

**NDPERS INVESTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
8:30 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Chairperson Adam Miller  
Gerald Buck  
Tyler Erickson  
Rep. Greg Stemen  
Jeffry Volk

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Fricke  
MaryJo Anderson  
Derrick Hohbein  
Katheryne Korom  
Lindsay Schaf  
Kirsten Tuntland

**Staff Absent:** Marcy Aldinger

**Others Present:** Scott Anderson – RIO  
Eric Chin – RIO  
Ross Hambrick – RIO  
Craig Chaikin – Callan  
Jack Beisel – Callan  
Dave Ramirez – Empower

**Minutes**

Chairperson Adam Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Agenda was approved by voice vote.

**I. Minutes – Wednesday, August 27, 2025**

Chairperson Miller called for questions or comments regarding the minutes of August 27, 2025.

**Mr. Gerald Buck moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2025, Investment Subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Rep. Greg Stemen.**

Minutes were approved by voice vote.

**II. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Consideration**

None reported.

### **III. Defined Benefit Plans Performance Q3 2025 Update – RIO**

Mr. Scott Anderson gave an investment update on the NDPERS Defined Benefit plans as of July 31, 2025. NDPERS performance, risk summary, asset allocation, and performance benchmark indices were reviewed. Assets under management as of July 31, 2025, were \$4,925,494,336. The year-to-date total NDPERS net fund return of 8.4% less the policy benchmark return of 7.2% resulted in a total relative return of 1.2% as of July 31, 2025. The one-year total NDPERS fund return of 11.0% less the policy benchmark return of 9.5% resulted in a total relative return of 1.5% as of July 31, 2025. NDPERS 10-year average fund return as of July 31, 2025, was 7.8% compared to the policy return of 7.3%. Discussion took place.

### **IV. Market Update & Performance – Callan**

Mr. Craig Chaikin presented a market update for 3Q2025. Small/sm mid cap managers have faced significant performance challenges. Since the market bottom on April 8, low quality stocks have led the markets. For example, in the Russell 2500 Growth Index, non-earners were up ~70% from 4/8 to the end of 3Q; during 3Q alone, non-earners were up over 25%. By comparison, positive earning stocks were up 35% and 8%, respectively. Global/global ex-U.S. equity key themes were reviewed. There were no significant changes in Active Manager Monitoring summary. JPM's quality bias has been a significant headwind in the low quality rally. Galliard Stable Value is still recovering from the sharp increase in rates in 2022. The funds longer duration and book value accounting (guarantee of principal and interest) has meant participant crediting has recovered more slowly than cash. The 457 Plan Asset Allocation & Distribution, 401 (a) Plan Asset Allocation & Distribution, and Plan Performance Monitoring reports were reviewed. The IRS defined contribution limits for 2026 were presented. Mr. Chaikin updated the subcommittee on settlement of the case American Airlines' 401K plan brought against the fiduciaries. Discussion took place.

### **V. Plan Review – Empower**

Dave Ramirez with Empower presented the 3Q2025 plan review. The NDPERS 457(b) Companion plan has 10,836 participants and assets of \$257,746,416. The NDPERS 401(a) Defined Contribution plan has 2,598 members and assets of \$35,776,145. Overall, there are 13,434 plan participants with total assets of \$293,522,561. Approximately 45% of Companion plan participants and 20% of Defined Contribution participants have registered their online account. Participant education and engagement were reviewed. The 3Q2025 Customer Care Center Participant Satisfaction score was 4.37 out of 5. Discussion took place.

### **VI. PERS Plan Investment Policy Statement – RIO**

Mr. Eric Chin, Deputy Chief Investment Officer for the Retirement and Investment Office (RIO), presented the updated Investment Policy Statement (IPS) for review by the subcommittee. The updated IPS for the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System and the Highway Patrol Retirement System reflects the new asset allocation. The new IPS templates created by RIO have been designed to enhance clarity and promote consistency across all client IPS documents. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Jeffry Volk made a motion to adopt a recommendation to the full Board to approve the Investment Policy Statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerald Buck.**

Ayes: Chairperson Adam Miller, Mr. Buck, Mr. Erickson, Rep. Stemen, Mr. Volk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

## **VII. Empower Self-Directed Brokerage Account – Derrick**

Mr. Derrick Hohbein presented the current brokerage account offerings for the subcommittee's review and consideration. The purpose of the information presented was to evaluate the potential addition of new investment options under the brokerage windows for both the 401(a) Defined Contribution and 457 Deferred Compensation Plans. Mr. Erickson provided additional insight on his request to bring the topic before the subcommittee. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Tyler Erickson made a motion to adopt a recommendation to the full Board to approve a new plan sponsor permitted investment vehicles available through the SDB investment platform to include equities traded on the National Securities Exchange and limited to 30% of the total account balance in a member's 457 account notwithstanding the \$2500 minimum investment provision.**

Motion failed.

## **VIII. Legacy Empower Provider Float – Derrick**

Mr. Derrick Hohbein provided information on Empower's proposed amendment to the Legacy 457 Plan agreement to align the treatment of "float" earnings with the approach currently in place for the Companion Plan. Two potential courses of action regarding the float earnings under the Legacy 457 plan were outlined. The first option would be to retain the float earnings to support NDPERS administrative expenses, consistent with the Companion plan arrangement. The second option would be to return the float earnings to participants, allowing them to benefit directly from the accrued interest. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Tyler Erickson made a motion to adopt a recommendation to the full Board to approve option #1 to retain the float earnings to support NDPERS administrative expenses, consistent with the Companion Plan arrangement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerald Buck.**

Ayes: Chairperson Adam Miller, Mr. Buck, Mr. Erickson, Rep. Stemen, Mr. Volk

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

## **IX. Other Business**

Ms. Katheryne Korom presented a list of proposed meeting dates for the 2026 calendar. Discussion took place.

**Mr. Greg Stemen moved to approve 2026 meeting dates of February 24, May 26, August 25, and November 24. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerald Buck.**

The 2026 schedule was approved by voice vote.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The subcommittee adjourned at 11:06 a.m.