

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
April 28, 2026, 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 and General Assistant Renee Gleason; County Attorney Travis Smith via Zoom.

BOARD CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING 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, none were added.

2.2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the April 28, 2026 agenda with no conflicts of interest.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 04/21/2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed to approve the consent agenda, meeting minutes of April 21, 2026.

4.1. MURRAY SWCD ALLOCATION REQUEST 2026 1ST QTR.

Shelly Lewis and Craig Christensen were present to provide updates of the 1st quarter activities. These updates included grant applications received, (2) farm mentors that were hired with grant funds, along with cover crops and no-till contracts signed. They received notice that their Resource Specialist will be leaving for a position in Alaska and the last day will be May 15, 2026. The open position has been posted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the 1st Quarter Allocation to Murray Soil and Water Conservation District for \$49,069.75.

4.2. PLUM CREEK LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT AND 2026 - 2027 FUNDING REQUEST

Elizabeth Hoffman, Director of the Plumb Creek Library System provided their annual update. A letter outlining these updates was attached to the board packet. This graphic shows the area of services they provide to the area counties as well as some public school libraries.



Digital resources provided costs the Plum Creek System potentially 3-6 times the average consumer cost. In addition, there isn't a number of resources for the Plum Creek Library System to price compare. However, they are in attendance today to request the annual contribution from Murray County for \$3,250.00. This has been allocation request since 2018 and is the same amount requested from every county participating.

A motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve the annual contribution of \$3,250.00 for the Plum Creek Library System.

4.3. PLUM CREEK LIBRARY AGREEMENT

The Plum Creek Library System is asking all participants to re-sign the Agency Agreement to reflect several updates resulting in state statute changes and routine review. These include:

- Removal of Pipestone School District, with a replacement of Pipestone Public Library.
- Reduction in the notice period for special Board meetings from two weeks to five days
- Shift in the preliminary budget timeline from March to April,
- Revisions to trustee appointment language to provide additional flexibility in selection methods

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, and passed to authorize the Murray County Board Chair and Deputy Administrator to sign the Plum Creek Library System Agency Agreement.

4.4. SUNRISE TERRACE RENTAL RATE INCREASE

The last (3) years rental rates have increased by \$50.00/year. Commissioner Woelber said the Sunrise Terrace Board check other places and they were still below other community living facilities. The board makes an attempt every year to understand the balance of covering expenses and profit. In addition, Commissioner Meier, pointed out that improvements to the facility have been made. There continues to be a waiting list for Sunrise Terrace but of course the prospective resident needs to be ready for community living.

New Sunrise Terrace Rates reflected:

Rent-1 Bedroom w/obstructed view

\$1,250.00/month Rent-1 Bedroom

\$1,545.00/month

Rent-1 Bedroom W/Den \$1,690.00/month

Rent-1 Bedroom Deluxe W/Den \$1,740.00/month

A motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Woelber, and passed to approve the recommendation of the Sunrise Terrace Board of increasing each apartment rental rate by \$50.00, effective July 1, 2026.

4.5.1. DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

Ankrum Excavating

21-767-6290	CD 29	520.00	2025-041	Ok'd by T. Radke 4/20/2026
21-757-6290	CD 65	406.50	2026-007	Ok'd by T. Radke 4/20/2026
21-512.25	CD 73	512.25	2025-030	Ok'd by T. Radke 4/20/2026
Subtotal		1,438.75		

Rinke Noonan

21-706-6260	CD 41	30.50	CD 41 Improvement - Legal
21-809-6260	JD 5	61.00	(M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-829-6260	JD 14	244.00	JD 14 Partial Abandonment
21-855-6260	JD 23	122.00	(M-C) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-857-6260	JD 24	61.00	Redetermination of Benefits-Group 2
21-861-6260	JD 27	419.00	(M-L) Partial Abandonment-Legal
21-863-6260	JD 28	213.50	(M-L-R) Redetermination of Benefits-Group 4
21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	03/2026 Monthly Retainer
Subtotal		1,351.00	

Total Ditch Bills 2,789.75

Copies of invoices will be available at the meeting or by calling Heidi Winter 507-836-1152
H2O has provided land classification mapping. When the tile system is changed, maps are provided at that time as well.

4.5.2. RACETRACK LIGHTING, FINAL PAYMENT APP

Justin Hoffman has made a final inspection and recommends approval. Last week light alignment and front stretch lighting was completed, along with removal of old equipment and wiring. The instrument checking the foot candles originally was measured at 7 or 8, now it is over 100-foot candles. The Racing Association purchased and installed emergency lighting at each corner of the track and at the flagpole.

Project Finance Summary**Project:** Fairgrounds Racetrack Lighting**Vendor:** Engelkes Electric, LLC**Contract Approved on:** December 11, 2025

Original Contract	\$ 345,880.00
Change Orders	\$ -
Contract Sum to Date	\$ 345,880.00
Less: Previous Pay Application(s)	\$ (345,880.00)
Balance to finish, including retainage	\$ -

			Warrant #
1/2/2026	Pay Request 1	\$ 120,000.00	178934
4/16/2026	Pay Request 2	\$ 207,880.00	179646
4/28/2026	Pay Request 3 - FINAL	\$ 18,000.00	pending 4/28/2026
		\$ 345,880.00	

It was moved by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve final payment for the Fairgrounds Racetrack Lighting Project to Engelkes Electric for \$18,000.00, contingent on receiving the IC-134 contractor affidavit documentation.

4.5.3. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed in conjunction with the appointed ditch inspector have examined and inspected that portion of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given.

Petition 2026-008	CD 38	Sect 29	Lowville Township	Dist 2-Carlson
Petition 2026-009	JD 20A	Sect 2	Shetek Township	Dist 1-Woelber
Petition 2026-010	JD 27	Sect 3	Lake Sarah Township	Dist 2-Carlson
Petition 2026-011	JD 07	Sect 29	Fenton Township	Dist 3-Welgraven
Petition 2026-012	CD 87	Sect 25	Lake Sarah Township	Dist 2-Carlson
Petition 2026-013	CD 75	Sect 19	Slayton Township	Dist 3-Welgraven
Petition 2026-014	CD 26	Sect 17	Skandia Township	Dist 2-Carlson
Petition 2026-015	JD 19	Sect 24	Cameron Township	Dist 2-Carlson

Commissioner Woelber wanted to understand the beaver bounty guidelines and the recurring beaver problem. Murray County currently has (3) parties that will trap beaver on the county ditch system and if it is a road ditch the Hwy Department will pay the bounty. We are paying same rate as the DNR at \$75/beaver. Commissioner Zins stated in his area the beaver population is growing too. Seems the more people we can have trap the better.

4.5.4. APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR HIGHWAY ENGINEER POSITION

Due to Randy Groves' upcoming retirement, the County Engineer position job description was reviewed by consultant Tessia Melvin with David Drown & Associates. The job description itself did not change, but the pay grades were recalculated and approved at the last board meeting. The position was evaluated at 641 points, placing it in Pay Grade 21, with a pay range of \$60.75 to \$78.97. There are 10 steps within this pay grade.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Carlson and passed to approve the Highway Engineer position advertisement as outlined to begin this week.

There are potentially other open engineering positions in surrounding counties.

Tomorrow the Board of Commissioners leaves for the AMC conference being held Wednesday thru Friday in the Twin Cities. Commissioner Woelber will be there for a portion of this time.

5. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:10 A.M.

ATTEST:


Sharon Giese, HR Director/Deputy Administrator


Mark Carlson, Board Chair