

**South Dakota Brand Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2024**

The South Dakota Brand Board met on December 19, 2024, in Rapid City, SD. Members present were Scott Vance, Lyle Spring, and Jake Longbrake. Haven Stuck joined the meeting at 12:35 pm. Brand Board staff and others present were Debbie Trapp, Robert Haivala, Matt Clair, Cindy Longbrake, Raydelle Sperle, Doris Lauing, Cheyenne Tant, and Bill Van Camp, Jr.

Pres. Vance called the meeting to order.

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

Motion by Longbrake to adopt the Regular Brand Board Meeting Minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting, second by Spring. Motion carried.

Director Trapp presented financial information as of November 30, 2024. Fund Balance - Brand Fund \$1,252,433.53; Brand Inspection Fund \$145,493.79; Theft Prevention Fund - Ownership to be established - \$255,885.67, Unrestricted – \$73,286.90. Motion by Spring to approve Financial Report as presented, second by Longbrake. Motion carried.

Director Trapp reported the Investigators were unable to attend the meeting and have been working on violations ranging from shipper permits to no - change of ownership inspections.

Director Trapp presented the Brand Inspection Report for November 2024: Livestock Markets – 227,786 head, Locker Plants 311 head, Locals – 84,744 head, Lifetime Horse Permits – 88 head, for a total of 312,929 head; Year to Date Lifetime Horse Permits are 1,039 as compared to the Total for Fiscal 2024 at 1,168 Lifetime Permits. Year to date inspection numbers rank 3rd highest out of the past seven years.

Director Trapp gave the Director's report: The office has been extremely busy with receipting brand renewal registrations – 4,7895 renewals have been processed; We are also receiving a high volume of phone calls from brand owners – majority of the questions are regarding brand transfers; Received letters from 2 producers commending the brand inspectors for their service; Some brand inspectors have asked for changes to the inspection laws due to the short notices some producers are requesting brand inspections – Nebraska law allow for a \$50.00 fee if a brand inspector does not receive 24 hour notice; Randy Pritzkau, full time inspector stationed at Faith, will be retiring at the end of December – Jason Ostenson is now the full time inspectors stationed at Faith; Three more computers need to be upgraded; Postage bill for mailing brand renewal notices was \$12,000; Budget Hearing will be January 28, 2025; Legislative Session starts Tuesday, January 14, 2025; The Governor's proposed salary increase for state employees was 1.25%.

Open Comment: Haivala reported that Steve Blair is willing to present an overview of Open Meeting laws at the next Brand Board meeting; Raydelle Sperle stated Scott (Vance) and Debbie

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(Trapp) had meet with the Stockgrowers to discuss legislative issues – raising the livestock ownership inspection maximum and service fee. Raydelle also would like to see statewide brand inspections; Doris Lauing commented on increasing brand renewal fees to offset larger increase in brand inspection fee; Draft legislation was discussed.

Pres. Vance declared 4-minute recess at 11:54 a.m.

Pres. Vance declared meeting back in session at 11:58 a.m.

Attorney Bill Van Camp Jr. spoke on Robb Nelson’s behalf regarding Mr. Nelson’s character brand application. Mr. Nelson applied for a character brand that had been registered to his great, great, grandfather in 1898. The brand ceased to be registered sometime after 1902. After discussion, Mr. Van Camp asked that the Board delay action for a few months to allow time to gather additional information.

The following holds, which have exceeded one year from the date of sale and ownership has not been established, were reviewed:

BB 602 Ft Pierre Livestock – Older Blk Cow - \$883.51; BB 605 Belle Fourche Livestock – Calf - \$790.24; BB 653 Ft. Pierre Livestock – Steer - \$1,087.20; BB 743 Mobridge Livestock – Red Cow - \$764.94. Motion by Spring to transfer funds, from the holds reviewed, to Unrestricted as ownership was not established, second by Longbrake. Motion carried.

Discussed Legislation for 2025: Increasing the “Cap” (maximum) to \$2.00 per head – An Administrative Rules Hearing would need to be held to set the fee if the Cap is increased; Adding a service fee for local inspections; Getting Investigators Title 22 Authority in all areas not just brand and inspection laws.

Next Brand Board meeting is set for February 12, 2025, at 11:00 am MT in Rapid City, SD.

Pres. Vance declared a 3-minute recess at 1:43 p.m.

Pres Vance declared meeting back in session at 1:46 p.m.

Motion by Longbrake to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1 & 3) personnel and legal at 1:46 p.m., second by Stuck. Motion carried. Stuck left the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Came out at 2:17 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

UNAPPROVED