South Dakota Science and Technology Authority Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes-DRAFT
Thursday, June 25, 2026
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, June 25, 2026, in the Executive Board Room of the David Lust Accelerator Building at Elevate Rapid City, 18 E. Main Street, Rapid City, South Dakota. A conference number was posted on the agenda, including an invitation for members of the public to participate in the meeting by telephone.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Ani Aprahamian (by videoconference)
Mr. Linn Evans (by videoconference)
Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Lebrun (in person)
Mr. Roger Musick (by videoconference)
Chairperson Casey Peterson (in person)
Mr. Ron Wheeler (by phone)
Mr. Steve Elliott, ex officio (by phone)
Dr. Brian Tande, ex officio (in person)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT

Vice-Chairperson Dana Dykhouse

SDSTA STAFF PRESENT DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Mr. Tim Engel, SDSTA General Counsel (in person)
Ms. Kim Flock, Controller (by phone)
Mr. Mike Headley, SDSTA Executive Director and SURF Laboratory Director (in person)
Ms. Sharon Hemmingson, Interim Contracts & Procurement Manager (in person)
Ms. Michelle Kane, SURF Foundation Donation Relations Manager (in person)
Ms. Tracy Kerwin, SURF Foundation Director (in person)
Ms. Mandy Knight, Chief of Staff (in person)
Ms. Ann Metli, Communications Director (in person)
Mr. Terry Miller, Chief Financial Officer (in person)
Mr. Mike Ray, Media Relations Manager (in person)
Ms. Nicol Reiner, Education & Outreach Director (in person)
Ms. Wendy Straub, Chief Operating Officer (in person)
Mr. Aaron Scheibe, SDSTA Legal Counsel (in person)
Ms. Kathy Taylor, Contracts & Procurement Manager (in person)
Ms. Becky Wilcox, Senior Administrative Assistant (in person)

ALSO PRESENT DURING ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Mr. Clayton Hollowell, DOE HEP SURF Program Manager (in person)
Mr. Mike Pfaff, Fermilab LBNF Integration & Installation Services Manager (by videoconference)
Mr. Tom Regan, retired SDSTA employee (by phone)
Dr. Ben Sayler, BHSU Director of Sanford Science Education Center (by phone)
Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska, Foundation Board Member (in person)

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Casey Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. (MT). Roll call was held, and a quorum declared. Chair Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer Ms. Pat Lebrun, and Dr. Brian Tande were present in person. Dr. Ani Aprahamian, Mr. Roger Musick, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Steve Elliott joined by Zoom. Vice-Chair Mr. Dana Dykhouse was absent.

Dr. Ani Aprahamian joined at 8:04 am.

Chair Peterson requested that guests 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 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 2. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

ITEM 3. APPROVE MINUTES

Chair Peterson asked if there were any comments on the March 19, 2026, Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to approve the March 19, 2026, minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Before the next agenda item, Chair Peterson introduced Attorney Aaron Scheibe, SDSTA General Counsel Tim Engel's partner at his firm. Mr. Engel said he would formally introduce Mr. Scheibe later in the meeting.

ITEM 4. DISCLOSURES AND LAWS

Mr. 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 June 25, 2026 meeting to request any disclosures required by SDCL Chapter 3-23. No disclosures were provided, and there are no waiver requests requiring action by the Board.

ITEM 5. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Chair Peterson reported the appointment of Ms. Lebrun, Mr. Musick, and Mr. Dana Dykhouse to serve on the audit committee. He asked for a motion to confirm the appointments.

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

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

Mr. Steve Elliott joined the meeting at 8:11 am.

ITEM 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

ITEM 6A. REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Miller referenced the financial analysis and financial summaries for April 30, 2026, included in the board packet. As of April 2026, Cooperative Agreement (CA) cumulative expenses totaled $168.2 million, which was $5.1 million below budget. He noted SDSTA is tracking approximately $2.7 million in critical projects and anticipated indirect and employee benefit (EB) true-up rebillings of approximately $1.3 million. In June, SDSTA completed the rebilling of FY2021 through FY2024 indirect and EB true-ups, resulting in a net receivable of $512,000. Mr. Miller noted the FY2025 rate is still in negotiation with the Department of Energy (DOE).

Mr. Miller reported billed accounts receivable increased by $2.4 million from the prior month, due to labor billings, non-labor billings, and increased DUNE project activity. Fixed assets totaled $149.8 million, with significant year-over-year changes associated with Infrastructure Improvement Projects (IIPs), including the 4850L Underground Expansion project, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC) replacement, and the 3650L Pump Room project.

The income statement reflected DOE subcontract revenue of $35.1 million and net income of $393,000.00. Compared to the prior year, DOE subcontract revenue decreased, primarily due to the one-time capitalization of the Ross rehabilitation assets in FY2025, while net income improved by $6.0 million due largely to the capitalization of the 4850L Underground Expansion project costs.

Overall, SDSTA remained $15.4 million under the year-to-date operating budget, primarily due to lower indirect costs and the timing of federal project expenditures. Mr. Miller noted some purchases were deferred during the government shutdown and spending on critical needs and capital items is now moving forward. He also reported hiring efforts are ramping up to support the LBNF/DUNE project, including personnel and associated support costs.

Chair Peterson asked when the SDSTA equity and restricted pension decreased, and Mr. Miller explained the decrease was due to changes in the state's overall pension experience rather than SDSTA's individual performance.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6B. APPROVAL OF FY2027 BUDGET

Mr. Miller presented the proposed FY2027 budget, totaling approximately $69 million, an increase of $2.9 million over the FY2026 budget. He explained the budget is comprised of three funding categories: SDSTA-funded, federally funded, and indirect-funded activities. Key budget changes include:

- An increase in the Executive Office budget to account for potential interest expense associated with financing the Owner's Interest Policy (OIP) insurance premium for the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE). During prior policy renewals, SDSTA temporarily borrowed funds until reimbursement was received from the project sponsor. Because the related interest expense is unallowable under the federal contract, it is budgeted within SDSTA-funded operations. Mr. Miller said staff is working with FFDG to streamline future reimbursement and eliminate the need for interim borrowing.
- An increase in Foundation funding to support fundraising efforts.
- A reduction in the SDSTA-funded Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center budget, with most outreach activities transferred to the indirect budget.

- An increase in the CA budget reflecting the planned return of 30 Ross Infrastructure Technicians from FFDG funding beginning April 1, 2027.
- Additional changes included the completion of the Building and Site Infrastructure (BSI) Bull Gang contract, with personnel transitioning to the Far Detector Cryogenics project, as well as budgeting for a new FFDG equipment maintenance contract and an occupational health nurse contract.
- An indirect budget developed using historical expenditures, year-to-date spending, and manager input, with projected indirect recoveries sufficient to fully fund the proposed indirect budget.

Questions from the board were asked during the update. Chair Peterson asked whether interest earned on SDSTA balances would offset borrowing costs associated with the OIP insurance premium. Mr. Miller responded the amount of interest income remains uncertain. Mr. Headley noted depreciation recovered through the indirect rate provides sufficient funding to cover these costs. He added staff are working with FFDG to align insurance policy periods with contract periods to simplify reimbursement and avoid future borrowing. Mr. Headley also noted the anticipated return of the Ross Shaft workforce to Cooperative Agreement funding will improve fiscal flexibility.

Mr. Evans commended staff on the budget presentation and asked about key assumptions being monitored during the fiscal year. Also, Chair Peterson expressed interest in scheduling a more in-depth budget process with the Executive Committee during the next budget cycle.

Mr. Headley added SDSTA Controller Ms. Kim Flock reviewed the previous three years of expenditures and implemented a more systematic budgeting approach and thanked her for her work. This resulted in a stronger, more organized budget development process.

Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the FY2027 budget, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Following approval, Chair Peterson inquired about the timing of the renewal of SDSTA's line of credit with First Interstate Bank. Mr. Miller stated the renewal is scheduled for October. Chair Peterson requested preparations begin well in advance to ensure the renewal is completed on time.

ITEM 7. SURF FOUNDATION

ITEM 7A. FOUNDATION UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF FY2027 BUDGET

Foundation Director Ms. Tracy Kerwin provided a brief review of the fiscal year-end results, highlighted the FY2027 Strategic Operating Plan, and discussed key goals, tactics, and implementation efforts. She reported on the following:

- Fiscal Year End Performance (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
- FY2025/2026 Gift Profile, revenue concentration
- Strategic Operating Plan FY2026/2027 Strategies and Tactics, and overarching strategic themes to create institutional alignment-
    - Scientific Excellence
    - Place-based and Community Belonging
    - Inspiring Learning Across Generations,
    - Global Visibility, Influence, and Public Trust
    - Organizational Stability
- Strategic Alignment and Foundation Pillars to build a major gift pipeline
- Quantitative and Qualitative Goals
- Tactical Plan
- Budget discussion, noting 80% of the non-labor budget is dedicated to fundraising activities

Ms. Kerwin concluded her presentation by highlighting upcoming events, including Neutrino Day on July 10–11 and *An Evening with America's Underground Lab* on September 17 in Sioux Falls. She encouraged Board members to provide names of community and business leaders to invite to the September event.

Chair Peterson commended the strategic emphasis on expanding SDSTA's global profile. Ms. Kerwin noted the organization's strategic planning efforts have focused on communicating both SDSTA's statewide economic impact and its global impact and reach.

Motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to adopt the Foundation's FY2027 budget, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7B. APPROVAL OF REELECTION OF FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Fred Romkema, an existing SURF Foundation Board member with a term expiring in June 2026, to serve an additional three-year term beginning at the expiration of his current term. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7C. APPROVAL OF NEW APPOINTMENT TO FOUNDATION

Ms. Kerwin referred the Board to the meeting materials and reported the Foundation Governance Committee recommended the appointment of Dr. Osbert Blow to the SURF Foundation Board of Directors, which in turn appointed Dr. Blow, subject to concurrence by the SDSTA Board of Directors.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the appointment of Dr. Osbert Blow as a new SURF Foundation Board member to serve a three-year term expiring June 25, 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote, Ms. Kerwin thanked Foundation board member Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska for recommending Dr. Blow to the Foundation Board. Chair Peterson commented on Dr. Blow's impressive credentials. Mr. Engel clarified, under the Foundation Bylaws, the Foundation board recommends new members, and the SDSTA Board approves the appointments.

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ITEM 8B. SDSTA QUARTERLY UPDATE

Mr. Headley reported on progress highlights:

- Regarding the FY2027 Budget, the House Appropriations Committee approved $49 million for SURF in the FY2027 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, but noted several bills have been delayed indefinitely, increasing the potential for a continuing resolution or federal government shutdown. Staff have been evaluating contingency plans and estimate existing funding would support operations into February 2027.
- A Beam Signing event was held on May 7 in conjunction with the FFDG Resources Review Board to celebrate the start of DUNE installation. The event included a visit from DOE Under Secretary for Science Dr. Dario Gil, the highest-ranking DOE official to visit SURF to date. Mr. Headley noted the event was a significant milestone for the project.
- A DUNE Collaboration meeting was held in Rapid City and Lead, May 18-22 along with another beam signing. He thanked Senior Administrative Assistant Ms. Becky Wilcox (and Science Support Associate Christopher Kreitzinger) for helping with logistics planning for the event.
- Yates Shaft Top-Down Maintenance continued on nights and weekends with strong progress in multiple areas.

- Yates Hoist upgrades Request for Proposal in work: Phase 1 includes electrics, motors, controls, and Phase 2 includes mechanical. Mr. Headley said SDSTA would maintain secondary egress throughout the upgrade process.
- 4850L electrical upgrades and 1250L pump room rehabilitation are underway.
- Discussions with the XLZD dark matter experiment collaboration are ongoing in support of site selection planning. All four potential sites have briefed the collaboration site evaluation committee as part of the evaluation process.
- Planning for the Institute for Underground Science at SURF program is underway, with a five-year plan, and a new science advisory committee. Deeper Talks was rebranded in March to honor the late Dr. John Bahcall.

Ms. Lebrun asked about the steel movement process, and Mr. Headley said further details will be provided in the next agenda item.

Mr. Headley highlighted the FY2026 goals that are being tracked in the SDSTA strategic plan for the year (due September 30, 2026):

- Continue dedicated support for LBNF/DUNE logistics, including Far Detectors and Cryogenics Infrastructure (FDC) ramp-up.
- Initial structural steel is transported to the 4850L for LBNF/DUNE.
- Designs are complete for the Yates Complex electrical upgrades.
- Concept design complete for Yates Hoist upgrade; design/build RFP work competed.
- Davis Campus is available for deep underground cryogenic R&D facility, and funding may be secured by the end of the year.
- 1250L pumproom rehabilitation has commenced, which is critical to begin updating the Yates Hoist.
- Establish a revised five-year strategic plan for The Institute for Underground Science at SURF.
- Advance plans to host the Generation 3 (G3) Dark Matter experiment at SURF.

ITEM 8C. FDC STEEL MOVEMENT FOR THE LBNF/DUNE PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Headley introduced Fermilab LBNF Integration & Installation Services Manager, Mr. Mike Pfaff, via Zoom. He provided an update on DUNE installation logistics and progress. He described the extensive planning, scheduling, and warehouse management systems used to coordinate the movement of structural steel from delivery through underground installation. He reported steel deliveries and underground staging are progressing as planned, supported by close coordination among FFDG, SDSTA shaft operations, and the Bull Gang team.

Mr. Pfaff highlighted successful testing of specialized equipment and material-handling procedures, noting that approximately 30% of the initial cryostat structural steel is being staged underground in preparation for CERN's installation activities. He also reviewed lessons learned and process improvements implemented to enhance safety, material tracking, and operational efficiency.

Board member Mr. Evans commended the team for the detailed planning and execution of the work, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a strong safety focus.

Mr. Headley thanked Mr. Pfaff and the project teams for their collaboration and progress.

ITEM 8A. DECLARATIONS OF SURPLUS

Mr. Headley referenced the three declarations of surplus included in the board packet that he skipped at the beginning of his report and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. Lebrun to accept the Executive Director's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Before concluding his report, Mr. Headley invited Ms. Nicol Reiner, Director of Education & Outreach, to the table and she briefly discussed the student internship programs and announced the 2026 summer interns. They include: Drew Ekstrom and Jacob Fischer, students at South Dakota Mines, and Justin Fossum, a student at CASE, are interning with the Engineering Department. Tobias Kehrwald, a student at South Dakota Mines, and Breannah Ponce, a student at SDSU, are interning with the Education & Outreach Department. Travis Morrison, a Job Corps student, is interning with the Operations Department.

Also working with various experiments at SURF during the summer are the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) participants, a program funded by the National Science Foundation. The 2026 REU participants include Georgia Deep, a student at Colgate University; Miles Bethel, a student at BYU–Idaho; Varsha Palaniyandy, a student at Amherst College; Nicholas Deinhart, a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Megan Mueller, a student at High Point University; and Thomas Amalfitano, a student at SUNY Oneonta.

The 2026 Davis-Bahcall Scholars include: Lewis Carlyle of Rapid City, who is completing his senior year at Rapid City Stevens High School; Zachary Conway of Rapid City, who is completing his senior year at Rapid City Stevens High School; Ellie Erbentraut of Sioux Falls, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Quinn Kellar of Mandan, North Dakota, a student at Black Hills State University; Emma Plamp of Mitchell, who is completing her senior year at Mitchell High School; Sannah Windy Boy, a student at South Dakota Mines; Joshua Wolfe, who is completing his senior year at Flandreau Indian School; and Ethan Oolman of Sioux Falls, a student at the University of South Dakota.

Ms. Kerwin interjected, expressing gratitude to First PREMIER Bank for supporting the Davis Bahcall scholars as well as the Bauer and Headley families for their contributions to the SURF Internship Program for summer 2026.

Ms. Reiner said dates and times for the interns and Davis Bahcall Scholars presentations in July will be shared with the Board.

ITEM 9. SDSTA BOARD GOVERNANCE MANUAL

ITEM 9A. REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATED POLICY

Mr. Headley presented revisions to the Delegation of Authority, Records Retention, and Property Disposal policies. He explained the updates include a modest increase to the department directors and manager's procurement approval authority and minor revisions to improve clarity and align the policies with current business practices.

Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the updated Delegation of Authority-Procurement Policy, Records Retention Policy, and Surplus Property Disposal Policy, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9B. ANNUAL STATEMENTS AFFIRMING COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Mr. Engel reminded board members to acknowledge the Conflict of Interest Statement included in the board packet distributed by Ms. Mandy Knight, who noted receipt of all signed statements.

ITEM 10. REVIEW OF UPDATED SDSTA BY-LAWS

Mr. Engel reviewed the proposed amendments to the SDSTA Bylaws. He explained the primary purpose of the revisions was to establish an Executive Advisory Committee to provide expertise and counsel to management at the request of the Board Chair. Additional amendments included technical corrections, the addition of the President of Black Hills State University as an ex officio, non-voting Board member, updates to align meeting provisions with South Dakota open meetings laws, revisions to reporting language to reflect statutory requirements, and other housekeeping changes to improve clarity and consistency. Mr. Engel recommended approval of the proposed amendments.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Dr. Aprahamian to approve SDSTA Amended and Restated By-Laws. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:43 a.m. for a ten-minute break and resumed at 9:54 a.m.

ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF FY2027 OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Headley reported, as part of SDSTA's annual review process, discussions were held with the Office of Risk Management (ORM) regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement that governs health and safety oversight. This year, the proposed revisions were minor and included updated dates, clarification of the schedule for ORM's quarterly site visits, and other administrative edits. As in previous years, the accompanying Appendix A, which lists the applicable codes and standards SDSTA agrees to follow, was updated in collaboration between SDSTA's ESH team and ORM.

Motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the FY2027 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. Dykhouse and Mr. Musick met as the Nominating Committee. Mr. Musick reported the nominations are the same as last year, with Mr. Peterson as Chairperson, Mr. Dykhouse as Vice-Chairperson, and Ms. Lebrun as Secretary/Treasurer. Chair Peterson asked for additional nominations from the floor per the adopted election procedures policy, and none were made.

Motion by Mr. Musick and seconded by Mr. Evans to accept the nominating committee report. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Chair Peterson expressed gratitude to Mr. Dykhouse and Mr. Musick for their time and service on the nominating committee, and for their confidence in recommending that the current slate of officers continue to serve.

ITEM 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Lebrun and seconded by Mr. Evans 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 went into executive session at 9:59 a.m and reconvened in open session at 10:42 a.m. A quorum was confirmed; Mr. Elliott and Dr. Tande did not rejoin the meeting.

ITEM 15. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Musick to approve the executive session report. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 16. CONFIRM DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Peterson reminded the Board of the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM (CDT). He noted it will be held at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls and via Zoom and information will be sent regarding *An Evening with America's Underground Lab*. Please contact Ms. Knight by early July if you plan to join the board meeting in person, and hotel arrangements will be made in advance.

ITEM 17. 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 18. BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Ani Aprahamian said she joined the meeting from her home office.

Mr. Evans thanked the Board for the birthday wishes extended to his wife, and for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He remarked, while he is still learning about the SDSTA, he has been impressed by its strong culture of safety and commitment to excellence, and encouraged SURF to continue its outstanding work.

Ms. Lebrun expressed her appreciation for the meeting venue in Rapid City and commented she was impressed by the significant progress being made at SURF. She said she was proud to be part of the SDSTA's continued success.

Mr. Musick said it was a very good meeting and is looking forward to seeing board members in Sioux Falls in September.

Mr. Wheeler commented it was a productive meeting but noted that it was difficult to hear some Board members and others during the discussion.

Mr. Headley thanked Ms. Knight, Ms. Wilcox, and staff for their work in organizing the meeting and for their efforts throughout the past quarter. He also expressed appreciation for SURF's continued commitment to working safely and thanked the Board for its ongoing support.

Mr. Engel remarked serving as SDSTA's General Counsel has been one of the most meaningful professional experiences of his career. He informed the Board in anticipation of his future retirement, he has been working with attorney Aaron Scheibe over the past several years to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Engel stated that he intends to recommend Mr. Scheibe as his successor when the time comes and, with the Chair's permission, invited him to introduce himself to the Board.

Mr. Scheibe introduced himself to the Board, noting his background in federal service with the U.S. Department of State, prior roles with the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development and Governor's Office, and current private legal practice representing public entities. He described his experience with state and federal government operations, public sector governance, and legal matters including open meetings and records laws.

Mr. Scheibe stated he has longstanding familiarity with SDSTA and SURF through prior state roles and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to support the organization. He concluded by expressing enthusiasm for SURF's scientific mission and interest in continuing to work with the SDSTA if selected to serve as General Counsel.

Chair Peterson thanked Mr. Scheibe for his introduction and commented on the continued progress at SURF. He expressed pride in the organization's momentum, particularly noting growth in foundation and fundraising efforts and the professionalism of staff. Chair Peterson stated while the organization has expanded, it continues to operate in a businesslike and efficient manner, and he commended the Board and staff for their work.

ITEM 19. ADJOURN

Chair Peterson called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.