

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
November 18, 2025, 8:45 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, General Assistant: Renee Gleason, and County Attorney: Travis Smith.

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 Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the agenda with no additions or conflicts. Motion passed.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2025

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

The Chair was authorized to sign the Audit List dated November 18, 2025 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 178531 through 178590:

General Revenue Fund	117,505.71
Road & Bridge	52,608.60
Ditch	42.90
Sunrise Terrace	1,315.95
SAWS	169.00
Total	171,642.16

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Meier to approve consent agenda including meeting minutes of November 4, 2025 commissioners warrants as presented. Motion passed.

**4.1. CITY OF FULDA BROADBAND LINE EXTENSION GRANT - LISMORE
TELEPHONE AND FINLEY ENGINEERING**

Speakers: Bill Loonan, Lismore Cooperative Telephone; Travis Halbur, Lismore Cooperative Telephone; Carter Grupp, Finley Engineering; Jamie Kremer, Finley Engineering

Carter Grupp provided information regarding broadband within southwest Minnesota. There are only (2) providers in Murray County of fiber broadband. Some areas don't have access to fiber broadband, which include Fulda, Avoca, Lake Wilson, Currie, and Dovray.

Lismore Cooperative Telephone and Finley Engineering are working on applying for

the MN Broadband Line Extension Grant to connect areas of Nobles and Murray County. After visiting Nobles County, it was recommended presenting to Murray County as well. Nobles County has pledged to provide a letter of support and \$136,000.00 of matching funds upon approval of grant funding. The cities of Fulda, Rushmore, and Ellsworth also stated they would support the project.

This project would connect (2) addresses within Fulda but utilizes state grant money to bring fiber broadband to Fulda for future development. It is undetermined when and if these grants will be available in the future. Costs of these projects only get more expensive. Lismore Cooperative Telephone and Finley Engineering are asking for a letter of support and a portion of the match. However, any county support is welcomed. Grants are due November 25th. There is a one-year window to complete the work included in the line extension grant.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve providing a Letter of Support and \$36,000.00 match funding if approved for the grant. Motion passed.

4.2.1. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR AREA II MN RIVER BASIN PROJECT

- The JPA with the Area II MN River Basin Project has typically been a 2-year agreement.
- The revised JPA continues in effect indefinitely until terminated.
- The county pays annual membership dues to Area II. The dues budgeted for 2026 are \$3,013.80.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the Area II Minnesota River Basin Project Joint Powers Agreement to continue in effect indefinitely unless terminated according to the terms of the agreement, further moving to authorize Commissioner Woelber, Area II Delegate to sign the agreement on behalf of Murray County. Motion passed.

4.2.2. DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Zins seconded by Commissioner Woelber to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows. Motion passed.

<u>Bolton & Menk</u>			
21-706-6260	CD 41	<u>4,930.00</u>	CD 41 Improvement - Engineering
	Subtotal	<u>4,930.00</u>	
<u>Johnson Ditching, Inc</u>			
21-829-6290	JD14	<u>4,343.95</u>	#2025-010 OK'd by T. Radke 11-12-2025
	Subtotal	<u>4,343.95</u>	
<u>Larson Backhoe Service</u>			
21-819-6290	JD 10	<u>3,145.26</u>	2025-012 OK'd by T. Radke on 11-6-2025
	Subtotal	<u>3,145.26</u>	
Total Ditch Bills		<u>12,419.21</u>	

Copy of invoice(s) and petition were available at the meeting.

4.3.1. REDWOOD RIVER COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Murray County adopted a resolution of support for the Redwood River One Watershed

One Plan on May 23, 2023, and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 6, 2024. Twelve governmental entities helped write the Redwood River Watershed 1W1P with Houston Engineering (HEI) according to the guidelines set up by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). A public hearing was held on November 10, 2025, in Marshall, MN, which at the conclusion of the hearing, the Policy Committee agreed to submit the Plan to BWSR.

The next step is for each participating governmental entity to pass a motion approving the submittal, Adoption, and Implementation of the Plan document and associated Appendix to BWSR. Commissioner Meier is the Murray County representative on this board.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve a resolution of support for submission, adoption, and implementation of the Redwood River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). Motion passed.

4.3.2. FY2026 & FY2027 STATE OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) amounts were reduced back to their previous amounts. Below is a comparison of the NRBG grant amounts from FY2022 & FY2023; FY2024 & FY2025; and FY2026 & FY2027:

	FY22 & 23	FY24 & 25	FY26 & 27
Local Water Management	\$ 15,050	\$ 20,546	\$ 15,050
Wetland Conservation Act	8,778	11,984	8,778
Shoreland	3,221	4,397	3,221
Septic	18,600	21,200	21,200

As in previous years, we applied for the additional Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade dollars for the upgrade of septic systems for those that qualify under USDA low-income guidelines for FY2026. Murray County has received and will receive the following:

2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$8,475	\$12,643	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$35,447	\$29,032	\$42,558	\$60,000	\$14,575

This is a great program to assist Murray County residents that need to upgrade their septic system when it is a financial burden and they qualify for these grant funds.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve the FY2026 and 2027 State of Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grant Agreement for total award of \$89,873.00, and authorize County Board Chair Dennis Welgraven to digitally sign said agreement. Motion passed.

4.3.3. PUC DOCKET COMMENT LETTER

Murray County continues to experience on-going curtailments related to wind generation, which results in lower production tax dollars coming into the County budget. We are continually told that these curtailments are due to inadequacies of transmission lines in our region as well as problems at the Nobles Substation. The Lake Wilson Solar Farm project includes a battery component that was to help alleviate some of the curtailments with the Fenton Wind Farm. In recent emails from

the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC), there has been some activity that raises the concerns mentioned in the drafted letter. All comments for the Dockets identified in the drafted letter must be submitted by November 19, 2025, to be considered by the PUC.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, and for County Board Chair Welgraven to sign the letter to the Minnesota PUC on behalf of Murray County regarding Docket Numbers E002/CN-23-212, E002/RP-24-67, and E002/M-24-195. Motion passed.

Commissioner Welgraven wanted to make people aware that the EDF project is still getting paid 100% by the government even though they are only producing 60% of the time.

4.4.1. MNDOT SALT SHED AGREEMENT

MnDOT has removed their salt shed and didn't get their replacement building built in time for winter season. MnDOT has asked to share our salt/sand shed for the 2025-2026 winter season. They will order and supply Murray County's salt all winter for the use of the County's salt/sand building.

Motion by Commissioner Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Zins to approve the partnership contract with MnDOT for the use of Murray County's salt shed this winter season. Motion passed.

4.4.2. FINAL PAYMENT TO ROGGE EXCAVATING, INC. FOR GRAVEL CRUSHING PROJECT.

This is for the crushing and stockpiling gravel in gravel pit #1.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and second by Commissioner Woelber to approve the final payment of \$11,836.73 to Rogge Excavating, Inc. for project CP 02-25. Motion passed.

4.4.3. MURRAY COUNTY'S 2026 5-YEAR ROAD AND BRIDGE PLAN

Murray County Board of Commissioners attended the annual fall road tour held on November 7th. We looked at the 2025 road and bridge projects and upcoming projects. This 5-year plan reflects these discussions.

Motion by Commissioner Zins, second by Commissioner Meier to approve the highway department's 2026 5-year road and bridge plan as outlined. This plan will be posted on the Murray County website. Commissioner Welgraven would like an additional hard copy to provide to his townships.

An update from the fall road tour: County Hwy 13 first lift is now done. They will have to come back next spring for the 2nd lift. There is a portion of the bike path by Barstad's campground that wasn't completed because the area was saturated. It will be completed next year as well. The public is already using the paths and fishing piers. Considerations and discussions will be held about final payments, additional scope, and project delays when final payment is requested.

Commissioner Carlson mentioned there hasn't been an update on the Murray County website regarding this project for some time. This was due to staffing changes. Randy will prepare an update and get it submitted for upload to the website.

4.5.1. I3 ADAPTER FOR VESTA 911 CALL HANDLING

The purchase of adapter is necessary to log and retain text messages sent/received via 911. If there are data requests or litigation, we would have this documentation to provide. Grant dollars from the State of MN will be used to pay for this.

It was moved by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the purchase of the I3 adapter for VESTA 911 call handling as outlined, over the 5-years, we \$4,200.00 recurring monthly fees, for a total cost of \$8,850.00 covered by State of MN 911 grant dollars. Motion passed.

4.6.1. END-O-LINE DONATION

Acceptance of a \$5,000 donation to End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum from the Sidney Lindmark family, for the purposes of building maintenance and upkeep.

M.S. §465.03 requires the county to accept all donations by resolution with a two-thirds vote of its members. This is generous and much appreciated donation.

Commissioner Meier presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

RESOLUTION 2025-11-18-03

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to M.S. §465.03 the following donations are hereby accepted:

Date	Donor	Item/Amount	Department	Restricted Purpose
11-18-2025	Sidney Lindmark Family	\$5,000.00	End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum	Building Maintenance and upkeep

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Zins. Motion passed. Nick Demuth will be sure to send a Thank-you to the family.

Nick Demuth updated the Board on moving buildings. Joe Schreier Construction is doing the foundations and Goldschmidt House Mover is doing the moving of the buildings. It will be complete this fall.

4.7.1. SUNRISE TERRACE - REQUEST PURCHASE OF TABLES AND OVEN RANGES

\$40,000 was budgeted in 2025 for improvements to Sunrise Terrace. A new patio and pergola was constructed in Summer of 2025. This project came in under budget. The next items on the list of improvements are 5 new tables for the dining room and 20 oven ranges for the apartments. Both the dining room tables and oven ranges are original to the building (1997). A budget summary and quoted prices are **below**:

Budget Summary for:	55-890-6640	
Budgeted in 2025:	\$ 40,000.00	
Other 2025 Expenditures:	\$ 13,057.70	(sidewalk and pergola)
Balance Before Request:	\$ 26,942.30	(will move to budget line 55-890-6480)
	Slumberland	
	Furniture	Asley Furniture
Quoted Price for Tables:	\$ 3,623.00	\$ 4,380.80 (Morville Dining Table)
	Menards	
	(Whirlpool/Amana)	M&H Furniture
Quoted Price for Ovens:	\$ 12,698.80	\$ 13,900.00 (Amana Electric Model AER6603SFW)
2025 Budget Balance if approved:	\$ 10,620.50	\$ 8,661.50

Discussion among legal counsel and the Board about being required to accept or not accept lowest quote. Jessica will go back to understand the quote from M&H regarding purchase of the ovens and service calls.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve an expenditure of \$3,623 to purchase 5 dining room tables from Slumberland Furniture paid from account code 55-890-6480. Motion passed.

The second motion for the 20 oven ranges for \$12,698.80 will be tabled for the next meeting when the M&H quote is further defined. The old tables will be advertised on the government surplus auctions.

4.8.1. LINCOLN PIPESTONE RURAL WATER SYSTEM BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS (LPRWS)

The LPRWS Board consists of 11 individuals who reside throughout the 10 counties who receive water from LPRWS. Under Minnesota law the LPRWS Board members are appointed by Judge Tricia B. Zimmer who is venued in Lyon County. However, each year LPRWS request that each of the 10 county boards where LPRWS distributes water, adopt a Resolution which recommends to Judge Zimmer who should be appointed to the LPRWS Board.

LPRW has identified and recommend the appointment for one new candidate for District 3, as well as the reappointments for two incumbents in District 1 and 5 on the LPRW Board of Commissioners. This is request that your Board of Commissioners adopt the attached Resolution which recommends that Jerry Lonneman, Joseph Weber, and Scott Wassink be appointed to the LPRWS Board of Commissioners. A short biography for all (3) of these individuals has been provided.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins, to approve the appointment of Jerry Lonneman, Joseph Weber, and Scott Wassink to the LPRWS Board for 4-year terms to commence on January 1, 2026, and expire on December 31, 2029. Motion passed.

A 5-minute recess was called. A motion for closed session will follow the recess.

5. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MN STATUTES SECTION 13D.05, SUBDIVISION 3(B)

Closed session pursuant to MN Statue Section 13D.05 subdivision 3(b) for confidential discussion with legal counsel regarding union grievance.

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to move into closed session pursuant to MN Statue Section 13D.05 subdivision 3(b). Motion passed. During closed session Commissioner Loy left meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to move out of closed session. Motion passed.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS: OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Carlson

10/30 Building Facilities
11/4 Commissioner 11/7
Annual Road Tour

Meier

10/28 ACE
10/29 Personnel
11/3 ACE / Helping Hands / Law Library
11/4 Commissioner
11/5 Hospital
11/6 ECI
11/7 Annual Road Tour

Zins

10/27 Western Mental Health
11/4 Commissioner / Power On Midwest
11/7 Annual Road Tour

Welgraven

10/27 SWHHS
10/28 SWHHS
10/29 Personnel
10/30 Building Facilities
11/3 Audit Exit
11/4 Commissioner
11/5 Hospital

Woelber

(Absent during report)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m. Work Session conducted.

8. WORK SESSION

8.1. BUDGET AND LEVY DISCUSSION

ATTEST:

 
Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair