

**South Dakota Science and Technology Authority Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes-DRAFT**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2025**  
**Lead, South Dakota**

The Board of Directors of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) convened at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time (MT) on Thursday, September 18, 2025, 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 or videoconference.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Ani Aprahamian (videoconference)  
Vice-Chairperson Dana Dykhouse (videoconference)  
Dr. Chris Fall (videoconference)  
Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Lebrun (in person)  
Mr. Roger Musick (videoconference)  
Chairperson Casey Peterson (in person)  
Mr. Ron Wheeler (videoconference)  
Mr. Steve Elliott, ex officio (in person)  
Dr. Brian Tande, ex officio (videoconference)

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT**

None

**SDSTA STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON OR PHONE DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Mr. Tim Engel, SDSTA General Counsel  
Mr. Mike Headley, SDSTA Executive Director and SURF Laboratory Director  
Dr. Jaret Heise, Science Director  
Ms. Michelle Kane, SURF Foundation Interim Director/Donor Relations Manager  
Mr. Bill Kelly, Contracts & Procurement Manager  
Ms. Kelli Kirk, Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center Director  
Ms. Mandy Knight, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Christopher Kreitzinger, Science Support Specialist (by phone)  
Ms. Ann Metli, Communications Director  
Mr. Terry Miller, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Mike Ray, Media Relations Manager  
Ms. Nicol Reiner, Director of Education & Outreach  
Ms. Wendy Straub, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Becky Wilcox, Senior Administrative Assistant

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

Mr. Linn Evans, Board of Directors for the SURF Foundation (by phone)  
Mr. Steve O'Rourke, Dakota Gold Corp Co-Chair and Managing Director (in person)  
Ms. Wendy Pitlick, Black Hills Pioneer Journalist (in person)  
Mr. Tom Regan, retired SDSTA employee (by phone)  
Dr. Barbara Szczerbinkska, Board of Directors for the SURF Foundation (in person)  
Dr. Robert Wilson, Board of Directors for the SURF Foundation (by phone)

## **ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Casey Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. (MT). Roll call was held, and a quorum was declared. All board members participated. Chair Peterson, Ms. Lebrun, and Mr. Elliot (ex officio) attended in person. Dr. Aprahamian, Mr. Dykhouse, Dr. Fall, Mr. Musick, Mr. Wheeler, and Dr. Tande (ex officio) joined remotely.

Chair Peterson asked guests to introduce themselves.

Chair 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, and time would be given at the end of the agenda to discuss. No comment forms were submitted during the meeting.

## **ITEM 2. APPROVE AGENDA**

Chair Peterson asked if there were any modifications to the agenda, and there were none.

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

## **ITEM 3. APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Peterson asked if there were any comments on the June 26, 2025, Minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Dr. Fall to approve the June 26, 2025, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 4. DISCLOSURES AND LAWS**

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.

Chair Peterson disclosed a minority ownership interest in Warne Chemical and Equipment Company in Rapid City. He noted there are occasional off-the-shelf purchases at the standard price by SDSTA, but no other contracts.

Mr. Engel said he contacted all Board members before the September 18, 2025, board meeting to request any disclosures required by SDCL Ch. 3-23. No disclosures were submitted, and there are no waiver requests that require board action. Mr. Engel said Chair Peterson's disclosures require no action, as occasional purchases at the standard price offered to all customers are exempt from the waiver requirement.

Mr. Engel then reported the 2025 legislature passed a law that requires all boards and commissions to annually review South Dakota's Open Meetings laws. The Attorney General's office, in partnership with the South Dakota News Media Association, prepared a pamphlet called *Conducting the People's Business in Public*, which was included in the board packet. He explained the purpose of open meeting laws is to ensure the public has information about public affairs. Official meetings of public bodies must be open to the public, with advance notice provided. He summarized the topics covered in the pamphlet. He also mentioned violations of open meeting laws can result in penalties, including 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine, or a reprimand by the Open Meetings Commission.

## **ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair Peterson thanked Ms. Lebrun for leading the Audit Committee and asked her to provide an update. Ms. Lebrun reported the Audit Committee reviewed the charter as required annually, and no changes

were recommended. The committee also met on August 11 to discuss the ongoing external audit with Eide Bailly. The audit is due to the state in October, will be presented to the Board in December, and is scheduled for board approval in March.

She further noted that the SDSTA IT security assessment was completed and successfully passed. Given that internet security is a critical issue, SDSTA continues to make it a priority.

Mr. Miller concurred with Ms. Lebrun's comments and commended IT Operations Manager Sean Crooks and his team for their work with Marco Technologies LLC and Stack Titan on the security assessments, all of which SDSTA passed with flying colors.

Motion to accept the audit committee report was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

## **ITEM 6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **ITEM 6A. REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Chair Peterson invited Mr. Miller to discuss the financial statements. Mr. Miller began by referring the board members to the information provided in the SDSTA board packet, highlighting a few key points.

The billed accounts receivable include the true-up billings for FY21, FY22, and FY23, reflecting both indirect and employee benefit true-ups compared to billed amounts. Invoices are being held and will be combined once the FY2024 rates are approved, bringing the total for all four years, including the FY2024 estimate, to \$512,000.00 owed to SDSTA.

In the board packet, members were directed to the financial analysis in the progress report (pages 126–128), the Cooperative Agreement SURF Services FY2025 SPA Curve as of July 2025 (page 150), and the financial summary (pages 151–158), which includes the balance sheet, the comprehensive statement of income, the comparative balance sheet and income statement, available resources, and the operating budget summary.

As of July 2025, cumulative Cooperative Agreement expenses were \$146 million, which is \$2 million under budget. Approximately \$860,000.00 reflects unpurchased assets in the FY2025 budget, which have been delayed due to uncertainty in the President's FY2026 budget to ensure sufficient operating funds. Indirect true-up rebills of \$1.8 million are anticipated, and staff are tracking \$2.2 million in critical projects not included in the Cooperative Agreement budget.

The balance sheet showed the balance remaining of Senate Bill 35 funds at \$58,000.00, with \$12.94 million spent on the 4850L underground expansion project to date. Fixed assets totaled \$153 million, with a \$6.59 million increase in work-in-progress for FY2025 and a net increase of \$6.2 million from the prior month after depreciation. The ARO balance was \$1.13 million, and pension deferred outflows decreased by \$441,000.00 to \$4.9 million.

The income statement showed DOE subcontract revenue of \$1.8 million, reduced by audit accrual reversals, which also contributed to a net loss of \$687,000.00.

Comparative balances showed local checking higher by \$1.2 million than the prior year, due to operating cash transfers covering ongoing costs and asset purchases, including \$82,777.00 in equipment and \$22,000.00 for the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center (SLHVC) roof project. Total fixed assets were \$46.4 million higher than the previous year, primarily due to \$45.8 million in DOE-funded purchases and donations, a \$7.3 million decrease in work-in-progress from projects capitalized in FY2025, and a \$12 million increase in improvements tied to the 4850L underground expansion project.

The comparative income statement reflected net income improved by \$1.5 million compared to July 2024, primarily due to 4850L underground expansion expenses recorded in July 2024.

Year-to-date, the operating budget was under by \$1.7 million, with underruns in indirect costs and federal projects. Additional underruns were reported in Cooperative Agreement capital projects, the Bull Gang contract, and the BSI Logistics contract. Non-labor indirect expenditures, such as parking lot rehabilitation, window replacement in the Administration and E&O buildings, IT, senior management, ESH, finance, procurement, communications, and surface operations, were managed conservatively to conserve cash. The monthly indirect rate estimate is tracking closely with the submitted FY2024 rate.

Chair Peterson asked about available resources, and Mr. Miller replied as of July 31, available resources (short-term) were \$2.5 million, providing approximately 30 days of operations, and there is sufficient Cooperative Agreement budget authority to continue operations through November. Mr. Miller answered further questions from the board.

*Motion by Mr. Dykhous and seconded by Dr. Fall to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **ITEM 6B. SD INVESTMENT COUNCIL LETTER**

Mr. Miller referred to the SD Investment Council letter included in the board packet, noting the rate of return of 4.28% last year, which generated approximately \$581,000.00 in earnings. Chair Peterson asked for recommendations on the FY2026 accrual rate; Mr. Wheeler recommended 2.00%.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to accrue interest on SDSTA's funds with the Investment Council at 2%. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **ITEM 6C. FISCAL YEAR END INVENTORY ASSET LISTING**

Mr. Miller reported an annual June-end inventory asset listing is provided to the Board for informational purposes. This year's listing included an additional Foundation asset to reflect the Conveyor System (Rock Handling) at \$16.5 million, which was the fair market appraised value at the time of its donation in July 2024.

Chair Peterson asked if the Conveyor System is being depreciated as part of the indirect rate; Mr. Headley added he and Mr. Miller would be meeting with a procurement attorney the following day to discuss that matter.

#### **ITEM 6D. FISCAL YEAR END PER DIEM LISTING**

In regard to the fiscal year-end per diem listing, Mr. Miller reported there was nothing new or noteworthy to mention. No questions were raised.

#### **ITEM 6E. APPROVAL FOR HAZARD ABATEMENT**

Mr. Miller referred to a two-page FY2026 budget prepared for the June board meeting and discussed a new federal project added on the second page. He noted the EPA Brownfields Program is a \$1 million grant to be used for asbestos abatement identified in legacy buildings at SURF. The request is to amend the FY2026 budget to grant expenditure authority for \$500,000.00 of that grant.

*Motion by Mr. Dykhous and seconded by Mr. Musick to amend the FY2026 budget to include an additional \$500,000.00 from the EPA Brownfields funding for hazard abatement activities. Motion passed unanimously.*

## ITEM 7. SURF FOUNDATION

### ITEM 7A. FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mr. Headley provided a brief update on the process to hire a new SURF Foundation Director. He said SDSTA has reengaged with Lindauer, the search firm previously used to hire the former director. Since the former director resigned within six months, Lindauer will not charge a search fee, and SDSTA will only be responsible for reimbursable expenses. The position has been posted on SDSTA's website, and interested candidates must apply through Lindauer. Mr. Headley said the timeline includes a down-select to approximately six candidates with Zoom interviews in October, followed by a further down-select to two or three finalists for in-person interviews in early November. The goal is to hire by the end of the year.

SURF Interim Foundation Director/Donor Relations Manager Ms. Michelle Kane then shared the successes and activities of the Foundation, including Neutrino Day, which drew more than 2,300 visitors with strong sponsor support and expanded programming. Ms. Kane thanked Black Hills Energy for providing branded bags for Neutrino Day guests. Looking ahead, Neutrino Day will serve as the foundation for a connected three-year story arc: the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lead and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States in 2026, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Homestake in 2027, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Neutrino Day alongside DUNE installation milestones in 2028.

The Deep Talks series is expanding year-round with the addition of Deep Roots in the Čanglěška Wakhán garden, creating new sponsorship opportunities. The Center for Theoretical Underground Physics \*and Related Areas (CETUP\*), the four-week summer workshop that brings global researchers to SURF, remains an Institute priority with a decision on a pending grant request expected by the end of September.

Regarding donor engagement, the Foundation launched a quarterly donor newsletter featuring success stories and updates from the Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program, one of its most impactful initiatives for developing the next generation of scientists. Featured in this edition was 2014 Scholar Madison Jilek, who recently completed her Ph.D. in chemical physics as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Colorado Boulder and is now training AI to reason like a scientist, illustrating how early curiosity nurtured by the program can lead to innovative scientific careers. Next quarter's newsletter will highlight 2023 Scholar Nicolette Dame, an aerospace engineering student at the University of North Dakota, who credits the program with giving her the confidence to pursue undergraduate research, leadership roles, and initiatives such as founding a student chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and planning a Women in Science Day. She currently serves as vice president of the University of North Dakota's Advanced Rocketry Club.

These stories demonstrate how the Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program fosters confidence, creativity, and leadership in emerging STEM professionals. Strong support from donors, including First Premier Bank and Mr. Dykhouse, ensures that SURF continues to inspire and prepare the next generation of researchers. The Foundation also launched a new donor profile series, beginning with Chair Peterson, who reminds us to consider, *"Did we leave the world a better place? That's the question we should all be asking."* Through these efforts, the Foundation highlights how SURF's science and education programs create lasting impact and opportunities. She thanked Chair Peterson for sharing his story as well as his generosity.

### ITEM 7B. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SURFF BYLAWS

Mr. Headley reviewed two key changes in the SURFF Bylaws: 1) A change that would allow the nomination of new board members at any time during the year, rather than once per year prior to the



SDSTA Board of Directors' annual meeting. 2) Revising how members of the governance committee and standing committees are selected. The SURFF board adopted the amended Bylaws at its July 11, 2025, meeting and asked the SDSTA Board to consider approval.

*Motion by Dr. Fall and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to approve the SURF Foundation Amended and Restated Bylaws adopted by the SURFF board on July 11, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 8. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **ITEM 8A. DECLARATIONS OF SURPLUS**

Mr. Headley referenced the 11 declarations of surplus included in the board packet and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **ITEM 8B. SDSTA QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Mr. Headley provided a SURF update and said it has been a very busy quarter with notable accomplishments. He reported on the following:

- SDSTA has recorded over half a million (515,319) hours worked since the last lost-time incident (December 14, 2023). Strong 2024 workers' compensation experience resulted in a 19% premium refund.
- Expanded support for LBNF, performing end-to-end construction logistics for LBNF Building and Site Infrastructure (BSI).
- Continued Yates Shaft heavy top-down maintenance, with hoist upgrades and shaft rehabilitation plans advancing.
- Science Strategic Plan (non-physics emphasis) is nearing completion.
- Ross Campus is operational again, supporting Compact Accelerator System Performing Astrophysical Research (CASPAR) and Black Hills State University Underground Campus (BHUC) activities.
- Infrastructure improvements include rehabilitation of the 3650L pumproom with a new modern pump, replacement of 1970s rotating biological contactors (RBCs) at the wastewater treatment plant with moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR) technology, and installation of a new sitewide SCADA system.
- Education and Outreach (E&O) worked with over 22,000 students and 400 teachers in the 2024-25 school year.
- Institute for Underground Science programming advanced, including the 2025 CETUP\* workshop, Quantum Partnership discussions, and monthly science colloquiums with increasing participation.
- SLHVC and Čanglěška Wakħāŋ (the Ethnobotanical Garden at SURF) experienced a successful summer with 29,000 visitors.
- Organizational changes implemented since hiring Chief Operating Officer Wendy Straub and Chief of Staff Mandy Knight:
  - COO and CoS roles created to balance Executive Director/Lead Director workload and better align SDSTA functions.
  - Functions most directly related to facility operations are now under the COO.
  - IT is aligned under Finance; the Institute is aligned under Science.
  - K-12 Education & Outreach was elevated to the Executive Leadership Team to reflect its importance to SURF's mission.
  - Other functions previously under the Executive Director/Lead Director—Contracts, HR, SLHVC, Communications—are now realigned under the Operations Division.

Mr. Headley highlighted current and future goals:

**FY2025 Goals:**

- Complete Yates Top-Down Maintenance.
- Transition SDSTA support for LBNF from excavation to BSI and cryostat installation.
- Establish 4850L Ross Campus bathroom facilities.
- Resume operations at 4850L Ross Campus with science activities ongoing.
- Establish Notification and Dispatch Center.
- Begin design for Yates Shaft hoist upgrades.
- Implement a fundraising plan for the SURF Foundation and adequately resource programs.
- Complete designs for Yates Complex electrical upgrades.

**FY2026 Goals (due September 30, 2026):**

- Transport the first structural steel to the 4850L for LBNF/DUNE.
- Make Davis Campus space available for a cryogenic facility.
- Complete 4850L Ross Campus bathroom facilities (carryover from FY2025).
- Complete the 1250L pumphouse.
- Complete designs for the Yates Complex electrical upgrades (carryover from FY2025).
- Implement a revised strategic plan for The Institute.
- Complete the design for Yates Hoist upgrade.
- Complete the electrical contractor license transition.

Mr. Headley concluded his report with photos, including the LBNF/DUNE skip cage. He said the steel beams will be transferred to the underground starting the first quarter of CY2026.

Dr. Aprahamian commented she appreciated the progress to get CASPAR reinstalled at the 4850L, as there is fierce competition globally.

### **ITEM 8C. SANFORD LAB HOMESTAKE VISITOR CENTER (SLHVC) UPDATE**

SLHVC Director Ms. Kelly Kirk provided an update to the Board, highlighting SLHVC as the “Front Door to SURF” and a space for learning and community engagement. She noted record attendance for the 2024–25 Deep Talks season, growth in the Ask-a-Scientist program, and a year-round calendar of events, including Worldwide Day of Play, Trunk or Treat, Pi Day, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. Programming in the native plant garden continues, fostering community connections and creating regional, national, and international collaborative opportunities.

Ms. Kirk shared highlights from the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Neutrino Day in July 2025, which drew a record 2,300 attendees, including 230 participants in Garden events, and over 300 in hoistroom tours, with 45 booths and nine performances. This year, a school bus was reserved for the hoistroom tours instead of the smaller trolley, allowing more visitors to participate. The event benefited from strong community support, with more than 200 volunteers, generous sponsors, and the largest number of community partners to date, and also hosted an Interactions Global Physics Photowalk.

She concluded her report by sharing an aerial photo of the chalk art on the SLHVC sidewalk and parking lot, capturing the bright and festive atmosphere of Neutrino Day.

Chair Peterson inquired about visitor numbers, and Ms. Kirk noted attendance in August was lower, while September is trending upwards. Chair Peterson congratulated Ms. Kirk and her team on a successful season.

Mr. Headley thanked Mr. Linn Evans and the Black Hills Energy team for their leadership and strong support of Neutrino Day over the years.

## ITEM 8D. SCIENCE UPDATE

Mr. Headley asked SDSTA Director of Science Dr. Jaret Heise to provide a brief science update. Dr. Heise reported the science program currently hosts 30 experiments and involves over 2,400 collaborators from 310 institutions across more than 50 countries. He noted the program is multidisciplinary, spanning geology and engineering, biology, physics, and industrial partnerships—such as Caterpillar. Dr. Heise highlighted core experiments at SURF and shared accompanying photos.

- LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) – Large Underground Xenon
  - Science Goal: Direct dark matter search using 10 tonnes of xenon.
- MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR (MJD) / Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay (LEGEND)
  - Science Goal: Neutrinoless double-beta decay using 44 kg of germanium.
  - Includes LEGEND R&D and rare decays (180mTa).
  - Only experiment endorsed by DOE, with SURF playing a key promotional role.
- CASPAR – Compact Accelerator System for Performing Astrophysical Research
  - Science Goal: Study stellar nuclear fusion reactions using an accelerator for protons or alpha particles.
  - Phase 3 is being considered.
- SURF Material Assay at BHUC (Black Hills State University Underground Campus)
  - Science Support Goal: Characterize radiopurity of experiment components; provide multi-disciplinary science support at Ross Campus.
- Geology: DEMO-FTES (Demonstration of Fracture Thermal Energy Storage)
  - Science Goal: Study enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) and fracture thermal energy storage effects.
- Biology: DeMMO (Deep Mine Microbial Observatory)
  - Science Goal: Explore rock-hosted microbial ecosystems through long-term water sampling.
  - Drill core analysis includes Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL's) in situ laser spectrometer SHERLOC; this is a technology concept used on the Mars Perseverance rover, which was also tested underground at SURF.

Ms. Lebrun noted the impressive longevity of experiments at SURF.

Mr. Wheeler praised Mr. Headley and the SDSTA team for their work.

*Motion by Dr. Fall and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Executive Director's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## ITEM 9: SDSTA BOARD GOVERNANCE MANUAL

Mr. Headley noted at the last board meeting, the Board approved the proposal to overhaul the SDSTA Policies and Procedures Manual by establishing a Governance Manual and a separate Employee Handbook (and converting other policies and procedures into ISO documents under the SURF Integrated Management System). He reported the SDSTA Board Governance Manual has been finalized and requested Board approval.

Chair Peterson asked if the draft Employee Handbook would be available for review at the December meeting, and Mr. Headley confirmed that it would be.

*Motion by Mr. Dykhouse and seconded by Dr. Fall to adopt the SDSTA Board Governance Manual as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*



## **ITEM 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Dr. Fall 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 9:30 a.m. for a ten-minute break followed by executive session.*

*The Board reconvened in open session at 10:08 a.m. and a quorum was confirmed.*

## **ITEM 11. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Mr. Musick and Dr. Tande departed after executive session at 10:08 a.m.*

Chair Peterson reported the Board consulted with legal counsel concerning contractual and legal matters. No action was taken.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to approve the executive session report. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 12. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RELATED TO LINE OF CREDIT**

Mr. Headley reminded the Board SDSTA has a line of credit available for cash needs in the event of a government shutdown and noted the Board had approved an increase in the line of credit to \$8 million at the March meeting. Staff is pursuing a tax exemption on the increased amount, which requires the Board to adopt the resolution that is included in the board packet. Mr. Engel reviewed the details of the resolution and recommended its approval.

Chair Peterson asked when the current line of credit expires, and Mr. Headley replied the \$5 million line of credit matures at the end of October.

Mr. Wheeler asked Mr. Headley to clarify if SDSTA operations are funded through the end of November, and he replied yes.

*Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Dr. Fall to adopt the resolution of the board of directors of the SDSTA authorizing the issuance of a tax-exempt draw-down note for working capital purposes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **ITEM 13. CONFIRM DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Peterson reminded the Board of the next meeting, scheduled for 8:00 a.m. (MT) on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at SURF in the Education & Outreach large conference room. He mentioned that Ms. Knight will poll the Board for the 2026 meeting schedule.

## **ITEM 14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair 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 15. BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Dykhouse reflected on SDSTA's early efforts to develop a strong safety culture and applauded the staff for achieving an excellent safety record, calling it very commendable.

Dr. Aprahamian expressed satisfaction with the organization's progress.

Dr. Fall noted continued admiration for the way the team runs the organization, calling it fantastic.

Ms. Lebrun remarked that everything seems on track and congratulated the staff for making it all work so well.

Mr. Wheeler acknowledged the passing of former board member Mr. Paul Christen, noting his tremendous influence and contributions to getting SURF started.

Mr. Elliot expressed appreciation for the partnership with SURF and desire to strengthen it further, noting that BHSU would like to help with Neutrino Day.

Mr. Headley added a plaque honoring Mr. Christen is being returned to display at SURF at Mr. Christen's request. He thanked Ms. Knight and Ms. Wilcox for Board support and Mr. Engel, praising the team and the Board for their strong backing and continued support.

Mr. Engel had nothing to add.

Chair Peterson expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts, noting the complexity of the organization and commending the team for navigating it excellently.

#### **ITEM 17. ADJOURN**

Chair Peterson called for a motion to adjourn.

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Dr. Fall to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.**