

**South Dakota Brand Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2023**

The South Dakota Brand Board met on December 19, 2023 in Rapid City, SD. Members present were Scott Vance, Lyle Spring, David Paul and Haven Stuck. Myron Williams was absent. Brand Board staff and others present were Debbie Trapp, Tim Quinn, Adam Masters, Matt Clair, Cheyenne Tant, Amy Hatheway, Bob Mercer, Chuck Willard, Raydelle Sperle, Vaughn Meyer, Lois Meyer, Doris Lauing. Bob Haivala joined the meeting later.

Pres. Vance called the meeting to order.

Motion by Stuck to adopt agenda, second by Spring. Motion carried.

Open Comments: Doris Lauing introduced Chuck Willard, President SD Stockgrowers, Raydelle Sperle, SD Stockgrowers Brand Committee and Vaughn Meyer, Past President SD Stockgrowers.

Motion by Spring to approve the Regular Brand Board Meeting Minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting, second by Stuck. Motion carried.

Director Trapp presented financial information as of November 30, 2023. Fund Balance - Brand Fund \$1,731,964.59; Brand Inspection Fund \$214,473.13; Theft Prevention Fund - Ownership to be established - \$231,256.49, Unrestricted – \$199,982.57. Motion by Spring to approve Financial Report as presented, second by Vance. Motion carried.

Investigator Masters gave the report for the investigators: There has been a sharp decline in number of late shipper permit requests since last meeting which may be the result of the warning letters that have been sent to those producers; Investigator Quinn has been working on the reports of Missing/Stolen Livestock; Working on scheduling trainings with local law enforcement regarding brand and livestock ownership inspection laws; Contacted Law Enforcement Training to inquire about presenting brand and livestock ownership inspection laws during the Training Academy.

Investigator Quinn also stated he has noticed a decline in late shipper permit violations; received a request from a county deputy for training on livestock ownership inspection laws; visited with some States Attorneys regarding proposed changes to the penalty for livestock inspection violations - currently a Class I misdemeanor. Changing it to a Class II misdemeanor would allow for waivable citations versus mandatory court appearance.

Director Trapp gave the Brand Inspection Report for November 2023: Livestock Markets – 204,392 head, Locker Plants 375 head, Locals – 37,361 head, Lifetime Horse Permits – 89 head, for a total of 242,217 head. Year to date inspection numbers rank the lowest out of the past seven years.

Director Trapp gave the Director's report: Condolences to Joel Olivier and his family as his sister passed away; Governor's Budget address proposed a 4% salary increase for state

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employees in FY25; Received notification from Bureau of Information and Technology (BIT) of rate increases: Telephone – 85% increase, Domain Accounts – 37% increase, Development – 83% increase; Attended the SD Cattlemen’s Convention – had good discussions with attendees and vendors; May need to schedule Hold Hearings for two holds.

Matt Clair explained process of working on holds to determine ownership. Motion by Spring to transfer Hold BB 463, Ft. Pierre Livestock, one black cow \$658.32; BB484 Ft. Pierre Livestock, one heifer \$673.90; BB 596 Mobridge Livestock, one black cow \$482.72; BB 607 Philip Livestock, one pony stud /one mare, no brands \$311.13; BB 629 Ft. Pierre Livestock, one bull, no brand, \$1,606.68; BB 633 Mobridge Livestock – one stallion, no brand, \$253.98; BB 634 Sheridan Livestock – one black cow \$532.06; BB638 St. Onge Livestock – one cow \$144.20; BB 663 Philip Livestock – four horses, no brand, \$799.13; BB 665 Philip Livestock – one horse \$3.57; BB 666 Martin Livestock – one black cow, no brand, \$571.01 to unrestricted in Theft Prevention Fund as ownership not established, second by Paul. Motion carried.

Discussed proposed legislation for 2024 session: Service Fee on livestock ownership inspections; Raise the cap on livestock ownership inspection fee – if cap is increased, an Administrative Rules Hearing would need to be held to change the inspection fee amount – at least 10-12 months before fee could be increased; Allow for livestock ownership inspections on conveyance if brand inspector determines adequate space and light; Change penalty from Class I to Class II on for some violations of livestock ownership inspection to allow for waivable citation rather than mandatory court appearance.

Discussed hide inspections and horse inspections – no changes proposed.

Discussed Brand Inspection Fund balance – may need to transfer funds from Brand Fund to cover expenses.

Next Brand Board meeting set for February 21, 2024 in Rapid City at 10:30 am MT.

Pres Vance declared a 10-minute recess at 12:03 pm.

Pres Vance declared the meeting back in session at 12:13 p.m.

Motion by Spring to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1 & 3) personnel and legal at 12:14 p.m., second by Paul. Motion carried. Came out at 1:42 p.m.

As no other business came before the board, Pres. Vance declared the meeting adjourned.

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Scott Vance, President

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Debbie Trapp, Executive Director

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These minutes were filed for the record on \_\_\_\_\_.

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