



# Dakota County

## Physical Development Committee of the Whole

### Minutes

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Tuesday, November 19, 2024

9:00 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings

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#### 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Holberg.

**Present**

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Chairperson Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; Georg Fischer, Physical Development Division Director; Liz Hansen, Administrative Coordinator.

Commissioner Atkins was present via Zoom, but was not part of the voting quorum.  
Commissioner Slavik joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

#### 2. Audience

Commissioner Holberg asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us).

#### 3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

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

Motion: William Droste

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

On a motion by Commissioner Droste, seconded by Commissioner Workman, the agenda was unanimously approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman,  
Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

#### 4. Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On October 22, 2024

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed  
unanimously by those present.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman,  
Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

##### 4.2 Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement With Minnesota Zoological Board To Provide Native Prairie Hay To Feed Zoo Animals

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed  
unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 17-274 (May 9, 2017), Dakota County's Natural  
Resource Management System Plan (NRMSP) calls for increases in acres of  
parkland restored, actively managed, and maintained and expansion of  
partnerships and collaborations to effectively leverage external funding  
resources; and

WHEREAS, to meet these goals, the NRMSP recognized the need to augment  
the County's management tools; and

WHEREAS, the NRMSP directs staff to capitalize on potential revenue streams,  
specifically highlighting the sale of prairie hay (p. 97); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Zoological Board (Zoo) is a Minnesota State board;  
and

WHEREAS, the Zoo, authorized by Minn. Stat. § 471.59, is permitted to enter  
into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo and the County are desirous of entering into this  
Agreement so that the County and the Zoo may share the actual costs for

harvesting and transporting native prairie hay from the County and used by the Zoo; and

WHEREAS, a JPA has been prepared, which includes the following predominant terms: the Zoo will provide reimbursement for prairie hay to the County at the rate of \$210 per ton of native hay received; each year, the Zoo will provide the County with a letter indicating the amount of native hay the Zoo would like to receive from the County; the County makes no guarantees that the entirety of the estimated tonnage will be provided but will in good faith work to meet the amount of hay requested by the Zoo; and

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available within the Parks Natural Resources Capital Improvement Program to mow and gather the clippings into hay bales; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from the sale of the hay will be used to reimburse the Parks Natural Resources Capital Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management Director to execute a joint powers agreement with the Minnesota Zoological Board for the purpose of providing native prairie hay from the County to the Minnesota Zoological Board for animal feed and bedding, from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney's Office.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.3** Authorization To Award Bid And Execute Contract With RES Great Lakes, LLC For Church's Woods Restoration And Enhancement Project

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Management System Plan adopted by Resolution No. 17-274 (May 23, 2017) determined that Parks Natural Resources shall restore Dakota County Parks System's natural areas per each Park Natural Resource Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Lake Park Reserve Natural Resources Management

Plan was adopted by Resolution No. 21-313 (June 22, 2021) and identified high-priority ecological restoration sites within the park; and

WHEREAS, the County Board authorized the submission of a 2022 Minnesota Legislature (ML22) Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grant request to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) by Resolution No. 21-265 (May 18, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the County Board authorized the acceptance of \$6,066,000 in ML22 OHF grant funds with a County match of \$1,175,000 by Resolution No. 22-334 (August 23, 2022); and

WHEREAS, of this, \$910,400 in grant funds and \$145,664 in match funds were allocated for restoration/enhancement activities in Spring Lake Park Reserve, Miesville Ravine Park Reserve, and Lake Byllesby Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposals was prepared and released on October 18th, 2024, for one of multiple project sites that will be restored with the ML22 OHF Grant Funds, which will restore 106 acres of Spring Lake Park Reserve at Church's Woods; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for this project was for initial restoration and enhancement tasks, and the alternates included prescribed burning and canopy gap enhancement throughout the project site; and

WHEREAS, the selected proposal was submitted by RES Great Lakes, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby awards the proposal to and authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a contract with RES Great Lakes, LLC for the Church's Woods Restoration and Enhancement project at Spring Lake Park Reserve, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.4** Authorization To Execute Contract With Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations MN LLC For Residential And Business Electronics Collection And Recycling

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the 2018-2038 Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan (Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, as part of the Master Plan, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners encourages residents and businesses to properly manage hazardous wastes and recyclables; and

WHEREAS, electronics, which can contain lead, cadmium, mercury, and lithium, continue to be the largest hazardous waste stream collected at The Recycling Zone; and

WHEREAS, televisions and monitors are collected for a fee while other electronics are collected from residents at no charge at The Recycling Zone and at one-day household hazardous waste collection events; and

WHEREAS, electronics are collected from businesses at The Recycling Zone for a fee; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County's current electronics recycling vendor contract expires December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County staff issued a request for proposals on August 19, 2024, seeking a vendor to provide for the pickup, transportation, and recycling of 1) residential electronics collected by the County at The Recycling Zone; 2) business electronics collected through the County business collection programs; and 3) electronics collected by the County at household hazardous waste collection events; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County requests services for recycling electronics for a two-year contract term, with a two-year extension option for recycling services; and

WHEREAS, one potential vendor submitted a proposal which was evaluated by staff; and

WHEREAS, Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations MN LLC currently services Dakota County and other county electronics collection sites in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan; has a demonstrated tracking and reporting system; has strict data and facility security practices; and identified the ability to recycle all electronic materials and the capability to manage increasing amounts of electronics; and

WHEREAS, the \$100,000 annual contract cost is included in the household hazardous waste annual budget; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends execution of a contract with Dynamic Lifecycle

Innovations MN LLC for recycling electronic wastes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Environmental Resources Director to execute a contract with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations MN LLC, Inc. for a term from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, with a two-year extension option, subject to the approval of the County Attorney's Office as to form and subject to approval by the County's Risk and Homeland Security Manager.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.5** Authorization And Execution Of Real Property Declaration For Shade Tree Bonding Grant Reimbursement Of Thompson County Park Natural Resource Improvements

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, emerald ash borer (EAB) poses a significant threat to the forests of Dakota County and has resulted in a public safety concern in Thompson County Park; and

WHEREAS, the costs and priorities of ash tree removal within the County Park System were identified in the 2018 internal technical document, The Dakota County Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted the Thompson County Park Natural Resources Management Plan by Resolution No. 20-037 (January 21, 2020), which made recommendations for ash tree removal; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-495 (October 19, 2021), Dakota County executed a grant agreement with the Department of Natural Resources for a total reimbursement of \$42,250 for contracting labor to remove EAB-impacted trees and replace them with alternative tree species; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has matched these grant funds with \$3,650 from the Natural Resources Base Fund for materials and supplies; and

WHEREAS, this grant imposes certain restrictions on the real property improved

with grant funds, such that the improved property may not be sold or significantly altered for 37.5 years; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County may agree to these restrictions on real property by executing the General Obligation Bond Financed Declaration; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorize the Chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners to execute the General Obligation Bond Financed Declaration to reimburse Dakota County for Thompson County Park improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners to execute the General Obligation Bond Financed Declaration, subject to approval by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.6** Authorization To Execute Second Contract Amendment With Schreiber Mullaney Construction Company, Inc., For Crisis And Recovery Center

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, the 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget as amended for the Crisis and Recovery Center project is a total of \$14,100,000; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-380 (August 29, 2023), the County Board approved the original contract with Schreiber Mullaney Construction Company, Inc., in the sum of \$11,516,890; and

WHEREAS, with the original contract authorization, staff was also authorized to execute up to \$250,000 worth of post-award changes; and

WHEREAS, to date, staff executed one contract amendment totaling \$199,728.82 to amend the work scope and to extend the substantial completion date by 15 working days; and

WHEREAS, a second contract amendment is being requested to add

\$363,943.55 and 10 working days for additional work scope changes; and

WHEREAS, the total authorized contract amendments to this contract would then be \$563,672.37 for reimbursement of known construction change orders on the project; and

WHEREAS, the new substantial completion date of the construction contract will be December 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds within the approved project budget for this amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Facilities Management Director to execute a contract amendment with Schreiber Mullaney Construction Company, Inc., 1286 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106, in an amount not to exceed \$363,943.55 and to add ten working days to the schedule, for a maximum contract total not to exceed \$12,080,562.37, subject to approval by the County Attorney's office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.7** Authorization To Accept Funding From State Of Minnesota Legislature-Appropriated Funds For State Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Parks And Trails Tree Planting Grant Program And Amend 2024 Capital Improvement Program

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, the Dakota County allocation of State Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Parks and Trails Tree Planting Program is \$140,153; and

WHEREAS, the tree planting program will support: the Natural Resources Base Funding budget within the Parks Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed appropriation is aligned with County Board approved park and greenway master plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of



Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Division Director, or their designee, to accept State of Minnesota-appropriated grant funds for the reimbursement of costs associated with the planting of trees with more diverse, climate-adapted species in the regional park and trail system within Dakota County Parks' jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorizes staff to amend the 2024 Parks Capital Improvement Program for this funding received through Met Council in State Fiscal Year 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2024 Parks Capital Improvement Program budget is hereby amended as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	
NR Base Program for Tree Planting	<u>\$140,153</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$140,153</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
State Funding - NR Base	<u>\$140,153</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$140,153</b>

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

**4.8** Authorization To Submit Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grant Application And Execute Grant Agreement For Proposed Recycling Zone Plus

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to provide funding to improve local post-consumer materials management programs including municipal recycling and make improvements to local waste management systems; and

WHEREAS, staff proposes to apply for the SWIFR grant and use the funds for a portion of the proposed Dakota and Scott counties regional household hazardous waste and recycling facility, called the Recycling Zone Plus; and

WHEREAS, the grant would meet the following funding requirements: establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection and improve materials management infrastructure, establish, increase, expand, or optimize capacity for materials management, and demonstrate a significant and measurable increase in the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste; and

WHEREAS, this grant request helps meet the Dakota County 2018 - 2038 Solid Waste Management Plan strategy 12.1 to increase opportunities for proper management of problem materials, hazardous waste, and household hazardous waste, strategy 12.3 to provide drop-off opportunities for problem materials and hazardous waste management, and strategy 12.4 to provide consistent and cost-effective household hazardous waste, hazardous waste, and problem management services; and

WHEREAS, the grant application deadline is December 20, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes staff to submit a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency to fund a portion of the Recycling Zone Plus for an amount up to \$5,000,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if the grant is awarded, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Environmental Resources Department Director to execute a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form and the funding will be included in the 2025 Facilities Capital Improvement Program budget.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

#### **4.9 Approval Of 2025 Planning Commission Work Plan**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Commissioner Slavik arrived after the vote. However, the item passed unanimously by those present.

WHEREAS, Dakota County Ordinance No. 118 establishes the powers and duties of the Planning Commission to make recommendations on plans, policies, and programs, as directed by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, County Policy No. 1015 provides direction regarding citizen advisory committees and states that the Planning Commission is required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding the topics they will study or on which they will advise the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has identified topics for 2025, including the preparation of plans for natural resources, parks, greenways, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission's 2025 Work Plan is consistent with County Board projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Planning Commission's 2025 Work Plan as presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on November 19, 2024.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 2

Commissioner Slavik, and Commissioner Atkins

## 5. Regular Agenda

### 5.1 Update On Design Alternatives For Interchange Improvements At County State Aid Highway 50/5 And Interstate 35 In City Of Lakeville, County Project 50-33

Doug Abere, Sr. Project Manager, presented this agenda item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

### 5.2 Approval Of Conceptual Phasing And To Amend Professional Services Contract With ALLiiANCE For Empire Maintenance Facility Redevelopment

Motion: William Droste

Second: Liz Workman

Jay Biedny, Capital Project Manager, presented this item and responded to questions. Erin Laberee, Transportation Director, was in the audience and also spoke about this item.

Commissioners raised concerns about the project's necessity and cost. Staff noted that the new facility would not be needed for another three years, allowing for the potential reuse of existing space. Proceeds from the future sale of the current Farmington and Hastings Transportation Shop sites could also be used to defray the cost of construction. The Transportation Department Director

supports the initiative, recognizing its potential benefits for community and connectivity.

Staff responded to questions related to the current use of the Hastings and Farmington Shops, the need for heated versus unheated storage space, and possible reuse of office space at the Western Service Center should the Transportation Department relocate to Empire.

The discussion ended with an optimistic outlook for Phase One construction in 2027, which would close the Hastings Shop. Phase 2 construction outside of the current five-year planning cycle and would close the Farmington Shop. The potential office addition could be done at the same time as either of those projects or as a stand-alone project. This timeline allows for careful planning and effective resource allocation to ensure the project's successful execution. The Committee was supportive of moving the staff-recommended projects, including Phases 1 and 2 and the Office addition presented as option A, to full schematic design, with the knowledge that these projects would come back to the board for further discussion prior to construction. A potential third Phase, which would create a separate storage space specifically for the Sheriff's Office equipment, was also presented as an option for future consideration.

WHEREAS, Phase One improvements were completed at the Empire Maintenance Facility in 2020, including only half of the proposed South Building; and

WHEREAS, an addition to the South Building was included in the 2024-2028 Building Capital Improvement Program Adopted Budget and funded in 2024; and

WHEREAS, a previously proposed project to develop a new maintenance facility in Hampton was not approved to proceed; and

WHEREAS, Capital Projects Management pledged to the Board to develop and present an alternate to the Hampton facility that would meet its objectives of closing the existing Hastings and Farmington Shops through a phased approach; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department requested to co-locate all department staff to the Empire Maintenance Facility to improve efficiency; and

WHEREAS, this project scope is trying to complete three goals: expand the South Building as previously planned and currently funded, incorporate that construction into a phased approach for maintenance facilities that were to be at Hampton, and explore co-locating all Transportation Department staff at the Empire Maintenance Facility; and

WHEREAS, ALLiiANCE was selected as the consultant firm to provide early

phase design services for this project by Resolution No. 24-147 (March 26, 2024); and

WHEREAS, ALLiiANCE worked with a Core Planning Group to confirm the programmatic needs and develop conceptual phases of construction; and

WHEREAS, three conceptual phases were developed to meet short- and long-term equipment storage and staff needs for the Transportation, Fleet, Facilities Management, and Sheriff's departments at the Empire Maintenance Facility; and

WHEREAS, two additional approaches were developed to meet Transportation Department staff needs to co-locate at the Empire Maintenance Facility; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends moving ahead with design for equipment storage Phase One and Two plus Transportation Department staff Approach A; and

WHEREAS, additional design efforts to confirm a project scope, schedule and budget are necessary; and

WHEREAS, ALLiiANCE has provided a fee proposal to provide full schematic design services for the recommended approach and to increase fees by \$390,000; for a new not to exceed contract value of \$529,050; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds within the project budget to cover this contract increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves proceeding with the recommended conceptual designs as presented and authorizes the Facilities Management Director to execute a contract amendment to the professional services contract with ALLiiANCE, 400 Clifton Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55403 to increase professional design fees for the Empire Maintenance Facility Redevelopment, in an amount not to exceed \$390,000, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/3/2024.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Excused: 1

Commissioner Atkins

**5.3** Review Of Parks Cost Recovery Framework And Discussion On Parks Funding Strategy

Parks Director Niki Geisler presented the current cost recovery model and the challenges in accurately tracking revenue and expenses associated with the parks' operating budget. Staff also discussed the various funding sources for the park's operating budget.

The discussion emphasized the need for improved tools for categorizing cost and recovery rates, currently broadly defined (0-50%, 50-100%, 100%+).

Commissioners emphasized ensuring equitable access to Dakota County parks for all community members. They considered strategies to achieve this goal, such as scholarship programs for low-income families and creating easier access points to park facilities and programs. These initiatives aim to foster inclusivity, ensuring everyone benefits from the parks system.

They also discussed the role of ELF (Environmental Legacy Fund) and the need for better facility utilization data. Commissioners stressed the need for advanced data analysis to monitor revenue streams, identify growth areas, and make legislative changes to improve revenue management efficiency.

Staff were directed to reevaluate the current cost recovery framework to establish narrower goals for specific services, such as 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100%. Staff were also directed to consider all the potential options presented for future park funding, with the exception of park entrance fees. The Committee also directed staff to explore the possibility of a Park Development Fund.

Information only; no action requested.

**5.4** Overview Of Draft Dakota County 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program

Erin Stwora, Deputy Director, presented this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested

**5.5** Discussion To Consider Acquisition Of Wicklund Property In Waterford Township

Al Singer, Real Estate Manager, and Tom Lewanski, Natural Resource Manager, presented this topic and responded to questions. The committee unanimously endorsed the acquisition of land and the organization of special hunting events facilitated by external organizations as effective means of reducing costs. However, several concerns were raised during the discussion.

Key issues included ensuring adequate public access to these areas, the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the acquired properties, and the urgent need for a clear and comprehensive policy regarding access rights and proposed improvements for future County Park Conservation Areas. The committee emphasized that addressing these concerns is crucial for the successful implementation of the initiatives and for maintaining transparency

with the public. Staff intends to better define County Park Conservation Areas and the base level of service for those areas in the pending update to the County Park Vision Plan.

The committee strongly emphasized the necessity of prioritizing the maintenance of current facilities and infrastructure. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that any new project aligns with established budget constraints, considering the significant financial challenges faced by local families.

Staff were directed to move forward with the property acquisition and to research how best to incorporate the hunting issue into the agreements so that it does not create a broad precedent for the future.

Information only; no action requested.

## **6. Physical Development Director's Report**

Georg Fischer, Physical Development Director, provided the Committee with a written Division update.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

Chair, Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Physical Development Committee of the Whole. No Commissioners requested topics for future meetings at this time.

## **8. Adjournment**

### **8.1 Adjournment**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Hansen  
Administrative Coordinator