

**Minutes of SDAAO District 8
Wednesday, July 2, 2014, Pickerel Lake Lodge,
Day County, South Dakota**

Members Present:

Donna Rhody	Deuel County
Shannon Lee	Marshall County
Bonnie Fosheim	Dept. of Revenue
Leo Loescher	Brown County
David Paulson	Clark County
Heidi Madsen	Clark County
Kim Markley	Spink County
Mary Worlie	Brown County
Shawna Constant	Codington County
Heidi Thorson	Codington County
Scott Currence	Roberts County

Chairman Scott Currence called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Shannon Lee was given a well-deserved “thank you” for setting up today’s meeting location.

David Paulson will be starting a new job at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown SD. He will be teaching an Introduction to Animal Science class. He has been Clark County’s Director of Equalization for 16.5 years. District 8 presented Dave with a couple of gifts and let him know that he will be missed. His last day at Clark County is July 11th. The last day to apply for the Director position is July 14th.

Heidi Madsen has been recently hired as Deputy Director in Clark County. Welcomes and words of encouragement were passed along to her.

The 2015 Ag. Land Productivity Data has been recently sent to the counties. Mary mentioned that everyone should carefully check their 8 year Olympic averages. A figure that is significantly lower than the rest could be reaching a point where it could be eliminated from the average. If this would happen, it could place the county significantly further behind where it needs to be in relation to crop-rated soils.

This would bring about greater raises in crop-rated soil assessed values. Kim believes that this may be the case for Spink County in the future. The in-equality between crop and non-crop rated soil values was also mentioned.

The 2014 NCRAAO/SDAAO Conference in Deadwood was discussed. Everyone had favorable opinions on the conference. The conference center, instructors, seminars and food were all considered excellent.

The 2015 SDAAO Conference will be June 2nd thru June 5th in Yankton SD. Lori Mackey will be host. Conference will be held at the Best Western Kelly Inn. It was mentioned that this hotel is already completely booked. The Holiday Inn Express has rooms available from \$105 to \$129 per night. The Days Inn is available at Federal rate. It is encouraged to book rooms early as there are other events in Yankton at the same time. Mary says she may have an extra room or two available when conference time comes closer.

The 2015 NCRAAO Conference will be in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin at the Chula Vista Waterpark and Resort on June 14th thru June 17th. There is possibility that some attending today's District 8 meeting will be going to conference in Wisconsin. Shawna noted that she likes the NCRAAO conferences due to the quality of speakers and the variety of topics. Taking advantage of NCRAAO scholarships makes their conferences even more worthwhile.

SDAAO annual assessor's school is September 8th thru the 12th at the Ramkota in Pierre. Courses available this year are:

Course 1 Basics

Course 2 IAAO 101 Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisal

Course 3 IAAO 102 Income Approach to Valuation

Course 4 Grading and Condition

Course 5 Sales Ratio Analysis/Statistics

Numerous people asked why the cost of school and conference continues to rise while the SDAAO has what appears to be an ample reserve of money on hand. Why can't some of this money be allocated to getting more IAAO instructors at our annual school? David mentioned that school must be worthwhile in respects to education, time and money. Bonnie said that the education committee has been trying to get more IAAO instructors for school and that it is important to keep these good IAAO instructors coming to our schools.

Bonnie also mentioned that if anyone had ideas for classes, to let her know. Leo and others mentioned that the grain elevator classes in the past were really good.

Shawna sees a need for classes that are better suited to the duties of appraisers. She also stressed the need for quality instructors. Mary would like to see more classes aimed at directors and their duties. There are many people who have been in the business for 20 years or better and could benefit from classes aimed at their needs. Kim would like more IAAO workshops at SDAAO School.

On the topic of quality instructors, Mary and others stated that Dawn Puckett of Pennington County did an excellent job with her presentation on developing defensible land values. Dawn's presentation was at the 2014 NCRAAO conference.

Scott asked if anyone had ideas for tours for a District 8 summer meeting. The Joy Ranch near Florence was previously brought up by Renee in Hamlin County. Kim says that the Joy Ranch would be a good idea and that fall may be a better time for a tour there. Codington County expressed interest in setting up the tour if we chose to go there. Mary said it may be a good time to tour the new beef packing plant in Brown County. This would be a great idea for a tour too.

Cell phone towers owned by tower companies that are leased to cell phone carriers: Are these to be locally assessed? Discussion was inconclusive. We will check into this and find an answer.

Leo asked if any other counties had GPS towers used for agricultural equipment guidance. These towers are to be locally assessed. Dave said that Clark County has these and that they have been assessed at about \$12,500 per tower.

Donna passed out papers explaining the Big Sioux River Project Area. This project is an effort to match soil types and map units between neighboring counties' borders. Affected counties are Roberts, Grant, Codington, Deuel, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Brookings and Moody. A brief discussion followed. Mary said that any changes must be approved by Dept. of Revenue.

Thank you to Bonnie for the fresh bread that was enjoyed at the meeting. Thanks also to everyone who helped set up the meeting and provide topics for discussion.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Heidi Thorson. The motion was seconded by Donna Rhody.

Those who stayed after the meeting had lunch and took a pontoon ride on Pickerel Lake. Thank you to Bonnie's son Brent for providing the pontoon and pointing out places of interest on the lake.

**Respectfully submitted by Scott Currence
District 8 Chairman (acting secretary during this meeting)**