

DRAFT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA February 24, 2026, 8:30 A.M.

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 and General Assistant Renee Gleason; County Attorney Travis Smith via Zoom.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 A.M.

1.1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda, (1) was added.

- Per Diem for SWHHS additional committee Commissioner Meier was appointed to State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC). This agenda item will be assigned 3.5.

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 Meier, to approve agenda and addition for today's meeting. Motion passed.

3.1. APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Stacy Overgrauw, Crime Victims Coordinator from New Horizons, provided background information on the program. They have been in operation since the 1990's providing general crime and assault services. They served 11 individuals in the area last year. Of course, many victims don't come forward. Area communities should understand that their services here and are available.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02-24-01

Resolution Proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, in the United States, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM); and

WHEREAS, the goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, SAAM calls attention to the fact that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

WHEREAS, most women and men across all sexual identities who experienced contact sexual violence reported that the person who harmed them was someone they knew (Chen, et al., 2023); and more than 1 and 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022); and

WHEREAS, over 53% of women and over 29% of men reported experiencing contact sexual violence (Chen, et al., 2023); and 1 in 5 male victims reported only male perpetrators, 1 in 2 had only female perpetrators, and about 1 in 6 had both male and female perpetrators (Chen, et al., 2023); and

WHEREAS, more than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime (Rosay, 2016); and 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence (Tomsa et al., 2021); and 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (James et al., 2016); and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is Together, we act; united, we change. By standing in solidarity, we can build a future free from sexual violence and create a world where everyone is safe, valued, and respected; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Murray County Board of Commissioners joins advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Murray County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Murray County.

The foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Commissioner Zins and thereupon being put to a vote all members voted for its adoption.

3.2. GERONIMO POWER - PROJECT UPDATES

Sean Lawler of Geronimo Power provided projects updated on the data center and wind projects. The MN-based company came into existence in 2004 by a MN farmer. They are experienced in the alternative energy industry such as wind, solar, and battery storage. More recently, they have stepped into the data center industry. Although the data center industry is newer for them, they have been very successful in the other alternative energy industries they have ventured into.

Geronimo presented a couple months ago on the wind power projects but was asked to provide further details on the data center project slated for Nobles County. They want to outline what data centers are and what they are used for. It is basically a warehouse of computers to process and store information. Data centers are used for EMS dispatch systems, precision agriculture and smart farm equipment, bank and financial apps, health records and systems, internet access, GPS mapping and navigation, email, retail transactions, phone and video calls, document storage, streaming and social media. Geronimo considers data center sites that include electrical infrastructure, labor available for construction and operations, fiber optic availability, good roads, and supportive community partners.

Geronimo provided information related to:

- Electric usage and regeneration
- Water usage and regeneration
- Noise thresholds and reductions
- Environmental permitting processes and studies required to complete
- Financial/Economic impacts on jobs, infrastructure, community support, and tax revenue
- Examples of berms/landscaping and vegetation surrounding the data center.
- Construction timelines

They also extended an invitation for the public to watch virtual open house. Additional information can be obtained from the board packet or their website. Adam Tromlay, Nobles County Cooperative Electric, was in attendance to respond to questions about support of the project and effects on electric rates. When asked about the project he stated the Nobles County Cooperative Board is 100% behind this project. They view it as a once in a lifetime project allowing stabilization of rates and access to advanced infrastructure, providing better power. They also feel the community benefits are huge.

3.3.1. DITCH BILLS

No ditch bills were received for board approval for this meeting.

3.4.1. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and carried that the 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 thereon at a Murray County Board of Commissioner's meeting, held in the Commissioners Room of the Murray County Government Center, Slayton, Minnesota.

Petition 2026-001	JD 14	Cameron Township	Section 33	District 2 - Carlson
Petition 2026-002	CD 07	Cameron Township	Section 15	District 2 - Carlson
Petition 2026-003	JD 14	Cameron Township	Section 2	District 2 - Carlson

3.4.2. 2026 DITCH SPRAYING

The quote provided is from the same company that has done the aerial ditch spraying for the last 8 years. In addition, the quotes provided are the worst-case scenario but typically has come in considerably lower.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, to approve the quote of B&W Control Specialists - 2026 Ditch Spraying Group 2 with the addition of County Ditch 34 from Group 1.

3.4.3. APPOINT ENGINEER FOR MN DNR PARTIAL ABANDONMENT AND IMPOUNDMENT/MODIFICATION TO JUDICIAL DITCH 14

On January 7, 2026, Petitioner Minnesota Department of Natural Resources submitted by Bill Schuna filed a Petition to Impound, Reroute, and Divert and Partially Abandon drainage system waters on Judicial Ditch No. 14 for beneficial use. They gave a presentation of the project on January 20th, 2026. The next step is to appoint an engineer to review the project and by recommendation of John Kolb with Rinke Noonan, appoint the state engineer to complete the review.

At a public meeting conducted by the Murray County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the drainage authority for Judicial Ditch No. 14, on February 24th, 2026, Commissioner Meier moved, seconded by Commissioner Woelber for adoption of the following Findings and Order for MN DNR Partial Abandonment and Impoundment/Modification to Judicial Ditch 14. Motion passed.

3.5. PER DIEM FOR STATE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ASSIGNED THROUGH SWHHS

Commissioner Meier has additionally been assigned through SWHHS to an additional committee. She would like to request per diem for these meetings, which occur approximately (4) times per year.

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to grant per diem for commissioners attending the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) meetings.

MEETING WAS ADJORNED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:29 A.M.

ATTEST:

Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator

Mark Carlson, Board Chair