

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
June 3, 2025, 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 Administrator Carolyn McDonald, General Assistant Emily Ackerman, and County Attorney Travis Smith Via Zoom.

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, County Administrator McDonald added the Human Resources/Deputy Administrator Position hire, and the District VIII Meeting on Thursday, June 12th.

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

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.

3. – CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve May 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes, without changes.
2. Commissioner Warrants dated 06/03/2025 for the amount of \$81,728.95 numbered 177028 through 177105.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the consent agenda. Motion Passed.

4.1.1 – DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

Rinke Noonan

21-659-6260	CD 11	2,546.50	CD 11/State Hwy 30 – Legal
21-861-6260	JD 27	344.00	(M-L) Partial Abandonment - Legal
21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	04/2025 Monthly Retainer
21-868-6260	Admin	807.00	FEMA Request

Subtotal 3,897.50

David A. Swenson Construction, LLC

21-667-6290	CD 20	3,486.50	#2024-047 Ok'd by T. Radke – 5/28/2025
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Subtotal 3,486.50

Total Ditch Bills 7,384.00

4.2.1 – HOSPITAL UPDATE

People

- **Clinic Manager** – We continue to interview for the open position and look to fill the role shortly. We have seen a good applicant pool so far for the position. Brooklyn's last day will be May 28th and we are working on a transition plan during the interim.

- **Summer Internships** – We were able to sponsor 4 interns this summer. They all have started in their respective department the middle of May and will be with us through August. We hope they all have a great experience here at MCMC!
 - Annaka Hook – Marketing Intern,
 - Abbigale Zieske – Nursing Intern,
 - Christian Tentinger – Physical Therapy Intern,
 - Jasmine Mortland – IT Intern

Growth

- **Orthopedic Services** – As a focus of our facility strategic plan, we have been exploring options to increase the availability of orthopedic services locally here at MCMC. I am happy to announce that we have signed an agreement with Dr Melissa Koenig. We are currently working through the credentialing process and establishing a schedule. We anticipate a clinic start date of late summer or early fall and will have more details of Dr Koenig’s practice as we move forward.

Financials

- **Master Planning Session 5** – We continue working to complete the final stages of the master plan. It looks like there will be a focus around 12 potential project areas over the life of the plan. Top priorities remain in imaging, therapy, surgery, and outpatient.

Misc.

- **Health Careers Scholarship** – Each year our jeans for scholar’s program supports 1 student each from the Fulda and Murray County Central Schools that are pursuing a degree in a healthcare related field. Funds are raised by collecting \$2 from staff for wearing jeans on Friday. This year the Fulda representative was Norelys Corrales, who is majoring in Pre-Med at SMSU in Marshall and Emmi Peltola from MCC majoring in Nursing at the University of Sioux Falls
- **Foundation Golf Tournament** - The annual tournament will be held Friday, July 18th. Funds raised during the tournament help support improvement projects for the hospital and communities we serve. There are a variety of ways to be involved as a sponsor or register a team to golf.
- **Hospital Week** – Celebrated Hospital week from May 11th – 17th. The facility hosted a number of events for our staff and the community throughout the week. A couple of highlights included the traditional 4th grade hospital tours, Women’s Wellness Event at Painted Prairie, and the Annual Employee Awards. Each year employees are nominated by their fellow co-workers in a variety of categories. This year’s recipients included:
 - **Patient Care Employee Excellence:** Scott Bloemendaal
 - **Support Services Employee Excellence:** Najka Nelson
 - **Brian Peterson Commitment to Teamwork:** Cassidy Paulzine
 - **Distinguished Leadership:** Monica VanOtterloo
 - **Nurse of the Year:** Blythe Zeug
 - **Clinician of the Year:** Kyle Busack

Statistics

- **Acute** - 16 admissions for 56 total patient days. That improves our YTD numbers but is still 7 less admissions and 26 days less compared to 2024 YTD.
- **Swing bed** had 4 admits for 18 total patient days. YTD, we have had 8 more admissions for 164 days or 27 more than the prior year.
- **Observation** stays were at 12 patients compared to 9 last year. YTD we are +9 patients

- **Surgery** procedures were at 35 for the month compared to 30 the previous year. YTD we are at 135 total procedures or 33 more than the prior year
- **ER** visits were 131, which was 20 more than last April. YTD, we have had 510 visits which is down 27 YTD.
- **Clinic visits** were at 800. That is 33 more than the previous year. YTD we are +327 visits.

Balance Sheet

- Our overall cash position increased by **\$571,306**. We currently have a total cash available of **\$10,701,118**.
- We saw a decrease in patient receivables of **\$368,854** and total receivables is at \$6,060,747
 - Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = \$3,123,437 or 51.5%
 - AR Days decreased 3.8 days and currently sits at **64.2** days. Goal is to be under **50** days

Income Statement

- Gross revenue was \$2,849,850 & above budget by \$38,751
 - Hospital IP revenue below budget by **\$4,359**
 - Hospital OP revenue above budget by **\$51,502**
 - Clinic revenue below budget by **\$8,392**
- Contractual adjustments higher than budget by **\$135,008**
- Expenses lower than budget by **\$56,689**
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = **\$42,844**
- For the month we had a net loss equal to **\$10,164**. YTD net income equals **\$24,861**

4.3.1 – MURRAY COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council will be here to introduce the Commissioners to our 8 summer interns.

The students, their school and their job pairing are as follows:

- Abigal Hieb attends SDSU for Criminology/Psychology - Slayton Police Department
- Christian Tentinger attends USD for Biology/Psychology- MCMC
- Dillon Smith attends SDSU for Business- Nobles Coop
- Annaka Hook attends Dordt University for Business Admin – MCMC
- Abbigale Zieske attends USD for Nursing – MCMC
- Simon Spittle attends Asbury University for Bible/Theology - Solid Rock Fulda
- Samantha Sorter attends Minnesota West for Ag – Investor's Choice
- Jasmine Mortland attends Dakota State University for Cyber Operations – MCMC

4.4.1 – ANDREW AND KRISTA KOPPERUD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on May 15, 2025, for this conditional use permit application:

Andrew & Krista Kopperud

Part of E1/2 NE1/4, Section 18, Dovray Township, Murray County

To open and operate a new campground in conjunction with a large farm winery in the Special

Protection and Shoreland Overlay Districts.

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve Conditional Use Permit #1429 for Andrew & Krista Kopperud to open and operate a new campground in conjunction with a large farm winery in the Special Protection and Shoreland Overlay Districts, in Part of E1/2 NE1/4, Section 18, Dovray Township, Murray County with the findings and three (3) special conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Passed.

4.4.2 – IVAN & DIANE VAN ESSEN CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on May 15, 2025, for this conditional use permit application:

Ivan & Diane Van Essen

Part of Parks A, B, C, and D of the Plat of Tepeeotah, and Lot 14 of Tepeeotah, Subdivision of Govt Lot 6 of Section 29, Shetek Township, Murray County

To repair an existing shoreline by constructing retaining wall(s) that will exceed 4 feet in cumulative height on Lake Shetek, a General Development Lake.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Loy Woelber, to approve Conditional Use Permit #1431 for Ivan & Diane Van Essen to repair an existing shoreline by constructing retaining wall(s) that will exceed 4 feet in cumulative height on Lake Shetek, a General Development Lake, for part of Parks A, B, C, and D of the Plat of Tepeeotah, and Lot 14 of Tepeeotah, Subdivision of Govt Lot 6 of Section 29, Shetek Township, Murray County with the findings and two (2) special conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Passed.

4.4.3 – JUSTIN OPDAHL CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The Public Hearing was held by the Murray County Planning Commission on May 15, 2025, for this conditional use permit application:

Justin Opdahl

Part of NE1/4 SW1/4 and Part of NW1/4 SE1/4, Section 33, Lime Lake Township, Murray County

To expand an existing feedlot to 740 animal units by constructing a total confinement barn in the Agriculture District.

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve Conditional Use Permit #1432 for Justin Opdahl to expand an existing feedlot to 740 animal units by constructing a total confinement barn in the Agriculture District, in Part of NE1/4 SW1/4 and Part of NW1/4 SE1/4, Section 33, Lime Lake Township, Murray County with the findings and three (3) special conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion Passed.

4.5.1 - 9:00 A.M PUBLIC HEARING MURRAY COUNTY HOME INITIATIVE TAX

The EDA has received a request for tax abatement through the Murray County Home Initiative. Jody Lehnhoff and Rob Davis own property at 1932 161 Street, Currie, MN, and plan to construct a new home on the property. The home will be their primary residence. Construction is to begin in June.

The new home value is approximately \$365,800 The Public Hearing was opened at 8:53 a.m. It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to open the public hearing. Motion Passed.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:54 a.m.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Roger Zins, to close the public hearing. Motion Passed.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Loy Woelber, to approve the Murray County Home Initiative tax abatement for Jody Lehnhoff and Rob Davis on property located at 1932 161st Street, Currie, MN 56123. Motion Passed.

4.6.1 – SURPLUS ITEMS AT RECYCLING CENTER

The following list of equipment is determined to no longer be needed at the Recycling Center.

- 1992 EX 60 Baler Serial No. 1020 1005
- 2001 EX62 Baler Serial No. EX 2268 (sell this one in October)
- 2011 FG25T-16 Komatsu Forklift Serial No. A224737
- 3-1991 metal 1.5-yard hopper rocker dumpers

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to declare the list of equipment presented as surplus equipment and authorize placing for sale. Motion Passed.

4.7.1 – AUCTION SERVICES PROPOSAL

Southern Minnesota Auctions has submitted a proposal to auction the contents of the old highway building.

Request Board to consider pricing proposal from Southern Minnesota Auctions to begin divesting of the contents of the old highway building.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Loy Woelber, to approve moving forward with the proposal from Southern Minnesota Auctions. Motion Passed.

4.7.2 – JUNE 12 DISTRICT 8 MEETING

The full board will be attending the District VIII Meeting in Marshall. Approval is needed for all five to attend together.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve all five commissioners to attend the District VIII Meeting in Marshall. Motion Passed.

4.7.3 - HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR/DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR HIRE

Interviews were conducted by the Personnel Committee and held on Tuesday, May 27, and Thursday, May 29th. The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Sharon Giese for the full-time position of the Human Resources Director/Deputy Administrator with an hourly rate of

\$44.89. This offer of employment is contingent on (1) satisfactory results of a criminal background check, and (2) satisfactory results of a pre-employment drug test, and (3) satisfactory reference recommendations. The offer includes two weeks' vacation in accruals and an accrual rate of leave based upon 10 years of employment.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve hiring Sharon Giese at pay grade 15, step 7, with a start date on or around July 2nd. Motion Passed.

The meeting recessed at 9:07 a.m.

The meeting came back into session at 9:17 a.m.

4.8.1 - JUNE 24 DAIRY TOUR

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve all five Commissioners to go on the June 24 Dairy Tour, set up by Jean Christoffels in Lake Benton. Motion Passed.

4.9.1 – 9:30 A.M. JUDICAL DITCH 27 JOINT MEETING WITH LYON COUNTY

The Murray County Board ordered a redetermination of benefits on Judicial Ditch 27. It was determined in the viewing process that property in Lyon County benefited from the drainage of Judicial Ditch 27 and needed to be brought into the system. This requires the Murray and Lyon County Boards to establish a Joint Drainage Board for Judicial Ditch 27, appoint members and ratify the action taken by the Murray County Board in ordering the redetermination of benefits.

File Order for the following (see enclosed sample):

1. Establish Joint Drainage Board for Judicial Ditch 27
2. Appoint members
3. Ratify action taken by the Murray County board in ordering a redetermination of benefits on Judicial Ditch 27

The matter of the Redetermination of Benefits for Murray County Judicial Ditch 27	Order establishing Joint Drainage Authority, ratifying actions, and directing further proceedings
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STATE OF MINNESOTA MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEATED JOINTLY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 103E.235 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR MURRAY COUNTY JUDICIAL DITCH 27

The County Boards of Commissioners of Murray and Lyon Counties, upon proper notice, met jointly on June 3, 2025, for the purpose of considering the establishment of a Joint Drainage Authority for Murray County Judicial Ditch (JD) 27 and to ratify certain actions of the Murray County Board initiating a redetermination of benefits for JD 27 and appointing viewers. After a presentation and discussion of the matters herein, Commissioner Roger Zins, Murray County made a motion to adopt the following Findings and Order:

WHEREAS, the Murray County Board of Commissioners, Drainage Authority for Murray

County Judicial Ditch (JD) 27, investigated whether conditions exist to warrant the redetermination of benefits of JD 27; and

WHEREAS, upon investigation, the Board determined the following:

1. Benefits for JD 27 were last determined prior to the enactment of various laws, regulations and programs protecting wetlands.
2. The current benefits roll reflects the benefitted properties, benefitted areas, and benefit values as determined by viewers based on assumptions regarding the ability of landowners to convert wetlands for agricultural purposes.
3. Additionally, since the most recent determination of benefits and damages, land uses and drainage practices have evolved, changing the nature and value of benefits accruing to lands from the drainage systems' construction.
4. Since the most recent determination of benefits and damages, additional lands not previously determined to be benefitted have improved drainage to take advantage of JD 27 as an outlet for drainage.
5. Since the most recent determination of benefits and damages, land values have changed within the benefitted area of JD 27.

WHEREAS, based upon its determinations, the Murray County Board of Commissioners found that the conditions required for the initiation of a redetermination of benefits for JD 27 existed, that the original benefits and damages do not reflect reasonable present day land values, and the benefitted areas have changed; and

WHEREAS, the Murray County Board of Commissioners ordered a redetermination of Benefits for JD 27, appointed viewers Bryan Murphy, Aaron Goemann, Larry Murphy, Robert Conely and Kenneth DeGier of H2Over Viewers, LLC to redetermine and report the benefits and damages for JD 27; and

WHEREAS, the Murray County Auditor-Treasurer ordered the viewers to confirm their qualification and execute oaths as required by statute; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Murphy later disqualified himself as a viewer in the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Goemann's employment with the viewing services provider, H2Over Viewers, LLC, ended and the Murray County Board of Commissioners rescinded Mr. Goemann's appointment as a viewer on September 3, 2024; and

WHEREAS, upon review, it was determined that Scott Henderson is a disinterested resident of Minnesota qualified to assess benefits and damages and meets the qualifications and the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 103E.305 to serve as viewer for the redetermination of benefits and damages of Murray County Judicial Ditch 27; and

WHEREAS, during their initial viewing the viewers discovered property in Lyon County that is potentially benefitted by JD 27. Upon this discovery, the Murray County Board recessed the proceedings in order to establish a Joint Drainage Authority for the Redetermination of Benefits; and

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, the Boards of Commissioners of Murray and Lyon Counties, seated jointly, adopt the following:

ORDER

1. The Boards hereby establish a Joint Drainage Authority pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103E.235 for Murray County Judicial Ditch 27.
2. The Joint Drainage Authority shall consist of the following initial members:
 - Woelber (Murray County, District 1)
 - Carlson (Murray County, District 2)
 - Welgraven (Murray County, District 3)
 - Zins (Murray County, District 5)
 - Crowley (Lyon County, District 4)
3. Future vacancies on the Joint Drainage Authority shall be filled by the successor Commissioner from the district indicated.
4. Murray County is designated as the “majority” county for the Joint Drainage System resulting from the redetermination of benefits. The Murray County Auditor-Treasurer and appropriate staff shall coordinate with the Lyon County Auditor and proceed with future management and administration of the resulting Joint System according to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.
5. Except for the original appointment of Bryan Murphy and Aaron Goemann as viewers in the proceedings, the Boards hereby ratify and readopt the findings, determinations, and orders of the Murray County Drainage Authority Board initiating the redetermination of benefits and appointing viewers and any amendments; ratify and accept the Auditor’s Orders and Viewers’ Oaths; and direct continued work on the redetermination.
6. The Joint Drainage Authority appoints Scott Henderson as a replacement viewer in the proceedings and directs the Murray County Auditor-Treasurer to obtain viewer qualification and oaths as required by statute.
7. The Joint Drainage Authority established herein shall be perpetual until either dissolved or modified by future action of the Murray and Lyon County Boards of Commissioners, seated jointly.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackie Meier, Murray County and after discussion, the motion passed, and the Findings and Order were Adopted by a majority of Commissioners from each County.

The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

Murray County:

Woelber: Aye

Meier: Aye

Carlson: Aye

Welgraven: Aye

Zins: Aye

Lyon County:

Andries: Aye

Draper: Aye

Graupmann: Aye

Crowley: Aye

Anderson: Abstain

The meeting recessed at 9:46am

The meeting came back into session at 10:22 a.m.

4.10.1 – MCIT ANNUAL BOARD REPORT

Murray County is a member of MCIT (Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust), a risk-sharing pool for worker's compensation coverage, property/casualty coverage and risk management services. Joe Cieminski provided the annual board report touching on reinsurance costs, workers compensation aggregate rate changes and property and liability aggregate rate changes, workers compensation claims and other programs offered by MCIT.

5 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

6. – WORK SESSION

The Board Adjourned their regular meeting and went into a work session.

ATTEST:

Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair