



January 6, 2026
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NICOLLET COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

The Nicollet County Drainage Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 9:47 a.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Dranttel, Dehen, Kolars, Zins, and Helget. County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer and County Administrator Landkamer were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Helget and seconded by Commissioner Kolars to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- a. December 16, 2025 Drainage Authority Minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Public Works

CD 86 Repair Projects Update

Chris Otterness, Engineer with Houston Engineering, Inc. presented an update on the CD 86 repair project. Engineer Otterness reported that the building has a singular purpose and that is to provide a water barrier to the existing building. While hydro drilling for the placement of the poles, the contractor encountered electrical lines and conduit that run to the pump station. Modifications to the construction plans were verified by a structural engineer. The contractor has submitted an application for payment. Engineer Otterness noted a punch list inspection was completed identifying seven deficiencies. Discussions are in place for completing the punch list. Upon satisfactory completion of the punch list, a recommendation will then be issued to pay the contractor.

Engineer Otterness also provided a report of the pump station. Materials for the gate have been ordered and there is an anticipated delivery date of March or April. The contractor will not be moving forward with any other work until the gate can be installed.

Engineer Otterness stated the contractor has past the deadline and that a new date will be set for completion. If the new completion date is not met, further action will be taken.

Director Greenwood noted that no funds have been expended to the contractor at this time.

Public Services

PUBLIC HEARING 10:00 a.m. – CD 61 Final Engineers Report Public Hearing

Chair Dehen called the public hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. Director Kopet provided opening remarks regarding the hearing on the CD61 Final Engineers Report. Director Kopet confirmed that notice of the hearing was mailed, posted and published in accordance with statutory requirements. Director Kopet stated the purpose of today's public hearing is to review the final engineer's report, the DNR response letter, the viewer's reports, and take statements from all parties to determine whether to proceed with the project or dismiss the petition.

Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. presented the CD 61 Final Engineers Report in detail.

Following Engineer Otterness' presentation, Director Kopet read verbatim, the DNR Advisory Report, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103.335, subd. 1

Chair Dehen then called upon Viewer Mark Behrens present the Viewer's Report. Mark Behrens presented the report. The report outlined the CD 61 improvement benefits, including a summary of associated costs and separable maintenance.

Chair Dehen opened the hearing for public comments regarding CD61 Final Engineers Report.

Attorney Dean Zimmerli, attorney for the Petitioners, provided legal background on the statutory factors the Drainage Authority must consider when determining whether to approve or deny the Improvement Petition. Attorney Zimmerli asked the Drainage Authority to approve the project consistent with the Engineer's Report.

Chair Dehen asked for any additional public comments on the CD 61 Final Engineer's report. None were made and Chair Dehen closed the Public Hearing at 11:00 a.m.

Director Kopet asked the Board to determine whether the Final Engineer's Report addresses the following statutory requirements to move the matter forward:

1. Whether the detailed survey report and viewers' report have been made and other proceedings have been completed under this chapter.
2. Whether the reports made or amended are complete and correct.
3. Whether the damages and benefits have been properly determined.
4. Whether the estimated benefits are greater than the total estimated cost, including damages
5. Whether the proposed drainage project will be of public utility and benefit, and will promote the public health and
6. Whether the proposed drainage project is practicable, after considering the environmental, land use, and, multipurpose water management criteria in section 103E.015, subdivision 1.

All Commissioners confirmed that the statutory requirements had been met within the content of the Final Engineer's Report and the Engineer's presentation to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the CD 61 Final Engineer's Report, adopt the Viewer's Report, adopt the allocation of separable maintenance, order the project as presented, and to direct the PPS Director to prepare the Findings and Order for the next scheduled Drainage Authority meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the Branch 2 repairs. Motion carried unanimously.

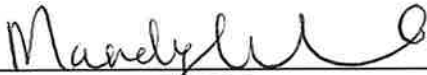
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dehen', written over a horizontal line.

MARK DEHEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Landkamer', written over a horizontal line.

MANDY LANDKAMER,
CLERK TO THE BOARD

