



April 28, 2026
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Nicollet County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Nicollet County Board Room. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Dehen, Zins, Kolars, Dranttel and Helget. County Administrator Mandy Landkamer and County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer were also in attendance.

Amendment to Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the additional agenda item to Consider the Contract between the Sheriff's Office and Everbridge. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Dranttel and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Bills
2. April 14, 2026 Board Minutes
3. April 14, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes
4. County Feedlot Officer (CFO) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Annual Report
5. Consider End of Probation
6. Consider Contract between the Sheriff's Office and Direct Care and Treatment
7. Consider 2026 Solid Waste Collection and Transportation License Applicant
8. Acknowledgement of the Auditor's Warrants and approval of the Commissioner Warrants as presented for the following amounts:
 - a. General Revenue Fund - \$179,483.83
 - b. Road & Bridge Fund - \$52,345.46
 - c. Human Services Fund - \$129,710.52

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

At this time, 8:04 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Dranttel to enter into a closed session, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.03 to discuss labor negotiation strategy. In attendance were Commissioners Dehen, Zins, Dranttel, Helget, and Kolars, County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer, Human

Resources Director Bridget Flier and County Administrator Mandy Landkamer. The meeting was reopened at 8:40 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Zins to recess until 9:00 a.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Health and Human Services

Consider Proclamation Recognizing Mental Health Month

Director Sassenberg appeared before the Board to present an overview of adult and children's mental health services through case management and intake services for 2025 and 2026.

Nicollet County observes Mental Health Month in May by offering information and educational activities to increase awareness, fight stigma, and promote access to quality services. Linda Nicolay, Lighthouse on Marshall, read the Proclamation of May as Mental Health month.

Motion by Commissioner Helget and seconded by Commissioner Dranttel to approve the Proclamation of May as Mental Health Month. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Administration

Continuous Improvement – 2025 Award for the Most Impactful Activity

County Administrator Landkamer came before the Board to recognize the staff from Public Works for the creation of the Portable Ground Force Sign Puller. The Sign Puller is designed to safely and efficiently remove sign posts in hard-to-reach locations. The innovation allows one employee to complete the job independently, eliminating the need for additional heavy equipment, improving both efficiency and safety. No action required, informational only.

Nicollet County 2025 Year in Review

County Administrator Landkamer presented an overview of Nicollet County's 2025 Year in Review report. The report highlights Nicollet County's department milestones and achievements. No action required, informational only.

Consider Amendment to the Resolution Establishing the 2026 Committee and Board Assignments and Meetings that Qualify for a Per Diem Payment

County Administrator Landkamer requested the approval of the Amendment to the Resolution Establishing the 2026 Committee and Board Assignments and Meetings that Qualify for a Per Diem Payment. The Amendment will appointment nine county residents and Commissioner Helget to the Community Health, Human, and Veteran Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the Amendment to the Resolution Establishing the 2026 Committee and Board Assignments and Meetings that Qualify for a Per Diem Payment. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Consider Amended MNDOT Limited Use Permit for Non-Motorized Trail

County Administrator Landkamer requested approval of the Amended Limited Use Permit for a Non-Motorized Trail. It was determined following a MNDOT discussion with Renville County and the City of Fairfax, that the City of Fairfax is responsible for the maintenance of the trail in Renville County. MNDOT has revised the Limited Use Permit previously signed by Nicollet County for the portion of the Fair Ridge Trail in the county.

Motion by Commissioner Dranttel and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the Amended MNDOT Limited Use Permit for a Non-Motorized Trail. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Imposing Firearms Limitations for Deer Hunting in Nicollet County

County Administrator Landkamer summarized the purpose of the public hearing to gather feedback on whether to restrict deer hunting to shotguns only through the adoption of an ordinance, following the state's repeal of the county shotgun zone for the 2026 season. A public hearing was also held on April 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. concerning this topic.

Chair Dehen opened the public hearing. County Administrator Landkamer read the submitted electronic comments into the record, summarized comments are following.

David Stoering

David lives in Courtland Township. Concerned with the argument that rifle hunting is safer than shotgun. Rifle bullets travel much farther than shotgun slugs. The farther a shot travels, the greater the risk it will hit something or someone. Concerned for the areas with active farms and scattered homes. There are safer alternatives for managing deer population. Urges the commissioners to keep Nicollet County as shotgun only.

Julia Aldrich

Rifle hunting near her home is a safety concern. A Lutheran school and church are nearby, with children playing outside and walking between buildings. Some landowners allow open hunting, attracting hunters who don't know the area. It creates risks for residents, children, and pets. She does not feel safe being outside during deer hunting season.

Dan Born

He is a co-owner of a Nicollet County farm and supports allowing rifles. Evidence from states that have already addressed this issue, suggest that rifles are as safe as, if not safer than shotguns. Ballistic data and injury statistics support this conclusion.

Tim Knaack

He feels that it is not fair to compare Wisconsin or Michigan or other states to Minnesota because it is not the same terrain. Rifles pose a significant risk as the bullets can travel farther than shotgun slugs. He shared a situation that occurred during the sighting of a rifle near some cabins. He has concerns for the safety of children playing outside.

Mike Stevenson

Mike lives in Nicollet Township. Senator Drazkowski has been trying to eliminate the shotgun zone for years. Last year, legislation passed to allow counties to decide if they wanted to allow rifle or shotgun only for deer hunting. He is concerned that people are not aware of the ordinance. The number one issue of his neighbors is the safety of high-powered rifles due to the distance the bullets can travel.

John Kral

John lives in West Newton Township. Concerned with stray bullets and the negativity. People should not be afraid of stepping out of their house for any reason. There is a need to think of the neighbors that live in the wooded areas, not just the people that are hunting. He is willing to give up his guns and hunting for safety. He does not support allowing rifles for deer hunting.

Aaron Starz

There are a lot of people on the pro shotgun side that say I feel, I believe, I think. Those on the pro rifle side are bringing facts, data, and studies. Using ballistic calculations, a 300 Winchester magnum would have to be pointed 86 feet in the air to get a bullet to go 2,500 yards. MNDNR has studied this for years, it would be best to go with the MNDNR's opinion.

Motion by Kolars and seconded by Helget to adopt an Ordinance maintaining as a shotgun only county. Failed on a roll call vote, 1 - 4.

Property Services

Consider Joint Powers Agreement – Minnesota River –Mankato Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Steven Budka, Environmental Specialist, requested approval of the Minnesota River Mankato Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement. The completed plan is being advanced for final approval by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. With approval, the plan will transition into implementation, enabling local residents and landowners to begin applying the identified practices and making measurable progress toward the plan's 10-year goals.

Motion by Commissioner Dranttel and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the Minnesota River Mankato Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Works

Submit Highway Department's 2025 Annual Report

Director Greenwood requested the Board acknowledge receipt of the Nicollet County Highway Department's 2025 Annual Report. Director Greenwood presented an overview of the report highlighting activities that went into maintaining and improving Nicollet County's road and bridge infrastructure in 2025.

Sheriff's Office

Consider the Contract Between the Sheriff's Office and Everbridge Pending the Approval of the County Attorney and County Administrator.

Sheriff Petersen requested approval of the Everbridge contract for emergency notification services for county employees and residents. The system would replace CodeRed which has been unusable since it experienced a data breach.

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the contract between the Sheriff's Office and Everbridge once all involved parties agree on the terms of the contract. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

County Attorney Update

County Attorney Zehnder Fischer shared that the month of April raises awareness for Child Abuse prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness as well as Crime Victims' week. Blue pinwheels are being used as a way to draw attention to child abuse awareness. The County Attorney's Office also had booths at the Senior Expo and Project Community Connect.

Chairs Report:

- Board Workshop
- GMG Transforming Together Tomorrow Steering Committee

Commissioner Committee Reports, Meetings & Conferences

Commissioner Marie Dranttel

- Personnel Committee
- Individual Department Head Meeting
- Board Workshop
- TdS Library Board Meeting

Commissioner Nicole Helget

- NACo Rural Action Committee Meeting
- Minnesota U of MN Extension Zoom Meeting
- AMC Legislative Update Zoom Meeting
- Firearms Limitations for Deer Hunting Public Hearing

Commissioner Kurt Zins

- Personnel Committee
- Board Workshop

- Streamed the Firearms Limitations for Deer Hunting Public Hearing

Commissioner Jack Kolars

- Firearms Limitations for Deer Hunting Public Hearing
- Diversity Council Meeting
- Board Workshop
- AMC Legislative Update Zoom meeting
- AMC Federal Budget Zoom meeting

Approve Per Diems and Expenses:

Motion by Commissioner Kolars and seconded by Commissioner Helget to approve the expenses and per diems for the meetings noted above during the Commissioner Reports and/or as submitted on approved expense reports, and authorize payment of those expenses and per diems by the Finance Office. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

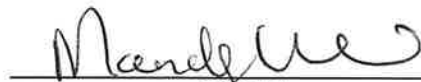
Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.



MARK DEHEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



MANDY LANDKAMER,
CLERK TO THE BOARD