

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
August 26, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Jackie Meier, Mark Carlson, Dennis Welgraven and Roger Zins. Also Present in person were County Administrator Carolyn McDonald, General Assistant Renee Gleason. County Attorney Travis Smith Via Zoom. Loy Woelber later arrived at meeting 8:53 A.M..

CALL TO ORDER 8:30 A.M.

2.1 AGENDA ADDITIONS

The Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda. One additional item added via Carolyn MacDonald the 4.9 Recycling Center Discussion. Then also added a work session, if needed.

2.2 IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified. No conflicts of interest were brought forth.

3.1 APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion Passed.

3.2 APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM 08/19/2025

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the meeting minutes from 08/19/2025. Motion passed.

4.2.1 DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

Petition 2025-027 CD 56 Bondin Township Section 9 - Right of way will be obtained for petition and Opdahl Farm Drainage doing repairs. Motion made by Roger Zins and seconded by Mark Carlson. Motion Passed.

Petition 2022-047 CD 43 Belfast Township Section 16 - Petitioned in 2022 by landowner Paul Malone. This area was looked at by engineers to make sure the tile was installed according to specifications. Bolton and Menk concluded that in order to follow statutory requirements, the tile would either have to be replaced as is or an improvement petition would be needed. No new improvement petitions have been presented since. We have now completed a large repair across the road to the east and now would like to repair the tile under this petition. An estimate has been acquired by Prairie View Farms to complete the 2400' tile project ranging in size from 12-24".

Petition 2022-047 will be tabled until discussion with neighbors in the area can be conducted on repairs and/or improvements. Travis will report back to the Board of Commissioners with results.

4.3.1 NOBLES CO-OP DONATION/GRANT

The Heat Team has needed new vests/plate carriers for quite some time. The current vests/plate carriers were hand me down and were being used well beyond their expected lifecycle. I reached out to Nobles Co-Op CEO Adam Tromblay to see if this was a project that would fall under operation round-up. Tromblay said he didn't feel this was a good fit, but asked me to submit our proposal on our needs, as he felt there was another program this could fit under. We then applied for a matching grant through Co-Bank and were successful. The total cost of the plate carrier/vest and helmet is \$5401.83, Murray County will have to pay the remaining \$1.83. The Murray County Board needs to formally accept the donation/grant from Nobles Co-Op in the amount of \$5,400.00.

It was moved by Mark Carlson, seconded by Jackie Meier, to accept the donation/grant from Nobles Co-op in the amount of \$5,400.00 for new vests/plate carriers. Motion Passed.

4.4 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN ADVANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA RURAL WATER FINANCE AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Request the Board to approve the Resolution Approving and Authorizing an Advance Agreement with the Minnesota Rural Water Finance Authority and Authorizing Participation in the Joint Powers Authority. The Advance Agreement by and between the Minnesota Rural Water Finance Authority and Murray County, and the Water Commission of the Red Rock Rural Water System will not need to be signed at this time, as those execution documents will be presented at a future date.

Ron Schramel - Attorney for RRRW and asking Murray County Board Commissioners adopt the resolutions in the packet and authorize issuance bonds on RRRW behalf for approximately \$8,071,000.00 for the project near Lake Shetek and Lake Sarah. May 21, 2024 issued a motion to issue bonds for this project. There was already a court hearing conducted approving Murray County issuing these bonds. RRRW makes the bond payments directly.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to adopt the resolution as outlined. Motion Passed.

4.6.1 MURRAY COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN ADOPTION

The plan includes the requirements of Murray County Emergency Operations Plan and MNWalk, which includes HAZMAT. All facilities within the county storing hazardous materials at a threshold have to report those items to the county, and we needed to incorporate them into this Emergency Operations Plan. MNWalk made some changes last year, so there were some updates needed. At a Regional and State level, it has met the requirements and been approved. It was recommended to have the Board of Commissioners of Murray County adopt a resolution. For a HAZMAT level, the location and description of chemicals have been

identified. Once re- adopted with updates by Murray County, it will be reviewed by county employees and shared via shared drive and website.

It was moved by Roger Zins, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the amended Murray County Emergency Operations Plan. Motion Passed.

4.7.1 RACETRACK LIGHTING

Racing Association representatives in person and Musco Lighting representatives are via zoom. Terry Engelkes, Engelkes Electric was also present. He is the contractor currently working to support the electrical system. Musco Lighting has provided a scope of work and proposal.

Several Commissioners feel there is no question that this project needs to be done for safety reasons but to what extent? Is the racing association willing to financially support this project? The racing association currently covers the \$100 per race rental expense for the track and concession stand, pay the electrical bill, and also have contributed lights to the track. The association would not be able to contribute any more to the cost of the lighting project.

Questions were asked such as; has this project been bid out and are there reduction in expenses for this project? Can local electricians handle a portion of this work? Per Terry there is alot more to engineering a project like this. The light towers need to be engineered to handle wind load, snow, etc. Commissioners commented that they would like to see additional bids for comparison. Maybe see a bid where the extras in this proposal are in the bid. The year's budgeted amount for racetrack improvements was only at \$250,000.00.

Commissioners also asked if Musco Lighting could revisit their proposal to reduce costs of the project and if other local contractors can bid and complete this type of work? It was suggested this could be referred to the Building Committee for further discussion. Commissioners were not concerned with the quality of Musco, but can asking if the same or equal quality from another company at a lower price is possible?

The Board agreed repairs need to be done, but this is far beyond budget. The Board has to answer the public on the budget. If you go out for bids, it would be at least next year before any action can be taken. If bid out, there is also additional engineering costs for developing a scope of work package for bidding. The subject has been tabled to a future meeting for further discussion.

4.8.1 POLICY UPDATE - HOLIDAYS

The policy has already been 88 hours of holiday pay per year. This policy is further clarifying that those 88 hours can only be for 8 hours each holiday. There has been some confusion about employees working an 8-hour shift vs. a 10-hour shift. Regardless, the employee holiday pay policy currently continues to state that holiday pay is capped at 88 hours per year. The policy clarifies the 8-hours pay cap per holiday.

It was moved by Jackie Meier, seconded by Mark Carlson, to approve the amendment to the Murray County Employee Manual with the proposed 8-hour pay cap per holiday. Motion Passed.

4.8.2 POLICY UPDATE - OVERTIME/COMPENSATORY TIME OFF

This policy was updated to ensure we are in full compliance with federal law and to provide clarity for employees and supervisors. It helps make sure that:

- Overtime is applied fairly and consistently across departments.
- Time records are accurate and properly documented. "In order for supervisor and payroll approval, all overtime worked must be noted on time sheets, describing the work project and the reason for overtime."
- Employees clearly understand what counts as "hours worked."
- Supervisors and payroll have the necessary information to process pay or compensatory time correctly.

By following these guidelines, we protect both employees and the county, while ensuring transparency and compliance with federal standards. Jackie Meier clarified this applies to all Murray County departments.

It was moved by Loy Woelber, seconded by Roger Zins, to approve the changes proposed to the Murray County Employee Manual requiring all employees to provide explanations of any overtime hours on all timesheets. Motion Passed.

4.9 RECYCLE CENTER DISCUSSION

There are concerns the Recycle Center was well utilized this weekend and materials were blowing to adjoining properties. The main concern is about materials staying on our own property.

Schaap Sanitation brought in an additional roll-off to help alleviate the issue this week. So now there are (3) roll-offs at the Recycle Center. However, most of the debris was from an exceptionally large amount boxes being dropped at one time and also boxes not being broken down. Jon will also place signage explaining to residents that boxes need to be broken down. It is also believed the additional roll-off will eliminate the concerns.

There is also a request to communicate to the community that no sorting is required before dumping. Single sort signage will be installed as well.

5. ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. Board of Commissioners proceeded with work session.

6. WORK SESSION

ATTEST:


Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator


Dennis Welgraven, Board Chair