsel Mr. Tim Engel invited members of the board to disclose anything that might be construed to be a conflict of interest relative to their role on the board.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

ITEM 5. DISCLOSURES AND WAIVER UNDER SDCL CH. 3-23

Mr. Engel said in regard to disclosures and waivers under SDCL Ch. 3-23, he polled the board members prior to the meeting and no disclosures were made. Mr. Engel stated no board action is required. He also noted that annual disclosures concerning contracts with the state and political subdivisions will be due at the September 17, 2020 board meeting.

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF FY2021 OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Headley said SURF updates the intergovernmental agreement with the Office of Risk Management for health and safety oversight each year. This year, the two main changes are (1) an adjustment to allow for reimbursement of ORM staff time and expenses when assisting SDSTA with insurance and other matters, and (2) the annual update to the codes and standards listing to reflect the current status of the SDSTA Environment, Safety and Health Department policies and procedures. Mr. Headley asked the board to approve the agreement and authorize him to sign it. Mr. Engel clarified the additional costs in the agreement are strictly for reimbursement and there is no markup. Mr. Headley noted that sections in the codes and standards list that appear stricken have been integrated into other sections, and not removed without cause.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Musick to approve the FY2021 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bureau of Administration, Office of Risk Management of the State of South Dakota and SDSTA and to authorize SDSTA Executive Director to sign the agreement. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Dana Dykhouse joined the meeting by phone at 8:10 AM.

ITEM 7. SURF FOUNDATION

ITEM 7A. APPROVE REPLACEMENT SURFF BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Headley said that SURF Foundation board members are term-limited, and Mr. Wheeler was brought onboard with a one-year term that ends on July 1, 2020. To fill Mr. Wheeler's vacant seat, Mr. Fred Romkema of Spearfish was chosen and agreed to join the board. He said Mr. Romkema was co-founder and CEO of the Northern Hills Training Center in Spearfish until his recent retirement, as well as a long-time legislator who has worked on issues related to SURF. Mr. Headley added that Mr. Romkema has incredible contacts around the state and is a great supporter of SURF, and requested that he be added to the SURF Foundation Board. Mr. Engel explained the procedure for new SURF Foundation board members requires a recommendation to, and approval from, the SDSTA board and added that Mr. Romkema's nomination was made by the SURF Foundation board by a writing in lieu of a meeting. Mr. Headley stated that although Mr. Wheeler will no longer be on the SURF Foundation board, he will remain on the SDSTA board, per his reappointment in April 2020. Mr. Headley also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wheeler for serving as the Foundation board chair over the past year; he was instrumental in getting the Foundation established. Mr. Wheeler noted his approval of Mr. Romkema and his support for the new SURF Foundation Board Chair, Mr. Dykhouse. He also reminded the SDSTA board that, although plans were delayed due to COVID-19, the ultimate goal is to bring on a number of national board members to help raise funds as a large and influential board.

Motion by Mr. Dykhouse and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve appointment of Mr. Fred Romkema to fill the seat to be become vacant at the end of the term of Mr. Ron Wheeler on July 1, 2020. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 7B. UPDATE

Mr. Headley said SURF Foundation Director Ms. Staci Miller and SDSTA Administrative Assistant Ms. Natasha Wheeler have been working on getting the structure of the SURF Foundation put together, including the installation of new donor management software called Bloomerang. He said Ms. Miller has been coordinating with Ms. Geary to get QuickBooks accounting software established and is working with a number of partners to successfully gain donations and grants for Education and Outreach and Neutrino Day. Mr. Headley added that the Foundation would like to launch a campaign to raise funds for the ethnobotanical garden, and Ms. Miller has drafted a financial planning statement to address a few hundred thousand dollars for that project. Concerning the SURF Institute, Mr. Headley said he and SDSTA Science Director Dr. Jaret Heise have created a list of 19 professionals to interview and will share plans with the board to move forward with that in the coming weeks. Ms. Miller confirmed the update provided by Mr. Headley and expressed her appreciation to Mr. Wheeler for his vision and efforts for the SURF Foundation board over the last year.

ITEM 8. AUDIT COMMITTEE

ITEM 8A. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Chairperson Peterson appointed Ms. Lebrun and Mr. Dykhouse to continue to serve on the audit committee and commended their work in that role.

ITEM 8B. ANNUAL REVIEW OF AUDIT CHARTER

Ms. Lebrun referred to the SDSTA Audit Committee meeting minutes in the board packet and said she and Mr. Dykhouse met with Ms. Geary to review the audit charter and found no need for any changes. They also approved Ms. Geary to meet with the state auditor-general's office and begin the internal audit process for Fiscal Year 2020 in late September/early October 2020. A completed report would be ready for review at the December 2020 board meeting and a request for approval at the board meeting in March 2021.

ITEM 8C. UPDATE TO INTERNAL CONTROL AUDIT

Ms. Lebrun referred to the board packet concerning the completed SDSTA internal control audit report performed by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA), and asked the board to approve the report to create a permanent, public record showing SDSTA's initiative to ensure appropriate internal controls.

Chairperson Peterson thanked the audit committee and congratulated them on the satisfactory results. Ms. Geary said that the audit report will be completed in three sections, and two of the sections have been completed. She said the information for the Information Technology (IT) section has been sent to CLA and staff is awaiting a final report. Chairperson Peterson suggested making an internal control audit summary available on the Sanford Lab website for transparency and to highlight the first two sections from CLA returned as satisfactory with no comments. Mr. Engel noted that the internal control audit being discussed for approval is available to the public as a part of the board packet. Chairperson Peterson asked the audit committee to address Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards at their next meeting with the auditor to ensure that ESG standards, ensuring a sustainable investment, are being complied with as applicable for a non-profit organization. Chairperson Peterson asked for a motion to approve the report, stating that it was a satisfactory report with no reportable incidents.

Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Dykhouse to approve the internal audit report performed by CLA, LLP dated June 1, 2020 as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 9. FINANCIAL REPORT

ITEM 9A. FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Ms. Geary said the current fiscal year ends June 30, with restricted budgets and indirect costs appearing to be mostly on track, and she expects to have June details gathered by mid-July. Reviewing May 2020 financials, Chairperson Peterson noted that demolished property does not recover any depreciated expenses and should be noted when demolition projects are considered. Ms. Geary said that noting costs associated with indirect charges related to depreciation justify the purchase of new assets, and the last year has seen the purchase of several important new assets, including new vehicles and new IT hardware. Chairperson Peterson also noted that the \$5 million line of credit held with First National Bank is still available.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Dr. Wilson to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 9B. FY2021 BUDGET

Ms. Geary referred to the FY2021 budget in the board packet and noted that the SDSTA budget has increased by about \$100,000.00 for the upcoming year to account for costs related to the SURF Foundation, plans for the new ethnobotanical garden, and SURF Institute development. She noted that intern costs remain the same and are supported by the Chris Bauer and Jack Headley memorial funds. She said federal and state funding stands at an estimated \$43 million, including the cooperative agreement and several smaller contracts with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Fermilab for Kiewit-Alberici Joint Venture (KAJV) support, and finalization of the Ross Shaft rehabilitation project. Ms. Geary added, the operational CAPEX budget includes three projects, with funds allocated for the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) xenon interest and insurance and construction of the Maintenance Support Facility. Mr. Headley noted that the Ross Rehabilitation commissioning is expected to be completed in February of 2021. Ms. Geary noted that last year's full-time employee count was 169 but is estimated to be 181 in FY2021.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Dykhouse to approve the FY2021 budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 10. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ITEM 10A. DECLARATION OF SURPLUS (1)

Mr. Headley said SDSTA purchased a 40-unit cap lamp charging station in 2008, which has been replaced. He said the old charging station and lamps have been fully depreciated and will be donated to a virtual reality project.

ITEM 10B. SDSTA QUARTERLY UPDATE

Mr. Headley gave an update for SURF's status and expressed appreciation for managements' role and Mr. McElroy's leadership in response to COVID-19. Mr. Headley said the Ross Shaft has been operating at Level 1, both day and night shifts, since May 5; the Yates Shaft transitioned to Level 1 operations for science in early June; KAJV construction returned to full staffing on May 18; science day-shift work has resumed and LZ night shifts will also be resuming soon. Mr. Headley said Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been difficult to procure, but PPE quantities are improving with daily review. Daily COVID-19 status meetings have transitioned to three times per week, and the weather and safety administrative leave invoicing is moving forward under the cooperative agreement (CA) with final legal and contract discussions underway with LZ and LBNF. Mr. Headley said physical distancing posters have been placed throughout the site and that controls put in place seem to be working; the emphasis remains on keeping people vigilant about using safety precautions.

Reviewing onsite incident rates, Mr. Headley noted the injury that occurred in February 2020, but said there have not been any additional incidents since then.

In Sanford Lab updates, Mr. Headley said federal funding support remains strong and the budget markup process is underway for FY2021. He said SDSTA is in the ninth month of performance under the SURF Operations CA and an additional \$5.5 million of infrastructure improvement projects (IIP) are in technical review with the Department of Energy, focusing on the Ross Water Line project. The IIP program was submitted in March 2020, noting COVID-19 has put pressure and delays on grant approval processes. He said LZ has resumed installation and night shift work is planned, and the transition of Ross Campus science activities to other locations is underway for Black Hills State University Underground Campus and SIGMA-V, with CASPAR operations continuing in place through late 2020. Mr. Headley said Maintenance Support Facility construction is underway and completion is planned in May 2021. He noted SURF declined a proposal from a local mining firm interested in activities at SURF. He said the SURF Institute science program study is in development, ethnobotanical garden design activity has resumed, and fundraising plans are advancing. Mr. Headley noted the E&O program and Neutrino Day were transitioned to virtual platforms this year, and that the team is working to trademarking "Neutrino Day" in preparation for reaching larger audiences in the future. Mr. Headley said the Davis Cavern was selected by the American Physical Society as a historic site, and a dedication ceremony is being planned for December 10, in conjunction with Nobel Day.

Mr. Headley said the Ellison Boiler House was demolished after a roof cave-in from a snowstorm posed a safety risk, and the rope house was demolished while the work crew was onsite, using indirect funds. He said progress is being made on Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF) conveyor installation, and upcoming LBNF work in the next three to four months includes the installation of power and fiber in the Ross Shaft, wall repairs between the skip loader and the ore pass, installation of the skip loader, excavation mobilization and installation of a blast door on the 4850L, installation of fire suppression water piping from the 4550L to the 4850L, excavation on the 3650L, civil and structural work on the conveyor, installation of the tramway conveyor, installation of a crusher, and electrical work to set a 69

kilovolt switchgear and pull cable through the duct banks. Mr. Headley also noted that all current efforts are still designated as pre-excavation work.

Communications Director Ms. Constance Walter said, like the E&O team, her staff and planning committee were very disappointed to learn that Neutrino Day would have to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but the team was able to step up and create a virtual event, including speakers such as science comedian Brian Malow, “Science Steve” Rokusek, Jeremy Red Eagle and his family, Dr. Bill Roggenthen, SURF artist-in-residence Ms. Gina Gibson, Dr. Ryan Patterson, Mr. Mark Hanhardt, Dr. Simon Fiorucci and theoretical astrophysicist Dr. Katie Mack. Ms. Walter explained that moving to a virtual platform made the event more practical when scheduled out over a week, versus being held on a single day, and shared the Neutrino Day website, www.neutrinoday.com. She encouraged everyone to review the agenda, take note of the speakers, thank the sponsors that are making the event possible and asked for participation in the activities taking place online July 6-11, Neutrino Day 2020: A Matter Mystery. Ms. Walter also noted equipment and software purchased for the transition to a virtual Neutrino Day will be useful in helping E&O team efforts and for creating a more global impact with future Neutrino Days. She also thanked Mr. Headley and the board for their work and support.

ITEM 10C. E&O UPDATE

E&O Director Ms. Wolf stated that every student deserves high quality, engaging, relevant, equitable, and rigorous science learning opportunities, and said there is a lot of work yet to be done—a fact made even clearer by the recent COVID-19 events that have highlighted opportunities for the E&O team to better realize their mission. She then told the board about the newest member of the E&O team, Teacher Development Specialist Ms. Nicol Reiner, who started with Sanford Lab’s E&O team on March 2, 2020. Ms. Wolf said that Ms. Reiner has served as the Director of the Office of Standards and Learning with the South Dakota Department of Education, as a math specialist for the South Dakota Department of Education, and as a secondary math teacher, providing hundreds of teachers with thousands of hours of professional development throughout her career. At a March 11, 2020, meeting with Mr. Headley and Ms. Walter, Ms. Wolf realized that cancellations would have to be made for everything scheduled in spring, 2020, including the Davis-Bahcall scholars program, the SDMath/SDSci teacher leadership program, spring field trips, school presentation, summer internships, summer professional development, STEM/STEAM night events, robotics events, Women in Science programming, Neutrino Day, and curriculum unit pilots. But, she said, her team refused to give up and instead, got creative about bringing resources to students through technology. She explained that within the last year but especially in the last two months, efforts went into the completion of two curriculum unit pilots, the rewriting of two units, and the creation of two new units as well.

Ms. Wolf then emphasized the E&O program’s support for teachers and outlined her team’s creation of virtual presentations, troubleshooting in online platforms, problem-solving to make online science interactive, discovery and sharing of learning resources, and connections on social media. She described a weekly Sanford Lab science session, in which teachers and her team learned about using Zoom software and creating interactive science, online. Ms. Wolf said six of the accepted seven interns were hired and would still have opportunities to work with SURF staff members over the summer, and two additional education interns will be added in fall, paid for with grants from Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Interns are working remotely but will be onsite when the work requires it. Ms. Wolf also explained that EPSCoR supported teacher development was budgeted to interact with 180 professionals through six workshops throughout the state this summer, but with the high levels of virtual learning interest, the program will serve 232 teachers this year, representing 62 school districts, four universities, two tribal colleges and ten tribal schools in South Dakota. She said that eight sessions will be held throughout the summer, and teachers will have the materials to interact with a new Biofilms curriculum unit. Ms. Wolf said the current week-long professional development

session includes 48 participants doing hands-on science and experiencing two curriculum units in their training. Ms. Wolf said COVID-19 challenges are bringing the E&O team to the edges of their abilities, but that is where learning and innovation are found, and the team has gained valuable insights for how to connect and provide resources to more people. Mr. Headley noted that the E&O program is being recognized for their outstanding work in professional development and student support.

ITEM 10D. SURF ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE UPDATE

SURF Artist-in-Residence Ms. Gibson, a graphic design instructor at Black Hills State University, said she had an opportunity to go underground six or seven years ago with a group exhibition, and that planted a seed for her work. She said she has been always interested in science and looking for inspiration; this has been a huge opportunity for her in the last year to see, hear and learn. Ms. Gibson explained that she first had to gather materials, both physical and intellectual. She said she collected things and ideas, and then began describing her project to others which helped her to define her work, while trying to pay respect to the history of Homestake, the City of Lead and the science taking place at SURF. She said she is grateful for the opportunity to share some of her ideas at the February 2020 Deep Talks, and she invited everyone to visit her July 7-21 online exhibition, 'Seeking the Unseen'. Ms. Gibson noted that an in-person exhibition date at the Lead-Deadwood Arts Center is to-be-determined. Mr. Headley added, Ms. Gibson's Deep Talks presentation is available online, via the Sanford Lab YouTube website.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to accept the Executive Director's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 11. SDSTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ITEM 11A. ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Mr. Headley introduced an update to the Leave Policy. He explained that instances occasionally arise when employees who use very little sick leave need to take an extended period of time to care for a family member. He said the current policy allows for sick leave time to care for a family member, but leave is capped at five days per year. In the updated policy, employees are allowed to use their sick leave up to their fully accrued amount. He also said the definition of immediate family is expanded. Mr. Engel said he reviewed the policy and the updates are appropriate.

Motion by Dr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve the updated Leave Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 11B. ANNUAL STATEMENTS AFFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Chairperson Peterson asked the board if everyone has signed their Conflict of Interest form. Ms. Knight said that all signed forms have been received, except from Dr. Aprahamian. Dr. Aprahamian announced she is currently in Armenia but will send Ms. Knight her signed form electronically.

ITEM 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dr. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters and to consult with legal counsel concerning legal and contractual matters as permitted by SDCL 1-25-2(1), (3) and (4). Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The board recessed at 9:38 AM for a ten-minute break followed by executive session.

The board reconvened in open session at 10:25 AM.

ITEM 13. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Peterson reported that the board discussed contractual matters and consulted with legal counsel concerning legal and contractual matters. No action was taken.

Motion by Mr. Dykhouse and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the executive session report. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Lebrun was not present for this vote. She returned to the session at 10:27 AM.

ITEM 14. REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Dykhouse said the nominating committee, comprised of Mr. Musick and himself, communicated on May 20, 2020 for the purpose of nominating a slate of officers to the board for year 2021, and the slate of nominations is Casey Peterson as Chairperson, Dana Dykhouse as Vice Chairperson, Ron Wheeler as Vice Chairperson, and Patricia Lebrun as Secretary/Treasurer. The nominating committee contacted all the candidates, and each agreed to serve in their capacity for another year.

ITEM 15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Peterson referenced the board packet to illustrate the board member election process, and then called for additional nominations for board officers. Hearing none, Mr. Peterson called for a motion to elect the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Dr. Wilson to elect Casey Peterson as Chairperson, Dana Dykhouse as Vice Chairperson, Ron Wheeler as Vice Chairperson, and Patricia Lebrun as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 16. CONFIRM DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Peterson reminded the board of the next meeting, scheduled for September 17, 2020 at 8:00 AM (MT) in the E&O Conference room and via Zoom.

ITEM 17. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Peterson announced he did not receive any public comment request forms. There were no questions from the audience.

ITEM 18. BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Aprahamian said she is impressed with what the E&O team has done, noting “necessity is the mother of invention” and said it has been amazing to watch the world adjust and do such creative things. She added, the programs for Neutrino Week are quite amazing.

Mr. Dykhouse echoed Dr. Aprahamian’s sentiments, noting the terrific work on Neutrino Week and all of the programing. He said this is taking a difficult situation and making it better. He also complimented Sanford Lab’s outstanding and thorough reopening plan in the wake of COVID-19.

Ms. Lebrun said the Neutrino Day activities are outstanding and that the technology component will be used by people in future events to provide access from anywhere in the world. She said Sanford Lab is doing a great job and noticed that challenges are not problematic for the team.

Mr. Musick reiterated previous comments, noting that Mr. Headley’s team is doing a great job through all the problems. Mr. Musick also noted that he recently gave a presentation to junior high students including a discussion about the mine and dark matter, and the interest level from 7th and 8th graders was tremendous.

Mr. Wheeler also echoed previous comments, acknowledging the wonderful job done by Mr. Headley and his team during difficult circumstances and said he is impressed with the E&O team and the Neutrino Day planning team.

Dr. Wilson said E&O and virtual Neutrino Day serves as opportunities to reach a global audience and noted the teams' excellent work. He also recognized Mr. Headley's handling of the shutdown, responding to the pandemic crisis and maintaining communication with the lab and experiments, in an impressive manner. Dr. Wilson said, the biannual Neutrino conference of 2020 is currently underway, and Dr. Mike Mooney an assistant professor working with the DUNE project, is a recipient of the DOE Early Career Award this year. Dr. Wilson said that approximately 12 awards are given in the field of physics, and three of those awards are associated with DUNE (two awards), and LBNF (one award) which shows incredible support for the project and the positive feedback has rippled through the collaboration.

Dr. Rankin commented on the pandemic situation and noted that the university systems have also seen that there is no guidebook, and that it has been good to see how Sanford Lab has been handling things with restrictions and reopening. Dr. Rankin recognized the importance of the EPSCoR grant and E&O programming and said that we continue to lose STEM interest from elementary and middle school students and everything we can do for E&O will keep the younger generation engaged. He said we have all learned a great deal about virtual technology, but we should also remember that within 300 miles of SURF, there are a many people who do not have access to broadband technology and are unable to participate in virtual learning. Supporting the governor and government in expanding broadband will make it easier to get the message out.

Mr. Engel noted that he and his team appreciate the opportunity to work with SDSTA and Mr. Headley's team.

Mr. Headley thanked his team for their efforts and said it is exciting to share with the board the amazing and creative ways the team has made programs better, as well as the effort to reopen after pushing through the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability to continue to support science and construction for the future. He said he is proud to be a part of the team and thankful for the board's support and the opportunity to work with Mr. Engel.

Chairperson Peterson said it is amazing how far SDSTA has come since its beginning, approximately 15 years ago. He said even with the recent challenges due to COVID-19, there has been amazing progress for E&O, Neutrino Day, the SURF Foundation, a SURF Institute phase II study, an ethnobotanical garden planning, the cooperative agreement operation, KAJV work and DOE support. Chairperson Peterson said he is proud and satisfied with what is going on and he thanked everyone for their contribution, time and effort.

ITEM 19. ADJOURN

Chairperson Peterson called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mr. Dykhouse and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.