President Becky Brunsing called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Members present were:

Becky Brunsing, Finance Officer, Wagner; Sam Kooiker, Mayor, Rapid City; Gary Lipp Mayor, Custer; Paul Young, Councilmember, Spearfish; Jeanne Duchscher, Finance Officer, Parker; Arnie Schott, Mayor, McLaughlin; Mike Wendland, Mayor, Baltic; Greg Jamison, Councilmember, Sioux Falls; Pauline Sumption, Finance Officer, Rapid City; Fay Bueno, Finance Officer, Sturgis; Amy Nelson, City Manager, Yankton; Karl Alberts, Finance Officer, Aberdeen; Meri Jo Anderson, Finance Officer New Underwood; Mike Grosek, Mayor, Webster; Tim Reed, Mayor, Brookings; Debbie Houseman, Finance Officer, Lake Andes

Members not able to attend were: Laurie Gill, Pierre; Renae Phinney, Ree Heights; Harry Weller, Kadoka

Others Present: Dana Boke, Mayor, Spearfish; Judy Payne, SDPAA Executive Director; Yvonne Taylor, SDML Executive Director

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
It was moved by Grosek, seconded by Wendland to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2014 Conference Call meeting and the June 5, 2014 meeting. Upon unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
It was moved by Sumption, seconded by Alberts to approve the financial statements as presented. Upon unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS
• SDPAA Update. Judy Payne, SDPAA Executive Director, briefed the Board on the status of the transition of marketing and administration services to SDPAA staff. Payne further informed the board that due to transition efficiencies, member rates would be decreased for the 2015 billings.
• Approval of 2015 Lobbyists. It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Young to approve Yvonne Taylor, Jeff Mehlhaff, Jim Hood, Larry Nelson, and Dianna Miller (as needed) to lobby on behalf of the SDML for the 2015 Legislative Session. Upon unanimous vote, the motion was approved.
• Board-Membership Survey. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that a survey of attendees by a method such as Survey Monkey would be a more useful method of gathering
opinions. Taylor will work with other staff members to develop and distribute this survey, reporting results to the Board by the December 10, 2014 Board Meeting.

• Discussion of Board policy on candidate invitations. An amendment which limits candidate invitations to SDML meetings and in all publications to only the 2 current major parties (Democrat and Republican) was distributed. Kooiker offered a proposal to also invite other party candidates who are polling at a level of 20% in at least 2 major polls, noting that at least one race currently has at least three credible candidates. After discussion, Taylor was directed to explore available poll results and make a recommendation to the Board on a viable policy at the December 10, 2014 meeting.

• Discussion of Board Travel to NLC Conferences. Taylor explained that past practice had been to pay for the SDML President to attend both the fall and spring NLC Conferences; and to allow the 1st Vice President to choose to attend one of the conferences. In recent years, this has lapsed. Taylor requested direction from the Board on whether to reinstate the practice. After discussion of the benefits of attending the conferences, it was the consensus of the Board that a policy be developed authorizing payment for the SDML President to attend both NLC conferences, and the 1st Vice President to attend one Conference.

Brunsing deferred discussion on Additional Staff and Revenue Options, Personnel Subcommittee Discussion, Preliminary Discussion, 2015 Budget; and Personnel Update to the bottom of the Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS
• District Meetings – Legislator Invitations. Taylor requested guidance on whether or not to ‘comp’ legislators attending the District Meetings at the SDML’s invitation. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to allow each legislator to attend a district meeting without charge.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
• Conference Overview. Taylor briefed the Board on Conference highlights, including major speakers and special events arranged by the City of Spearfish.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The Board entered executive session at 8:27 p.m., by which time Mayor Boke and SDPAA Executive Director Payne left the meeting.

The Board left executive session and reconvened in open session at 9:24 p.m.

It was moved by Sumption, seconded by Bueno to approve the job descriptions as presented, with a change in the salary range for the Executive Director position, and a change in the title for the ‘executive assistant’ to ‘Administrative Coordinator’ with the additional position to be funded by an increase in the base dues as presented and an increase in the sales tax factor to .0002. Upon unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Taylor was directed to develop a memorandum of understanding between the SDML and its members which defines the services for which dues are paid, and to distribute this MOU to the Board before sending to the membership with the November Dues notices are mailed.
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Taylor was further directed to have several copies of the new dues proposals available for review at the Friday Business Meeting, and to discuss the changes with the membership at that meeting.

Brunsing noted that the Personnel Sub-Committee would continue to meet before the December meeting, working on development of a contract with the Executive Director and a succession plan.

An evaluation system for League staff was discussed, and Taylor was directed to develop a format based on a scale of 5 with which staff can be evaluated, and the Board can use to evaluate future salary increases and any performance-based pay increases.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.