

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 with the following members present: Shawn Hostler, Kelly VanderWal, Larry Jensen, Dave Miller and Doug Post.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hostler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve the agenda for the Tuesday, February 3, 2026 Commission Meeting. Chairperson Hostler said they need to amend the agenda to add public comment during the drainage discussion and add Executive Session, in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel to the agenda.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to amend the agenda to add public comment during the drainage discussion and add Executive Session, in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel to the agenda.

Voice vote on amendment: all present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Voice vote on main motion as amended: all present voted "aye." Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners recognized Dave Biteler for 10 years of service; Melanie Kindt for 10 years of service; Shelly Larson for 15 years of service; and Kristen Witchey for 20 years of service.

CITIZEN INVITATION

No one signed in to speak to the board.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Miller, seconded by VanderWal to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: VanderWal "aye" Post "aye," Miller "aye," Jensen "aye," Hostler "aye." Motion carried.

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Commission Meeting.

Travel & Education Requests: Jennifer Beller to attend Annual Report Training on January 28th in Mitchell; Thomas Chester to attend Overdose Investigations Training on March 9th - 10th in Mitchell; Donald Reker to attend Overdose Investigations Training on March 9th - 10th in Mitchell; Lisa Radtke to attend Engage 2026 on March 14th - 19th in Washington D.C.; Brian Gustad and Randy Miller to attend Highway Superintendent's Short Course on March 16th - 19th in Deadwood; Thomas Chester to attend a Sex Offender Conference on April 7th - 9th in Deadwood.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Approval of Claims

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to approve the following claims. Roll call vote: Post "aye," Miller "aye," Jensen "aye," VanderWal "aye," Hostler "aye." Motion carried.

A&B Business Inc, Copier Contract, New Copier, \$8,996.18; Amazon Capital Services, Folders For VSO, Binders, Pens, Medical Kits, Deputy/Admin/Jail Supplies, \$342.01; AMP Electric Construction, Stripe Light Install/Service, \$101.46; Anderson, Jeff G., Boot Reimbursement, \$250.00; Asure Operations, LLC, Jobs-Hireclick/Unlimited Jobs, \$149.00; AT&T Mobility, Nighthawk Mifi Mobile WIFI, \$1.00; Aurora Quick Stop, Deputy Fuel While Pumps Down, \$1,624.36; Avera Medical, Inmate Lienable Clinical Visit, \$100.00; Axess Cooperative, Lp Gas, \$611.20; Axon Enterprise Inc, Body Cameras, \$16,978.68; Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness, Non-Mandated Funds, \$250,000.00; Brookings City Utilities, CH/CH Lawn Irrigation/Comm Health, COP Utilities, Water For Truck Shed, Western Ave/Swiftel, Monthly Utilities/Fees, BCOAC Utilities/Irrigation, Phone Service, Telephone For Office, \$1,933.30; Brookings County Historic Society, Non-Mandated Funds, \$5,000.00; Brookings Health System, IVC, \$1,200.00; Brookings Regional Builders Association, Exhibitor Registration, \$450.00; C&R Fire Suppression dba DVL Fire And Safety, Annual Inspection, Recharge, Valve Rebuild, \$83.05; Center for Internet Security, Antivirus, \$6,600.00; Century Business Products, Copier Contract, \$475.31; City Of Brookings, November 2025 E911, Shared Gov't Center Expenses/Verizon, \$79,754.01; Clubhouse Hotel & Suites, 3 Rooms-Auditor Election Workshop, \$672.00; Alli Cummings Gauer, Court Appointed Attorney, \$1,530.00; Dell Marketing Lp, Dell Pro Slim QCS1250, \$879.12; Den-Wil Inc, Feb Community Health Rent, \$1,050.00; Ecolab Pest Elimination, Pest Control-Jail, \$100.59; Einspahr Auto Plaza, Patrol Vehicle Maint/Repairs, \$107.45; Fastenal Company, Filters For Courthouse, \$241.38; Fite & Pierce Law Office, Court Appointed Attorney, \$876.80; Fox Law Firm, PLLC, CAA Inv MI Hearings, \$195.57; Jennifer Goldammer, Court Appointed Attorney, \$1,508.20; Patricia J Hartsel, Transcripts, \$788.40; Tim Hogan, Court Appointed Attorney, \$10,672.43; Hy-Vee Food Store, Court Refreshments/Supplies, Zoning Meeting Refreshments, \$36.24; Idemia Identity & Security, Fingerprint Machine, \$2,727.00; Infinite Welding and Machine, Fifth Wheel Plate Rebuild, \$472.50; Inter-Lakes Community Action, 1st Qtr 2026-Nutrition Match, \$6,704.25; Intoximeters Inc, Deputy Supplies, \$898.00; Stacia Jackson, Court Appointed Attorney, \$5,533.20; Katterhagen, Mark, Inv MI Hearing, \$20.00; Val Larson, Inv MI Hearing, \$20.00; Macksteel, Flat Bar/Stainless Sheet/Steel Plates/Bar, \$969.13; Mediacom LLC, Courthouse WIFI, \$191.94; Eliza Barron, Replacement Check, \$10.00; Teree A Nesvold, Court Appointed Attorney, \$13,055.80; North American Banking Co, Postage Machine Rental, \$360.00; Northwestern Energy, CH Natural Gas Usage, Natural Gas For

Truck Shed, Monthly Utilities/Fees, \$5,849.81; Office Peeps Inc, Folders, Staples, Toner, Deskpads, Calendar, \$243.34; Pitney Bowes, Postage Machine Rental, \$114.00; Print Masters, Envelopes/Accident Report Form, \$251.20; RFD Newspapers Inc, Publications, \$3,665.25; Rick Ribstein, Court Appointed Attorney, \$7,499.00; River Valley Forensic Services, P.A., Post-Mortem Examination, \$600.00; Robby's Auto Shop, Jail/Patrol Vehicle Maint/Repair, \$1,322.21; Devlin Rue, Boot Reimbursement, \$169.99; Running's Supply Inc, Softener Salt, \$98.64; SD State's Attorneys Assn, Association Fees, \$2,173.60; SDACHS, Short Course Registration, SDACHS Dues, \$1,000.00; SHI International Corp, VEEAM Backup&Subscription, \$4,040.57; Sioux Valley Cleaners Inc, Jan Janitorial For WIC, \$442.00; SoDak Painting, Courthouse Painting, \$10,016.45; Truenorth Steel, Culverts Brookings Co Road 1, \$600.00; Steven Ust, Inspections, \$3,400.00; Vandenberg Law, Court Appointed Attorney, \$2,640.00; Verizon Wireless, Toughbook USB Hwy Dept Tablet, \$80.14; Virchow Drywall & Plaster, Replaster Walls/Ceilings-CH, \$2,000.00; Walburg, Duane, Animal Control Mileage, \$114.24.

Department Head Reports

Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad said bid openings for the 2026 Brookings County Chip Seal Project and the 2026 Brookings County Asphalt Project will be March 3, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

BCOAC Director Joe Salvati updated the board on attendance and events held at the facility. Salvati said total attendance is up 3% from last year. Salvati said they had 292 attendees for the JOAD Open Shoot on December 1st.

Salvati said they are working on a few maintenance issues. He said the concourse floors need to be stripped and waxed, and Trane needs to update the HVAC system to be able to have remote access to service the unit.

Salvati said they are going to publish a booklet of community classes for the summer, which will include fishing, archery, South Dakota animals, camping, firearm basics, etc.

Sheriff Marty Stanwick updated the board on the number of inmates in jail and individuals participating on the 24/7 program. Stanwick said in the month of January, they had 158 civil papers and 126 mobile home distress warrants.

County Development Director Robert Hill said they've scheduled a Civil Air Patrol exercise for Saturday. Hill said the Home Show is also scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

Hill discussed upcoming dates.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to approve Resolution #26-06: a Resolution for Brookings County Bridge Inspection Program for use with SDDOT Retainer Contracts. Background information was provided by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

Roll call vote: Miller "aye," Jensen "aye," VanderWal "aye," Post "aye," Hostler "aye."
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #26-06 A RESOLUTION FOR BROOKINGS COUNTY BRIDGE REINSPECTION

PROGRAM FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Brookings County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Banner Associates, Inc. (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the county for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Vote of the Brookings County Board of County Commissioners: Yea __5__ Nay __0__

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2026, at Brookings, South Dakota.

Board of County Commissioners
Of Brookings County

Shawn Hostler
Chairperson
Brookings County Commission

ATTEST:

Lori Schultz
Finance Officer

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Miller to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to approve Agreement #26-09: a Combined Election Agreement between Brookings County and the Brookings School District. Background information was provided by Finance Officer Lori Schultz.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to approve Abatement #26-01: an abatement application made by Kenneth Fideler for parcel #36025-01400-001-00 in the amount of \$207.75.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to approve a late application for the assessment freeze for elderly and disabled for parcel #06980-11050-062-00 in the amount of \$22.66.

Background information was provided by Finance Officer Lori Schultz.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Change Order #1 for project: Structure and Approach Grading - SN 06-280-172, PCN 08F4, a decrease of \$41,368.

Background information was provided by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Change Order #1 for project: Structure and Approach Grading - SN 06-320-118, PCN 08X0, a decrease of \$7,691.86.

Roll call vote: Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve the pricing and acceptance for the Tracer SC + Upgrade from Trane for the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center in the amount of \$7,950.00. Background information was provided by BCOAC Director Joe Salvati.

Roll call vote: Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEM – 9:00 A.M.

As scheduled at 9:00 a.m., Todd Kays, Executive Director of First District Association of Local Governments presented his annual report.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approval of 2026 Highway Bids

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to award the bid for ¾” crushed gravel on all items listed from Bowes Construction, Brookings, SD; and Sterzinger Crushing, Taunton, MN.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

Contractor/Twp/Pit Owner	Bid
Bowes Construction (Sherman) Davis	\$5.00
Bowes Construction (Aurora) Dupraz	\$5.00
Sterzinger Crushing (Alton) Davis	\$6.00
Sterzinger Crushing (Windsor) Jensen	\$6.50
Sterzinger Crushing (Elkton) Skyview	\$7.50

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to award the bid for #250 crushed quartzite rip rap “Class A,” #150 erosion stone crushed quartzite, 1” x #4 crushed quartzite “Class A,” crushed quartzite ballast #4, 3/8” pea rock, and icing sand on all items listed from L.G. Everist, Sioux Falls, SD.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

#250 crushed quartzite rip “Class A”

Contractor	Bid
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L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$39.60
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#150 erosion stone crushed quartzite

Contractor	Bid
L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$36.40

1" x #4 crushed quartzite "Class A"

Contractor	Bid
L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$32.15

Crushed quartzite ballast #4

Contractor	Bid
L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$32.15

3/8" Pea Rock

Contractor	Bid
L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$14.25

Icing Sand

Contractor	Bid
L.G. Everist (Brookings plant)	\$13.70

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to award the bid for HR class asphalt on all items listed from Bowes Construction, Brookings SD, and Duininck, Prinsburg, N (Watertown, SD).

Roll call vote: Post "aye," Miller "aye," Jensen "aye," VanderWal "aye," Hostler "aye."

Motion carried.

Contractor /Mix	Bid
Bowes E1 Virgin PG 58-28 Oil	\$74.00
Bowes E1 20% Rap PG 58-28 Oil	\$65.00
Bowes E2 Virgin PG 58-28 Oil	\$73.50
Bowes E2 20% PG 58-28 Oil	\$66.50
Bowes E1 Virgin PG 58-34 Oil	\$80.00
Bowes E1 20% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$69.25
Bowes E2 Virgin PG 58-34 Oil	\$79.25
Bowes E2 20% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$71.00
Bowes E2 10% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$85.00
Bowes G1-Virgin PG 58-34 Oil	\$86.25
Bowes G1-20% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$73.25
Bowes G2-Virgin PG 58-34 Oil	\$86.25
Bowes G2-20% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$75.00
Bowes Q2-Virgin Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$84.00
Bowes Q2-20% Rap PG 58-34 Oil	\$72.00
Duininck 1/2" Mix Design Type D (30% Rap) PG 58-28	\$78.00
Duininck 1/2" Mix Design Type E (20% Rap) PG 58-28	\$81.00
Duininck 1/2" Mix Design Type E (Virgin) PG 58-28	\$94.00
Duininck Cold Mix	\$175.00

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to award the bid for asphalt patching on all items listed from Bowes Construction, Brookings, SD.

Roll call vote: Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Contractor	Bid
Duininck	\$135.00
Bowes Construction	\$124.00

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Post to award the bid for road oil - CRS2-P emulsion and CSS1H-3:1 emulsion, MC-70 asphalt, on all items listed from Jebro Inc., Sioux City, IA.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Miller “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Contractor	Bid
Flint Hills CRS2-P Emulsion	\$671.00
Jebro CRS2-P Emulsion	\$663.89

Contractor	Bid
Flint Hills CSS1H 3:1 Emulsion	\$521.00
Jebro CSS1H 3:1 Emulsion	\$483.89

Contractor	Bid
Jebro MC-70	\$1,103.89

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to award the bid for Fold and Form PVC/UV CIPP on all items listed from Subsurface, Inc., Moorhead, MN.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Contractor	Bid
Subsurface, Inc 18”	\$90.00
Subsurface, Inc 24”	\$225.00
Subsurface, Inc 30”	\$285.00
Subsurface, Inc 36”	\$400.00
Subsurface, Inc 42”	\$485.00
Subsurface, Inc 48”	\$545.00

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to award the bid for Aggregate Base Stabilizer on all items listed from Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., Detroit Lakes, MN.

Roll call vote: Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Contractor	Bid
Team Laboratory Chem. Corp. 55 gal. drum	\$30.00
Team Laboratory Chem. Corp. 275 gal. 1-7	\$29.00

Team Laboratory Chem. Corp. 275 gal. 8-14	\$28.00
Team Laboratory Chem. Corp. 275 gal. 15+	\$27.00

Motion by Miller, seconded by Jensen to award the bid for equipment rentals on all items listed from Equipment Share, Sioux Falls, SD, Holloway Construction, Parker, SD, and Meyer Services, Inc., Volga, SD.

Roll call vote: Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-10: an agreement with Bowes Construction, Inc. of Brookings, SD, for ¾” gravel.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-11: an agreement with Sterzinger Crushing of Taunton, MN, for ¾” crushed gravel.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-12: an agreement with L.G. Everist of Brookings, SD, for natural cover aggregate: #250 crushed quartzite rip rap “Class A,” #150 erosion stone crushed quartzite, 1” x #4 crushed quartzite “Class A,” crushed quartzite ballast #4, 3/8” pea rock, and icing sand.

Roll call vote: Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-13: an agreement with Bowes Construction of Brookings, SD for HR class asphalt.

Roll call vote: Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-14: an agreement with Duininck, Prinsburg, MN (Watertown, SD) for HR class asphalt.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Jensen to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-15: an agreement with Bowes Construction, Inc. of Brookings, SD for asphalt patching.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Post to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-16: an agreement with Jebro Inc. of Sioux City, IA for CRS2-P emulsion, CSS1H-3:1 emulsion, and MC-70 asphalt.

Roll call vote: Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-17: an agreement with Subsurface Inc. of Moorhead, MN for fold and form PVC/UV CIPP.

Roll call vote: Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-18: an agreement with Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., Detroit Lakes, MN for aggregate base stabilizer.

Roll call vote: Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Hostler “aye.”
Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Jensen to approve the updated Brookings County Strategic Plan. Background information was provided by Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

The board reviewed the South Dakota Open Meetings Laws per SDCL 1-25.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen presented the Commission Department Director’s Report.

Steffensen said the traveling Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Wall will be in Brookings June 11th - 14th at the Fishback Soccer Complex. Steffensen said there will be a “Welcome Home” ceremony at 9:00 AM on Thursday, June 11th. She said Brookings Park & Rec Director Kristin Zimmerman would like a commission representative to say a few words.

Steffensen said the Brookings Deuel Rural Water Annual Meeting is Tuesday, April 14th at the McKnight Hall in White.

Steffensen discussed upcoming dates.

Steffensen presented the 2025 Year-End report.

States Attorney Dan Nelson presented the Brookings County Statistics for 2025.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner VanderWal toured the jail and attended bid openings for the Highway Department’s annual supplies and materials.

Commissioner Post toured the jail and attended a Weed Board Meeting.

Commissioner Miller attended the Legislative Update via zoom.

Commission Hostler declared a recess as the Brookings County Board of County Commissioners.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEM – 10:00 A.M.

Commission Hostler convened the board as the Brookings County Drainage Board.

County Development Director Robert Hill said in the past, a drainage way diverted water from the Big Sioux River southward to water livestock in Medary Township. He said the waterway was left uncontrolled by a succession of different landowners, and it gradually grew to a larger size. Hill said it grew to a point where, at times, more water was being diverted away from the main Bix Sioux channel than was flowing in the main channel.

In 2019, the Brookings County Drainage met with citizens from Medary Township and started to discuss the matter. Hill said in 2021, the Brookings County Drainage Board started to work with Banner Associates and Medary Township to study the area and develop a path forward. Hill said the studies of the area were extensive, and a final report was presented at a public meeting on August 9, 2024. Hill said the public was invited to attend this, and the meeting was well attended.

On November 17th, Hill said Banner Associates mailed out letters to several organizations and individuals discussing further steps that were being conducted.

On December 23rd, Hill said Banner Associates sent four letters that were received from landowners in the area of the project area. Hill said today's meeting was set up to allow anyone who would like to discuss the project.

Kelli Buscher with Banner Associates said there is a wetland easement that the Natural Resource Conservation Service has on Mr. Hubbard's land, and that easement states that there can be no construction or change to the land under that easement. Before any construction can occur, Buscher said the NRCS would need to lift the easement, and an environmental review needs to be done. Buscher said they sent letters out to interested parties notifying them they are doing an environmental review.

Hostler asked how many letters were sent out. Buscher said she believes they mailed thirty letters to landowners who live downstream from the dike.

Commissioner Miller asked what is trying to be accomplished. County Development Director Robert Hill said landowners from Medary Township approached the drainage board that they were losing farm production land. Hill said the landowners used to be able to farm it back in the 70s and 80s.

Jensen asked about the bridge to the west of the Big Sioux River bridge. Hill said that bridge was not engineered for the flow of water that they are seeing right now.

Kent Johnson with Banner Associates said putting the dike back into place will redirect those flows within the original river channel, and once it's above the bank it will go through both bridges. Hostler asked if the flood level would increase if they redirected it back to the normal channel. Johnson said if you are maintaining flows in the Big Sioux River, it will be a normal river flow.

Jay Gilbertson with East Dakota Water Development District said this has been a situation that's been going on for a long time. Gilbertson said when they were first made aware of it back in

2011, they took a measurement of the flow and what they found was that two-thirds of the flow was now running through the western opening. Gilbertson said what you will be doing is restoring to the pre 2011 conditions.

Brookings County resident Sean Lesnar said he lives a few hundred yards from the proposed dike. Lesnar said he's concerned there will be a lot more flooding on his land. He said there's been several meetings and he feels left out. Lesnar said he wasn't invited or contacted by anyone.

Lesnar said if the water is put back into the main channel, it will cause way more flooding.

Brookings County resident Rob Hexum said he is a rural landowner south of the proposed dike. Hexum said they are not asking to plug it up completely, they are asking to put it back to normal levels where it was in 2019. Hexum said they have about 300 acres that is unusable because of all the diversion water. From a township standpoint, Hexum said they fix 468th Avenue and 217th Street every year because the water washes out the roads.

Brookings County resident Norris Patrick said he lives in Oslo Township and has lived there since 1940. Patrick said when they put the new bridge in on Highway 44, they put it at an angle, so water shoots out into his fields instead of moving downstream. Patrick said Brookings doesn't want the water, so they keep it up in the hills, and he thinks that's wrong.

Brookings County resident Scott Sebring said he lives in Medary Township and didn't receive a letter. Sebring said his neighbor, David Eggers didn't receive a letter either. Sebring said he feels for Rob Hexum and doesn't want to see anyone flooded. Sebring said the water comes to the east now and he doesn't know how this wouldn't make it worse. Sebring suggested they come together and figure out a better solution.

Brookings County resident David Eggers said he lives in Medary Township and has been there since 2005. Eggers said he hates the fact it's flooding his neighbors to the west, but changing the diversion will change the flood pattern to the east. Eggers said there's got to be a decent compromise that would benefit landowners to the east and to the west. He said there needs to be better communication.

Brookings County resident Rolfe Behrend said he lives near the proposed dike. Behrend said he hopes the board read his letter because most of his concerns were in there. Behrend asked what the consequences would be if the hole is plugged.

County Development Director Robert Hill thanked everyone for coming and providing their public input. Hill said a meeting will need to be scheduled in the future, and there will come a time when they need to decide if they are going to move forward with the project or not. Hostler asked if they've received a full report back from the August study. Hill said no, the environmental study is still going on.

Kelli Buscher with Banner Associates said they must do an archeological study, which is required by the NRCS as part of the review of the easement and lifting it. Buscher said with the government shutdown and the weather, they were unable to do it. She said if the board decides to move forward, they could do it this spring but they can pause if that's what the board wants them to do.

Buscher said they tried to make a good faith effort to identify people who should have received notification. She said there was zero attempt to exclude anyone.

Commissioner Miller said having another meeting would be a great idea. Hill suggested they have another meeting in May. VanderWal said he thinks they need to continue with the environmental review and cultural review. VanderWal said another open house would be helpful. Hill asked if the board wanted to do an open house at the BCOAC sometime in May. By consensus, the board agreed to hold another open house in May if it works for all parties involved.

Chairperson Hostler adjourned the Brookings County Drainage Board.
The board reconvened as the Brookings County Board of County Commissioners.

COMISSIONERS' REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED

Commissioner Jensen attended the jail tour; attended the BCOAC Advisory Board Meeting; and attended a hospital board meeting.

Commissioner Hostler attended the jail tour; attended the Brookings Regional Growth Alliance Meeting; attended the Legislative Update via zoom; attended the BCOAC Advisory Board Meeting; attended a Brookings Regional Growth Meeting; and attended a Research Park Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Jensen to enter into Executive Session at 11:27 a.m., in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel. All members voted "aye." Motion carried.

Chairperson Hostler declared the board out of Executive Session at 12:12 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "aye." Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

The policy of Brookings County, South Dakota not to discriminate against the Handicapped of Employment or the Provision of Service. The County of Brookings is responsive to requests for communication aids and the need to provide appropriate access and will provide alternative formats and accessible locations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jenna Baker
Finance Specialist
Brookings County

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