



# **Dakota County**

## **General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole**

### **Agenda**

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**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings**

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**(or following Regional Railroad Authority)**

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)  
Commissioners may participate in the meeting by interactive technology.

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

#### **2. Audience**

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

##### **3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on December 2, 2025**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **5. Central Operations**

##### **5.1 Central Operations Administration - Approval Of Disability Advisory Council 2026 Work Plan**

**6. County Board/County Administration**

- 6.1** *Communications and Public Affairs* - Update And Discussion On Parking Permit Accommodation During Waterfowl Hunting Season At Spring Lake Park Reserve And Staff Recommendation On Naming Of The Mississippi River Access Area At Fisher Avenue
- 6.2** *Communications and Public Affairs* - Legislative Update
- 6.3** *Office Of The County Manager* - Review Of Dakota County Strategic Plan Goals And Priorities

**7. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report**

**8. Future Agenda Items**

**9. Adjournment**

- 9.1** Adjournment

**For more information, call 651-438-4417**

**Dakota County Board meeting agendas are available online at  
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>  
Public Comment can be sent to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)**



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-5228

**Agenda #:** 3.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/6/2026

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Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-5229

**Agenda #:** 4.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/6/2026

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Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on December 2, 2025



# **Dakota County**

## **General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole**

### **Minutes**

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**Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings**

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**(or following County Board)**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 9:55 a.m.

<b>Present</b>	Commissioner Mike Slavik Commissioner Joe Atkins Commissioner Laurie Halverson Commissioner William Droste Commissioner Liz Workman Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland
<b>Absent</b>	Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The recording of this meeting is available upon request.

#### **2. Audience**

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to  
CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us  
No comments were received for this agenda.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

##### **3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 6

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Droste, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

#### **4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on November 18, 2025**

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 6

**5. Central Operations**

**5.1 Report On Budget Amendments And Contracts**

Information only; no action required.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. Public Services and Revenue**

**6.1 Discussion On Public Art Blueprint Research And Community Dialog**

Principal Planner Lil Leatham and Public Services and Revenue Deputy Director Teresa Mitchell briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

**6.2 Approval Of Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Public Services and Revenue Deputy Director Teresa Mitchell briefed this item and responded to questions. Public Art Advisory Committee members Bob Erickson (District 6) and Al Tsai (Chair/At-large representative) were also present and shared information.

WHEREAS, County Policy states that advisory committees are required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding the topics they will study or which they advise the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Public Art Advisory Committee has discussed and drafted potential directions for their efforts in 2026; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 work plan to assist with public art blueprint planning, analyze public art inventory along greenways, host student art contest and collaborate and consult with departments on public art initiatives be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 work plan.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/16/2025.

Ayes: 6

**6.3 Approval Of Library Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan**

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Library Director Jennifer Reichert Simpson briefed this item and responded to questions. Library Advisory Committee members Robin Cerio (Chair) and Kari Cahn (Vice-Chair) were also present and shared information.

WHEREAS, County policy states that advisory committees are required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding topics they will study or advise on, which are outlined in their annual work plan; and

WHEREAS, the Library Advisory Committee drafted potential direction for their efforts in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Library staff recommends that the Library Advisory Committee 2026 work plan about community input on library services, spaces, policies and awareness efforts be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Library Advisory Committee 2026 work plan.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/16/2025.

Ayes: 6

## **7. County Board/County Administration**

### **7.1 Legislative Update**

Communications and Public Affairs Director Mary Beth Schubert briefed this item and responded to questions. Dan Dwight (Stinson Representative) was present via interactive technology but due to technical issues was unable to share information. The following information was sent to committee members and staff for the update:

The Senate Subcommittee on Federal Impacts received a SSIS demonstration on November 19th. Feedback from legislators been good. There is opportunity to build further engagement at the Capitol.

The November forecast will be released December 4, 2025. As usual, no definitive idea yet of what the forecast will look like, but if I had to guess the state will have a small deficit for the remainder of this biennium and a larger shortfall predicted for the next biennium. The February Forecast will provide a sharper picture for any required budget adjustments this session.

With the election as Saint Paul Mayor and subsequent resignation of Kaoly Her, current House Transportation Committee Co-Chair, Rep. Erin Koegel has been appointed as the new Co-Chair of the House Commerce Committee. Rep. Brad

Tabke has been appointed to replace Rep. Koegel as the Co-Chair of the House Transportation Committee. Rep. Tabke is the architect of last year's plan to take transportation funding from metro counties and redirect it to transit projects.

As we've discussed previously, Sen. Jim Carlson is retiring. Rep. Liz Reyer is running to replace him in the Senate, creating an opening for her current seat. Christos Jensen has announced his candidacy. I expect there to be others entering both the Senate and House races in this district. I expect there will be at least one or two additional open seats in Dakota County heading into the 2026 election.

A number of retirement announcements continue to stack up. Rep. Koegel announced her retirement a couple of weeks ago. Sen. Alice Mann from Bloomington announced her retirement yesterday. There will be additional retirements announced as we head into session.

There are two upcoming special elections in the House on January 27, 2026. The House should remain evenly divided for the 2026 session. The special elections are to replace Rep. Kaoly Her in Saint Paul and Rep. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger in Woodbury.

Information only; no action requested.

## **8. Central Operations**

### **8.1 Update On 2026 Dakota County Housing Services**

Social Services Director Emily Schug and Social Services Deputy Director Madeline Kastler briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

### **8.2 Update On December Changes To 2026 County Manager's Recommended Budget**

Budget Office Supervisor Allie Regenscheid briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

## **9. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report**

County Manager Heidi Welsch referenced the Director's Reports that were distributed to the committee.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

There were no suggested topics for future meetings.

## **11. Adjournment**



**11.1** Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeni Reynolds  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5186

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 1/6/2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Central Operations Administration

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Action

### TITLE

**Approval Of Disability Advisory Council 2026 Work Plan**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the Disability Advisory Council 2026 Work Plan.

### SUMMARY

County Board Policy No. 1015 directs advisory committees to consult at least annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding topics they will study or advise on, which are outlined in their annual work plan.

Planned focus areas for the Disability Advisory Committee 2026 work plan include:

- Act as a sounding board on design considerations for 2026 capital projects, and offer recommendations to support inclusive, compliant physical environments.
- Review housing-related challenges, offer accessibility expertise, and recommend approaches to improve stability and equitable access for disabled residents.
- Provide guidance on accessible design and community engagement for the Public Art Framework and recommend practices that ensure public art is inclusive for all users.
- Serve as an informed sounding board for countywide ADA efforts.
- Review the Parks Visitor Services Plan to provide technical accessibility insight and recommend ways to ensure park experiences are inclusive and usable for all visitors.
- Provide accessibility guidance on planned library services and facilities and offer recommendations that enhance inclusive access for all library users.
- Identify common barriers and opportunities in disability services to share with county departments, to support service improvements.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the approval of the Disability Advisory Council 2026 work plan.

### EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- ☒ None      ☐ Current budget      ☐ Other  
☐ Amendment Requested      ☐ New FTE(s) requested

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, County policy states that advisory committees are required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding topics they will study or advise on, which are outlined in

their annual work plan; and

WHEREAS, the Disability Advisory Council drafted potential direction for their efforts in 2026; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Disability Advisory Council 2026 work plan be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Disability Advisory Council 2026 work plan.

### **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment: Disability Advisory Council 2026 Work Plan

Attachment: Presentation Slides

### **BOARD GOALS**

- ☐ Thriving People      ☐ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
- ☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs      ☒ Excellence in Public Service

### **CONTACT**

Department Head: Jessica Parker Carlson

Author: Jessica Johnson



## Disability Advisory Council 2026 Workplan - DRAFT

### Priorities:

1. Improve Access to Disability Support Services
2. Improve Transportation Accessibility and Safety for Individuals with Disability and Disabled Individuals
3. Support Public Outreach and Awareness of County Disability Initiatives
4. Promote Inclusive and Equitable County Services and Facilities

### 2026 Workplan Overview

Board Goal	Council Priority	Activity	Outcome	Timeline
-	-	Annual Report to the County Board	The Council will report to the Board annually in January, summarizing recommendations and outcomes	Q1
-	-	Annual Organizational Meeting	Approval of annual workplan for recommendation to the County Board. Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Q1
Excellence in Public Service	2 & 4	Physical Development Capital Projects Update (Annually)	Act as a sounding board on design considerations and offer recommendations to support inclusive, compliant physical environments.	Q1
Thriving People	3	Update on Communities for All	Receive an update on funded programs and offer accessibility-centered feedback on their impact.	Q2

<b>Board Goal</b>	<b>Council Priority</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Thriving People	1	Housing/Housing Instability	Review housing-related challenges, offer accessibility expertise, and recommend approaches to improve stability and equitable access for disabled residents and residents with disabilities.	Q2
Excellence in Public Service	3	Public Art Framework	Provide guidance on accessible design and community engagement and recommend practices that ensure public art is inclusive for all users.	Q2
Excellence in Public Service	3	Countywide Accessibility Initiatives	Serve as an informed sounding board for countywide ADA efforts, provide expert feedback on accessibility opportunities or gaps.	Q3
Excellence in Public Service	4	Parks Visitor Services Plan	Review the proposed plan, provide technical accessibility insight, and recommend ways to ensure park experiences are inclusive and usable for all visitors.	Q3
Excellence in Public Service	4	Library Update (Annually)	Receive an update on planned library services and facilities, provide guidance on accessibility considerations, and offer recommendations that enhance inclusive access for all library users.	Q4
-	-	Annual Review and Reporting	Prepare annual review of recommendations and outcomes for the County Board	Q4

Board Goal	Council Priority	Activity	Outcome	Timeline
Excellence in Public Service	1	Disability Services	Identify common barriers and opportunities in disability services to share with county departments, to support service improvements.	Ongoing

**Note:**

This plan establishes a structured framework for 2026 while allowing the Council to adjust topics and priorities in response to community needs, emerging issues, and County Board Direction.



## 2026 Work Plan Disability Advisory Council (DAC)

Jessica Johnson  
Access Management Coordinator  
Central Operations Administration

### Advisory Council Members



**Chair: Sumukha Terakanambi**

**Vice Chair: Ann Bailey**

Linda Bailey  
Aiden Kilgannon  
Amy Hunting  
Michael Cashman  
Lucianna Wolfstone  
David Shaw  
Eva Johnson  
Stephanie Thomas

Alison Niemi  
Susan Pagnac  
Jodi Yanda  
Mike Welsh  
Toby Hearn  
Michael Dahl  
Bilan Arab  
Sheila Hawthorne

## Purpose of the Council



The purpose of the Advisory Council is to serve as an agent of change by:

- Providing technical expertise on issues that affect people with disabilities and disabled people.
- Acting as an independent sounding board for issues, ideas, and policy matters impacting disabled individuals.
- Seeking advice from members and the public in the county decision-making processes.
- Reflect the diverse interests of county clientele and residents.
- Meet requirements of state law.
- Providing annual recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners.

## 2025 Accomplishments



- Established a well-organized, collaborative council and built strong momentum
- Developed a shared understanding of disability-related challenges through lived and professional experiences
- Identified Council Priorities to focus the group's work
- Collaborated with Library staff to create disability centered book lists to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA (Nothing About Us Without Us)
- Provided feedback on Library programming and accessibility
- Supported accessibility efforts for the new county website
- Contributed input on the accessibility of the E&EA Upload Portal
- Provided feedback on two County plans:
  - Transportation ADA Transition Plan
  - Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan

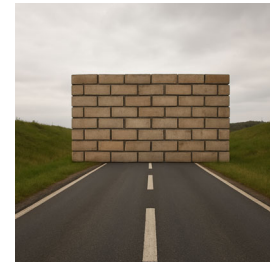


## Planning for 2026



### What is the most pressing barrier facing people with disabilities as we go into 2026?

- Education
- Stereotyping
- Employment for people with disabilities
- Political climate
- Changes
- Home and community-based services
- Fraud and funding
- Lack of service providers
- Service disruptions
- Medicaid
- Transportation reliability
- Discrimination
- Access barriers
- Making sure Dakota County stays the course
- Accountability



## 2026 DAC Workplan for Approval



Board Goal	Council Priority	Activity	Outcome	Timeline
-	-	Annual Report to the County Board	The Council will report to the Board annually in January, summarizing recommendations and outcomes	Q1
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Excellence in Public Service	2 & 4	Physical Development Capital Projects Update (Annually)	Act as a sounding board on design considerations and offer recommendations to support inclusive, compliant physical environments.	Q1
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-	-	Annual Review and Reporting	Prepare annual review of recommendations and outcomes for the County Board	Q4
Excellence in Public Service	1	Disability Services	Identify common barriers and opportunities in disability services to share with county departments, to support service improvements.	Ongoing

Thank you!



# Questions?

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 3-5 p.m.

Dakota County Western Service Center



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5238

Agenda #: 6.1

Meeting Date: 1/6/2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Communications and Public Affairs

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Information

### TITLE

**Update And Discussion On Parking Permit Accommodation During Waterfowl Hunting Season At Spring Lake Park Reserve And Staff Recommendation On Naming Of The Mississippi River Access Area At Fisher Avenue**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Provide the Dakota County Board of Commissioners an update on the accommodations that can be made to allow waterfowl hunters to continue to use the Spring Lake Park Reserve water access and seek input and direction on the staff recommendation for naming the internal park feature of the new public river access location in Spring Lake Park Reserve.

### SUMMARY

The County purchased the property formerly known as "Bud's Landing" in 2012. This property, an in-holding within Spring Lake Park Reserve, had historically been used as a boat launch by local waterfowl hunters. Since there were no immediate plans to develop the site, the county continued to accommodate waterfowl hunters through a parking permit process from late September through early December. An average of 2.7 permits was issued each day during the 2024 and 2025 waterfowl hunting seasons. This accommodated an average of 31 hunting parties per year.

The Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan was updated and adopted by the County Board on June 22, 2021. The updated plan identified a future River Landing Use Area at the former location of Bud's Landing (Attachment: Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan Mississippi Discovery Zone). Staff presented the schematic design for the Mississippi River Landing Use Area and Access in Spring Lake Park Reserve at the November 6, 2025, Physical Development Committee of the Whole. This proposed design included limited parking, a carry-in boat launch, accessible floating pier, self-service canoe and kayak rentals, picnic areas, portable restrooms, and interpretation and signage. A large, motorized boat launch was not possible due to space constraints and environmental and cultural resource concerns identified at the site. The County Board approved the schematic design at the November 18, 2025, County Board meeting.

Since adoption of the schematic design, staff have heard from several hunters who have historically used the site to access the Mississippi River during waterfowl season and other concerned citizens and citizen groups. In response, staff have discussed the situation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and reviewed internal policies and plans. Based on that review, staff identified a way to continue to accommodate waterfowl hunters while also moving forward with the improvements identified in the Master Plan and schematic design that will offer additional recreational opportunities for other residents.

**Spring Lake Park River Access and Waterfowl Hunting:**

Staff have identified an opportunity to continue to accommodate waterfowl hunters who have historically used the river access area to launch their boats during waterfowl season while still pursuing the master plan approved project to make the area accessible to the general public.

1. Road access to the future Mississippi River Access area will be closed during all or part of the waterfowl hunting season (late September through early December).
2. Access will be restricted using a parking permit system like the one used at the site since 2013.
3. Vehicles will still be able to back their trailers into the water using the existing sand launch, as they have done for years. This type of access would only be permitted during the designated time period.
4. The number of permits available each day would depend on the number of boat and trailer combinations that can safely be parked at the access and will be determined once final design and construction are complete.
5. Specific closure dates and the exact number of permits available will be published on the Parks website prior to the 2027 waterfowl season (the area will be closed for the 2026 season due to construction).
6. Closing the access to carry in boat traffic during this time of year should not have any major impacts, as it is after the peak kayak and canoe seasons.

**Naming and Acknowledgement Recommendations:**

1. Name the water access location on public maps, main county website and park signage "Mississippi River Access."
2. Place plaque at completed public launch commemorating Bud's Landing by name to honor discussion during the property sale.
3. Name the water access location on the waterfowl parking permit webpage and on the physical permits during hunting season as "Minnesota River Access at Bud's Landing."

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS**

- ☒ None      ☐ Current budget      ☐ Other  
☐ Amendment Requested      ☐ New FTE(s) requested

**RESOLUTION**

Information only; no action requested.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

12-117, 02/28/12

13-522, 10/01/13

25-542, 11/18/25

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment: Spring Lake Park Reserve Mississippi Discovery Zone

Attachment: Presentation Slides

**BOARD GOALS**

- ☐ Thriving People      ☒ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources

☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs

☒ Excellence in Public Service

**CONTACT**

Department Head: Mary Beth Schubert

Author: Niki Geisler

## LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### LOWER SPRING LAKE PARK RESERVE - MISSISSIPPI DISCOVERY ZONE

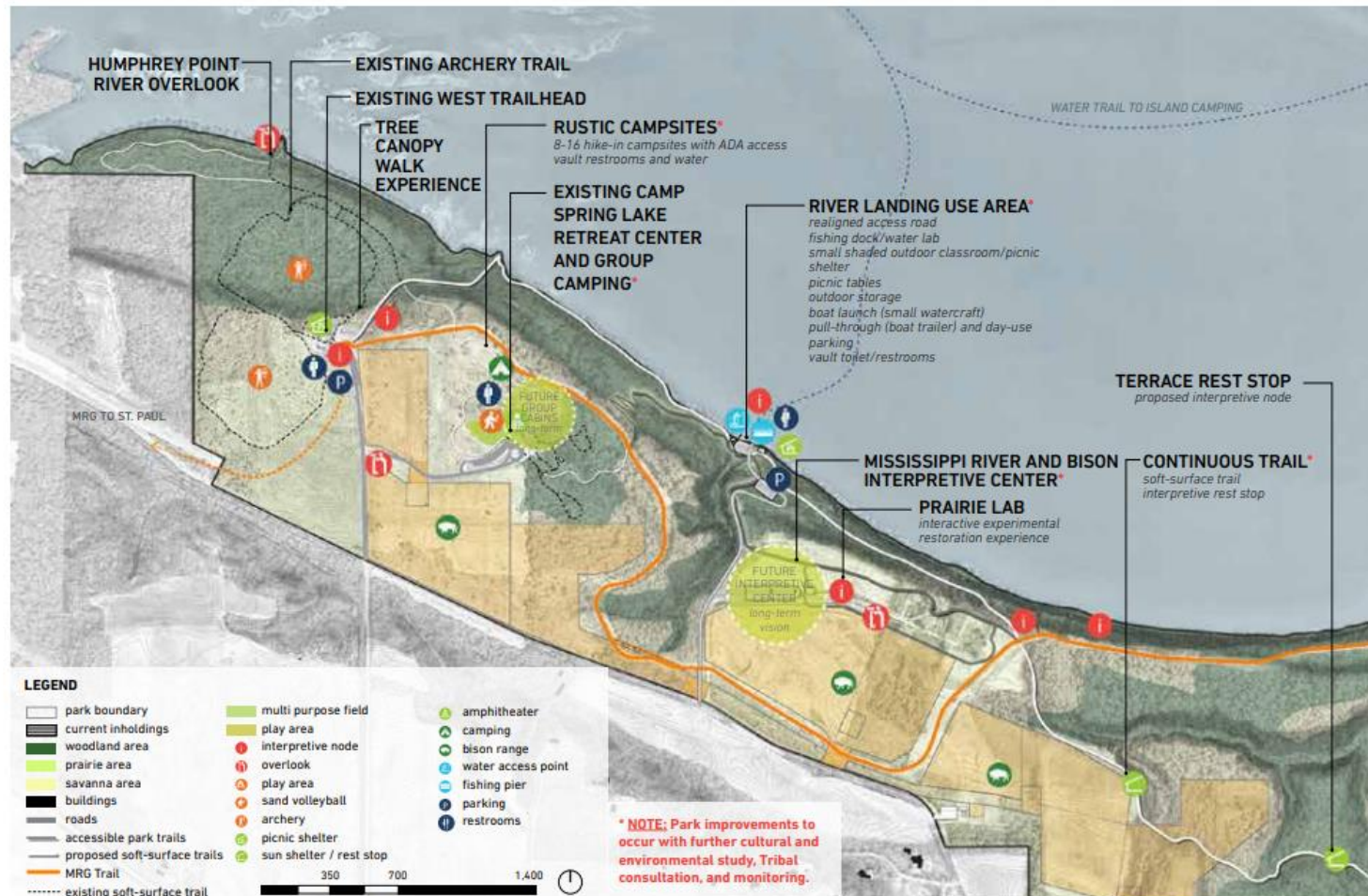


Figure 5.5 Lower Mississippi Discovery Zone Enlargement, Long-Term Plan

MASTER PLAN

6.22.21 84



## Update and Discussion on Spring Lake Park Reserve Mississippi River access and naming

Georg T Fischer  
Mary Beth Schubert  
Jan. 6, 2026

1

### Update on Waterfowl Hunter Access



- History
- Future accommodations

2



## Current naming practices



### New parks and greenways

- Research (history, land use, special features, marketing, etc.)
- Creative process (develop concepts, screen and evaluate)
- Public engagement (surveys, test images and messaging)
- Proposal to County Board

### Internal park features

- Typically staff-led naming process
- Focus on locations and features, not people's names
  - Ex. Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead, Spring Lake Park Reserve Retreat Center, Visitor Center, Campground

3

## Staff recommendation



Three key parts to the naming recommendation:

- Place plaque at completed public launch commemorating Bud's Landing by name to honor discussion during the property sale.
- Name the water access location on public maps, main county website and park signage as "Mississippi River Access."
- Name the water access location on the waterfowl parking permit webpage and on the physical permits during hunting season as "Minnesota River Access at Bud's Landing."

4



## County Board direction



Request County Board direction for the naming of the public water access and carry-in watercraft launch at Spring Lake Park Reserve.



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5231

Agenda #: 6.2

Meeting Date: 1/6/2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Communications and Public Affairs

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Information

### TITLE

**Legislative Update**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Provide an update on legislative topics.

### SUMMARY

Staff will share developments related to the County's legislative priorities. The update may also include discussion on other State and Federal legislative topics of interest to Dakota County.

### RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

### EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- |  |   |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None     | <input type="checkbox"/> Current budget       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> New FTE(s) requested |                                |

### RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

### PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: None.

### BOARD GOALS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live                    | <input type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

### CONTACT

Department Head/Author: Mary Beth Schubert



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5217

Agenda #: 6.3

Meeting Date: 1/6/2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of the County Manager

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Information

### TITLE

**Review Of Dakota County Strategic Plan Goals And Priorities**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Review the Dakota County strategic plan goals and priorities.

### SUMMARY

At the December 5, 2025 workshop, the draft strategic plan goals and priorities were reviewed and feedback was provided by the Board. Board comments were incorporated into the draft goals and priorities that will be presented by staff during the General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

Review of draft goals and priorities and provide any additional feedback.

### EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- ☒ None ☐ Current budget ☐ Other  
☐ Amendment Requested ☐ New FTE(s) requested

### RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

### PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

### BOARD GOALS

- ☐ Thriving People ☐ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources  
☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs ☒ Excellence in Public Service

### CONTACT

Department Head: Heidi Welsch

Author: Heidi Welsch



# 2026 Board Priorities

(Draft including CB feedback and discussion on 12/05/2025)

## Dakota County Strategic Plan Goals



A Great Place to Live  
(for a lifetime)

### Thriving People

Care for  
vulnerable  
populations

Create Access  
to  
Opportunities

Community  
safety, health  
and well-being

### Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources

Protect and  
maintain  
Natural  
Resources

Energy  
efficiency /  
sustainability

### Successful Place for Business and Jobs

Prepared,  
connected  
workforce

Dependable  
and Modern  
infrastructure  
and systems.

Responsible taxes  
and  
Sound stewardship of resources

Hire and retain  
excellent staff.

### Excellence in Public Service

Innovate and  
Collaborate

Community  
Engagement

Welcoming  
and  
Responsive  
Service for all  
People

## 2026 Initiatives: Responsible Taxes *and* Sound Stewardship of Resources



### 1. Develop 5-year financial plan that achieves the following goals:

- Eliminate the Structural Deficit.
- Increase reserves to be within the OSA range (35% - 50%).
- Provide reliable funding for service and program priorities of the Board.
- Prepare for and implement state and federal funding cuts.

#### *[Partial list of operational steps / tasks to achieve these goals:]*

- Reduce reliance on CPA for operations.
- Create 5-year staffing plans using assessment of workload levels.
- Review and align purpose, policy, and practice for each Fund.
  - Include policy discussion of use of interest within each fund.
- Consider new revenue sources (e.g., wheelage tax, County environmental charge)
- Identify and secure reliable funding for parks, natural resources, environmental resources.
- Review and update Transportation Policy on cost share and advance funding.
- Consider further cuts and potential of 'giving back' services to the state.
- Consider process improvements and efficiencies such as AI for transactional work.
- Study potential efficiencies through partnering with neighboring counties.

## 2026 Initiatives: Create Access to Opportunities



### 1. Implement the Library Strategic Plan.

- Reach segments of the community less tied to library.
- Find opportunities and resources.

### 2. Advance the 'Arts Blueprint'.

### 3. Update Parks Operational Plans.

- Natural Resources Systems Plan (previously on slide 11)
- Greenway Plan (previously on slide 7)
- Parks Visitor Services Plan (previously on slide 13)

### 4. Review Comprehensive Plan requirements and provide direction on scope and extent of Plan Update.

## 2026 Initiatives: Care for Vulnerable People



1. Deliver Public Assistance Benefits within State Required Timelines.
2. Complete MnChoices Assessment within State Required Timelines.
3. Develop More Youth Placement Options and alternatives to placement options (with metro collaboration).
4. Review and refine the housing business plan (HBP).
  - Measure and report on progress of the HBP.
  - Determine role of permanent supportive housing in the Housing Business Plan.
5. Pilot existing 0.5 FTE social worker stationed at Wentworth Library.

## 2026 Initiatives: Community safety, health and well-being



1. Facilitate development of Community Resource Center(s).
2. Investigate and pursue health care access for uninsured or under-insured residents.
3. Complete an assessment of healthcare model in the jail.
4. Improve safety at high crash rate locations [based on the MnDOT Crash Rate Index](#).
5. [Improve safety for pedestrian and bicyclists based on high and medium priority County Highway Pedestrian and Bicycle Gaps.](#)

## 2026 Initiatives: Innovate and Collaborate



### 1. Partner well with Cities and Counties.

- Consider intersections among Dakota 911, Emergency Management, and Radio Services.

### 2. Collaborate with CDA and partners on development.

- Review and present policies and practices within the purview of the County that are a hinderance or asset to economic development (as part of the Comprehensive Plan).
- Support coordinating strategic infrastructure and land development with CDA and the cities.

## 2026 Initiatives: Community Engagement



1. Design and implement new website.
2. Provide more online / self service options in our services using Artificial Intelligence.
3. Create more financial and budget engagement (ex. Interactive Budget Books, additional Budget Open House events).

2026 Initiatives:  
Dependable and modern infrastructure and systems



1. Fair, efficient, and accurate 2026 elections.
2. Deliver 2026 CIP projects on time and in budget.
  - Renovation of Wentworth Library.
  - Recycling Zone Plus facility.
  - Renovation of Burnhaven Library.
  - Spring Lake Park Reserve improvements
  - MN River Greenway completion.
  - CR 32 (117<sup>th</sup> St) completion.

2026 Initiatives:  
Energy efficiency / sustainability



1. Complete Byllesby Dam Turbines.
2. Audit current energy and emission processes to determine opportunities.



2026 Initiatives:  
Protect and Maintain Natural Resources



1. Implement new Solid Waste Management Plan

1. Study new processing requirements at landfills.
2. Increase food waste prevention.
3. Increase reuse opportunities.

2. Implement 2050 Parks System Plan.

2026 Initiatives:  
Hire and Retain Excellent Staff



1. Confirm current compensation strategy and desired outcomes.

2. Continue to assess and implement IDEA strategies.

## 2026 Initiatives:

Welcoming and responsive services for all people.



### 1. Identify program and services areas with highest disparities for study and potential future action.

- Continue and maintain ADA compliance program.
- Prepare for implementation of the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Act.

## 2026 Initiatives:

Responsible Taxes *and* Sound Stewardship of Resources



1. Maintain overall facilities rating at “fair” and plan to return to “good” based on the Facility Condition Index (FCI).
2. Collaborate with other counties to ensure interests are adequately represented.

## Operational Requests from CB related to goals



	Request	Follow up plan
1	Educate Board on policy issues surrounding Data Center to include environmental issues, economic development issues, tax policy issues, etc.	PDC presentation in 2026 led by ER and including PSR expertise.
2	Explore what the County should/should not be doing to ensure safe and secure electricity supply in the future.	GGP presentation on emergency planning re: electrical supply led by RM.
3	CB discuss greenhouse gas emissions policy from the state vis-à-vis transportation projects and costs in the future.	PDC presentation in 2026 led by Transportation. Wait until MnDOT guidance is received on this topic.
4	Provide monthly measure of the Crisis Center numbers of Dakota County clients and Total clients served.	CS add chart to monthly CS Directors Report.
5	Provide monthly measure of average daily population in the Jail Integrative Health Unit (perhaps against total jail average daily population).	DSO monthly measure to COD Directors monthly report.
6	Provide an update on the outcomes of the Jail Integrative Health Unit.	GGP update on IHU from DSO in fall 2026.
7	Provide ROI analysis on embedded SW model in the PDs.	CS presentation of previous OPA study on this topic.
8	Provide information on the effects of state and federal cuts to e-resources in the libraries.	Information provided in weekly CM Update to Commissioners.
9	Provide update on Library After Hours model, including efficiencies gained.	GGP update on After Hours Model before budget 2027.
10	Provide analysis / evaluation of the SW in library pilot project.	GGP update on 2026 new pilot in Q1 2027.



# General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-5230

**Agenda #:** 9.1

**Meeting Date:** 1/6/2026

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Adjournment