

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
December 2, 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 HR Director/Deputy Administrator Sharon Giese, County Attorney Travis Smith, and General Assistant Renee Gleason.

8:30 A.M. CALL TO ORDER

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, none were added.

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 Jackie Meier, seconded by Commissioner Mark Carlson, to approve the 12/02/2025 agenda with no additions or conflicts of interest. Motion Passed.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 11/18 AND 11/25/2025

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

Commissioner Woelber questioned the warrant related to snow fencing and wondered if this was on a rotation. Heidi Winter will check.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Meier and passed that all claims as presented are approved for payment. The Chair was authorized to sign the Audit List dated December 2, 2025 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 178671 through 178712 and meeting minutes of 11-18-2025 and 11-25-2025. Motion Passed.

General Revenue Fund	31,225.12
Road & Bridge	65,439.04
EDA	1,089.62
Ditch	146.63
Self-Insurance	162.75
<u>Sunrise Terrace</u>	<u>587.23</u>
TOTAL	98,650.39

4.1. POWERON MIDWEST PRESENTATION

Randy Fordice with Xcel Energy representing the PowerOn Midwest group provided an update on project initiatives. This group includes Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Company, and Xcel Energy. All the companies will be partial owners of the lines. Project will provide additional reliable transmission lines for the area to meet significantly increasing and forecasted demand in the Midwest. The current systems will not support the estimated future demand.

This project will start near Big Stone, SD to Brookings, SD. Then to Lakefield, Pleasant Valley, Rochester and Hampton, MN. February 2026 a study application including these areas. Prior to that application they are required to notify any landowners and local governments within this study area. There are approximately 50,000 landowners within this area. The State of MN then proceeds their review with public hearings in May 2026. Decision on this study will be made approximately early 2027. Then the route permit process will be conducted.

The preferred solution is the 765kV lines. 250 ft right of way will be required - no tall trees or permanent structures. Although the farmers should be able to continue to farm within the area and landowners will be considered in the placement of the lines. Radio signals should remain normal in the area and have minimal interruption to GPS signals.

Construction is anticipated to start 2030 and energization 2032-2034.

4.2. LUKE SCHRYVERS - MURRAY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

People

- Currently recruiting for an Emergency Room Provider. Dave Axtman worked his last shift at MCMC on November 11th. We thank Dave for his time here at MCMC and wish him the best of luck in the future. We have interviews set up over the next two weeks and hope to fill the position shortly.
- We have scheduled negotiations for December 11th with the Minnesota Nurses Association Union to develop our next contract. The current 3-year contract expires December 31st.

Growth

- X-ray replacement kickoff meeting was held on November 18th with Leo A Daly Architects. We are expecting to have the preliminary designs in the next couple of weeks to review. Currently it is taking around 16 weeks to have the plans reviewed and approved by the State. We are also working on alternatives for the downtime between the removal of the old unit and installation of the new unit.

Quality

- Tracy Hansen attended the kickoff meeting for the American Heart Association's Implementing-EF project in New Orleans on Nov 7-9. We will be implementing the program over the next year.
- We submitted our Annual Workplace Violence Prevention plan to the State of MN in November. Unfortunately, violent events are increasing across the State and Nation in healthcare settings. We have a zero-tolerance policy, and our number one priority is the safety of our staff and patients here at MCMC.
- We will be submitting our 2026-2029 Community Health Needs Assessment to the State of MN prior to the end of the year. This is a new requirement that is starting in 2026 and will require annual addendums moving forward.

Financials

- Rural Health Transformation Program – State plans are being reviewed by CMS currently. We should learn more about the funding allocated to the State of MN and the application process in December.

Community

- The hospital has a light display again this year for the Light Up Gullord Park event. Displays can be viewed daily starting Sunday, November 23rd
- The hospital foundation has a Christmas tree display at the Dinehart-Holt house for the Parade of Trees. The Dinehart-Holt holiday open house will be Saturday, December 6th.
- Presenting to the Sanford Network Board during their December 4th Board Meeting. I will be highlighting the services of MCMC and showing them our new recruitment video.

Statistics

- Acute - 11 admissions for 18 total patient days. YTD numbers are still 32 less admissions and 141 days less compared to 2024 YTD. This is a 28% decline year over year.
- Swing bed had only 1 admit for 34 total patient days. YTD, we have still had 7 more admissions for 19 days more than the prior year. This is a 5% increase year over year
- Observation stays were at 5 patients compared to 15 last year. YTD we are -2 patients
- Surgery procedures were at 49 for the month compared to 41 the previous year. YTD we are at 355 total procedures or 26 more than the prior year

- ER visits were 119, which was 34 less than last October. YTD, we have had 1,213 visits, which is down 156 YTD or 11%.
- Clinic visits were at 747. That is 49 less than the previous year. YTD we are +203 visits.

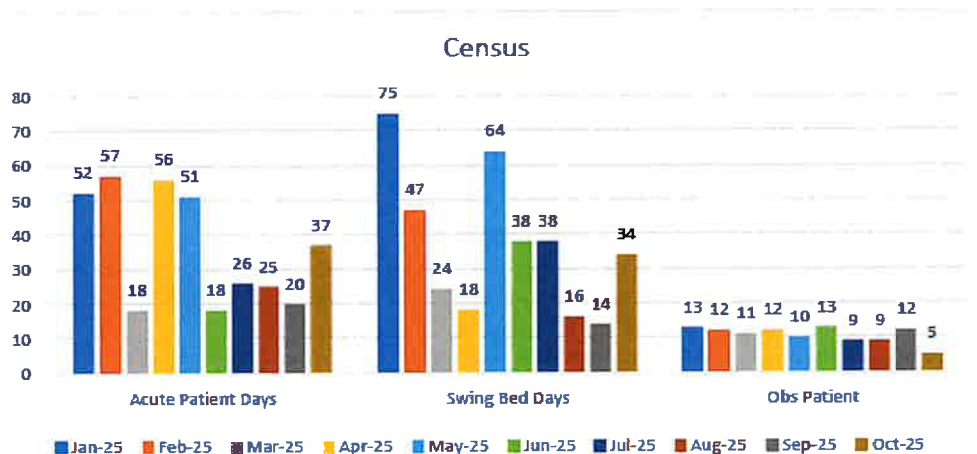
Balance Sheet

- Our overall cash position decreased by \$73,370. We currently have a total cash available of \$9,886,989
- We saw an increase in patient receivables of \$218,710 and total receivables are at \$6,124,381
- Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = \$3,086,093 or 50.4%

AR Days decreased by 1.3 days and currently sit at 70.6 days. Goal is to be under 50 days

Income Statement

- Gross revenue was \$2,821,900 & above budget by \$10,801
 - Hospital IP revenue below budget by \$164,243
 - Hospital OP revenue above budget by \$59,801
 - Clinic revenue above budget by \$115,243
- Contractual adjustments lower than budget by \$15,908
- Expenses are higher than budget by \$55,298
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = \$101,115
- For the month we had a net income equal to \$47,493. YTD net loss equals \$-244,799



4.3.1. RACETRACK LIGHTING RFP - BID RESULTS AND AWARD

****Tabled discussion from November 25, 2025 Board Meeting ****

It was approved to go out for bids to update the racetrack lighting. This past summer, we started seeing significant failures of the lights and something needs to be done before we don't have lights that don't work at all. If more things start to fail, it may be hard or even impossible to find parts to repair anymore due to the age of equipment. Bid opening was held November 18 in the Auditor's office. This is a 70-year old system and continues to fail. Funding is available in the budget and then there are additional available funds in reserve.

Since the Board Meeting, one bidder, S&S Electric has withdrawn his bid. Although they will be working in conjunction with/under Engelkes Electric on this project.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins to accept the bid from Engelkes Electric proposal submittal in the amount of \$345,880.00 to install new lighting on the racetrack. Motion passed. Commissioners agreed this is a project that needs to be done because of potential fire hazards.

4.4.1. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

Commissioners, 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the following ditch repair petitions:

Petition 2025-39	JD 10	Mason Township	Section 36	Dist 1 Woelber
Petition 2025-40	CD 20	Lowville Township	Section 16	Dist 2 Carlson
Petition 2025-41	CD 29	Shetek Township	Section 25	Dist 1 Woelber

4.5.1. FY2023 Capacity Grant Project Approval

On November 15, 2022, the Murray County Board of Commissioners approved the use of the budgeted water quality dollars as matching funds for FY2023 Capacity Grant water quality projects, not to exceed \$14,400. Capacity Grant dollars are available for two years because it takes time to get eligible projects engineered, bid, and constructed. There is a balance of \$10,773.75 in the set aside fund balance for FY2023 Capacity Grant, which will expire on December 31, 2025.

On September 22, 2025, the following project was recommended for approval by the Murray County Local Water Management Task Force for funding using the FY2023 Capacity Grant dollars; the grassed waterway was installed and certified complete on November 18, 2025:

Mary Eisfeld - SW1/4, Section 5, Skandia Township

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve funding of \$10,773.75 for the Mary Eisfeld water quality project from the FY2023 Capacity Grant match dollars from Murray County, as per the Local Water Management Task Force recommendations. Motion passed.

4.5.2. 2026 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) PLAN UPDATE

The AIS Committee, consisting of Commissioners Carlson and Woelber, reviewed the proposed revisions to the AIS Plan, which included suggested changes from the Environmental Services Office. The AIS Plan includes the 2026 AIS Budget. The proposed changes include:

- Notice that AIS funding is proposed to be cut in half in 2027.
- Statement that the AIS Plan is consistent with all other water planning documents for the County.
- Addition of AIS messaging on county vehicle used for I-LID installs, shoreline visits and other AIS related activities.
- Name change from Prairie Ecology Bus Center to Wild Compass Environmental Education.
- Continue to consider hosting activities at the County Fair to engage and inform larger audience on AIS issues.
- Consider hiring 2 interns again for the summer months to provide AIS Information to boaters at busier county boat launches.
- Continue to have License Center distribute AIS information when selling fishing licenses and tab renewals of watercraft.
- Partially fund a county vehicle for use when installing I-LIDS, shoreline visits, and other AIS related activities.
- Contract for watercraft inspectors at county landings.
- Identify the new I-LID installed at Swenson County Park on Current Lake.
- Other minor corrections.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve the proposed amendments to the Murray County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan, including the 2026 AIS Budget. Motion passed.

4.5.3. PLUM CREEK WIND PROJECT UPDATE

Sidney Nuese, Senior Developer at Geronimo Power

Sean Lawler, Senior Manager of Project Development at Geronimo Power

Plum Creek I Wind project: Fully permitted, with 78 turbines, of which 37 reside in Murray County. Start of construction set mid to late of 2026 but more likely in Spring of 2027. A county development agreement is being developed with county and townships.

Plum Creek II Wind project: Directly south of Plum Creek in Cottonwood and Murray County is currently under development. Working on getting site acquisition in that area.

Lime Creek Wind project: In Murray and Nobles County has recently started site acquisition as well.

These projects make up a larger project " SW Minnesota Energy Park", which is working towards potentially supporting the data center being proposed in Nobles County. Schedules for Plum Creek II and Lime Creek Wind has not been fully developed but they will be following the Plum Creek I project.

Data Center information provided: Again, this is proposed in Nobles County, somewhere north of Worthington. They are still working on site acquisitions. The thought is to keep this project power local. They would like to source the local power from wind and solar for this data center. Pillars they are developing this data center: be power positive - bring more generation on the grid vs. using all power to support only data center, reduce water usage - technical advancements in recycling water usage, transparency - been active in informing the public about data centers and the project, community focused - understand the area needs to support the project and working the communities to meet those needs, charitable giving, etc. The hope to start an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) process in Nobles County early 2026.

The data center project would require a full section of land - including safe setbacks for the surrounding community. High level estimates indicate 100-200 jobs created to operate the data center, not including the additional workforce for construction. Some of the land has already been acquired.

Representative from Nobles Cooperative Electric added they and Great River Energy will be power providers for Geronimo's data center. They continue to work through research development and funding for power purchase agreements. This should also help with curtailment in this area.

4.6.1. 2026 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING DATES

Resolution 2025-12-02-01

2026 Board of Commissioners Scheduled Meeting Dates

WHEREAS, the Murray County Board of Commissioners hold regular meetings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Tuesdays in 2026 are set for regular Board meetings and Work Session meetings of the Murray County Board of Commissioners beginning at 8:30 a.m.:

January	6th	20th	27th
February	3rd	17th	24th
March	3rd	17th	24th
April	7th	21st	28th
May	5th	19th	26th
June	2nd	16th	23rd
July	7th	21st	28th
August	4th	18th	25th
September	1st	15th	22nd
October	6th	20th	27th
November	3rd	17th	24th
December	1st	15th	29th

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, second by Commissioner Carlson to approve the amended 2026 Board of Commissioner scheduled meeting dates as discussed. The motion included amendment moving the 12/22/2026 meeting to 12/29/2026 for the purpose of including required year-end board items. Motion passed.

4.6.2. 2026 MEAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND RATE

Consider approval of a resolution stating the 2026 meal reimbursement policy. The current amount of \$50.00 has been in effect since 2020.

Resolution 2025-12-02-02

Resolution Stating the 2026 Meal Reimbursement Policy and Rate

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Murray County Board of Commissioners set the 2026 meal reimbursement amount at \$. (2025 rate is \$50.00/day)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all claims for meal reimbursement be accompanied by a valid and original receipt that list the name of the establishment, the total amount of the meal and "tip" and at least the initials of an employee or the owner of the establishment.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, second by Commissioner Meier to approve the 2026 Meal Reimbursement Policy and rate at \$50.00/day, same at 2025. Motion passed.

4.6.3. WONDER WORLD - FORGIVABLE LOAN FROM EDA \$100,000

The Murray County EDA is recommending \$100,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund to Wonder World as a forgivable loan over a 15-year period.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve a forgivable loan in the amount of \$100,000 from the Murray County EDA Revolving Loan Fund to Wonder World, forgivable over a period of 15 years. Motion passed. This is a new approved loan.

4.6.4. WONDER WORLD - AMEND MOTION FROM OCT 1, 2024

This was an existing loan from Murray County EDA issued October 1, 2024. The verbiage in this loan, stated the \$100,000.00 forgivable loan out of the EDA operational funds to Wonder World contingent on Wonder World securing the remaining funds of the \$3.5 million as per estimated project cost. We are amending the verbiage to remove the reference to the specific amount of \$3.5 million, as the project has now come in under that estimate. In addition, the EDA is not allowed to loan operating funds, so we need to further clarify the EDA would transfer \$100,000 from operating fund to revolving loan fund to fund this \$100,000.00 forgivable loan for Wonder World.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to amend the October 1, 2024 motion to approve a \$100,000 forgivable loan to Wonder World from the EDA Revolving Loan Fund, contingent upon Wonder World securing the remaining funds necessary to complete the project, further moving to authorize a transfer of 100,000 from the EDA Operations Fund (18-881) to the EDA Revolving Loan Fund (18-880). Motion passed.

4.6.5. EDA FUNDING REQUEST

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve a \$300,000 transfer from the Murray County General Fund to the Murray County Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (18-880) to provide additional capital for economic development funding. It was further clarified this places the funds with the Murray County EDA for review and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on economic development - housing, rehabilitation, small business, daycare, etc.

Josh Malchow provided an update to Wonder World daycare initiative: Information hasn't changed since the last update with the EDA. With the current funding request commitment, Wonder World has approximately \$428,000.00 left to raise. Later today they are meeting with SMSU Senate Capital Investment for further funding opportunities. Wonder World recently applied and was granted \$50,0000 grant from Taylor Family Farms Foundation.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS 11/09 TO 11/22/2025

Woelber

11/10 SAWS
11/18 Commissioner

Meier

11/10 Redwood River One Watershed One
11/12 Personnel, Ag Society, Fair Board
11/13 Casey Jones
11/14 SWMH Consortium
11/18 Commissioner, Sunrise Terrace, SWHHS
11/20 EDA

Carlson

11/10 PowerOn Open House, SAWS
11/12 Extension, Ag Society
11/18 Commissioner

Zins

11/12 Ag Society, Fair Board
11/17 Western Mental Health, SMOC
11/18 Commissioner
11/21 Union Grievance

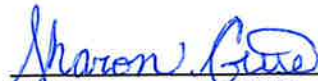
Welgraven

11/12 Ag Society, Personnel
11/13 SRDC
11/14 Insurance Consortium
11/18 Investment, Commissioner
11/19 SWHHS
11/20 EDA
11/21 Union Grievance

6. ADJOURNMENT

7. WORK SESSION

ATTEST:



Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator



Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair