

**South Dakota Science and Technology Authority Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 20, 2024**  
**Lead, South Dakota**

The Board of Directors of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) convened at 8:01 a.m. Mountain Time (MT) on Thursday, June 20, 2024, 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. 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**

Mr. Roger Musick (in person)  
Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Lebrun (in person)  
Chairperson Casey Peterson (in person)  
Mr. Ron Wheeler (by phone)  
Mr. Steve Elliott, ex-officio (in person)  
Dr. James Rankin, ex-officio (in person)

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT**

Dr. Ani Aprahamian  
Vice Chairperson Dana Dykhouse  
Dr. Chris Fall

**SDSTA STAFF PRESENT DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Ms. Christine Burger, Human Resource Manager (in person)  
Mr. Tim Engel, SDSTA General Counsel (in person)  
Mr. Mike Headley, SDSTA Executive Director and SURF Laboratory Director (in person)  
Ms. Michelle Kane, SURF Foundation Director/Donor Relations Manager (in person)  
Mr. Bill Kelly, Contracts & Procurement Manager (by phone)  
Ms. Mandy Knight, Administrative Services Manager (in person)  
Ms. Ann Metli, Communications Director (in person)  
Mr. Terry Miller, Chief Financial Officer (in person)  
Ms. Nicol Reiner, Education & Outreach Director (in person)  
Ms. Stacy Sandgren, Administrative Assistant (in person)  
Ms. Deb Wolf, Outreach & Culture Director (in person)

**ALSO PRESENT DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Ms. Sierra Ferguson, Black Hills Pioneer Journalist (in person)  
Ms. Samantha Johnson, KNBN NewsCenter1 Media (in person)  
Mr. Patrick Malone, Chief Sustainability Officer for Dakota Gold (in person)  
Ms. Beth Massa, SURF Foundation Board Member (in person)  
Dr. Ben Saylor, Director of Sanford Science Education Center for BHSU (in person)

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Casey Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. (MT). Roll call was held and a quorum declared. Mr. Roger Musick, Ms. Pat Lebrun, Chairperson Peterson, Mr. Steve Elliott, and Dr. James Rankin were present in person. Mr. Wheeler joined by phone. Dr. Ani Aprahamian, Mr. Dana Dykhouse, and Dr. Chris Fall were absent.

Chairperson Peterson asked guests to introduce themselves. Of note, the following 2024 summer interns introduced themselves: Megan Wellman/BHSU from Campbell, SD and Rachel Johnson from Box

Elder, SD, interning with the Education & Outreach Department; Marissa Tuttle/BHSU from Spearfish, interning with the Environmental, Safety, and Health Department; Bridger Roberdeau/SD Mines from Spearfish and Colton Clay/SD Mines from Colorado, interning with the Engineering Department. Interns unable to attend were Raine Flick/BHSU graduate from Spearfish and Micah Seagrist/SD Mines from Pennsylvania, interning with the Science Department; and Kate Shelton/BHSU from Maryland, interning with the Communications Department.

Davis-Bahcall chaperones Kristen Rath, Spearfish Middle School teacher, and Matthew Paulus, BHSU biologist, introduced themselves followed by the scholars: Beck Bruch, from Sturgis, who is finishing his freshman year at the Georgia Institute of Technology; Nicolette Dame, from Rapid City, who is an incoming freshman at the University of North Dakota; Mackenzie Hollenbeck, from Edgemont, who is an incoming freshman at South Dakota State University; James Roth, from Spearfish, who is finishing his freshman year at Black Hills State University; Colby Routh, from Spearfish, who is finishing his freshman year at Black Hills State University; Ashley Tiezen, from Canistota, who is an incoming freshman at Colorado State University; Jing Yan, from Sioux Falls, who is completing their freshman year at Lehigh University; and Huixin Zhang, from Vermillion, who is an incoming freshman at Washington University in St. Louis.

## **ITEM 2. APPROVE AGENDA**

Chairperson Peterson asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. SDSTA General Counsel Tim Engel suggested to move Item 8B concerning the rock conveyor donation to after executive session, as new agenda number “16A”.

Chairperson Peterson asked for a motion to approve the agenda as modified.

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 3. APPROVE MINUTES**

Chairperson Peterson asked if there were any comments on the March 21, 2024, Minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Musick to approve the March 21, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 4. GENERAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

SDSTA General Counsel Mr. Tim Engel invited members of the Board to disclose anything that might be construed to be a conflict of interest with respect to items under consideration at today’s meeting.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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

Mr. Engel said he contacted all Board members before the June 20, 2024, board meeting and asked them to make any disclosures required by SDCL CH. 3-23. He said no disclosures were reported.

Chairperson Peterson referenced Item 1C—Public Comments—and 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. No comment forms were submitted during the meeting.

## **ITEM 6. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

Chairperson Peterson reported the appointment of Ms. Lebrun, Mr. Musick, and CFO Mr. Terry Miller to serve on the audit committee. He asked for a motion to confirm the appointments.

*Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Musick to approve the appointment of audit committee members as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

Chairperson Peterson thanked the Audit Committee members for their service on the committee.

## **ITEM 7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **ITEM 7A. REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Miller referenced the financial statements included in the board packet for the April 30, 2024, reporting period and reviewed highlights. He said the Cooperative Agreement is approaching the end of its last year of a five-year agreement. The SPA analysis cumulative expenses for the Cooperative Agreement are at \$109.4 million, which is lower than the budgeted \$112.0 million by \$2.6 million. He said this will be spent or obligated by the end of federal FY2024 for expenses yet to be incurred, many of which have been deferred pending the new federal budget. In regard to the Balance Sheet, of the \$13 million appropriation—Senate Bill 35—for the underground expansion, \$6.7 million has been spent and is on track for Phase I of this project. Mr. Miller noted a few items on the Income Statement, Comparative Balance Sheet, Comparative Income Statement, Available Resources and Operating Budget Analysis and asked if there were any questions.

Chairperson Peterson asked that when the fixed assets have been classified, would accruals (financial statements) be negative, positive, or breakeven, and Mr. Miller thought it would be approximately breakeven.

Chairperson Peterson also asked how the SDSTA management controls expenditures. Mr. Miller responded each manager is responsible for their specific budgets and oversees and approves invoices in their departments. Mr. Headley explained the Control Account Managers, along with the Finance team and Mr. Headley, meet monthly to review expenditures and to compare them to the budget specific to each department. Each manager must justify any variances to their expenditures. Mr. Headley said he approves or rejects expenditures unless it is outside of his spending authority, in which case it is reviewed by the SDSTA board.

### **ITEM 7B. APPROVAL OF FY2025 BUDGET**

Mr. Miller reviewed the SDSTA operating budget for FY2025 and noted a few items. He said the Board of Directors budget has a slight increase as the state of South Dakota is increasing the per diem honorarium from \$75 to \$166 effective July 1, 2024. The Executive Office budget has decreased due to several reasons including The Institute of Underground Science at SURF (the Institute) budget being moved to its own line item and a decrease in xenon insurance.

Ms. Lebrun asked if the xenon insurance decreased because of the quantity on hand, and Mr. Headley replied that it is primarily because of the decrease in value of xenon.

Mr. Miller said the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center budget has also decreased due to several staff moves to the indirect budget under the Education and Outreach Department. He noted the Board appropriated \$13 million last year for the 4850L expansion but the money will not all be spent by June 30; \$4 million will be expended in FY2025.

In regard to federal funds and the Indirect budget, Mr. Miller said the next five-year cooperative agreement, which will start October 1, 2024, is being worked on and the budget that is being presented for FY2025 is actually three months of the current agreement and nine months of the future (new)

agreement that is still pending. He said the FRA Ross Logistics Support has a large decrease of \$2.2 million due to the owner's interest policy (OIP) insurance premium for the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) project, which was added in last year's budget but will not be payable during FY2025. He said, last year \$914,000 was budgeted for the FRA LBNF groundskeeping support but the project just started within the last two months; hence, very little was expended against the 2024 budget. He also noted the E&O team was awarded a couple of small grants.

Mr. Miller said the FY2024 Indirect budget of \$14 million set last year was based on an indirect rate of 56.18%. However, the indirect rate is tracking at 60.26% for FY2025, which was used to calculate the \$50.9 million budget. There is a chance the board will be presented with a few amendments to the budget since the cooperative agreement budget has not been finalized yet.

Mr. Headley interjected that the appropriations are unknown on the federal budget side currently, but SDSTA is planning based on the President's proposed budget of \$35 million and hope committee action will be taken in the next couple of months. Chairperson Peterson asked if that would cause a supplemented budget. Mr. Headley replied yes, and that the money would be primarily used for infrastructure improvement projects, such as the Yates Hoist project. There were no further questions.

*Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Musick to accept the financial report as well as approve and adopt the FY2025 budget, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 8. SURF FOUNDATION**

### **ITEM 8A. FOUNDATION UPDATE**

SURF Foundation Director Ms. Michelle Kane shared the successes and activities of the Foundation. She began her presentation by reminding the Board the Foundation is SDSTA's nonprofit arm. The Foundation raises funds to support public outreach, working with grant makers, other foundations, corporate partnerships, businesses, and individuals who are passionate about activities at SURF. She said as she shared at the last board meeting in March, the Foundation has categorized the programs and projects the Foundation supports into four areas: The Institute for Underground Science at SURF, Community Engagement & Events, Education and Student Developments, and the Friends of SURF Initiative. Ms. Kane reviewed last year's fundraising goals, January 1 to present donations received and pledged, and noted the next two quarters would focus on grants. She mentioned the successes for Neutrino Day, adding new sponsors and receiving a grant for enhanced marketing from South Dakota tourism. She said it has been a team effort with help from SDSTA staff and board participation in many of the events.

Mr. Headley added that with the kind of restructuring of the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant program within the National Science Foundation (NSF), the staff has been looking at opportunities for raising grant funds via that avenue for the Institute. Outreach & Culture Director Ms. Deb Wolf and others have done a great amount of legwork on this. The SDSTA is also trying to strategize on how to propose projects for the Institute with an eye towards leveraging and growing partnerships with universities to make those proposals more attractive.

Ms. Kane then mentioned Neutrino Day is July 13 and with the South Dakota tourism grant, SDSTA is hoping to enhance and grow attendance by 10% and focus on areas within a 100 miles driving distance. She highlighted other programs identified for grants including Deep Talks, Deep Roots, and Artist in Residence.

She said under Education and Student Development program are the summer interns and the Davis-Bahcall scholars. The goal is to secure one additional family funded intern by the end of the year. She thanked First PREMIER Bank, Black Hills State University (BHSU), the University of South Dakota

Space Grant Consortium, and SDSTA for their support of the Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program and said she is continuing to evaluate grant opportunities.

In regard to the Institute, the Center for Theoretical Underground Physics \*and Related Areas (CETUP\*) 5-week workshop started this week in Lead. Many of the scientists are participating in different events outside of the workshop. Ask a Scientist is being held this evening at the SLHVC, which is also supported by Crow Peak Brewing Company, who continues to support many of the SURF public events. The QuarkNet Cornerstone workshop was a lead teacher program held in conjunction with Fermilab and Notre Dame at SURF. These are just two highlights of the Institute.

She concluded with goals for the next three months. She said new content will be incorporated into marketing of the Friends of SURF initiative. The Foundation is collaborating with the Communications team to gather stories, testimonials, and content from anyone who has touched SURF. Effort will be focused on meeting fundraising goals, continuing to update the Foundation's online presence through the website and social media, as well as focus on operations—the donor database and preparing for the growth of the Foundation staff and future outreach efforts. She asked if board members had any questions.

Chairperson Peterson asked how the Foundation is doing with the Friends in each state initiative. Ms. Kane replied that the Foundation took a step back and plans to build the Friends of SURF as an overall donor plan with a national outreach plan; the program has not been rolled out yet.

## **ITEM 9. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **ITEM 9A. DECLARATIONS OF SURPLUS**

Mr. Headley referenced the two declarations of surplus included in the board packet and said the items are primarily equipment that have reached end-of-life and either identified for scrap or surplus for sale. He noted the board will continue to see surpluses included in the board packets as the SDSTA examines assets facility-wide. He answered questions regarding end-of-life and surplus equipment.

### **ITEM 9B. SDSTA QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Mr. Headley provided a SURF update and began with a quarterly summary. He said 1) FY2024 budget includes \$35M for SURF operations and the cooperative agreement renewal negotiations are in the final stages. 2) LBNF excavation is completed on the 4850L and TMI demobilization is nearing completion. 3) A significant number of loads were handled for LBNF concrete installation with over 400 slung loads versus Fermilab's estimated 20 loads. 4) Planning discussions continue with Building and Site Infrastructure (BSI) and Far Detector and Cryogenic Infrastructure (FDC) teams. 5) Yates Shaft Top-Down-Maintenance is at 2300L and is on track to reach to the 4850L by the end of 2024. 6) The 4850L expansion excavation is underway with the first major blast on May 15; an October completion is planned. 7) Sacred Circle Garden planting was held on June 12. It was a wonderful event with over 100 in attendance. Public tours of the Garden have started. 8) Marty Two Bulls Jr., the 2024 Artist in Residence, started working at SURF this week. 9) The Higher Education Connections Workshop on April 4 was held on site; seven state institutions participated. 10) E&O worked with over 16,000 students in the 2023-24 school year. 11) 2024 CETUP\* workshop started this week with 70 participants spanning the 5-week program.

Mr. Headley showed several slides of the North Cavern, South Cavern, Ross Brow 4850L Station Excavation (which is the end of the excavation phase), along with videos of the 4850L Space Expansion and the first blast.

Mr. Musick asked how long the LBNF/DUNE will be in service? Mr. Headley replied that there are 10 years of construction and then 20 years of operation for a total of 30 years approximately.

Mr. Headley briefly discussed the Institute’s long-term vision and included the following: 1) World-leading center for underground science collaboration. 2) Build and foster intellectual community. 3) Leadership in long-term science community planning. 4) Develop global community for vision and leadership in multidisciplinary research. 5) A “Hub” for information on global underground science. 6) Close collaboration and integration with the science and outreach programs. 7) World leadership in K-12 and public education and outreach programs.

Near-term programming included the: 1) Higher Ed Connections Workshop, 2) QuarkNet Lead Teacher Cornerstone Workshop, 3) Deeper Talks: SURF Seminar Series, 4) Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program, 5) CETUP\*, and 6) Quantum Partnership Workshop.

He announced that Neutrino Day 2024 will be held on Saturday, July 13, and encouraged board members to volunteer and/or attend.

He concluded his presentation by recognizing former Communications Director Constance Walter as she will be retiring this month. He said the growth of Neutrino Day and public outreach are in part due to Constance, who has been with SDSTA nearly 11 years. Mr. Headley said he appreciated her efforts and handing over the baton to the Communications team.

### **ITEM 9C. EDUCATION & OUTREACH (E&O) UPDATE**

Mr. Headley introduced Education & Outreach (E&O) Director Ms. Nicol Reiner, who shared a table of data illustrating the number of student interactions with the E&O Department, meeting the 16,000-student target. She said there have been more than 2,000 people hours of professional development in the last three months. Ms. Reiner discussed magnifying the work of E&O to include: 1) BHSU, 2) QuarkNet, 3) Cultivating Indigenous Research Communities for Leadership in Education and STEM (CIRCLES) six state alliance at Sitting Bull College, 4) Neiman – Spearfish Forestry Products and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 5) Little Shop of Physics, 6) Schools/Career in Technical Education (CTE) centers and connections with science, and 7) Internal – interns and the SDSTA staff.

Ms. Reiner mentioned the E-CORE award and thanked Sanford Science Education Center Director Dr. Ben Saylor for submitting the application through BHSU. She said this will help fund teacher leadership programs, with more professional development connecting teachers and scientists together over the next four years. She said Dr. Saylor does an amazing job of writing proposals and knows exactly what SURF needs to get funded, which is why we were one of the three in the nation who were funded.

The QuarkNet Lead Teacher Cornerstone Workshop was held recently with high school teachers attending who are affiliated with the following institutions: Notre Dame University, Colorado State University, University of New Mexico, Florida State University, Virginia Tech, University of Alabama, University of Washington, Black Hills State University, University of Cincinnati, Rice University, and University of Houston.

Other partnerships include: 1) Effective & Equitable Teaching Practices with Connections to Indigenous STEM, funded by NSF grant—the CIRCLES Alliance, also a partnership with BHSU and six states that the E&O team worked with. The team traveled to Sitting Bull College in the first week of June and made great connections across South Dakota. 2) Teacher Workshop 2024 Professional Development – Teaching OUTSIDE your element was the theme to encourage teachers to get children outside. The workshop was anchored around the planting event at the Garden, and it was an amazing event. 3) Teacher Workshop 2024 Professional Development—responses from teachers regarding their experience at the workshop. 4) Networking – National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) conference was held in Denver this year and SDSTA research scientist Dr. Doug Tiedt joined the E&O team. She said many great connections were made.

In conclusion, Ms. Reiner announced field trips and presentations are already being scheduled for next fall and in high demand by schools. The E&O teams continue networking with teachers and other entities across the state.

## **ITEM 9D. SACRED CIRCLE PLANTING UPDATE**

Community Relations Specialist Ms. Rochelle Zens provided a brief update on the Sacred Circle Garden, construction of which was completed in November 2023. Over 100 staff and visitors attended the Sowing the Seeds of Čhaŋgléška Wakǵáŋ event on June 12, which was the first Deep Roots event and planting of the ethnobotanical garden. Sequoia Crosswhite told stories and offered a musical performance, and 300 native plants were planted in the Garden. She thanked her colleague Emily Berry, who worked with the SDSU native plant initiative group. They were instrumental in helping determine which plants would work well in that location. Ms. Zens said five Black Hills master gardeners also helped with planting. She showed a diagram of the location of the plants in the circle and said communication summer intern Katie Shelton created the drawings using watercolor.

Guided tours of Čhaŋgléška Wakǵáŋ began this week. They are free and open to the public; interested parties can register at the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center.

During the June 12 event, SDSTA commemorated the service of Mr. George Campbell and Mr. KC Russell, Cultural Advisory Committee Chair for 14 years and SDSTA Cultural and Outreach Coordinator, respectively. Each was presented with a print by Don Montileaux, who is a native artist in the region.

Ms. Zens announced there are three remaining programs for Deep Roots. 1) July is Phil Gover, who is with the Center for Indian Country development based out of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve. 2) August is Artist in Residence Marty Two Bull, Jr., who will be presenting his artwork. 3) September is Amy Sazu, who is the Executive Director of the Remembering the Children organization in Rapid City.

In conclusion, as part of exploring future opportunities, Ms. Zens said the Cultural Advisory Committee made a recommendation to expand the arts programming at SURF. The SDSTA team will explore that through plein air painting at the Garden. Other opportunities include offering stargazing/astronomy as well as collaborating with Dr. Rosie Sprague, who teaches ethnobotany within the American Indian Studies Department at BHSU. The Cultural Advisory Committee will meet in July and provide additional guidance and recommendations related to programming as well. She asked if there were any questions and Dr. Rankin suggested reaching out to Dr. Carter Kerk who has experience with American Indian STEM initiatives under the name Tiospaye. He said he would contact Dr. Kerk on SDSTA's behalf.

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Executive Director's report. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 10. SDSTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **ITEM 10A. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PY & PP**

Mr. Headley said the SDSTA Policy and Procedure manual is being reviewed and any updates to these will be submitted at the next board meeting in September. He referenced the current Financial Conflict of Interest Policy in the board packet.

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to accept the Financial Conflict of Interest Policy, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 10B. ANNUAL STATEMENTS AFFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

Mr. Engel reminded the Board about the rules of the Financial Conflict of Interest Policy and all board members are required to sign their annual Conflict of Interest statement. Ms. Knight confirmed she had received signed forms from all board members.

## **ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF FY2024 OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

Mr. Headley said SDSTA has an agreement with the Office of Risk Management (ORM) for safety oversight at SURF and assistance with insurance matters. The annual review and update to the Intergovernmental Agreement is included in the board packet. The biggest change was in the appendix, with changes to a few codes and standards to which SDSTA has agreed to adhere.

Mr. Headley said SDSTA has added more OSHA and MSHA expertise to the on-site inspections, which has been helpful.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Musick to approve the FY2025 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bureau of Administration, Office of Risk Management of the State of SD and SDSTA and authorize the SDSTA executive director to sign the agreement. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 12. REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Musick said he met with Mr. Dykhouse via email as the Nominating Committee and indicated the report was included in the board packet. The nominations include Mr. Casey Peterson as Chairperson, Mr. Dana Dykhouse as Vice-Chairperson, and Ms. Pat Lebrun as Secretary/Treasurer. Chairperson Peterson asked for additional nominations, and none were made.

## **ITEM 13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chair Peterson recited the election conduct policy and asked if any Board Members intended to make nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was made.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Musick to accept the nominating committee slate and elect Casey Peterson as Chairperson, Dana Dykhouse as Vice-Chairperson, and Patricia Lebrun as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Ms. Lebrun 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) and 19-19-502. Motion passed unanimously.*

*The Board recessed at 9:34 a.m. for a ten-minute break followed by executive session.*

*The Board reconvened in open session at 10:52 a.m. and a quorum was confirmed.*

## **ITEM 15. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve the executive session report. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Engel recommended that the board table agenda Items 16, 16A (formerly Item 8B) and 17.

*Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Musick to table agenda Items 16, 16A, 17 relating to the termination of land use agreements, the memorandum of agreement concerning rock conveyor donation,*



*and assignment of easements. Chairperson Peterson said that the Board was not prepared to act on the tabled items at this time. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **ITEM 16. TERMINATION OF LAND USE AGREEMENTS**

*Tabled.*

#### **ITEM 16A “8B”. APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT CONCERNING ROCK CONVEYOR DONATION**

*Tabled.*

#### **ITEM 17. ASSIGNMENT OF EASEMENTS**

*Tabled.*

#### **ITEM 18. CONFIRM DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Peterson reminded the board of the next meeting, scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at SURF in the Education & Outreach large conference room. He asked board members to reply regarding availability to confirm a quorum.

#### **ITEM 19. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairperson Peterson said he did not receive any public comment request forms during the meeting and there was no one present in the room asking to provide public comment.

#### **ITEM 20. BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. Lebrun said she liked the new SURF logo and the use of it on material.

Mr. Musick said it was a very good meeting and congratulated Dr. Rankin on his retirement. He thanked him for his service on the SDSTA board as well as his time as President at SD Mines.

Mr. Wheeler said he appreciates the staff’s work and congratulated them on the progress. He said he is pleased with the E&O efforts.

Mr. Elliott, new President of BHSU, thanked the board. He said he is excited about the work and partnership with SURF; the work at SURF is intriguing and there are more opportunities ahead.

Dr. Rankin said it was good meeting and his last official meeting; Dr. Lance Roberts will attend the September meeting as interim President of SD Mines. He said the E&O efforts are impressive.

Mr. Headley thanked the staff for their great work over the last quarter and thanked the Board for their strong support. He congratulated Dr. Rankin on his retirement and thanked him for the great partnership with SD Mines.

Mr. Engel congratulated Dr. Rankin and thanked him for his service on the SDSTA board. He also congratulated Ms. Constance Walter on her retirement.

Chairperson Peterson thanked Ms. Walter for her service. She interjected that over the last 11 years, it has been an amazing time and thanked the staff and board for their support. Chairperson Peterson said he is proud of the board and SDSTA team.

#### **ITEM 21. ADJOURN**

Chairperson Peterson called for a motion to adjourn.

*Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.**