

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
June 16, 2026, 8:30 AM**

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Loy Woelber, Jackie Meier, Mark Carlson, Dennis Welgraven and Roger Zins. Also Present in person were County Coordinator Sharon Giese and County Attorney Travis Smith. General Assistant Renee Gleason was absent.

BOARD CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 A.M.

1.1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

- Murray County Employee Family Fun Night is scheduled for 06/18/2026. All commissioners will be attending this event but there will not be any business conducted or discussed during this event.

2.2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approval the agenda with additions for 06/16/2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting with no conflicts of interest.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 06/02/2026

Board Chair asked if there were any changes or questions about the meeting minutes from 06/02/2026. None were brought forth.

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It is moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Woelber and passed that all claims as presented were approved for payment. The Board Chair was authorized to sign the Audit List dated June 16, 2026 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 180136 through 180193 for \$144,572.41, including the meeting minutes of 06/02/2026:

General Revenue Fund	128,639.96
Road & Bridge	15,304.01
EDA	11.99
Ditch	93.74
Sunrise Terrace	348.71
SAWS	<u>174.00</u>
Total	144,572.41

Board Chair called a recess at approximately 8:10 a.m. until such time as the 8:35 a.m. Public Hearing for JD 14 can be called to order.

Board Chair called meeting back to order at approximately 8:35 a.m. for Public Hearing: Murray JD 14 - Impoundment/Modification/Partial Abandonment (DNR).

**4.1. 8:35 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING: MURRAY JD 14 -
IMPOUNDMENT/MODIFICATION/PARTIAL ABANDONMENT (DNR)**

Public Meeting was opened at approximately 8:35 a.m. and Attorney Jon Kolb provided guidance during this public hearing. Also in attendance was Engineer William Douglas and Wildlife Supervisor Bill Shuna. Jon Kolb clarified the other part of the partial abandonment will be considered when the system is again fully operational. Heidi Winter outlined the dates and placed this public hearing notice.

Engineer William Douglas provided the engineering report of findings for JD 14 petition. William Douglas studied the entire watershed verifying that it wouldn't be adversely affected by the changes being proposed. All these costs will be taken care of by the DNR as long as they are designated engineers on this project.

Jon Kolb confirmed the changes and proposal with Engineer William Douglas and the Murray County Board of Commissioners. One additional condition of this order is the landowner's use of Branch V tile be verified, per Jon. The condition just mentioned must be confirmed by Travis Radke, Murray County Ditch Inspector. Of course, the final order will be updated by Jon Kolb and sent to the Board Chair for signature after final approval from the entire board today.

The meeting was opened to public comment. No public is in attendance for the public comment portion of the hearing. The public comment period was closed.

At a duly noticed and public hearing on June 16, 2026, the Murray County Board of Commissioners, acting as the public drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E for the Murray County Judicial Ditch 14 ("JD 14") drainage system, having received a petition to impound, reroute, and divert drainage system waters pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103E.227 and partially abandon portions of JD 14 pursuant to Statutes, section 103E.806 by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, having noticed and conducted a public hearing on the engineer's reports of findings, and based on the record and proceedings, Commissioner Zins moved, seconded by Commissioner Meier to adopt the findings and Order as outlined, modified and discussed.

Roll Call Vote: 5 = Aye; 0 = Nay, Motion passed.

Woelber: Aye Carlson:

Aye Welgraven: Aye

Meier: Aye

Zins: Aye

The Board Chair formally closed the public hearing at approximately 9:13 a.m.

**4.2. COUNTY DITCH 41 IMPROVEMENT AWARD - MOTION TO AMEND PREVIOUSLY
ADOPTED MOTION**

The original motion: "A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approve the bid from 605 Companies for \$2,158,339.00 for County Ditch 41 Improvement project." The original motion should have included. "...further reserving the right to reimburse the drainage system with future bond proceeds". Verification of the required amendment as per consultation with Travis Smith, County Attorney.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven to amend the original motion to read as such, "A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approve the bid from 605 Companies for \$2,158,339.00 for County Ditch 41 Improvement project, further reserving the right to reimburse the drainage system with future bond proceeds." Commissioner Zins seconded this amendment, motion passed.

4.3.1. AWARD REPAIR AND REHABILITATE THE EOL TURNTABLE AND PIT

As a part of the National Park Service grant to repair and rehabilitate the EoL turntable and pit, we are required to hire an architect or firm specializing in historic architecture. I sent out RFP's for this service on 5/18 and proposals back on 6/8. EoL and Museum staff would like to accept LHB's proposal due to their familiarity with the project, pending National Park Service approval.

Bids were submitted by: Egan Associates of Willmar and LHB. Egan Associates of Willmar bid submittal was 3 times over the budget allowed for this project. LHB's bid submittal was within scope and budget. LHB is also the company that did the original assessment of the turntable in 2019.

Board Chair stated we are looking for a motion to approve the bid submittal from LHB for the End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum turntable rehabilitation. A motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve the bid submittal from LHB.

Commissioner Woelber asked for clarification on an earlier statement regarding the only operational turn table in the Midwest. Nick clarified is the only publicly owned, still hand-operated, operational railroad turntable. It is believed to be the only one in the Midwest, if not in the United States. Once re-conditioned it will be able to turn 360 degrees again, where currently can only turn 180 degrees.

4.4.1. DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven and passed to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

Ankrum Excavating

21-737-6290	CD 55	1,333.00	#2026-018	ok'd T. Radke on 6/8/26
21-847-6290	JD20A	5,560.00	#2026-009	ok'd T. Radke on 6/2/26
21-861-6290	JD 27	300.00	#2026-010	ok'd T. Radke on 6/8/26
Subtotal		<u>7,193.00</u>		

Opdahl Farm Drainage, LLC

21-739-6290	CD 56	1,877.75	#2025-027	Ok'd by T. Radke 6/2/26
21-809-6290	JD 5	1,545.00	#2026-016	Ok'd by T. Radke 6/2/26
Subtotal		<u>3,422.75</u>		

Total Ditch Bills 10,615.75

Copies of invoices were available at the meeting or by calling Heidi Winter 507-836-1152

4.5.1. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

Petition 2026-023 CD 41 Sect 27 Township Lowville Dist 2 Carlson

This is the same CD 41 we are improving on. There is a chance this branch might not get done till early next spring. The landowner is concerned about flooding again and losing crops for another season. Travis Radke suggested we proceed investigating the repair and proceed with any minor repairs that make sense. However, we don't want to have to rework this area with our pending improvements. This probably affects 30-40 acres of the landowner's land. The cost has not been estimated yet until we investigate. In addition, maybe when starting the CD 41 improvements, the contractor could start with the area of concern first, or the contractor has also suggested he may bring two crews for the project work and could get to this area sooner than thought.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to authorize Travis Radke to investigate and repair this issue with a \$5,000.00 limit. If above that amount, Travis Radke is to present this petition again to consult with the Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed, in conjunction with the appointed ditch inspector in and for the County of Murray, have examined and inspected that portion of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, lying within the County of Murray, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given thereon at a Murray County Board of Commissioner's meeting, held in the Commissioners Room of the Murray County Government Center, Slayton, Minnesota

Petition 2026-020	JD 14 Sect 20	Township Leeds	Dist 2 Carlson
Petition 2026-021	JD 09 Sect 26	Township Lowville	Dist 2 Carlson
Petition 2026-022	CD 42 Sect 32	Township DMR	Dist 1 Woelber

Travis Radke confirmed the contractors, Opdahl Farm Drainage are located in Fulda and Johnson Ditching are located in Lake Wilson.

4.6.1. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT — WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Murray County participates in the Workforce Development Area #6 Joint Powers Agreement with counties in Regions 6W and 8. The agreement supports regional workforce development services under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) need approval to renew the partnership for **July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030**. There were no changes made to the original agreement.

It is moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed to authorize the Murray County Board Chair to sign the Workforce Development Area #6 Southwest Minnesota Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Joint Powers Agreement for the counties in Regions 6W and 8 for renewal period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030.

4.6.2. 2026 SEASONAL WAGE SCALE

The wage scale was not originally reviewed at the beginning of the year, along with the other wage scales. We have approximately 9 seasonal workers for 2026. Typically, Murray County has not had anyone in the top tiers of this wage scale.

2025 Seasonal Wage Scale

Range Steps										
Grade	Min A(1)	B(2)	C(3)	D(4)	E(5)	F(6)	G(7)	H(8)	I(9)	Max J(10)
1	\$14.50	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00	\$16.50	\$17.00	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$19.00
2	\$16.50	\$17.00	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$19.00	\$19.50	\$20.00	\$20.50	\$21.00

Grade 1
Parks Maintenance
Museum Assistant

Grade 2
Highway Surveying Tech

It was recommended that the Board consider increasing the 2025 seasonal wage scale by one of the following options:

- 1.) \$0.50 per hour
- 2.) \$0.75 per hour
- 3.) \$1.00 per hour

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, and passed to approve increasing the 2025 seasonal wage scale by \$1.00 per hour for the 2026 seasonal wage scale, retroactive to each 2026 seasonal employee's first day of work for the 2026 season.

REMINDER: A Family Fun Night was planned for Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Dinehart-Holt House for county employees and their families. We will have a quorum of Commissioners attending this event, but no business will be discussed.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS 05/24 - 06/06/2026

Woelber

05/26 Commissioner
05/28 Health Insurance - only able to attend intermittently, no per diem
06/02 Commissioner
06/04 RCRCA

Meier

05/26 Commissioner / ACE-Dementia
05/27 Hospital
05/28 Fair Board Advisory / Fair Board
06/01 Law Library
06/02 Commissioner / Power On Midwest
06/03 Hospital BBQ
06/04 ECI / Hospital Foundation
06/06 ECI-Touch a Truck

Carlson

05/26 Commissioner / Building & Facilities
06/02 Commissioner / Power On Midwest

Welgraven

05/26 Commissioner / Building & Facilities
05/27 Hospital
06/01 Solid Waste / MN Rural Energy
06/02 Commissioner
06/03 Hospital BBQ
06/04 Commissioner / Power Midwest
06/07 MN Rural Energy w/Boxcar Wind Presentation: If project proceeds, most of this 500 megawatt project will be in Murray County and will be a benefit to the county.

Zins

05/26 Commissioner / Investment-Finance
05/27 Radio
05/28 Fair Grounds Advisory / Fair Board
06/02 Commissioner
06/04 Power On Midwest

Commissioner Carlson comments on the Power On Midwest Meeting and the information provided. Commissioner Welgraven stated he was disappointed they still have not provided specifics on the 5-6 routes. They had indicated previously this information would be available by this time. Commissioner Carlson stated there are route options but nothing in detail. These routes are going to be contentious because no one is going to want their land affected, no matter the compensation. This project needs to happen but fear they are going to struggle with landowners.

Heidi Winter reminded the Board of Commissioners and the public of the Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting on Tuesday, June 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room.

BOARD CHAIR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 A.M.

ATTEST:



Mark Carlson, Board Chair


Sharon Giese, County Coordinator