

**South Dakota Science and Technology Authority Board of Directors**  
**Special Telephonic Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 29, 2021**  
**Lead, South Dakota**

The Board of Directors of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) convened at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time (MT) on Thursday, July 29, 2021, via teleconference. 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 BY TELEPHONE**

Dr. Ani Aprahamian  
Vice-Chairperson Dana Dykhouse  
Secretary/Treasurer Pat Lebrun  
Mr. Roger Musick  
Chairperson Casey Peterson  
Mr. Ron Wheeler  
Dr. Robert Wilson

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT**

Dr. James Rankin, *ex-officio member*

**SDSTA STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Tim Engel, General Counsel (by phone)  
Mr. Mike Headley, Executive Director  
Ms. Mandy Knight, Administrative Services Manager  
Mr. Will McElroy, Operations Program Manager  
Ms. Constance Walter, Communications Director  
Ms. Natasha Wheeler, Administrative Assistant (by phone)

**ALSO PRESENT DURING THE MEETING**

Ms. Wendy Pitlick, Reporter, Black Hills Pioneer (by phone)  
Mr. Sam Matson, Intern, May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson, LLP. (by phone)

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER**

**ITEM 1A. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Vice-Chairperson Dana Dykhouse called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (MT). Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse declared a quorum was present, consisting of board members Dr. Ani Aprahamian, Mr. Dana Dykhouse, Ms. Pat Lebrun, Mr. Roger Musick, Mr. Ron Wheeler and Dr. Bob Wilson. Dr. James Rankin was absent.

**ITEM 1B. INTRODUCE GUESTS (LISTENING POST IN LEAD)**

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse asked participants to identify themselves. Mr. Mike Headley, Ms. Mandy Knight, Mr. Will McElroy, Ms. Constance Walter and Ms. Natasha Wheeler were present at the listening post in Lead. Mr. Tim Engel, Mr. Sam Matson and Ms. Wendy Pitlick joined by phone.

## **ITEM 1C. PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse said no public comment forms were submitted before the meeting.

## **ITEM 2. APPROVE AGENDA**

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 3. GENERAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Mr. Engel asked if any member of the board, who feels they have anything that might be construed to be a conflict of interest with respect to matters under consideration by the Board, to disclose it verbally.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

## **ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF OFFICIALLY NAMING THE NEW SURF MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY**

Mr. Headley said SDSTA is proposing to name the new maintenance support facility in honor of Senator M. Michael Rounds. He said the building has been under construction for about a year and is now complete as a 26,000 square foot facility, housing SURF's main warehouse, machine shop and office space for engineering and operations personnel. Mr. Headley said naming the building is a great opportunity to recognize a person who has been a champion for SURF and SDSTA. He said there have been a number of supporters who have played a huge role in the success of SDSTA, including former Governor (now senator) Rounds. Senator Rounds worked with the legislature to establish SDSTA and helped to secure funding for initial operations, helped to secure the Property Donation Agreement, and helped to secure the \$70 Million gift from T. Denny Sanford to kickstart the initial development of SURF. On behalf of the staff of SDSTA, Mr. Headley recommended to the Board of Directors to officially approve the naming of the maintenance support facility as the M. Michael Rounds Operations Center (otherwise known as the "ROC").

Dr. Wilson said the support for building an underground science lab was notable from then Governor Rounds, and it was a strength seen in international discussions that the lab had such high support from the state. He said, when the decision was made to establish SURF, and when the Department of Energy chose the site for the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility and Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (LBNF/DUNE), a lot of credit goes to Senator Rounds and the South Dakota state legislature. He said, Senator Rounds continues to show support and to be hugely influential. Dr. Wilson thanked everyone for the opportunity to be involved with the SDSTA board.

Ms. Lebrun said this is one of the more appropriate actions to take by the SDSTA board. She said Senator Rounds was instrumental in getting the lab to South Dakota, and keeping it on track to meet the expectations of not only South Dakotans, but also at the federal level. Ms. Lebrun said the building name is an appropriate recognition of Governor Rounds's support at all levels as the lab became a reality in South Dakota.

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse said he was there the evening when T. Denny Sanford asked Senator Rounds "what is the next big thing for South Dakota?", and Senator Rounds answered with vision and passion, describing how an underground lab would be the next big deal for South Dakota. Mr. Dykhouse said it certainly has turned out that way, and in his opinion, there is no one more appropriately honored with this naming opportunity.

*Chairperson Peterson joined by phone at 10:05 a.m.*

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve naming the new SURF maintenance support facility the M. Michael Rounds Operations Center. The motion passed unanimously.*

**ITEM 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse said no requests were made for Public Comment.

**ITEM 6. BOARD COMMENTS**

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the board. No board comments were made.

Vice-Chairperson Dykhouse said the next regularly scheduled board meeting is Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. (MT), at the E&O Building Conference Room and via Zoom.

**ITEM 7. ADJOURN**

*Motion by Dr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Musick to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m. (MT) on July 29, 2021.**