



2026 Board Priorities – Second Quarter Update

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Collaborate with other counties to ensure interests are adequately represented.	Office of the County Manager	Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) District X and Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) continue working on representation together.	Green
Excellence in Public Service Community Engagement	Design and implement new website.	Communications	The County project team is currently migrating more than 1,200 pages from the current website to the new platform. Because of the changing site architecture, this migration is done page-by-page.	Green
Excellence in Public Service Hire and Retain Excellent Staff	Confirm current compensation strategy and desired outcomes.	Human Resources	Human Resources staff met with the Board in closed session on May 19. A second closed session with the Board will be held in July or August.	Yellow

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Excellence in Public Service Hire and Retain Excellent Staff	Continue to assess and implement Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) strategies.	Human Resources	Continued work in support of goals, including: -Working with Office of Performance and Analysis (OPA) to design and launch a countywide IDEA strategic planning process. -Working with staff to revive DC WOMEN Employee Resource Group (ERG) with new leadership and name - DC WAVE -Launched a quarterly "Words Matter" campaign around mental health. -Recognized, celebrated, and promoted organizational awareness through IDEA Network Lunch and Learns and Virtual Speaker Series.	Green
Excellence in Public Service Dependable and Modern Infrastructure	Fair, efficient, and accurate 2026 elections.	Public Services and Revenue Division	The department successfully conducted the May School District Special Elections on May 12, 2026. The team is working to train cities and townships on statutes and procedures to ensure that the year's elections are successful.	Green
Thriving People Care for Vulnerable People	Pilot existing .5 full-time employee (FTE) social worker stationed at Wentworth Library.	Public Services and Revenue Division	This project is on hold. Existing library FTE was reclassified to a .55 Library Social Worker. All open library positions are being held as part of the 2027 budget process.	Red

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Create Access to Opportunities	Implement the Library Strategic Plan.	Public Services and Revenue Division	The library will launch a “Be a Reader” initiative aligned to local school districts and State of Minnesota efforts to support every child reading at or above grade level with literacy funding from MELSA, the Twin Cities Regional Library System. In the fall of 2026, every library location will offer a special collection of decodable books. All library managers completed a management training on leading during challenging times, change, and engaging in difficult conversations. The Wentworth Library was filled with over 1,500 people who explored the library, checked out 2,000 books and reconnected with their community on opening day on May 6. The temporary Burnsville Library in the Burnsville Center mall saw 4,545 visits in April 2026. 1,400 teens and caregivers attended the Dakota-Scott County Teen Job Fair hosted by the library, CareerForce and Social Services. Maria, a library volunteer, delivered her 500th book to a homebound patron she visited since 2001. The library manages volunteer delivery services, books by mail, and outreach to low-income senior residences.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Create Access to Opportunities	Advance the Arts Blueprint.	Public Services and Revenue Division	Draft mission, vision and guiding principles for the public art blueprint were presented at the May GGP and Board feedback was collected. Opportunities, roles, responsibilities and administrative tools are being incorporated into a draft. Third quarter next steps include draft plan will be reviewed with the Public Art Committee and Staff Advisory Team. In September, staff plan to review the draft plan with the Board and seek approval for draft release for public review.	Green
Excellence in Public Service Innovate and Collaborate	Partner well with cities and counties. Consider intersections among Dakota 911, Emergency Management, and Radio Services.	Central Operations Division	County leadership was provided an overview of the 800Mhz system in place in Dakota County in February from Radio Services and Risk Management staff. County staff continue to review options with Dakota 911 staff regarding several issues.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Innovate and Collaborate	Collaborate with Community Development Agency (CDA) and partners on development.	Central Operations Division	County and CDA staff continue to work with city development staff on a regular basis. This quarter the CDA lead the efforts regarding Opportunity Zones in the county with a handful of cities.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Community Engagement	Provide more online/self service options in our services using artificial intelligence (AI).	Central Operations Division	Central Operations Administration staff and IT staff presented an update on the County AI policy at the June 2026 GGP meeting. IT staff shared some examples of how AI is already being incorporated into county work.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Excellence in Public Service Community Engagement	Create more financial and budget engagement (ex. Interactive Budget Books, additional Budget Open House events).	Central Operations Division	The first budget open house has been scheduled for August. There will be open houses in August, September and December to give the public opportunities to engage on the budget and levy increase.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Develop 5-year financial plan – eliminate the structural deficit.	Central Operations Division	The levy forecast builds in a balanced budget in 2027 and beyond. Expenditure reduction targets have been enacted to eliminate the structural deficit and ensure a balanced budget in 2027. Budget cuts will be presented to the Board at the July 13 budget workshop.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Develop 5-year financial plan – increase reserves to be within the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) range (35% - 50%).	Central Operations Division	Presented to the Board on June 16 a proposed fund balance policy update that would put in place discrete milestones that need to be achieved to get the County to 35% reserves within the next 10 years. Levy forecast includes and proposed budget will include fully funding personnel costs. An externally developed financial management plan is being prepared by Ehlers and will be presented in August.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Develop 5-year financial plan – provide reliable funding for service and program priorities of the Board.	Central Operations Division	On June 9, Finance brought forward a proposal to increase wheelage tax to provide sustainable funding for Transportation and reduce the reliance on levy in Transportation operations. This was approved by the Board on June 23, 2026. A fee schedule update will be presented to the Board in August. Levy forecasts have been presented at multiple points during the year.	Yellow

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Develop 5-year financial plan – prepare for and implement state and federal funding cuts.	Central Operations Division	Finance staff have worked with Employment and Economic Assistance and Social Services to determine the financial impacts of HR.1 and The Act. Finance has created independent forecasts of the cost impact and have included addressing those ongoing costs in the five-year levy forecast.	Yellow
Excellence in Public Service Responsible Taxes and Sound Stewardship of Resources	Maintain overall facilities rating at fair and plan to return to good based on Facility Condition Index (FCI).	Physical Development Division	Reviewed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects and released funds where available. Shifted available funding to the most critical items to maintain facility conditions. The 2027 – 2031 draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects will be based on available funding to best reflect the 5-year strategic plan to maintain Facility Condition Index of .25 (Fair). Several projects started design during the first quarter. Continue to refine CIP process and project lists for 2027 budget.	Green
Heathy Environment with Quality Natural Resources Energy Efficiency/Sustainability	Complete Byllseby Dam turbines.	Physical Development Division	The functional items of wet commissioning are complete as of 6/12/26 and the facility is commercially operational. Minor programming for the plant control system and punch-list items remain for the project and will be completed over the next few months.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Heathy Environment with Quality Natural Resources Energy Efficiency/Sustainability	Audit current energy and emission processes to determine opportunities.	Physical Development Division	Continued data collection for the three inventories (County operations emissions, County operations reductions and offsets, and countywide reductions and offsets) and performed data entry and reconciliation analysis on building energy data in the B3 benchmarking software. Initiated analysis, trend identification, and reporting on countywide emissions from 2005 to 2022 (last full year of data), using data collected and compiled by the Metropolitan Council. LHB (the consultant performing the inventory) recently let staff know they will need until October to create the draft inventory.	Green
Heathy Environment with Quality Natural Resources Protect and Maintain Natural Resources	Implement new Solid Waste Management Plan.	Physical Development Division	Coordinating with the other metro counties and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the solid waste pre-processing requirement.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Heathy Environment with Quality Natural Resources Protect and Maintain Natural Resources	Implement 2050 Parks System Plan.	Physical Development Division	The next steps of the Vision Plan are moving forward in the form of plan preparations and studies including: - Updates to the Natural Systems Plan - Continued work on park and greenway Natural Resource Management Plans - Staff training - Greenway Guidebook updates - Temporary positions staffing study - Visitor Study implementation through Wilder for TCP - Public Art Framework - Sustainable funding plans for parks	Green
Heathy Environment with Quality Natural Resources Create Access to Opportunities	Update Parks Operational Plans – Natural Systems Plan	Physical Development Division	The Natural Systems Plan update is on schedule and is being done in-house with Dakota County Planning staff. Public engagement is complete. The Dakota County Planning Commission received an update on public engagement and implementation in May and will see a draft plan in July. The Board will review the plan in August to release for public review and comment.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Create Access to Opportunities	Update Parks Operations Plans – Greenways Plan	Physical Development Division	Consultant has been hired and is working with the team on draft goals. Board will receive an update in July on progress.	Green
Thriving People Create Access to Opportunities	Update Parks Operations Plans – Parks Visitor Services Plan	Physical Development Division	On hold until later in the year to allow for adequate staff capacity.	Yellow
Successful Place for Business and Jobs Dependable and modern infrastructure and government systems	Deliver 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects on time and in budget.	Physical Development Division	a. The Wentworth Library has completed construction and held the ribbon-cutting May 6. b. The Recycling Zone Plus held a ground-breaking on April 29, 2026. Construction is underway. c. The Burnhaven Library construction is underway. d. Spring Lake Park improvements continue with the ongoing construction of the Fischer Trailhead. The Mississippi River Access project bids opened in May with construction to start in July 2026.	Green
Thriving People Community Safety, Health and Well-Being	Improve safety at high crash rate locations based on the MN Dept of Transportation (MnDOT) Crash Rate Index.	Physical Development Division	Six safety projects programmed in 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Community Safety, Health and Well-Being	Improve safety for pedestrian and bicyclists based on high and medium priority County Highway Pedestrian and Bicycle Gaps.	Physical Development Division	Sixteen pedestrian and bicycle projects programmed in 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).	Green
Thriving People Create Access to Opportunities	Review Comprehensive Plan requirements and provide direction on scope and extent of plan update.	Physical Development Division	Received direction at March 10 Physical Development Committee meeting. Met with city managers and community development directors to receive an update on their plan update schedules and discussed opportunities to coordinate city/county public engagement.	Green
Thriving People Welcoming and Responsive Services for All People	Identify program and services areas with the highest disparities for study and potential future action. a. Continue and maintain Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance program. b. Prepare for implementation of the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Act.	Physical Development Division and Community Services	A scope has been drafted and work is underway to identify and analyze Dakota County disparity data. a. The federal deadline for digital accessibility requirements was extended to 2027. Work continues including reviewing the website, third-party tools, and training for staff. b. Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) data workgroup is continuing to meet monthly. Actively coordinating with Hennepin and Ramsey counties on data tracking and building Power BI dashboard.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Community Safety, Health and Well-Being	Investigate and pursue health care and access for uninsured or under-insured residents.	Community Services Division	Public Health Healthcare Access workgroup meeting monthly to determine priority activities related to research and discovery of potential healthcare models and partnerships. Have held discussions to discuss possibilities across jurisdictions, i.e. Scott County, as well as with healthcare provider/FQHC, Riverland Community Health. Will further explore and document other community-based services, as well as opportunities with healthcare providers in the metro area.	Green
Thriving People Care for Vulnerable People	Develop more youth placement options and alternatives to placement options (with metro collaboration).	Community Services Division	The subgroups that were identified in the first quarter met throughout the legislative session. Each group established a charter and recommendations to submit to the larger Regional Steering committee. Each subgroup reported out the recommendations, framework and how we would like to move forward given 2027 will be a funding year at the state legislature. We also identified the need to develop talking points/questions to answers that may stem from the Statewide working group the was formed in 2024 as well as the regional work group mainly speaking to the boarding crisis and detention facility pressures with increased mental health concerns. Also spoke about planning for additional lack of bed space with the closure of several well-known Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) in the metro and around the state.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Care for Vulnerable People	Deliver public assistance benefits within State required timelines.	Community Services Division	Timeliness for SNAP and cash programs continue to increase while Medical Assistance (MA) backlogs are holding steady. Work with Clarity Solutions will be completed by the end of the summer and the last work focuses on workflows impacting MA and cash programs. We were able to convert overtime and Greater Minnesota temps to 11 FTEs at no additional cost. We are staggering hiring to align with Greater Minnesota staff positions ending and have hired three people. These staff will work on the METS team with the goal of decreasing the backlog before twice annual renewals begin October 2026. We continue to experience multiple subpoenas and investigations from the federal government that impact staff availability to process applications. We are applying to be one of the pilot counties for the MnBenefits to MAXIS integration layer.	Yellow
Thriving People Care for Vulnerable People	Complete MNChoices Assessment withing State required timelines.	Community Services Division	Community Living Services (CLS) staff continue to implement process efficiencies, utilization of technology, and additional staffing and continue to move the CLS MnCHOICES Intake queue down to 668 with a four month wait time. Over the second quarter, the average volume of new inquiries have been 345/month and the Team has been down 1 FTE with full onboarding of new staff anticipated end of the third quarter.	Green

Board Goal	Initiative	Division or Office	Update	Status
Thriving People Care for Vulnerable People	Review and refine the Housing Business Plan.	Community Services Division	Monthly reports going to County Board with shelter statistics. Quarterly report going to County Board with statistics from all Community Services housing programs. Commissioners visit to Cahill Place in May to review role of Permanent Supportive Housing in the Housing Business Plan.	Green
Thriving People Community Safety, Health and Well-Being	Facilitate development of Community Resources Center(s).	Community Services Division	Launched final governance group, the Steering Committee. Navigator positions were posted, and hiring is underway. Initial data collection agenda complete, tools created, and process finalized. Third quarter Community Resources Centers launch planning is underway.	Green
Thriving People Community Safety, Health and Well-Being	Complete an assessment of healthcare model in jail.	Sheriff's Office and Central Operations Division	Utilizing Enterprise Risk Management, staff analyzed the risks and benefits of the various means of delivering healthcare in the jail. Staff provided an update and suggested course of action for consideration at the March 3 General Government and Policy (GGP) Committee meeting. Analysis of this issue continues and is being led by the Sheriff's Office. More detailed information and options are being developed to be brought forward to the County Board.	Yellow