



Dakota County

Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

9:00 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

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, Assistant County Manager: Physical Development; Liz Hansen, Administrative Coordinator.

Commissioner Halverson arrived at 9:03 a.m.

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.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

Ayes: 6

Excused: 1

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On May 12, 2026

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Joe Atkins

Ayes: 6

Excused: 1

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Update And Direction On Potential Trail Inclusion For County State Aid Highway 54 Expansion In Ravenna Township, County Project 54-011

John Sass, Project Management Supervisor, presented this item and responded to questions.

The County Road 54 expansion project in Ravenna Township aims to improve safety and functionality along the corridor, which has experienced about 200 crashes and four fatalities over the past decade. In December 2025, The Physical Development Committee of the Whole reviewed four potential options and directed staff to pursue the addition of a multi-use trail as part of the project and as an extension of the Mississippi River Greenway to the Goodhue County border.

On April 21, 2026, the County Board received a petition expressing concerns regarding the trail component. Staff provided a recap of the information presented to the Board in December 2025 and responded to each of the issues identified in the petition: property impacts, privacy, fiscal stewardship, and environmental considerations.

The county is completing an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to evaluate environmental impacts and mitigation. Preliminary findings show the full road-and-trail option would affect about 9.9 acres, while a road-only option would affect about 7.1 acres. That document will be available for public review following County Board approval on June 23, 2026.

Several members of the public provided testimony objecting to the trail component of the project

The following members of the public addressed the committee:

- Jan Hovan
- Earle and Jeanne Almquist
- Shane Hudella

After considering the public testimony, the committee rescinded their previous direction and directed staff to pursue the project without the trail component. Staff will remove the trail from the plans and continue to seek external funding for the project, noting that funding may be more difficult to secure without the trail.

Information only; no action requested.

5.2 Update On Safety And Operations At County State Aid Highway 50 And 60 Intersection In City Of Lakeville

Tyler Krage, Traffic Engineer presented this topic and responded to questions. The discussion addressed safety and operational issues at the County Road 50/60 roundabout in Lakeville. Staff presented three options: improving the existing roundabout, building a modified roundabout with bypass lanes, or converting the intersection to a fully signalized system. Staff noted a significant rise in total and serious crashes since 2019, raising doubts about the roundabout's ability to handle current and projected future traffic.

This information will be presented to the Lakeville City Council on July 6, 2026. Staff will return to the Physical Development Committee for further discussion later in July.

Information only; no action requested

5.3 Update And Direction On Recommended Park Ordinance 107 Amendments

Niki Geisler, Parks Director, presented this item and responded to questions. Sergeant Smidt with the Sheriff's Department was also in the audience and responded to questions.

The discussion focused on proposed amendments to Park Ordinance 107, which governs county park use and management. Updated in 2023, the ordinance is being revised to modernize language, improve clarity, and address enforcement challenges. Key proposed changes include replacing "bikeways" with "greenways" to reflect multi-use paths, clarifying when "special use permits" are required, and explicitly allowing county-sponsored, permit-based hunts for wildlife management and habitat protection.

The amendments also update rules for e-bikes, e-motors, golf carts, and other electric power devices to better align with state law, emphasize safety and appropriate locations for use, and reflect how people currently use county parks. The sheriff's office additionally recommended removing the difficult-to-enforce 15-mph speed limit on certain paths. This proposed amendment also aligns with the consensus from the Metropolitan Area Regional Parks implementing agencies.

Staff responded to some clarification questions from the Committee. Staff will schedule a public hearing for the proposed amendments to Park Ordinance 107 in August 2026.

Information only; no action requested.

6. Assistant County Managers' Report

Mr. Fischer provided the committee with a detailed written division report and highlighted an article on the broader economic impact of outdoor recreation in Dakota County. According to the article, outdoor recreational activities and related industries support about 7,500 jobs, add an estimated \$913 million to the local and regional economy, and generate \$1.85 billion in total economic output. These figures highlight the importance of ongoing investment in parks,

trails, and recreational amenities as drivers of employment, business growth, and community well-being.

7. Future Agenda Items

A commissioner proposed scheduling a comprehensive discussion to clarify the respective roles of Dakota County and its cities in addressing the growing use of e-bikes. The commissioner recommended a countywide dialogue to establish shared principles, identify common concerns, and determine whether to request state action in response to rapid technological change, ensuring that e-bike policies remain consistent, forward-looking, and responsive to evolving transportation and recreation needs.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Hansen
Administrative Coordinator