

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

The first regular August meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Curtis Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss; Mark Lem; Kathy Wagner; Western Dakota Energy Association Executive Director Alison Ritter; and Wold Engineering Vice-President Michael Rivinius.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 21, 2025, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that mowing started this week and graveling and blading continues across the county. Discussion followed.

Grey informed the commissioners that he had been contacted by the state regarding the road leading into the Indian Hills Resort in Garrison. He stated that North Dakota Game and Fish Department is currently responsible for the maintenance but the state would like the county to take this over. Grey recommended leaving the maintenance of the road with the state and the commissioners agreed. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that several property owners in the Iglehart Cabin Site area have voiced their concerns with the speed bumps installed on the county road. He also stated that the signs have not been moved as requested and he recommended removing the speed bumps. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to request that the speed bumps and signs are removed on the road in the Iglehart Cabin Site that the county maintains. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to amend the motion to require that the speed bumps and signs are removed on the road in the Iglehart Cabin Site that the county maintains by Monday, August 11, 2025. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion to amend carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to require the speed bumps and signs are removed on the road in the Iglehart Cabin Site that the county maintains by Monday August 11, 2025. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Rivinius presented the county's bridge inspection report for signature. Discussion followed.

Rivinius stated that nine bridges were identified for potential rehabilitation or reconstruction with Flexible Transportation Funds through the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). He recommended five bridge replacements and one bridge removal. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to apply for Flexible Transportation Funds through the NDDOT to replace five bridges and remove one bridge. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None.

Rivinius presented information on an Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program for roadway and bridge improvements and utility improvements necessary to accommodate the development or expansion of new or existing value-added agriculture business. He recommended applying for the grant funds to widen the shoulder on the road leading to Blue Flint Ethanol. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to apply for Agriculture Infrastructure Grant funds with the purpose of widening the shoulders leading out to the ethanol plant. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Rivinius presented the engineering contract with Wold Engineering for paving projects in 2026. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to accept the contract with Wold Engineering as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion to amend carried.

Foss requested a salary adjustment for Jacob Behles, a new Equipment Operator II with prior experience who requested a step adjustment in order to accept the position. The proposed salary is to Step 7 of the salary grade, \$53,898.12, retroactive to July 28, 2025, with an adjustment to Step 8 after successful completion of introductory six months.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the salary adjustment for Jacob Behles as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion to amend carried.

Ritter introduced herself to the Board of Commissioners and discussed upcoming events of the Western Dakota Energy Association. Discussion followed.

Wagner presented her concerns with a narrow channel on Brush Lake and the potential for accidents. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to have Knutson communicate with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to assess the channel and make a recommendation for watercraft accessing the channel. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

NDSU Extension Agent Kamile Moderegger and NDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent Sarah Bedgar joined the meeting to give an update on NDSU Extension activities. Moderegger and Bedgar presented a quarterly narrative to the Commission. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$22,927,403.41 and the total pledged securities were \$25,113,584.82 on July 30, 2025.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Dakota Central Human Service Zone (DCHSZ) Transfer of Funds Resolutions and the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolution from July. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolutions and the McLean County Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions are on file in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of July in the amount of \$11,307.20.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of July in the amount of \$2,372.20.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by Camp of the Cross Ministries for a 50/50 raffle to be held on August 12, 2025 at the Garrison Golf Course, contingent on verification that the gaming machines will be shut down during the raffle. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Lynda Snyder, Deputy Auditor