

District 5 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 24, 2024

Howard, SD

11:00 AM

Those present were Jeff Puthoff of DOR, Tammy Anderson & Maggie Purintun of Kingsbury County, Rick Becker of Lake County, Tami Severson & Darcy Liable of Miner County, Cori Kaufman of McCook County, Jacob Brehmer & Reid Squires of Brookings County, Chris Lilla of Minnehaha County, DeAnna Berke & Monica Fier of Moody County.

The meeting was called to order @ 11:00 by Chairperson Jacob Brehmer. Jeff of DOR started the meeting with discussion on a recent property appeal related to the increase of assessed values at a faster rate than wages. A couple scenarios were also discussed where the local & county BOE did not support the assessments in their respective counties. The general consensus from all was that appeal numbers were down across the board, with most appeals related to the sharp increase in the assessment, and not so much the market value. Most appellants with this argument did not have much success. He also provided information related to sales ratio studies, median assessments, and the laws that pertain to these topics. We were reminded that this information is readily available to the public either through their local county DOE offices, or through DOR online portals.

Discussion shifted to the abstract submission process. As of right now, Chris of Minnehaha was the only director who had gone through the abstract creation & submission process. We all thanked him for his promptness, as he was able to uncover some issues & workaround solutions related to Incode reporting & Axiomatic submission. Abstracts are due the 3rd Monday in May.

We discussed our upcoming Summer 2024 reappraisal projects. Miner County is currently reviewing new flyover imagery and flagging rural parcel changes that they will field verify this spring/summer. Brookings, McCook & Minnehaha will all be starting a rural residential review and hope to accomplish 1/3 to 1/2 completion per summer. Lake County is going to focus on downtown commercial properties & lake properties, as this is where a lot of the sales are concentrated, and assessments have been low. Kingsbury will be focusing on residential reappraisal in Arlington, DeSmet & Iroquois.

Topic shifted to wage studies. Kingsbury County has hired an out-of-state company to conduct a wage study in 2024, results are pending. They also mentioned that they now have an HR department, currently working on implementing a performance-based wage step schedule. Most other counties have a similar program in place. New employees were introduced. Lake County is currently understaffed with only 2 employees, as 2 people have resigned their positions. Miner County has an opening for Deputy DOE, as Darcy will be leaving the profession. Brookings County will be hiring an additional appraiser January 2025 to keep up with the rapid growth they are experiencing.

Legislative updates were discussed. The group mentioned (2) different laws related to apartment valuation & taxation, and how it would be possible to close some loopholes in the current version. Jeff suggested that we should reach out to SDAAO's Legislative committee and work with them. The Disabled Veteran Exemption will increase from \$150k to \$200k on July 1.

Upcoming educational opportunities were discussed. The land appraisal workshop offered in Brookings this past November received good feedback. McCook County has an idea for a presentation on safety on private property, ie. Weapons, drugs, trafficking, etc. that they plan to offer in the spring. We all agreed this would be well attended, as it directly pertains to our position, and field of work. Cori also mentioned a similar presentation will be offered at 2025 SDAAO conference by the Call to Freedom SD group. We are all looking forward to this. 2024 SDAAO school IAAO course offerings will be 201 Appraisal of Land & 300 Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal. USPAP in-person courses are also being offered in Rapid City. Many counties in District 5 are finding that online USPAP through McKissock has been a good option for cost & time savings, at least for the 7-hour update course. The consensus for new employees attending the 15-hour course is that the in person option is more idea.

Discussion was had on a wind tower project in Kingsbury County & a solar farm site in McCook County. Meetings have already been held for public feedback. It seems that most parties that do not directly benefit from these energy sources or their placement are vocally opposed to the idea.

The next meeting will be held on July 17th with Minnehaha County as the host.

Motion to adjourn by Cori Kaufman, 2nd by Tammy Anderson. Chairperson Jacob Brehmer declared the meeting adjourned @ 1:17 PM.