

SOUTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CT

Becker-Hansen Building/ Commission Room – 700 E. Broadway Ave., Pierre, SD 57501

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bob Huggins, Chairman
Dustin Coleman
David Howard
Ivan Venner

COMMISSIONER PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Court Ecklund

DOT STAFF PRESENT: Joel Jundt, Karla Engle, Kellie Beck, Jack Dokken, Jon Becker and Kari Kroll

DOT STAFF PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Tom Koch

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Wendell – Board of Technical Education; Theresa Kriese – Mitchell Technical College (MTC); Devon Russell – MTC; and Hadden Robinson

OTHERS PRESENT

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Brooke Edgar – Helms and Associates; Dan Letellier – Sioux Falls Regional Airport; Patrick Dame – Rapid City Regional Airport; Shiloh Baysinger – Town of Bison; Thomas Dunn – Lake Area Technical College (LATC); Tony Wiegman – LATC; Tracy Buisker – LATC Foundation; and Melissa – LATC Foundation

Chairman Huggins called the meeting of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission (the “Commission”) to order at 2:00 p.m. CDT. Roll call was taken. A quorum was determined.

Huggins opened the floor to the Commission to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to present requests for waiver pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) Chapter 3 – 23.

Karla Engle, Office of Legal Counsel, presented a written conflict of interest waiver request for consideration by the Commission from David Howard regarding his hangar at the Vermillion airport that was verbally announced by Commissioner Howard at the May 21, 2026 Commission meeting. A copy of the waiver is included in these minutes as **ATTACHMENT A**.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Venner that the matters disclosed in the written waiver request by Commissioner Howard regarding his hangar are fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Howard, who abstained. The motion carried.

Relating to a previous conflict of interest disclosure, Ivan Venner disclosed that he has stepped down as Hot Springs airport manager.

No other members of the Commission disclosed a conflict or requested a waiver.

Huggins asked for a motion to approve the May 21, 2026 Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Venner noted an error in the motion regarding the Vermillion grant application. Venner made the second on the motion and Howard, not Venner, recused himself from the vote.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Howard and seconded by Coleman to approve the Commission meeting minutes from May 21, 2026 with the edits noted above. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Huggins opened the floor to public comment.

No members of the public addressed the Commission or offered input.

Secretary Joel Jundt presented for Commission consideration the question of whether to provide funding to the Board of Technical Education (BOTE) for the drone education programs at the Mitchell Technical College (MTC) and Lake Area Technical College (LATC.) Jundt shared that the issue came up during legislative session, when legislation was introduced during the 2026 session that would have diverted drone registration funds from the Aeronautics Fund to the BOTE for drone education. The legislation did not pass.

Jundt then shared that the Department of Transportation (the “Department”) has an agreement with the Department of Game, Fish, & Parks (GFP) to help fund GFP collector roads with State highway funds. That funding is approved by the Transportation Commission. Jundt suggested the Commission could consider doing something similar, by allocating aeronautics funds to BOTE for drone education. An agreement could be written that would require BOTE to report annually on how the allocated funds were spent in the previous fiscal year and submit a proposal outlining funding priorities for Commission consideration for the following year.

Nick Wendall, BOTE Executive Director, thanked the Commission for its consideration of a funding request. He then turned over the discussion to representatives from MTC that were in the room and LATC that were on the phone to share the details of their drone programs and how they could best use the funds if awarded. LATC and MTC representatives reported that funding could be used to update drone equipment or used for student scholarships and emphasized that funding for any education-related purpose would be welcome.

Secretary Jundt shared that over the past three years, about \$75,000 in Aeronautics Funds have come from drone registrations.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Howard to authorize the allocation of \$40,000 to the South Dakota Board of Technical Education for the purchase of equipment for the drone programs at South Dakota's technical colleges. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Secretary Jundt stated that there was nothing significant on the state or federal level to report as part of his Secretary's Report. He did share that in regard to airport accountability with Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs), the Commission has no authority to intervein. He asked that pilots continue to share their concerns with airport sponsors and then the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA.)

Secretary Jundt presented for Commission consideration a change to the Aeronautics Funding Policy regarding airport weather cameras. Based on the request of the Commission, the Department recommends that under Section C, add line 4 to read "weather related projects such as the purchase of airport cameras shall be funded at 75%." The Commission discussed whether this language was too broad and would open the door for additional items to be covered under this policy.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Ecklund and seconded by Coleman to approve the addition of line 4 to Section C of the Aeronautics Funding Policy to state that airport weather cameras will be funded at 75% state aeronautics funds and 25% local match. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Jack Dokken, Program Manager for the Office of Air, Rail & Transit, presented for Commission consideration a request to clarify the reimbursement policy for Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) for routine inspections, maintenance, and data dissemination. The Department recommended that AWOS units be covered at the same cost share as the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) projects for that Federal fiscal year. This rate aligns with the pavement maintenance program and ensures a consistent cost-share structure for airports.

The Commission discussed the proposed language and anticipated cost.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Ecklund and seconded by Coleman to amend Section A of the Aeronautics Funding Policy, concerning criteria for funding non-AIP projects, to add the following provision: Inspection, routine maintenance, and data dissemination in support of AWOS units will be funded at 75% state aeronautics funds and 25% local match. Unscheduled maintenance and repair will not be eligible for state funding. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Secretary Jundt noted the Department has received requests to change airport terminal funding. This funding currently has a \$200,000 cap per project.

Patrick Dame of the Rapid City Regional Airport addressed the Commission on the need to increase the cap to better serve the larger essential airports, as their current airport terminal projects are much costlier than the other airport projects in the state. He would like to keep the conversation open.

No action was taken by the Commission. This issue will be added as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Jon Becker from the Office of Air, Rail and Transit presented to the Commission the following AIP/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant projects:

Chamberlain 3-46-0071-019-2026

AIP: Reconstruct terminal apron (3,110 SY), construction administration

Federal Share	\$ 657,346
State Share	\$ 17,299
Local Share	\$ 7,299
Total	\$ 691,943

Chamberlain 3-46-0071-020-2026

IIJA: Construction of terminal apron (4,240 SY)

Federal Share	\$ 423,569
State Share	\$ 11,147
Local Share	\$ 11,147
Total	\$ 445,862

Faulkton 3-46-0016-017-2026

AIP: Construct runway 13/31 and parallel taxiway

Federal Share	\$ 7,172,500
State Share	\$ 188,750
Local Share	\$ 188,750
Total	\$ 7,550,000

Gettysburg 3-46-017-020-2026

AIP: Construction of 3-unit revenue-producing hangar

Federal Share	\$ 788,500
State Share	\$ 20,750
Local Share	\$ 20,750
Total	\$ 830,000

Gregory 3-46-0018-024-2026**IIJA:** Phase 4 - Construction of 4-unit revenue-producing hangar

Federal Share	\$ 109,000
State Share	\$ 2,869
Local Share	\$ 2,869
Total	\$ 114,737

Huron 3-46-0022-046-2026**AIP:** Phase 4 – Construct partial parallel taxiway

Federal Share	\$ 921,500
State Share	\$ 24,250
Local Share	\$ 24,250
Total	\$ 970,000

Huron 3-46-0022-047-2026**IIJA:** Phase 5 – Construct partial parallel taxiway

Federal Share	\$ 332,500
State Share	\$ 8,750
Local Share	\$ 8,750
Total	\$ 350,000

Pierre 3-46-0044-053-2026**IIJA:** Terminal area focus study

Federal Share	\$ 76,000
State Share	\$ 2,000
Local Share	\$ 2,000
Total	\$ 80,000

Pierre 3-46-0044-054-2026**IIJA:** Construct 7-25 partial parallel taxiway, asphalt; rehab taxiway C – crack seal coat, remark

Federal Share	\$ 3,524,538
State Share	\$ 92,751
Local Share	\$ 92,751
Total	\$ 3,710,040

Pierre 3-46-0044-055-2026**AIP:** Construct 7-25 partial parallel taxiway, rehab taxiway C

Federal Share	\$ 2,339,030
State Share	\$ 61,554
Local Share	\$ 61,553
Total	\$ 2,462,137

A MOTION WAS MADE by Howard and seconded by Coleman to approve all the AIP/IIJA grant applications as presented except the Winner projects. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

Winner 3-46-0061-024-2026**AIP:** Construction of revenue producing hangar

Federal Share	\$ 900,000
State Share	\$ 23,684
Local Share	\$ 23,684
Total	\$ 947,368

Winner 3-46-0061-023-2026**AIP:** Construction of revenue producing hangar

Federal Share	\$ 483,500
State Share	\$ 12,724
Local Share	\$ 12,724
Total	\$ 504,947

A MOTION WAS MADE by Venner and seconded by Coleman to approve the Winner AIP grant applications as presented. All present voted aye by roll call vote except Howard who abstained. The motion carried.

Dokken presented for Commission consideration the AWOS inspection and maintenance contracts. The SuperAWOS units purchased by the Commission from 2006 to 2013 are aging and increasingly difficult to maintain. In 2020, FAA's AIP made AWOS-III systems eligible for AIP funding and AWOS-III units have been installed each summer since. Sponsors have been funding the required inspections, maintenance and data.

In May 2023, the Commission discussed the possibility of a statewide contract for AWOS inspection, maintenance and data. A Request for Proposal (RFP,) was posted March 10, 2026 with proposals due May 8, 2026. One proposal was received, reviewed by the Department and tentatively accepted.

The proposal includes 17 AWOS-III units for \$114,750 total, or \$5,750 for inspection and \$1,000 for the National Airspace Data Interchange Network (NADIN) connection for each sponsor.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Coleman and seconded by Venner to authorize expenditure of \$114,750 from the aeronautics fund for inspection, maintenance and data dissemination support for AWOS-III units located at various public use airports across South Dakota and further authorize SDDOT to collect the 25% local share from each participating airport for this inspection, maintenance and data dissemination work. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

The City of Bison is requesting participation from the Commission to help cover expenses for the trimming of trees that were obstructing the 20:1 approach to runway 29 at the Bison Municipal Airport. The trimming of these trees was necessary to comply with FAA Part 77 regulations and South Dakota public-use airport licensing standards.

The total project cost was \$22,000 for which no federal funding was received. Subpart 1 of the Commission's Policies and Procedures for Use of State Funds Part C, "Criteria Utilized in Determining State Funding for Non-AIP Projects," states that construction projects required to meet basic service, small General Aviation (GA) airport requirements, or State Licensing Standards are eligible for 75% state participation. The City of Bison is requesting \$16,500, representing 75% of the total project cost. The Commission discussed whether general maintenance, such as tree trimming, qualifies as a construction project under the policy.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Venner and seconded by Howard to reject the request by the City of Bison for tree trimming. All present voted aye by roll call vote. The motion carried.

The Commission discussed workforce development for aircraft mechanics as a future agenda item.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Huggins declared the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. CT.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AERONAUTICS COMMISSIONREQUEST FOR STATE BOARD WAIVER
PURSUANT TO SDCL 3-23-3

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Date: 5-21-26Name of Board Member or Former Board Member: David HowardName of Board, Authority, or Commission: Aeronautics CommissionBrief explanation of contract for which a waiver is requested:

a) Parties to the contract

City of Vermillion
University of SD

b) Board Member's role in the contract

own a hangar on leased site at Vermillion (KVMR)
lease a hangar from USD

c) Purpose and objective of the contract

Store airplanes

d) Consideration or benefit conferred or agreed to be conferred upon each party

Lot rent
Lease

e) Duration of the contract

Until sold or lease is terminatedSignature of Requesting Party:  Date 5-21-26