

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 16, 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 - Renee Gleason.

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 A.M.

2.1 AGENDA ADDITIONS

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were added.

2.2 IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, no conflicts of interest were identified.

3.1 CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Jackie Meier, and to approve consent agenda. Motion passed.

3.2 APPROVE MINUTES FROM 09/02/2025

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve meeting minutes for September 2, 2025. Motion passed.

3.3.1 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins and to approve all claims for \$159,904.39 as presented for payment. The Chairman is authorized to sign the Audit List dated September 16, 2025 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 178052 through 178109. Motion Passed.

4.1.1 DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Jackie Meier seconded by Roger Zins to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority for CD 41, JD 14-CD 20, CD 59, CD 37 as for \$38,778.80. Motion Passed.

Bolton & Menk

21-706-6260	CD 41	6,800.00	CD 41 Improvement - Engineering
21-829-6260	JD14-CD20	4,760.00	Engineering-JD 14/CD 20
	Subtotal	11,560.00	

C&K Construction

21-745-6290	CD 59	23,455.80	#2025-030 ok'd T. Radke 9/2/25
	Subtotal	23,455.80	

Opdahl Farm Drainage, LLC

21-699-6290	CD 37	3,763.00	#2025-026 Ok'd by T. Radke 9/1/2025
	Subtotal	3,763.00	

Total Ditch Bills 38,778.80

4.2.1 DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

The Drainage Authority directed the Ditch Inspector to check with landowners to make sure there were no plans for a petitioned improvement to CD 43M before the final approval to make the petitioned repair in the SE 1/4 of Section 16, Belfast Township. Discussed proposal with Malone's and area neighbors. The findings are there is no current or future plan to file for an improvement.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve repairs, not proposed improvements to CD 43M. Motion passed.

Mark Beech, a land renter requested he be paid damages from a petitioned repair made earlier this year. The contractor replaced a lateral but was not able to complete the repair in time for planting. He believes the repair will not benefit his future crop and the land to the north (upstream) will benefit the most. The land affected equals .55 acres. In the past, the Board doesn't have a history of approving such reimbursement for crop damages. Federal crop insurance cover this? It would not cover with such a small parcel. Also, in the past the repair usually directly benefited the landowner. In this case it is thought, it only benefited neighboring landowners.

It was moved by Jacquie Meier, seconded by Loy Woelber, to deny paying crop damages to Mark Beech for prevented planting due to a tile repair in Section 16 of Belfast Township in the amount of \$225.89. Motion passed.

4.3 INTRODUCTION OF SWHHS DIRECTOR, STACEY TIMMS

Stacy Timms is the new SWHHS Director, she has been working in government for 20-plus years. There is an upcoming annual review with the Board in early 2026 but in the meantime, she wanted to introduce herself.

4.4 REBUILDING TOGETHER MINNESOTA PRESENTATION

Emily Ostercamp presented. The group's mission is to repair homes, and to serve low-income homeowners who are seniors, individuals living with disabilities, families with children, and veterans. They also serve nonprofit facilities in need of repairs. Murray County received \$169,072 in Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) between 2023 and 2024. RTMN was here to present examples of what has been accomplished with 50 percent of the Murray County SAHA allotment.

The families apply for the need, then representatives from RTMN visit the family and look at the property. RTMN adheres to a 25-point checklist that comes from the Center for Health Housing that looks at keeping the property warm, safe, dry and pest-free.

It was asked what the difference was between the RTMN and UCAP/SMOC program. RTMN works with the homeowner to pay attention to the repairs on the whole home that they need, so not just focusing on a water heater or energy efficiency, such as also repairing roofs. The Board approved to allot 50 percent of the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (\$84,536) to Rebuilding Together Minnesota.

We have (2) projects in Fulda that are on the schedule to complete. Iona has a few projects as well. They want to get the opportunity to work with the Slayton area too. But they just need to get more information out to community leaders in this area.

9:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING: DNR STATEWIDE SHOTGUN REPEAL

Public Meeting was open at 9:00 a.m.

The Chair read aloud a late comment submitted via email from Jason Wentzel and not in the Board Packet. Previously received written comments were included in the packet. These comments were from Rilye Carlson, Jim Swanson, Jeff Kidman, Brian Fette, Rachel Malone, James Determan, Red Leg Company, Scott Bultmann, Ryan Loomans, and Roger McConnell.

Oral comments were provided by Eldon Larson, Nick Pieske, Shannon Cohrs, Brand Lolkus, and Russ Pilegaard. Commissioners were also provided the opportunity to provide comment.

The public was thanked by the Chair for appearing and the board will take this all into consideration.

Public Meeting closed at 9:26 a.m.

Meeting was called by the Chair into a short recess at 9:27 a.m. Meeting called back to order by the Chair at 9:42 a.m.

4.5.1 2025 MURRAY COUNTY SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

The cost for a septic system continues to rise each year, and the \$250,000 budgeted for this year has all been allocated to 12 systems that all but one has been installed. We have eight (8) additional requests from landowners that need to put in systems this fall yet, and they would also like to use the County Loan Program. The combined estimated cost for these systems is \$176,600, and that does not include any additional requests that would come in before the end of this construction season, leaving us approximately \$128,000 short for submitted applications.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Roger Zins, and passed to allocate an additional \$250,000 to account number 01-634-637-6915 for the Murray County Septic Loan Program, to be loaned out at 4% Interest for either 5- or 10-year terms. Motion passed.

4.5.2 CONTRACT WITH LAMAR FOR 2 AIS BILLBOARDS

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Loy Woelber, and passed to approve the 2026 contract with Lamar for \$10,374.00 for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) advertising on both the north and south billboards adjacent to US Highway 59, viewable by southbound traffic and northbound traffic, respectively from account 01-629-000-0000-6241. And to authorize the County Administrator Carolyn McDonald to sign the contract on behalf of the County. Motion passed.

4.6.1 CATTLEMEN ASSOCIATION BUILDING HEAT

The Cattlemen Association does various grilling events throughout the year around Murray County. They would like to heat the facility during the winter months. They are willing to provide the heater and pay for the cost to have it installed so there will be no cost to the county except for electricity to run the heat.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, second by Mark Carlson to allow the Cattlemen's Association to install an electric heater in their new facility at the fairgrounds with all expenses being paid by the Cattlemen Association.

4.6.2 4-H BUILDING RENT FOR POOL TOURNAMENT

The end of the year countywide pool tournament will be hosted by the Grain Exchange this year. They would like to rent the 4-H building to host this event. They have rented the building in past years and have provided the necessary insurance that allows them to serve alcohol on the fairgrounds.

It was moved by Mark Carlson second by Roger Zins and passed to allow the Grain Exchange to rent the 4-H building from March 19–22 for the end of the year countywide pool tournament and serve alcohol at the event. Motion passed.

4.7.1 HIGHWAY BUILDING SIGN SHOP A/C

The Building Committee recommends installation of a ductless high-wall cooling unit (mini-split) in the Highway Building Sign Shop to help control humidity issues. Addressing this problem will help preserve both the aesthetic appearance and structural integrity of the space.

Two quotes were obtained for installation of the system (both exclude electrical work):

- Gag Sheet Metal (original HVAC contractor): \$6,850.00
- Mike's Plumbing & Heating: \$5,500.00

It was moved by Roger Zins, and seconded by Jackie Meier, to approve the purchase and installation of a ductless high-wall cooling unit (mini-split) in the Highway Building Sign Shop, awarding the project to Mike's Plumbing and Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$5,500.00. Motion passed.

4.7.2 HIGHWAY BUILDING FLAGPOLE

The Building Committee recommends installation of a 30-foot bronze anodized aluminum flagpole with an internal winch halyard at the Highway Facility, designed to match the site's existing light poles.

It was moved by Roger Zins, and seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the purchase of a 30-foot bronze anodized aluminum flagpole with internal winch halyard from Red River Flags, at a total projected cost of approximately \$6,643.00, including estimated freight. Installation of the pole will be completed by county staff. Motion passed.

4.7.3 MOTOR POOL VEHICLE PURCHASE

The motor pool is down two vehicles, one of which was used primarily by the Environmental Services Department. There are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Buffer funds available to use toward the purchase of a replacement vehicle. Use of AIS funding may also require appropriate AIS signage on the truck, in addition to the standard Murray County logo. To maintain operational capacity. Propose the purchase of a late-model **Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab 4WD**, not to exceed **\$45,000.00**.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, and seconded by Roger Zins, to authorize the purchase of a late-model Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab 4WD for the Environmental Services Department, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00, with funding to be allocated from the AIS and Buffer accounts.

4.7.4 DESIGO CC SOFTWARE UPDATE

Microsoft will end support for Windows 10 in October 2025, moving to Windows 11. Currently, the County Campus (Government Center, Courts, and Law Enforcement Center) operates on Siemens Desigo CC version 4.0, which is not compatible with Windows 11. Desigo CC is the building automation platform used by the County to monitor and control heating, cooling, ventilation, and other building systems across these facilities.

To ensure continued system support, security compliance, and functionality, an upgrade to Desigo CC version 8.0 is required. G&R Controls proposal included the software upgrade as well as several optional services. The recommended option is enrollment in a software maintenance program, which ensures the system remains on the current version and avoids larger, more costly upgrades in the future.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, and seconded by Mark Carlson, to authorize the purchase of a software upgrade for Siemens Desigo CC to version 8.0 at a cost of \$8,993.00. It is further moved to authorize the purchase of a Desigo CC Software Subscription for ongoing updates and support at a cost of \$948.00. Motion Passed.

4.7.5 LAWN TRACTOR AND IMPLEMENTS PURCHASE

The Building Facilities Department recommends establishing a three-year replacement cycle for the county's lawn tractor and implements. This ensures mowing equipment remains covered under warranty, retains higher trade-in value, and minimizes downtime due to repairs.

Our current equipment includes:

- 2005 John Deere X485 Tractor with implements - approximately 2,000 hours
- 2015 Cub Cadet XT3 Lawn Tractor - approximately 550 hours

Both units are due for replacement. A quote from Kibble Equipment has been obtained using state bid :

Quote for New Equipment:

• John Deere X758 tractor with implements:	\$29,865.89
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Estimated Resale Value of Existing Equipment:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • 2005 John Deere X485 tractor with implements: | (\$5,500.00) |
| • 2015 Cub Cadet XT3 lawn tractor: | (\$2,500.00) |

Net Cost (after trade-in/surplus value):	\$21,865.89
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It was moved by Mark Carlson, and seconded by Jackie Meier, to authorize the purchase of a new John Deere X758 lawn tractor and implements from Kibble Equipment in the amount of \$29,865.89, using government pricing, to be paid from account 01-110-111-6650. Further, to designate the county's existing 2005 John Deere X485 with implements and 2015 Cub Cadet XT3 lawn tractor as surplus equipment, to be listed on government surplus auction. Motion passed.

4.8.1 APPRECIATION ON THE GRILL — THANKS TO STAFF!

As part of the strategic planning meeting and the wellness committee, it was recommended to support a cookout to help support staff morale and show appreciation for everyone's hard work. The Appreciation Grill will be held 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. September 23rd at the Cattlemen's Association Building.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, second by Loy Woelber to host appreciation on the grill — thanks to staff. Motion passed.

4.8.2 INTERMITTENT DEPUTY HIRE

In December 2024, Tommy, a valued deputy with the Sheriff's Department, transitioned to a new role with the Minnesota State Patrol. To help stabilize scheduling and reduce the current overtime burden, the Sheriff's Department is requesting to bring Tommy back on an intermittent basis. The intermittent arrangement is not intended to replace the county's long-term staffing strategy but will serve as a practical short-term solution while recruitment and retention efforts continue.

It was moved by Loy Woelber, and seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the hire of Touhoua Lee as an Intermittent Deputy Sheriff. Start date pending board approval. Motion passed.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Woelber

9/02/25 Commissioner Mtg
9/04/25 RCRCA
9/09/25 Museum Mtg
9/11/25 Insurance Mtg

Carlson

9/02/25 Commissioner Mtg
9/10/25 Building and Facilities Mtg, Casey Jones Trail Mtg

Welgraven

9/02/25 Commissioner Mtg
9/10/25 Building and Facilities Mtg
9/11/25 Insurance Mtg

Zins

9/02/25 Commissioner Mtg

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

7. WORK SESSION

ATTEST:



Jackie Meier, Board Vice Chair



Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair