

**Meeting Minutes
NDCCA Board of Directors
May 28, 2025
NDACo County Office Building**

President Joan Hollekim called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. After the pledge of allegiance, the President asked for a calling of the roll. A quorum was declared.

Members Present:	Joan Hollekim	Neal Messer
Glenda Collier	Cory Hanson	Jim Kapitan
Tracey Dolezal	Andy Zachmeier	

Members Absent: Jason Arth

Also Present: Scott Johnson, Sargent County Commissioner
Perry Turner, Former McIntosh County Commissioner
Aaron Birst, NDACo Executive Director
Genny Dienstmann, NDACo Staff
Michelle Tabbert, NDACo Staff
Lonny Bosch, NRG President
Dwight Driscoll, NRG Account Manager
Jeff Eslinger, NDACo Staff
Kaitlyn Bakken, NDACo Staff
Jason Horning, NDACo Staff
Teanna Hintz, NDACo Staff
Mary Korsmo, NDACo Staff
Donnell Preskey, NDACo Staff
Linda Svihovec, NDACo Staff
Josh Wayt, Moore Engineering

President Hollekim then introduced Sargent County Commissioner Scott Johnson, who is attending the meeting as a guest.

Aaron announced that Governor Armstrong would not be joining today's Board meeting as he had to go to Fargo to attend Representative Schreiber-Beck's funeral service.

The President then asked the Board to review the proposed agenda. As there were no changes proposed, Messer moved to approve the agenda as printed. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President explained that former McIntosh County Commissioner and NACo Board Member Perry Turner is attending the meeting today to receive a plaque recognizing his years of service as NDCCA's representative to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors. Turner expressed his gratitude for the time he served on the NDCCA and NACo Board. Hollekim thanked Turner for his service and presented his plaque.

Consideration of the minutes of the December 11, 2024, Board meeting was requested. Collier moved to approve the minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The President requested the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Glenda Collier provided a review of the financial statements. There was also discussion regarding the reimbursement of legislative costs for a social services representative during the session that has been billed to the NDCCA over the years. It was determined the NDCCA Board no longer feels it is necessary to continue this reimbursement since the state covers human service zone expenses. Kapitan moved approval of the Treasurer's Report with the correction of adjusting Divide County's dues payment for the full amount. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Aaron then introduced a discussion of the 2026/2027 dues, reminding the Board that the Association went to a two-year budget process several years ago and agreed to consider dues every other year. There was also discussion with the recent legislation on property tax caps, that the Board would keep dues the same as 2024/2025 until there is a better understanding of how caps will affect budgets. Hanson made a motion for no increase in dues for the 2026/2027 budget years. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. It was noted that all 53 counties paid their NDCCA dues for 2025.

Lonny Bosch, NRG President, gave a review of NRG Technology Services (NRG). Dwight Driscoll continued by sharing the services NRG provides and highlighting the various contracts they currently hold.

Under Member Services, Aaron began with an overview of the various member association meetings scheduled in 2025 and noted that Association staff will participate in all of them. It was noted that a date for a Commissioners Summit in 2025 would be discussed later in the agenda.

Jeff continued with the 2025 Conference Planning Status Report. After sharing the theme/logo, he mentioned the changes implemented last year would continue this year. Marketing plans for exhibitors and sponsors were explained. Aaron went on to explain plans to again conduct all regional caucus meetings prior to the conference. Michelle finished by explaining that no hotel reservations at the Bismarck Radisson would be made this year, and Board members were encouraged to have their county auditors book their room. She also mentioned that the decision on whether to have a Board Gathering on the opening day of the conference would be decided tomorrow by the NDACo Board.

Aaron and Michelle continued with a summary of the County Tours scheduled for 2025, indicating dates have been set for all four to be conducted prior to the Annual Conference since this year's conference is later than normal. There was discussion about commissioners from the same county serving as the NDCCA and NDACo President and that it is not as beneficial having representation from the same county serving as the leaders of both boards at the same time. Staff will look into drafting a policy or have a by-laws change to make sure this is avoided in the future.

Jeff explained the process for the NDCCA Board to make a nomination for the Excellence in County Government Commissioner of the Year Award. The Board had discussion and a

nomination for Joan Hollekim was brought forward. Joan mentioned Blanche Schumacher of Logan County. Aaron stated that Board members can also email any nominations to him or Jeff.

Genny gave an update on the Drug & Alcohol Program. Kaitlyn continued with an update on the GIS Program. Jason followed with an update on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Program, and Teanna explained how the first year of the Collection and Distribution program has gone.

Aaron continued with a brief update on the National Participation Matching Program, indicating that one region took advantage of the program in 2025. He noted that a written update is included in this meeting's National Participation Report. Aaron and Joan also shared comments about the WIR Conference that was held May 21-23.

Aaron drew the Board's attention to the Mailbag and correspondence received recently.

Josh Wayt of Moore Engineering joined the meeting virtually and explained the various grants that had been found and successfully applied for by counties in the state they have worked with so far.

Under Other Business, Aaron shared a brief update on NDPERS and the recent ruling by IRS regarding distribution of retirement benefits to commissioners who were employed by the same county as an elected/appointed official or employee and retired is illegal. NDPERS did grandfather in the commissioners who are in this situation for up to two years or the next election cycle, whichever is shorter.

Aaron continued with an explanation of the desire to hold a Commissioners Summit sometime in 2025. The Board discussed timelines, and the consensus was to meet on December 9, 2025, in Bismarck. The date will be tentatively set until we confirm the venue.

Aaron also shared that NDACo has hired a new employee to manage the indirect cost program, bringing it in-house after contracting out this service for a number of years. Sara Cote will be starting on June 3rd.

Since there was time remaining, a brief review of the priority legislative bills was provided to the Board and questions were answered. There was a reminder of the Property Tax Cap Training being held on June 16th at the Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy.

After reaching the end of the agenda, the next meeting date of August 27, 2025, was noted; and the President reminded the members to complete the meeting evaluation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Messer to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Approved by Board Resolution: _____
Aaron Birst, Executive Secretary

Date: _____