

Santee Sioux Nation

SSN Council Headquarters

Chairman: Alonzo Denney
Vice-Chairman: Kameron Runnels
Treasurer: David Henry
Secretary: Andrea McBride

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Regular Council Meeting Minutes August 13, 2025 Council Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:15 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, and Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley
 - b. Absent – Hobu Creek District Rep. Byron Tuttle (excused medical)
 - c. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda.
 - b. With no changes to the agenda, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda
 - i. Motion made by David Henry
 - ii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
5. Approval of minutes
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if anyone sees changes needed for the minutes. Vietta pointed out a misprint. Chairman asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes from the regular council meeting held on July 23, 2025 with the correction of the misprint
 - i. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - ii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
6. Joyce Thomas – Head Start update
 - a. Joyce stated that she will forward the monthly to financials to Andrea once she receives them. Today is the first day of classes for Head Start. There is a wait list on toddler side. The monitoring review is scheduled for 2026, tool not published but do know they're going to get reviewed. Applied for one time supplemental funds for nutrition for \$13,721; to be used for equipment, supplies, and contract. The program information report is due August 31st. The 3 year old classroom had major water damage. TC Thomas came and did some work, he told Head Start that they need a new roof. Alonzo asked about the roof and Dan RedOwl said they have just been doing band aide fixes. Vietta asked about a driver and Joyce said Head Start will still have to contract with Donnie. All soil testing

came back good for the new location. Kameron asked about the nutrition grant and when she will know if Head Start will receive this and Joyce says hopefully by October. No further questions or comments for Joyce or head start. Chairman Denney Signed off on the SF 424 and waiver request.

7. The Project Team, Sam Strong – CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) plan
 - a. Sam would like to come in September to go over the CEDS plan. Sam went over the goals and objectives of the CEDS plan. After presentation Sam asked about feedback on the plan. Alonzo said the plans have been a long time coming and we are headed in the right direction and thanked them for their work. There is still time to add comment before implementation. This is a draft and will be posted for 30 days and open for comment and changes. Set a tentative meeting for September 18th at 10am. No further questions or comments for the project team or Sam Strong.

8. Open Floor

- a. Mike Oltrogge, NICC – classes start August 26th. There will be a community meal on September 21st at 12pm. The college's new building will open in December. Continuing construction for business incubator instruction. The college still offers \$1 per credit. NICC has 650 students enrolled.
- b. Jerry Noonan – Jerry brought up the op zone for rural areas that Santee can possibly benefit off of. Maybe put this in the CEDS plan. Op zone dollars are there and look for investments for 5-10 years. With real estate on a reservation they would pay no gain on that million dollars. No tax on capital gain. It is not a tax credit program. Not a subsidized program. This just came out in Jan/Feb when the big beautiful bill was passed.

Sid asked Jerry about 100% health insurance. Some programs could afford it, others can't. Jerry says the benefit of captive is all premiums come out of federal dollars. We can control claims. The tribe pays 72 percent right now but would like to pay 100 percent. Jerry says it's an allowable expenditure in the program. If the program can't afford it, the tribe could pay. Sid says OPM, where we get insurance, is saying we can't do this and we have one financial advisor saying we can't do this. Jerry says we're sovereign and can do it how we want.

- c. Sid Tuttle, HR – Sid wants to develop a policy for Dakota language program to allow employees to be able to take classes. He will develop this and bring it to the table.

Nutrition update – Sid says it's coming together, they are working on finances. Alonzo is concerned about the accountability of the program. We've been putting money into these programs to subsidize, what are we doing to fix this? Sid said he will update because these discussions are still taking place.

There is a retirement resignation from the HEART program director. Sometime in early December. Mike, Sid and Justin are taking care of this.

Sid wants to put the overtime issues back on table when it comes to the EMS department. Sid would like to meet with the director and the council on this. The standard for the EMS department is to have paramedics available at all times, which is causing the OT. Vietta thinks we should go back to contracting with Niobrara. Dave says he doesn't think the contracting will help because they're not always available. Sid would like to circle back and report on this.

Sid will draft something on the health policy and see if they can amend current contracts and current budgets. Wants to support 100 percent health coverage for employees.

Sid has a plan he wanted to submit to Dave. Sid says in the past we have had morale boosters for employees. We have had picnics before and wants to do this again. Dave says to get with Joe Moose because something may be in the works already.

Sid said a grant writer position is funded and they will post it. This will be advertised as a legit grant writer position. They also want to put together a subcommittee of grant writers.

Sid sent Dakota language memo on independent studies that Redwing is requesting. In most plans it is written throughout their plan and HR needed this in writing. Independent study and educational leave are two different things. The current one we have are just with NICC. Dave says if we allow 20 hours a week, how do they get work done if not in the office. Sid said his independent study is just for the week of August. The apprentices are there to become language experts, one is full time and one is part time. He said his students are on independent study and this includes zoom, worksheets, and other correspondence with the director. Two weeks ago these employees were docked and this is how independent study came into play. Alonzo says since Redwing was going to be gone he was still going to be in communication with the apprentices. Alonzo said he was called in to finance and he said the best way to accommodate was to do the 6-8 hours of educational leave. Alonzo said Redwing doesn't have it designed for it to be an all time thing and it was just in his absence. Sid said with this program it is a little different. The job description is designed for an educator and apprentices. We have a policy that covers special circumstances, and this allows for us to do certain things. The date he had sent is until August 26th. Sandy questioned how are we going to define Independent Study, does this include going to powwows? Kameron stated that we need to be careful when we discuss this because it might open the door for other programs. Alonzo says we never had a scope of work revised and none of them say there is an independent study. Alonzo stated that we might be opening a can of worms. Kameron says it would be better if we see it all in black and white. No further questions or comments for Sid.

- d. Waylon LaPlante, Santee School – There is an issue we are running into with the front street of the school. The school wants to get the council's blessing to make that road a one way street at certain times. This will be an hour before school starts and an hour after school gets out. They contacted Diane LaPointe with the village board and she said

the village won't have any say so and to call Mike Crosley. Mike says he can support with signage. Chief of police said to run with it. The council is good with this as well. Will update when decided how and when this will take place. No further questions or comments for Waylon.

- e. Alonzo stated that Thelma Thomas came in to speak with council and she brought up her resignation. She will be resigning on January 1. Chairman advised HR and CEO to post this so we give enough transition time. Chairman wants to see a posting for Lavonne's position by the end of the week as well.

9. Resolutions

- a. 2025-60 Re-contracting the Higher Education Program for FY26 with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-60
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- b. 2025-61 Authorizing the contract between the BIA and the SSN for the Land Management/Natural Resources Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-61
 - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Andrea McBride
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- c. 2025-62 Re-contracting the Parks and Wildlife Program for FY26 with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-62
 - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- d. 2025-63 Re-contracting the JOB Placement/Training Program for FY26 with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-63
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- e. 2025-64 Re-contracting the JOM Program with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-64
 - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- f. 2025-65 Re-contracting the Law Enforcement Services for FY26 with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-65
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- g. 2025-66 Re-contracting the Tribal Court program for FY26 with BIA
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-66
 - ii. Motion made by Andrea McBride
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes

10. All agenda items have been addressed

- i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:56 pm
- ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
- iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
- iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

