

July 1, 2025

The Grant County Commission met at 8 AM with Commissioners Buttke, Street, Mach, and Stengel present. Chairman Tostenson was absent. Vice-Chairman Stengel called the meeting to order. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Street to approve the June 17, 2025, minutes. Motion carried 4-0. Minutes filed. Motion by Mach and seconded by Street to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

Present from the public were Vince Meyer, Gary Meyer, Lucas Loeschke, Richard and Ginny Schuelke, Clayton and Gail Whiting, John Loeschke, Ann Loeschke, Doug Barlund, Doug Gulley, Tom Pillatzki, Corey Johnson, Amy Sis, and Arlo and Paulette Levisen. Staff members present were Commissioner Assistant Layher, Hwy Supt Peterson, Drainage Officer Berkner, and States Attorney Schwandt.

Public Comment: Vice-Chairman Stengel called for public comment. There were no comments.

Drainage: Vice-Chairman Stengel adjourned the Board of Commissioners and convened the Commission acting as the Drainage Board.

Drainage permits DR2025-11a thru 11k for John Loeschke for property located within the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 11, the NE1/4 of Section 14, and the N1/2 of Section 13, and the S1/2 and NE1/4 of Section 12, located in Vernon West Township.

Vice-Chairman Stengel called for a motion to bring DR2025-11a thru 11k for John Loeschke back to the table for discussion. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Mach to bring back to the table permits DR2025-11a thru 11k. Motion carried 4-0. Stengel reminded the public in attendance their comment period was held on April 15th unless they are asked a question directly.

Drainage Officer Berkner gave an update on the 11 related drainage permits covering 640 acres of tillable land that was tabled in April when multiple downstream landowners voiced their concerns that the project if permitted would cause them undue harm. The motion to table at that meeting was to give the permittee time to complete a professional third-party drainage plan review that would be the responsibility of the permittee.

A month later during the May 20th Drainage Board meeting Berkner said that same motion was amended that required a drainage plan review could only be used for educational purposes, regardless of its outcome, and the cost of the review would be shared equally between the County and the permittee. Berkner said his recent email conversations with ISG, the company providing the drainage plan review, stated they had not completed the report as of the end of June and thought they would have it completed possibly in another 30 days.

Vice-Chairman Stengel asked for comments of whether the report that was motioned to be used only for educational purposes is necessary to vote on granting the permit. Stengel thought the delay in the report was needlessly postponing the drainage board's decision. Stengel explained that the overall design of the 640-acre drainage plan is in his opinion well thought out and is like other combined drainage projects that share a common main and eventually drain much larger areas. Because they are permitted over time, they each easily get permitted.

Comments from Mach, Street and Buttko, concurred the overall design was sound and could reduce some of the downstream flood events that occur. Street added he thought the bigger problem is the need for downstream culvert improvements. Hwy Supt Peterson was asked to comment. He said some of those improvements have already been completed and others are planned. Mach commented there is also a need for the downstream landowners to start working together in keeping the existing runs clean and open. States Attorney Schwandt said those types of requests cannot be conditioned in a county drainage permit but were up to the neighbors to work out on their own.

John Loeschke was asked if the current time delay in whether the drainage design would be permitted is delaying their project. He said the plan is to get the mains installed as soon as possible.

Vice-Chairman Stengel called for a motion to reconsider and amend the original motion which would allow the project to be permitted without the completed drainage plan review. Street responded, saying he thought there was still time to wait for the review. With a lack of a motion to Stengel's request, the motion died.

Changes to Drainage Ordinance: States Attorney Schwandt was asked to comment on the drainage ordinance changes being considered that would make the ordinance compatible with recent changes in state law that took effect which allow drainage permit fees to be as much as \$500, instead of the current \$100 amount. Schwandt said the proposed ordinance change would align with the new state law.

The change would allow the county to set those fees to cover actual expenses for the county and be capped at \$500. Other changes to the drainage ordinance included defining when work begins by the county on processing a permit application.

Commissioner Assistant Layher said the County Commission, also serving as the Drainage Board, has had several chances to review the proposed changes and any ordinance change would take place with two separate Commission meetings for the first and second readings as well as a public hearing. Layher said only after a passing vote by the Commission would any ordinance change take effect 20 days after publication, and only if it was not referred by petition. Motioned by Mach and seconded by Buttke to have the first reading at the July 15th meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Permit DR2025-28 for Gary Meyer for land located within the SE1/4 in Section 4 of Vernon West Township.

Vice-Chairman Stengel called for a motion to approve Drainage Permit DR2025-28 for Gary Meyer. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Street to approve permit DR2025-28.

Berkner reported the drainage project would have one inlet, located adjacent to 481st Ave, with 4 outlets, 1-5" 2-6" and 1-18", that would drain into the same established blue-line waterway. He said the design output for the lateral tile portion of the project would be 90 gpm if installed at a .1% grade with the inlet draining directly into an established drainage ditch. Berkner said it is his opinion that the project's design conforms to questions asked in the county's drainage ordinance.

Vice-Chairman Stengel asked Meyer for any additional comments. Meyer said the underground tile is to keep water away from his feedlot and lagoon. The inlet would only direct water entering his property from the east through a culvert under the road and direct it into the creek instead of causing erosion. Meyer also said his intentions are to fill in the drainage ditch once the inlet and it's 18" tile is installed.

Vice-Chairman Stengel opened the public hearing asking three separate times for comments in favor or against the drainage project. No one responded. Stengel closed the public hearing inviting drainage board discussion. Street said the project was very simple. The inlet near the road emptying directly into the waterway should greatly reduce erosion. Stengel called for the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Permit DR2025-29a thru 29c for Doug Barlund for lands located within the SW1/4, SE1/4 and NE1/4 in Section 13 of Madison Township.

Vice-Chairman Stengel called for a motion to approve drainage permits DR2025-29a, 29b and 29c for Doug Barlund. Motion by Street made and seconded by Buttke to approve permit DR2025-29a thru 29c.

Berkner said the three related permits are for tiling 240 acres with 3 inlets and 3 outlets, 1-5" and 2-12". Berkner said the two outlets would drain into separate blue-line waterways. The combined design capacity of the drainage tile if installed at a .1% grade is 1,660 gpm. The northern two outlets would drain directly into a waterway and the southern outlet would pass under SD Hwy 15 through an existing tile that connects to a 15" tile. Berkner said it is his opinion that the project designs conform to questions asked in the county's drainage ordinance.

Vice-Chairman Stengel asked Barlund if he had any additional comments. Barlund said he had no additional comments. Stengel opened the public hearing asking three separate times for comments in favor or against the drainage projects. No one responded. Stengel closed the public hearing inviting board discussion. Street commented he liked the overall design and the fact that the water being drained went directly into two separate waterways. Mach asked Barlund how close the northernmost inlet would be to the slough it was adjacent to. Barlund said it is outside of the slough's boundaries as required. Stengel called for the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

This concluded the business of the Drainage Board. Vice-Chairman Stengel adjourned the Drainage Board and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

GA Johnson Construction: Corey Johnson of GA Johnson Construction met with the Commission to give an update on the jail project. They are right on schedule and waiting for the precast wall panels to arrive on the week of July 14th. Two more trees will have to be removed. Detention Street will have to be closed for a week to install the sewer pipe. More job site trailers will be brought in for the different contractors. The county will supply additional gravel for the lay down lot and Ronglien's will spread it.

Travel: Commissioner Assistant Layher requested travel approval for Deputy DOE Leddy to attend the SDAAA annual school in Pierre. Motion by Mach and seconded by Street to approve the travel request. Motion carried 4-0.

County Assistance: Discussion of a potential funeral request.

First District: Motion by Street and seconded by Buttke to adopt the following resolution. Motion carried 4-0. Resolution adopted.

2025-06

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE
FIRST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026
(OCTOBER 1, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026)**

The Grant County Board of County Commissioners, having adopted and signed a Joint Cooperative Agreement on the 6th day of April, 1972, creating the First Planning and Development District, Model Rural Development Program, do hereby agree to renew their participation in the Joint Cooperative Agreement for the FISCAL YEAR 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026). To support the Joint Cooperative Agreement and the activities of the District staff, the Grant County Board of County Commissioners will provide \$18,942.42 to the First District Association of Local Governments during the aforementioned FISCAL YEAR 2026 period.

ADOPTION:

Adopted this 1st day of July, 2025
Doug Stengel, Vice-Chair
Grant County Commission

ATTEST:

Kathy Folk
Grant County Auditor

Unfinished Business: The next Lake Region meeting will be held July 17 at Marshall County.

New Business: Vice-Chairman Stengel gave an update from the Big Stone City Council meeting. Big Stone City approved and annexed the Saputo land into Big Stone City.

Correspondence: None

Executive Session: None

Claims: Motion by Buttke and seconded by Street to approve the claims. Motion carried 4-0. AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE, health services 36.60; CENTER POINT, books 849.71; CITY OF MILBANK, water & sewer 591.07; CITY OF WATERTOWN, 911 surcharge 10,404.53; DELORIS RUFER, lib rent 100.00; DEPT OF AG & NATURAL RESOURCES, dues 800.00; CLEAR CHOICE CLEANING, prof services 2,200.00; DR BRYAN JOHNSON, prof services 350.00; FIRST DISTRICT, tech services 1,059.10; G A JOHNSON, prof services 420,670.15; GRAJCZYK LAW OFFICE, court appt atty 3,600.00; GRANT CO EC & DEV BOARD, allocation 9,000.00; GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY, auto equipment 320.10; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, supplies 1.45; JORGE WIETING, repair & maint 953.12; LAW OFFICE OF ALEXANDER SOCIA, court appt atty 255.25; LEWIS FAMILY DRUG, supplies & inmate RX 311.91; MIDCO, lib internet 131.04; MULTI BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, prof services 316.80; NEWMAN SIGNS, supplies 854.29; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, natural gas 111.45; QUICK PRO LUBE, repair & maint 211.98; RELX, online charges 762.00; ROBERTS CO SHERIFF, inmate housing 230.00; SANDRA FONDER, prof services 60.00; SECUR SERV, prof services 130.50; SD PUB ASSURANCE ALLIANCE, insurance 1,801.95; SDAAO, registration 900.00; THOMSEN FAMILY, hotel 1,398.00; TITAN MACHINERY, parts 224.50; VALLEY RENTAL & RECYCLING, allocation 650.00; WHIMSY ON MAIN, supplies 1,000.62; ILOOKABOUT, software 520.00. TOTAL: \$460,806.12.

Payroll for the following departments and offices for the June 27, 2025, payroll are as follows: COMMISSIONERS 8,120.60; AUDITOR 11,858.58; ELECTION 28.69; TREASURER 6,392.08; STATES ATTORNEY 8,016.90; CUSTODIANS 4,202.80; DIR. OF EQUALIZATION 16,210.60; REG. OF DEEDS 5,430.25; VET. SERV. OFFICER 1,402.50; SHERIFF 22,961.41; COMMUNICATION CTR 9,004.48; VISITING NEIGHBOR 1,800.85; LIBRARY 11,325.08; 4-H 4,167.54; WEED CONTROL 2,437.40; P&Z 3,346.55; DRAINAGE 710.65; ROAD & BRIDGE 32,454.63; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2,803.95. TOTAL: \$152,675.54.

Payroll Claims: FIRST BANK & TRUST, Fed WH 9,172.35; FIRST BANK & TRUST, FICA WH & Match 18,428.44; FIRST BANK & TRUST, Medicare WH & Match 4,309.92; ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT, deduction 134.16; MESSERIL/KRAMER PA, deduction 285.94; AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE, AFLAC ins. 1,689.60; RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE DENTAL, ins. 439.70; RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE VISION, ins. 353.56; WELLMARK-BLUE CROSS OF SD, Employee and Commission health ins. 54,098.68; RELIANCE STANDARD BASE, life ins. 389.02; RELIANCE STANDARD

SUPPLEMENTAL, life ins. 153.76; MASA, air ambulance 302.00; COLONIAL LIFE, ins. 27.07; LEGAL SHIELD, deduction 38.85; OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT, child support 2,708.00; SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL, deduction 1,648.33; SDRS, retire 16,097.21. TOTAL: \$110,276.59.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Approve a step increase for Cindy Jungers to step 6 rate of \$19.05 per hour effective 4-28-25.
2. Approve a step increase for Landon Stallman to 6-month rate of \$24.30 per hour effective 6-16-25.
3. Approve list of surplus items as designated at year end 2024 by departments – list on file in Auditor's Office.

2026 Budget: Departments meeting with the Commission for the 2026 budget requests were as follows: Emergency Management: Kevin Schuelke, Weed: Nathan Mueller, Drainage & P & Z: Steve Berkner, Soil Conservation: Amy Sis; Historical Society: Arlo and Paulette Levisen; Community Transit: Kathy Holman and Terry Hoffman, Auditor and Elections: Kathy Folk. The budget hearings with other departments will continue Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

It is the policy of Grant County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the handicapped in employment or the provision of service.

The next scheduled meeting dates will be July 15, and August 5 and 19, 2025 and will be held at the new Grant County Commission room in the courthouse basement at 8 AM. Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

Kathy Folk, Grant County Auditor

Doug Stengel, Vice-Chairman, Grant County Commissioners

July 2, 2025

The Grant County Commission met at 8AM with Commissioners Buttke, Mach, Stengel, and Street present. Commissioner Tostenson was absent. Vice-Chairman Stengel called the meeting to order. Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with department personnel on the 2026 budget requests and review all remaining budgets in preparation of the Provisional Budget.

The Commission heard the 2026 budget requests from the following personnel. Highway: Hwy Supt Daren Peterson; Government Building/Commission/Data Processing: Karen Layher; Register of Deeds: Becky Wellnitz; Director of Equalization: Taylor Stotesbery; Library: Tammy Wollschlager, Treasurer: Karla DeVaal, 4-H: Melissa Mueller, States Attorney, Jackson Schwandt, Health Nurse: Jennifer Meyer, Visiting Neighbor: Marie Loutsch. All remaining budgets were reviewed by the Commission.

It is the policy of Grant County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the handicapped in employment or the provision of service.

The next scheduled meeting dates will be July 15, 2025, and August 5 and 19, 2025 at 8 AM in the basement meeting room. Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

Kathy Folk, Grant County Auditor

Doug Stengel, Vice-Chairman, Grant County Commissioners

