

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: April 21, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Place: Commissioners Room, Courthouse, Caledonia, MN

Members Present: Cindy Wright, Eric Johnson, Kurt Zehnder, Robert Schuldt, and Greg Myhre

Others Present: Interim Auditor/Treasurer Polly Heberlein, Fillmore County Journal Reporter Charlene Selbee, The Caledonia Argus Associate Editor Katia Gorsuch, Finance Director Carol Lapham, Coordinator Brent Parker, EDA Director & Coordinator Support Allison Wagner, Public Health Supervisor Jordan Knoke, Social Services Director Bethany Moen, Financial Assistance Director Karen Kohlmeyer, Engineer Brian Pogodzinski, Environmental Services Director Amelia Meiners, Financial Assistance Fiscal Supervisor Heidi Harms, Assessor Luke Onstad, Lanesboro Area Fisheries Supervisor Melissa Wagner, DNR Stream Habitat Supervisor Dean Paron, Terri Bernhardt, Linda Griggs, Rebecca Christenson, John Haines, Mary Denzer, Donna Buckbee, Robin Yeffe Tschumper, Chris Prjeke, Cory Baker, Jackie Baker, David Winnes, Edward Voight, Karen Voight, Yvonne Krogstad, Vicki Olson, Roberta Schmidt, Scott Halteli, Cindy Crestwell-Hatleli, Steve Hartwick, Bruce Kuehmichel, Liza Eng, Bruce Eng, Deb Hoskins, Joan Redgig, Mary Feye, and Nicole Lehman

Presiding: Chairperson Myhre

Call to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

EDA Director & Coordinator Support Wagner said Engineer Pogodzinski had requested Action Item No. 7 be tabled and removed from the agenda. It would be discussed at a later meeting. Later, Consent Item No. 3 was also removed from the agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the change.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from April 7, 2026.

Wagner said one typo had been corrected in the Workgroup Session minutes from April 14, 2026 as a word had been misspelled. Motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes from the Workgroup Session from April 12, 2026 with the correction.

Public Comment:

John Haines from Houston asked the board to restore the half mile rule between sand mines. He said a compromise had been broken. He said he thought Houston County should put a moratorium on further sand mines. He said the board should look into what had happened near Wabasha recently. Haines said the County needed to preserve the air.

Cynthia Crestwell-Hatleli from Yucatan Township said the State of Minnesota handed down certain issues to be addressed locally. She said the people elected Commissioners to make tough decisions. She said at the April 7th meeting two Commissioners had said they were unaware of some info when they made decisions in 2025, and Hatleli said this was understandable as they were new to the board at the time. She asked the Commissions to revert back to the half mile density rule for sand mines. She said she strongly felt it was the right thing to do. She said restoring the rule would protect the area, trout streams, groundwater, and more. She said the board should approve the request or ask for a 60 day extension to do more research.

Cynthia Crestwell-Hatleli read a public comment on behalf of her husband, Scott Halteli. His statement said he was confused because commercial solar panels were recently not allowed and he thought mines were more unsightly and more permanent than solar panels. Hatleli said many mines looked like they had stood idle for years, and there was no need for more mines especially by other existing mines. He was concerned with clustering mines and negative impacts. He said the County should utilize the current mines they had. He requested the board restore the half mile rule.

Mary Denzer from Yucatan Township said the half mile density rule from 2015 was for all sand mines. She said the one that was most recently adopted separated commercial and industrial sand. She read a letter, questioned the process, and said it was wise to restore the half mile density for all sand mines.

Robin Yeffe Tschumper said more sand mines closer together would result in the County losing a lot of the beauty it had. She said it was important people listened to what their neighbors said. She said people needed to stay open minded. She said the County depended a lot on tourism. She said there were plenty of sand mines in Houston County.

Linda Griggs asked the Commissioners to restore half mile protections. She said removing the rule meant that nothing prevented sand mines from being built side by side. She said once clustering began impacts multiplied. She said density limits were the safeguard to limit this. Griggs said she thought sand mines needed to be regulated via ordinance and not CUPs. She said the rule should be under an ordinance, so it applied equally to everyone. She said 267 residents had signed a petition.

Rebecca Christenson from Yucatan Valley said she was there to voice concerns for their property, neighborhood, and the ecosystem in general. She said she lived down from a proposed mine. She said they had noticed creeping sand coming on their land. She said she feared they

would lose the field for planting. Christenson said the river and creek had attracted many animals including bears. She said trout were highly susceptible to temperature. She was concerned about products used to reduce dust at mines and the effect they would have on wildlife. She said they enjoyed having a quiet restful place to call home. She was afraid more mining activity would make wildlife go away.

Terri Bernhardt from Spring Grove said she was there to tell a cautionary tale. She said her brother lived in Wisconsin where fracking was once banned, but then had been allowed. She said the pounding had scared animals including cows and chickens. She said water was an issue and roads were ruined. She said her brother needed to use machines to clean his water.

Steve Hartwick from Money Creek Township said the 2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan update outlined things to consider when reviewing an amendment in Chapter 5. These items included: The change is consistent with the overall vision of the County, the change does not create an adverse impact on public facilities and services that cannot be mitigated, the change results in development that is inconsistent with or negatively impacts surrounding properties, the change results in consistency between city, township, county, and/or other regional plans, the change is necessary due to an identified or demonstrated need not identified at the time of the Plan being adopted. Hartwick said he did not believe a demonstrated need was met when the rule changed. He said the board had written policy to follow and he hoped the board would do that.

Jackie Baker said her and her husband were applicants for a text amendment on the agenda that day. She said she wanted to ask the board to respectfully restore the half mile density rule. She said her family already lived next to a sand mine. Baker said it took a great deal of time and energy to stand up for something you believe in. She said her daughter who was 12 rode horses and was concerned about how the horse would react to more sand mines. She said people had signed the petition for various reasons. She asked for a reasonable balance and said her amendment request was about thoughtful planning. She said she respectfully asked the Commissioners to support their amendment and reinstate the rule to what it was for over a decade.

APPOINTMENTS

Melissa Wagner, Lanesboro Area Fisheries Supervisor, and Dean Paron, Stream Habitat Supervisor, from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources gave a Houston County Trout Stream Designation presentation to the board. Wagner said the statewide process of Trout Stream Designations typically occurred every five years. The last designations had been done in 2016 as there had been a delay during Covid. The designation process was done to evaluate the management area and identify cold water resources. As a part of the process data was collected to identify springs, water temperature, fish data, and aerial imaging. The goal was to protect cold water resources, define them as what they were, and provide potential active management with funds associated with trout streams. Wagner said that she had heard from some landowners that streams were dry. She said adjustments were made when that was the case. Wagner said they had used information from landowners to make adjustments and that they did not want to manage

trout streams that were dry. Paron said they tried to make the process interactive and adaptive. There were several phases to be interactive during the process. They appreciated being able to present to the Commissioners on the matter. Commissioner Schuldt asked Wagner and Paron if they did personalized site visits, or these determinations had been made mostly from mapping. Wagner said she had not gone to all the properties personally. She had been to some properties and was willing to go to others to look at properties with landowners. Commissioner Schuldt said the more they could get out and physically see the properties the better and that seeing the properties would be helpful. Wagner said water temperature data determined if trout could live in a stream and currently the conditions were “really good” and “continually improving”. Paron said if a property was already considered public waters the change would be minimal. He said if it was changed to public waters there would be more changes. The board thanked Wagner and Paron for attending the meeting and asked for continued communication.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Wright seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda. Approved items are below.

- 1) Change the title and pay band of Bethany Moen from Social Services Supervisor to Social Services Director (D61 step 8) effective March 9th, 2026. This change is due to restructuring and not an open position.
- 2) Change the title and pay band of Karen Kohlmeyer from Financial Assistance Supervisor to Financial Assistance Director (C44 step 8) effective March 9th, 2026. This change is due to restructuring and not an open position.
- 3) This item was removed from the agenda.
- 4) Approve a competitive search for 2 – 1 FTE Child Support Officers.
- 5) Approve a competitive search for a 67-day Social Worker.
- 6) Review and approve payments. Payments are below.

REVIEW LICENSE CENTER PAYMENTS

2026/04/06 AUDITOR WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
US BANK VOYAGER FLEET SYS	2,077.15
	<u>2,077.15</u>
6 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	2,779.34
	<u>4,856.49</u>

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS

2026/04/21 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
ABILITY BUILDING COMMUNITY	2,666.87
ACENTEK	4,353.76
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCAR	8,136.41
BOLTON & MENK INC	4,500.00
CALEDONIA AMBULANCE SERVICE	2,500.00
CALEDONIA/CITY OF	14,050.39
COULEE REGION DOCKS & DECKS LLC	9,988.00
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	4,188.43
ENTERPRISE FM	11,199.61
GREAT LAKES SALT COMPANY	48,494.15
HOUSTON AMBULANCE SERVICE	2,500.00
HOUSTON COUNTY AG SOCIETY	24,000.00
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	18,511.32
HOUSTON COUNTY TREASURER	20,733.13
KELLY PRINTING & SIGNS	3,436.36
KWIK TRIP	6,558.90
MAYO CLINIC	16,161.66
MIENERGY COOPERATIVE	2,444.66
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	6,323.57
MN STATE AUDITOR	10,541.00
MNCCC	14,177.14
QUALITY POWER SOLUTIONS	26,777.56
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNE	38,925.00
RICHARD'S SANITATION LLC	22,918.59
SE MN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	5,000.00
SELCO	50,820.75
SPRING GROVE AMBULANCE SERVICE	2,500.00
WEX BANK	2,371.59
WIEBKE TIRE CO	5,165.90
	<hr/> 389,944.75
62 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	28,320.81
	<hr/> 418,265.56
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	268,197.11
	<hr/> <hr/> 686,462.67

ACTION ITEMS

File No. 1 – Commissioner Zehnder moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve a tax abatement for Bullfrog Properties LLC, (parcel 26.0151.000) in the amount of \$7,210. Assessor Onstad said this was to correct an error.

File No. 2 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to approve the 2025 County Feedlot Officer (CFO) Annual Report and Financial Report and authorizing signature.

File No. 3 – The Commissioners discussed a Text Amendment request to the Zoning Ordinance on mine density standards for Burns & Hansen, P.A. on behalf of Cory and Jackie Baker, Scott Hatleli and Cindy Cresswell-Hatleli, and Rosemary Iversen. Environmental Services Director Meiners said text amendments could be made in two separate ways. The first way that people were most familiar with was when staff took on text amendments and recommended edits. The alternative option was when an applicant made an application for a text amendment. Meiners said when an applicant made a text amendment request, they took on the leg work and County staff facilitated the process. Meiners said in March of 2025 the Commissioners had reviewed a text amendment request by an applicant. Commissioner Wright said the agenda item that was approved in March stated, “Consider approving a G-Cubed text amendment to Zoning Ordinance for sections 27.3 and 27.8.” Wright said full information was listed in the agenda packet, however people might not have realized what the agenda item was about. In the future Wright suggested item descriptions could be clearer. Commissioner Wright said she researched the situation; it certainly appeared that the appropriate notification process was followed in bringing the application forward. It was verified that the public notice was published in the Argus and township officers were sent an official notice through an emailed document attachment as was standard process. However, Commissioner Wright said it couldn’t be certain that the agenda item was clearly understood therefore she proposed that the County approve the text amendment and put the half mile setback back into the ordinance. Commissioner Johnson asked if the definitions of industrial and commercial sand would stay in the zoning ordinance text as they would no longer be used if the latest text amendment would be approved. Environmental Services Director Meiners said the definitions would remain as a part of the ordinance even though there would be a half mile setback requirement for all mines regardless of if the use was industrial or commercial. Commissioner Wright moved, Zehnder seconded, motion carried to four to one to approve a Text Amendment request to the Zoning Ordinance on mine density standards for Burns & Hansen, P.A. on behalf of Cory and Jackie Baker, Scott Hatleli and Cindy Cresswell-Hatleli, and Rosemary Iversen. The half mile setback for sand mines would be put back in place. The Commissioners voted by roll. Commissioners Wright, Zehnder, Schuldt, and Myhre voted yes. Commissioner Johnson voted no. Commissioner Wright added that mining would not be unregulated in the County. She said it still required a CUP in the Ag Protection District and all applications received a special site review. Commissioner Wright said as the County moved forward with broader planning for land use alignment with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, she would also like to have discussions to keep the County consistent.

File No. 4 – Commissioner Johnson moved, Commissioner Schuldt seconded, motion unanimously carried to award project SAP 028-613-013 for the urban paving on CSAH 13 in the

City of Houston, to BKC Construction in the amount of \$2,347,102.33. Four bids were received. Bids are below.

SAP 028-613-013 (#10075363)
 Owner: Houston County, MN
 Solicitor: Houston County, MN
 03/23/2026 10:00 AM CDT

Line Item	Item Code	Item Description	UoM	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	ESTIMATE		BKC Construction LLC		Griffin Construction Co		A-1 Excavating LLC		Alcon Excavating Inc		
							Extension	Unit Price	Extension	Unit Price	Extension	Unit Price	Extension	Unit Price			
1	2103.502	CLEARING	EACH	EACH	3.00	\$500.00	\$7,500.00	\$485.00	\$6,750.00	\$500.00	\$720.00	\$10,080.00	\$444.00	\$6,216.00	\$6,216.00	\$6,216.00	
2	2103.502	GRUBBING	EACH	EACH	18.00	\$400.00	\$7,200.00	\$453.33	\$8,159.94	\$500.00	\$6,300.00	\$220.00	\$3,960.00	\$110.00	\$1,980.00	\$1,980.00	
3	2104.502	REMOVE MAIN HOLE (SANITARY)	EACH	EACH	5.00	\$685.00	\$3,425.00	\$450.00	\$2,250.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$600.00	\$3,000.00	\$600.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
4	2104.502	REMOVE GATE VALVE AND BOX	EACH	EACH	7.00	\$275.00	\$1,925.00	\$350.00	\$2,450.00	\$300.00	\$2,100.00	\$300.00	\$2,100.00	\$240.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00	
5	2104.502	SAW VEE ROBERT	EACH	EACH	4.00	\$550.00	\$2,200.00	\$750.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
6	2104.502	REMOVE MAIN HOLE OR CATCH BASIN	EACH	EACH	10.00	\$750.00	\$7,500.00	\$750.00	\$6,000.00	\$400.00	\$6,400.00	\$600.00	\$6,000.00	\$400.00	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	
7	2104.502	REMOVE CURB AND CUTTER	LF	LF	3,073.00	\$7.00	\$21,511.00	\$3.25	\$9,987.25	\$3.50	\$10,755.50	\$3.00	\$9,219.00	\$3.00	\$9,219.00	\$23,969.40	
8	2104.502	SAWING BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT (FULL DEPTH)	LF	LF	637.00	\$10.50	\$6,688.50	\$3.75	\$2,388.75	\$4.00	\$2,548.00	\$3.00	\$1,911.00	\$2.75	\$1,733.25	\$1,733.25	
9	2104.502	REMOVE SEWER PIPE (SANITARY)	LF	LF	1,790.00	\$7.00	\$12,530.00	\$7.00	\$12,530.00	\$5.00	\$8,975.00	\$5.00	\$8,975.00	\$5.70	\$10,231.50	\$10,231.50	
10	2104.502	REMOVE WATER MAIN	LF	LF	1,413.00	\$9.00	\$12,717.00	\$7.00	\$9,891.00	\$5.00	\$7,065.00	\$7.00	\$9,891.00	\$7.00	\$9,891.00	\$10,617.00	
11	2104.502	REMOVE SEWER PIPE (STORM)	LF	LF	1,482.00	\$15.50	\$22,971.00	\$15.50	\$22,971.00	\$15.00	\$22,230.00	\$14.00	\$20,748.00	\$15.00	\$22,281.00	\$22,281.00	
12	2104.504	REMOVE BITUMINOUS DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	SF	SF	60.00	\$6.00	\$360.00	\$10.00	\$600.00	\$7.50	\$450.00	\$15.00	\$900.00	\$6.50	\$393.00	\$393.00	
13	2104.504	REMOVE BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	SF	SF	16,011.00	\$2.00	\$32,022.00	\$1.11	\$17,772.21	\$2.05	\$32,822.55	\$1.00	\$16,011.00	\$6.75	\$107,768.25	\$107,768.25	
14	2104.504	REMOVE CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	SF	SF	90.00	\$12.50	\$1,125.00	\$26.22	\$2,359.80	\$9.00	\$810.00	\$15.00	\$1,350.00	\$7.50	\$675.00	\$675.00	
15	2104.515	REMOVE CONCRETE WALK	SF	SF	8,738.00	\$2.00	\$17,476.00	\$1.10	\$9,611.80	\$1.50	\$13,107.00	\$1.00	\$8,738.00	\$2.00	\$17,476.00	\$17,476.00	
16	2106.507	EXCAVATION COMMON (P)	CY	CY	4,682.00	\$9.50	\$44,479.00	\$11.21	\$52,485.22	\$23.00	\$107,686.00	\$7.00	\$32,774.00	\$17.00	\$79,598.00	\$79,598.00	
17	2106.507	COMMON EMBANKMENT (CV)	CY	CY	36.00	\$10.00	\$360.00	\$10.00	\$360.00	\$10.00	\$360.00	\$5.00	\$180.00	\$5.00	\$180.00	\$180.00	
18	2112.519	SUBGRADE PREPARATION	RDST	RDST	11.83	\$1,050.00	\$12,390.00	\$1,500.00	\$17,745.00	\$500.00	\$5,915.00	\$500.00	\$5,915.00	\$770.00	\$9,100.00	\$9,100.00	
19	2112.519	SHOULDER PREPARATION	RDST	RDST	5.00	\$800.00	\$4,000.00	\$100.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
20	2123.51	DOOR	HOURL	HOURL	20.00	\$200.00	\$4,000.00	\$200.00	\$4,000.00	\$200.00	\$4,000.00	\$200.00	\$4,000.00	\$200.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
21	2123.51	2.0 CU YD SHOVEL	HOURL	HOURL	20.00	\$900.00	\$18,000.00	\$900.00	\$18,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$900.00	\$18,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	
22	2211.509	AGGREGATE BASE CLASS 5	TON	TON	2,786.00	\$300.00	\$835,800.00	\$16.24	\$45,244.64	\$17.50	\$48,652.50	\$18.00	\$50,148.00	\$26.00	\$72,626.00	\$72,626.00	
23	2211.609	AGGREGATE BASE CLASS 5 MOD	TON	TON	5,774.00	\$75.00	\$433,050.00	\$16.24	\$93,749.76	\$16.00	\$92,384.00	\$16.00	\$92,384.00	\$26.00	\$151,124.00	\$151,124.00	
24	2221.509	SHOULDER BASE AGGREGATE CLASS 5	TON	TON	36.00	\$60.00	\$2,160.00	\$12.00	\$432.00	\$12.00	\$432.00	\$12.00	\$432.00	\$12.00	\$432.00	\$432.00	
25	2303.509	TYPE III 5.5 WEARING COURSE MIXTURE (LC)	TON	TON	4,236.00	\$150.00	\$635,400.00	\$111.90	\$473,770.40	\$123.50	\$522,837.00	\$113.00	\$478,668.00	\$131.00	\$555,918.00	\$555,918.00	
26	2306.609	BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT DENSITY INCENTIVE	TON	TON	4,236.00	\$4.50	\$19,062.00	\$4.50	\$19,062.00	\$4.50	\$19,062.00	\$4.50	\$19,062.00	\$4.50	\$19,062.00	\$19,062.00	
27	2411.601	CONCRETE STEPS	LS	LS	1.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
28	2503.503	12" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS V	LF	LF	401.00	\$73.00	\$29,273.00	\$59.42	\$23,827.42	\$52.80	\$21,172.80	\$75.00	\$30,075.00	\$53.45	\$21,433.45	\$21,433.45	
29	2503.503	12" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS V	LF	LF	67.00	\$94.00	\$6,298.00	\$94.00	\$6,298.00	\$66.00	\$6,342.00	\$94.00	\$6,298.00	\$94.00	\$6,298.00	\$6,298.00	
30	2503.503	12" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS V	LF	LF	320.00	\$84.00	\$26,880.00	\$78.00	\$24,960.00	\$99.50	\$31,840.00	\$75.00	\$24,000.00	\$92.50	\$29,540.00	\$29,540.00	
31	2503.503	24" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS V	LF	LF	410.00	\$115.00	\$47,150.00	\$103.72	\$42,529.20	\$92.55	\$37,956.50	\$104.00	\$42,640.00	\$95.00	\$38,960.00	\$38,960.00	
32	2503.503	30" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS V	LF	LF	400.00	\$155.00	\$62,000.00	\$140.25	\$56,100.00	\$117.50	\$47,000.00	\$126.00	\$50,400.00	\$121.00	\$48,400.00	\$48,400.00	
33	2503.503	36" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006 CLASS III	LF	LF	44.00	\$215.00	\$9,460.00	\$193.92	\$8,532.48	\$179.70	\$7,906.80	\$150.00	\$6,600.00	\$136.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
34	2503.603	WATER MAIN TRUCK SYSTEM	LS	LS	1.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$6,250.00	\$6,250.00	\$9,971.00	\$9,971.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
35	2503.602	CONNECT TO EXISTING SANITARY SEWER	EACH	EACH	6.00	\$1,060.00	\$6,360.00	\$921.55	\$5,529.10	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$900.00	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00	
36	2503.602	CONNECT TO EXISTING SANITARY SEWER (SEAN)	EACH	EACH	1.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$900.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	
37	2503.602	1" X 10' PVC W/VE	EACH	EACH	16.00	\$60.00	\$960.00	\$103.51	\$1,656.16	\$360.00	\$5,760.00	\$300.00	\$4,800.00	\$480.00	\$7,680.00	\$7,680.00	
38	2503.602	CONNECT TO EXISTING STORM SEWER	EACH	EACH	3.00	\$1,390.00	\$4,170.00	\$1,150.00	\$3,450.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
39	2503.603	12" PVC SANITARY SERVICE PIPE	LF	LF	1,628.00	\$74.00	\$120,272.00	\$61.21	\$100,008.00	\$62.85	\$102,524.20	\$52.00	\$84,664.00	\$44.10	\$71,608.20	\$71,608.20	
40	2503.603	12" PVC SANITARY SERVICE PIPE	LF	LF	701.00	\$63.00	\$44,163.00	\$60.87	\$42,669.87	\$59.20	\$41,599.20	\$46.00	\$32,260.00	\$37.25	\$26,112.25	\$26,112.25	
41	2503.604	4" INSULATION	SF	SF	652.00	\$47.00	\$30,644.00	\$44.38	\$28,935.76	\$66.35	\$43,260.20	\$50.00	\$32,600.00	\$50.00	\$32,600.00	\$32,600.00	
42	2504.601	TEMPORARY WATER SERVICE	LS	LS	1.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$20,130.00	\$20,130.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
43	2504.602	ADJUST VALVE BOX - WATER	EACH	EACH	5.00	\$325.00	\$1,625.00	\$269.11	\$1,345.55	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
44	2504.602	VALVE BOX	EACH	EACH	2.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$476.34	\$952.68	\$800.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,200.00	\$950.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00	
45	2504.602	ADJUST CURB BOX	EACH	EACH	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
46	2504.602	CONNECT TO EXISTING WATER MAIN	EACH	EACH	9.00	\$1,785.00	\$16,065.00	\$1,335.10	\$12,015.84	\$1,650.00	\$14,850.00	\$1,500.00	\$17,100.00	\$1,300.00	\$11,700.00	\$11,700.00	
47	2504.602	HYDRANT (7" BURY)	EACH	EACH	2.00	\$7,245.00	\$14,490.00	\$6,140.92	\$12,281.84	\$7,275.00	\$14,550.00	\$10,620.00	\$21,240.00	\$7,900.00	\$15,800.00	\$15,800.00	
48	2504.602	HYDRANT (3" BURY)	EACH	EACH	1.00	\$7,245.00	\$7,245.00	\$6,241.32	\$6,241.32	\$7,335.00	\$7,335.00	\$6,730.00	\$6,730.00	\$6,025.00	\$6,025.00	\$6,025.00	
49	2504.602	HYDRANT (1.5" BURY)	EACH	EACH	3.00	\$7,245.00	\$21,735.00	\$6,442.13	\$19,326.39	\$7,535.00	\$22,605.00	\$6,940.00	\$20,820.00	\$6,265.00	\$18,795.00	\$18,795.00	
60	2504.602	1" COPORATION STOP	EACH	EACH	23.00	\$65.00	\$1,495.00	\$12,766.00	\$233.04	\$5,359.52	\$170.00	\$3,910.00	\$300.00	\$6,900.00	\$170.00	\$5,130.00	\$5,130.00
61	2504.602	4" GATE VALVE AND BOX	EACH	EACH	4.00	\$1,785.00	\$7,140.00	\$2,478.80	\$9,915.20	\$2,888.00	\$11,544.00	\$2,070.00	\$8,280.00	\$2,600.00	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00	
62	2504.602	6" GATE VALVE AND BOX	EACH	EACH	6.00	\$4,120.00	\$24,720.00	\$2,643.79	\$15,862.74	\$3,470.00	\$20,820.00	\$2,540.00	\$15,240.00	\$3,090.00	\$18,540.00	\$18,540.00	
63	2504.602	8" GATE VALVE AND BOX	EACH	EACH	5.00	\$6,910.00	\$34,550.00	\$3,530.63	\$17,663.15	\$4,310.00	\$21,550.00	\$3,410.00	\$17,050.00	\$4,115.00	\$20,775.00	\$20,775.00	
64	2504.602	12" CURB STOP AND BOX	EACH	EACH	23.00	\$725.00	\$16,675.00	\$802.48	\$18,556.96	\$610.00	\$14,030.00	\$375.00	\$8,625.00	\$13,275.00	\$13,275.00	\$13,275.00	
65	2504.602	RECONCILE WATER SERVICE (LSL)	EACH	EACH	5.00	\$3,150.00	\$15,750.00	\$4,699.50	\$23,497.50	\$1,250.00	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$810.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	
66	2504.602	CASTING ASSEMBLY SPECIAL (CURB BOX)	EACH	EACH	3.00	\$260.00</											

Improvement Plan in one document for the County and Strategic Plan for the County. Parker said strategic plans served as a road map for operations. At the next workgroup session the board would begin conversations on the plans and review examples of what other counties had used. It would be a living document that would change.

Commissioner Schuldt said he appreciated all the phone calls, emails, and text messages from residents recently. The Commissioners agreed.

The Commissioners discussed recent and upcoming meetings including an Emergency Communications Board, Airport, Clean Sweep Event, AMC, Bluff Country HRA, Workforce Development, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health, and Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Johnson said that a new group had formed and they were looking into uses for the historic jail. He said they may want a tour of the jail in the future. He said it was good they were interested in it.

Commissioner Wright said she had attended the recent Mayo Clinic Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center sessions in collaboration with Houston County Public Health and Human Services and they had been excellent.

Closing Public Comment:

Mary Denzer thanked the board for their support on the sand mine topic.

Donna Buckbee said thank you all to the board.

Cynthia Crestwell-Hatleli thanked the board for voting the way they did.

John Haines said democracy worked.

Robin Tschumper thanked the board for listening.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Zehnder, seconded by Commissioner Schuldt, motion unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. The next meeting would be a regular meeting on April 28, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____
Greg Myhre, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Brent Parker, Coordinator

**MEMO FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR****Board Presentation Request**

To: Houston County Board of Commissioners

Date: April 20, 2026

Katie Drewitz, Extension Educator, and I will be attending the Board meeting on April 28, 2026. Our goal is to provide an update about agriculture & horticulture programming offered by UMN Extension in the past year. Houston County provides financial support in the Extension Department budget for a 0.5 FTE Extension Educator as well as for an office, including administrative support staff. I look forward to sharing with you at the upcoming meeting.

Thank you.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Lisa Dierks, UMN Extension Regional Director

dierksl@umn.edu 507-254-7178



Extension Programming Update

Agriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources, and
Extension Master Gardeners

Katie Drewitz - Local Extension Educator



Annual Programming

Private Pesticide Applicator Training¹²

- 164 Applicators in Houston County
- License is good for 3 years
- Recertification Options
 - Take home test - Available at County Extension Office
 - Online test
 - In-person workshop - 1 / year in Houston County
 - Zoom workshop
 - Online class



¹³Gardening from the Ground Up & Garden Buzz

- Over 1800 webinar registrations
- 500+ average live viewers
- Houston County participation grows year over year

*Explaining real life products we
find in stores was excellent!
Thank you!!*



Tesmer Farm Safety Day

- All Public, Private and Home schools invited
- 200 - 300 Houston Co. 4th grade students / year
- 50+ Community Volunteers
- 35+ Community Sponsors



¹⁵Youth Tractor Safety

- 10 youth ages 14+ / year
- Required to operate machinery over 20hP on farm / business not owned by parents for youth 14 - 15
- 10 hours online education + 16 hours in person training
- Hands on tractor driving experience



Farm Family of the Year¹⁶

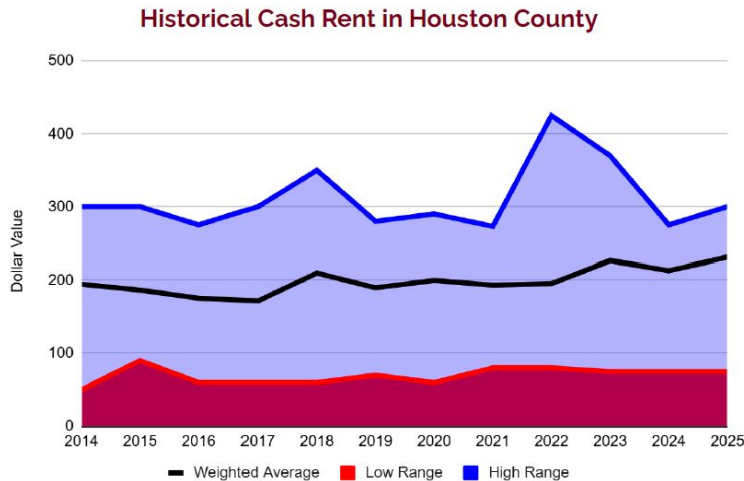
- County Extension Committee selects 1 family / year
- Award presented at FarmFest
- Local Recognition at Houston County Fair

2025 Farm Family of the Year
Lee, Jordan and Rachelle Meyer
Family



Land Rent Survey

- Surveys sent to 400 landowners in Houston County
- Data analyzed and distributed
- County data is rare on a national scale



Results	2025	2026 est.
Average Rent \$/Acre	\$212.22	\$213.17
Weighted Average \$/Acre	\$231.12	\$232.86
Mode (most commonly reported)	\$250	\$250
Range Reported Values \$/Acre	\$75 - \$300	\$75 - \$300
Number of Surveys	41	41
Number of Acres	5,618.06	5,618.06

Houston County Extension Master Gardeners

- **19 Active, 4 Emeritus, 5 Intern** members
- **2025 Impact**
 - **1,865.45** volunteer hours
 - Average per Houston County Volunteer: **98.2**
 - **\$71,185.57** in kind value
 - Required hours: 25
 - **268.73** Continuing education hours
 - Average per Houston County Volunteer: **14.2**
 - Required Hours: 5



Add on Programming

20 Farm Transition Workshop



SAVE THE DATE!

Join University of MN Extension and Community partners for a full day dedicated to farm transition and what you need to know. Open to all farms and generations. Pre registration coming soon!



March 25, 2026
8:30 am - 4:00 p.m.



Mabel Community Center
201 S Main St, Mabel,
MN 55954



\$50 per farm
Includes light breakfast,
lunch and snacks



21 Pruning Workshops



Bluff Country Collaborative





Thank you for your continued support of UMN Extension in Houston County!

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HOUSTON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Historic Courthouse
304 S Marshall Street
Caledonia, MN 55921

Board Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

Date Request Submitted: April 23, 2026

Submitted By (Name and Title): Allison Wagner, Economic Development Director & Coordinator Support

Please fill in item(s) requested for agenda in correct category below. Add numbers as needed.

Appointment Request:

1. 2025 EDA Annual Report Presentation

Consent Agenda Request:

Action Item Request:

Discussion Item:

- 1)

Background/additional information can be typed below and/or included with request:

Note: Please submit all agenda request forms and supporting documentation to the BOC email at **BOC@HoCoMN.gov** by noon the Thursday before each BOC meeting to be included on the agenda. If your department needs a resolution number, please ask for the number ahead of time via the BOC email. Resolutions should be emailed in word format so they can be easily copied and pasted into the meeting minutes. Departments are responsible for scheduling their own public hearings, but please email the BOC to verify a date and time is available prior to advertising the hearing to ensure we do not double book times. Questions regarding agenda requests and board meetings can be sent to the BOC email. Thank you!



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by

Allison Wagner
Houston County Economic Development Director
& Coordinator Support



HoustonCountyMN.com
EDA@HoCoMN.gov



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

A NOTE FROM HOUSTON COUNTY EDA DIRECTOR ALLISON WAGNER

I have always believed that at its core economic development is simply all about connecting people. This is what the Houston County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and our partners do each day. Whether it be connecting a new entrepreneur to a longstanding business leader for mentorship, connecting a business to working capital, helping a community organization to get grant funding to further their mission, bringing together industry partners to brainstorm sustainability ideas, or a variety of other things connecting people is what the EDA does best!

As a result of this connection, in 2025 the Houston County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and our partners experienced significant growth. The EDA not only supported various business development initiatives but also continued to reinforce existing programs such as the Houston County Childcare Initiative, Housing Initiative, and the Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC). The BCC celebrated its 8 year anniversary in 2025, a huge milestone! The BCC collaboration has matured into a robust alliance with local schools, businesses, and organizations across all Houston County School Districts. Additional EDA efforts included promoting Keep Company Co-Working Space, working on the expansion of the Root River Bike/Pedestrian trail, and engaging with the Houston Area Preservation Initiative. These achievements, alongside routine interactions with businesses and support for entrepreneurs, position Houston County as a leader in rural development.

Looking ahead to 2026 one of the EDA's goals is to try to connect people to anything they may need right here in Houston County. The EDA knows Houston County is vibrant with lots of opportunities, local events, resources, and extremely talented and hardworking people. We have a surprising number of businesses throughout the County who do business on a national and global scale! The EDA also understands that sometimes there are misconceptions about small rural communities. Occasionally people do not look for things in Houston County simply because they do not realize that they exist. In 2026 we plan to continue to work to reverse this myth by educating those in the community and surrounding area on all Houston County has to offer. Once people look for what they need in Houston County, they find it!

On behalf of the Houston County EDA, and our many partners we are grateful for your support. We look forward to connecting with you in 2026!

Thank you,

Allison Wagner
Houston County Economic Development Director





Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

EDA OVERVIEW



Mission

The Houston County EDA is dedicated to promoting and developing a healthy business community.

How can we help?

Needing additional loan options?
Looking for options to transition your business to a more sustainable model? Are you wanting to connect to others in the industry? We welcome all inquiries!

County

Nestled in the Driftless region of southeastern Minnesota, Houston County's magnificent landscape, close-knit communities, and hardworking employees have created an economy that honors its history and paves the way for an innovative future. The County's quaint, historic towns and its surrounding farmland are home to Mom & Pop stores and international manufacturing companies alike. Arts and culture, great schools, low cost of living, access to nature, and a wealth of recreational activities make Houston County the ideal place to live, work, play, and raise a family.



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Houston County EDA has a low interest revolving loan fund that can help starting and expanding businesses in Houston County. The funding is used as gap financing. In 2025 our rate and terms were 3.5% for 10 years.



Revolving Loan Fund Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2025):

Total Number of Active Loans: 14

Year End 2025 Cash on Hand Available to Lend: \$192,555.34

Year End 2024 Cash on Hand Available to Lend: \$413,001.24

Outstanding Principal 2025: \$459,084.46

Outstanding Principal 2024: \$348,580.86

Loan Investments in 2025:

Total Loan Investments: \$125,000

Total Dollars Leveraged: \$6,875,000



FEATURED PROJECT



Sno Pac Foods EDA Loan & Tax Abatement

In 2025 the Houston County EDA saw the largest project to date come across our desks. Sno Pac Foods was planning to build a new 7 Million dollar cold storage facility in the County. It would take several partners to help. The best part about the project was that Sno Pac planned to rent much needed cold storage space to other local businesses in Houston County! The project would create four full time jobs with the prospect of growing and hiring additional staff in the future. In addition, the project would add significantly to the tax base.

The Houston County EDA is a proud partner of this project! The EDA assisted Sno Pac in finding businesses interested in utilizing cold storage space to be included in a USDA grant application. Houston County loaned Sno Pac \$125,000 from our Houston County EDA Revolving Loan Fund. Houston County also approved a tax abatement for the project over a 6 year period. Other partners included the USDA who awarded Sno Pac Foods a \$1.7 Million dollar grant, MiEnergy who provided a 1 Million dollar loan, and DEED who assisted with the project.





Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

BLUFF COUNTRY COLLABORATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



About

The Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC), celebrated 8 years of creating work-based learning opportunities for local students in 2025! The effort looks to place students with local business experiential learning activities, creating valuable job experience, exposing them to career opportunities, and developing workforce pipelines for participating businesses.



Partners

BCC partners include Houston County EDA, Fillmore County EDA, area schools including all Houston County School Districts, over 100 businesses, Workforce Development Inc., Perkins Consortium, and Southeast Service Cooperative. To learn more about the BCC see the attached BCC annual report or visit bluffcountrycollaborative.org.

WWW.BLUFFCOUNTRYCOLLABORATIVE.ORG



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



About

The Houston County Childcare Core Team continues to use a \$255,000 ARPA dollar investment by the Houston County Commissioners. The money is being used for training, grants, and to help educate on the need for childcare workers. Partners include Workforce Development Inc., First Children’s Finance, Families First of Minnesota, SMIF, Business of Childcare, and many local core team volunteers.



Houston County Grant

\$38,558.20 in grant dollars to Houston County childcare providers was granted in 2025. We added 16 slots and preserved 16 additional slots with the funding. Examples of grant funded projects were basement egress windows, classroom doors to separate ages at a center, a radon mitigation system, and additional facility repairs. In total, since starting to use the funding, the Houston County Childcare Core Team has helped preserve 137 slots, and helped create 26 new slots with the grant funds.

WWW.HOUSTONCOUNTYMN.COM



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

FARMING INITIATIVE



About

The Houston County farming initiative helps farmers try new things both on and off the farm. The EDA's goal is to get to know farmers, develop plans based on their individual interests and needs, and help them adapt so that they can be successful.



Additional Info

Additional information can be found on the Houston County EDA website under the agriculture section:
houstoncountymn.com/agriculture/



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

AREA PARTNERSHIPS

Houston Area Preservation Initiative

HAPI is a 501c3 organization whose purpose is to preserve historic property for use as community arts, culture, history, and educational areas for residents and visitors alike. Currently restoring and renovating 301 Maple Street in Houston, MN once the home of N. H. Forsyth one of the oldest homes in the City of Houston.



The EDA assisted in applying to State Historical Legacy grant dollars for HAPI that were awarded.

The hope is to have 301 Maple Street in Houston, MN once the home of N. H. Forsyth on the historic registry.



Housing Initiative

The EDA works with Houston County Public Health and many local partners including city leaders, local EDAs, Semcac, Habitat for Humanity, local realtors, and others to study and address housing needs in Houston County. Continuing to establish Houston County Housing Core team.

Houston County allocated housing dollars the County received to Semcac to further their mission.

Semcac is currently disbursing housing program dollars. For more information contact Semcac.org.



Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

AREA PARTNERSHIPS

Keep Company Co-Working Space

Keep Company Co-Working Space, a shared space with professional resources for local businesses continues to operate. Partners include Houston County EDA, The City of La Crescent, La Crescent Chamber, and Lansing Works.



In 2025 the space secured 3 regular clients in addition to daily drop-ins.



In 2026 there is interest of another new regular client who will use the space 5 days per week.



Root River Trail Expansion

The EDA is working to expand the Root River trail system. This was inspired in part by the opening of the Wagon Wheel Trail Bridge in La Crescent, MN a few years ago. Partners include the City of La Crescent, City of Houston, and City of Hokah.

The Committee applied to several grants in 2025.



The group is seeking additional funding in 2026.





2026 GOALS

In addition to the day-to-day work of connecting with businesses and providing assistance to entrepreneurs the EDA plans to continue to grow each of our initiatives along with our partners continuing a theme of connection and collaboration. We also plan to focus on the goals below.

- Keep growing public awareness of the Houston County EDA
- Convene with municipal EDAs & local Chambers
- Implement strategic marketing practices for Houston County and its communities
- Provide support to local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Carry out business retention visits and tours
- Continue to look for grant opportunities
- Host free technical assistance trainings and business workshops
- Continue to work to educate the community and surrounding area on all Houston County has to offer. Encourage residents and visitors to look for their needs in Houston County!





Houston County Economic Development Authority
Houston County, MN

CONTACT US



Phone Number:
507-725-5836



Email Address:
EDA@HoCoMN.gov



Website:
HoustonCountyMN.com



Location:
**304 S. Marshall Street,
Caledonia, MN 55921**

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support in 2025! We look forward to connecting with you in 2026!





HOUSTON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Historic Courthouse
304 S Marshall Street
Caledonia, MN 55921

Board Meeting Date:
Date Request Submitted:
Submitted By (Name and Title):

Please fill in item(s) requested for agenda in correct category below. Add numbers as needed.

Appointment Request:

Consent Agenda Request:

- 1) Hire Jessica Meyer as a 1 FTE Adult Social Worker (C41 – Step 3). With a start date of May 18, 2026.

Action Item Request:

- 1) Approve a competitive search for 1 FTE Environmental Services Technician (Land Use).

Discussion Item:

Background/additional information can be typed below and/or included with request:

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REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS**2026/04/28 COMMISSIONER WARRANTS:**

<u>VENDOR NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
ERICKSON ENGINEERING LLC	3,300.00
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR	5,474.14
LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING LLC	6,939.85
NEWMAN SIGNS INC	2,153.77
RDO EQUIPMENT CO INC	59,437.20
TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC	<u>7,500.00</u>
	84,804.96
18 VENDORS PAID LESS THAN \$2000.00	<u>8,809.25</u>
	93,614.21
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	<u>40,292.78</u>
	<u><u>133,906.99</u></u>