

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD
November 4, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following Park Board members also present: Doug Flaagan, Harley Eidsness, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Flaagan to approve the minutes for the October 21 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Agenda Additions -- None.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Donna Rickford, campground manager, and Bud Pittenger, campground maintenance manager, joined the meeting via the phone to discuss campground business.

Discussion on Stump Lake Campground signs for along Highway 2 that will replace existing signs was revisited.

Moved by Park Board member Eidsness and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve purchasing Stump Lake Campground signs to replace existing signs along Highway 2 in the amount of \$841.88. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Angela Herda, emergency manager, joined the meeting to present a letter to FEMA in regards to the storm shelter at Stump Lake Campground.

Moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve signing the letter to FEMA. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Café and bar business was discussed.

Discussion was had on 2026 seasonal camper contracts and park rules. Discussion was tabled for changes.

Moved by Park Board member Flaagan and seconded by Park Board member Mork to pay the bills as presented: Boote Septic -- \$250.00; Tri-County Water -- \$1,608.00. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Park Board member Eidsness and seconded by Park Board member Mork to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks
Secretary

Cody Johnson
Chairman
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION
November 4, 2025 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson. Roll call was taken and the following members were also present: Commissioners Doug Flaagan, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the minutes from the October 21 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda -- Christmas holiday.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- Mary Kay Schuh joined the meeting to discuss portfolio updates and improvements.

Curt Loe, highway superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge business.

Michelle Linstad, tax director, joined the meeting to discuss tax director business.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the abatements on parcel 15-0001-23273-000. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Traci Trostad, NDSU Extension, joined the meeting to present some options to replace the oven in the community room.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve a budget of \$600 to purchase a new oven for the community room. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The day after Christmas was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to give county employees Friday, Dec. 26 the day off. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The commissioners gave updates on their portfolios.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks
Nelson County Auditor

Cody Johnson
Chairman
Nelson County Commissioners
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD
November 18, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following Park Board members also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Harley Eidsness, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to approve the minutes for the November 4 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Agenda Additions -- None.

Moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Discussion was had on 2026 seasonal camper contracts, golf cart user agreement and park rules.

Moved by Park Board member Flaagan and seconded by Park Board member Haugland to approve the 2026 seasonal camper licenses. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to approve the 2026 golf cart user agreements. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Flaagan to approve purchasing the golf cart stickers in the amount of \$154.10. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Flaagan to pay the bills as presented: Lakota American --

\$147.36; Lakota Hardware -- \$51.48; ND Telephone Co. -- \$461.03; Nodak Electric Cooperative -- \$1,366.00. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Haugland to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks
Secretary

Cody Johnson
Chairman
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION
November 18, 2025 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson. Roll call was taken and the following members were also present: Commissioners Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda -- Water board letter.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented a public comment policy for the commission to review and adopt.

Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve signing and adopting the public comment policy for regular meetings. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Curt Loe, highway superintendent, and Paul Bjornson, KLJ Engineering, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge and engineering business.

Beer and liquor license applications for Rock Creek Golf Course were presented.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the beer and liquor licenses for Rock Creek Golf Course. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Michelle Linstad, tax director, joined the meeting to discuss tax director business.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the abatements on parcels 15-0001-23800-000, 22-0000-06811-500, 22-0000-06812-000 and 22-0000-06812-500. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The Nelson County foreclosure sale was called to order by Nathan Parks, auditor, at 10 a.m. The following are the results of the sale and any unsold properties will be available for sale in the auditor's office for the minimum sale price set by the board of county commissioners.

Parcel Number; Legal Description; Sale Price; High Bidder:
02-0001-11332-600; N 49' of Lots 1 & 2 and the N 49' of the E 18' and all of the W7' of Lot 3 of Block 12 in the Original Townsite of Aneta; \$738.68; unsold.

02-0001-11335-000; Lots 4 & 5 of Block 12 in the Original Townsite of Aneta; \$1,598.89; unsold.

02-0006-11736-000; Part of the SE1/4NE1/4 Exc Part R/W being a strip of land approximately one hundred sixty-four (164) feet in width north and south; \$2,000; Bradley Hillebrand.

13-0000-02797-000; 36-152-61 Lots 1-5 (151.10 A); \$3,200; Nathan Jutila.

15-0001-23569-000; Lots 9 & 10 of Block 30 in the Original Townsite of Lakota; \$6,327.96; unsold.

15-0001-23821-000; Lots 6, 7 & 8 Excluding the N 2' of the E 50' of Lot 8 of Block 42 in the Original Townsite of Lakota; \$10,552.69 unsold.

15-0004-24174-000; W1/2 of Lots 13-16 of Block 5 of the South Addition in Lakota; \$2,050.19; unsold.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to offer all unsold properties back to the cities and townships for \$1. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The Nelson County foreclosure sale was closed.

Kurt Schwind, sheriff, joined the meeting to give an update on sheriff business and K-9 joint powers agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Mork to sign the joint powers agreement with Benson County for K-9 Ares. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented financial statements for October.

Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the financial statements for October. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Bid opening for the 1987 Ford F-150 was held at 10:30 a.m. One bid was received from Dennis Mattren for \$1,500.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to accept the bid for \$1,500 for the 1987 F-150. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The commissioners gave updates on their portfolios.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Ret. System \$136,434.57
Internal Revenue

Service 57,168.71
Creative Planning 591.23

ND Fraternal Order
Police--W. Fargo 135.00

ND Fraternal Order
Police--GF 30.00

Office of Attorney
General-1250 817.00

Towner Co. Auditor 1,176.79
Advanced Business

Solutions 695.27
Amber Fahey 343.20

Angela Herda 299.60
Brueckner Funeral

Services 500.00
Cenex Fleet Fueling 254.66

DocuShred, Inc. 60.21
Farmers Union Oil

Co.--DL 8,016.96
Lakota Municipal

Utilities 996.46
Minn-Kota Comm. 932.00

Nathan Parks 338.20
ND AEA-HYW 100.00

NDSU Ext.--Bismarck ... 180.00
NDSU Ext.--Fargo 70.00

Verizon Wireless 557.90
Butler Machinery 5,395.28
City of Mcville 241.51
City of Michigan 76.05
NAPA--DL 41.98

Don Dvorak Gravel, Inc.
Farmers & Merchants
Bank 3,256.32

General Equipment
& Supplies 3,040.60
Luehring Repair, LLC 119.53

Mac's Hardware 318.34
North Central Int'l, LLC . 240.36

Prairie Pursuits 200.00
Skip's NAPA Auto Parts 826.95

Dakotah Paper Co. 2,918.26
Lucas Christofferson 90.00

Lakota American 156.00
Angela Herda 470.40

D & M Service 132.67
Elite K-9 41.77

Golden Valley Vet 109.00
Hamster Oil 92.54

Information Technology
Dept. 1,284.40
LR Law Enforcement

Center 11,397.84
Lakota Childcare 50.00

Lakota Hardware 70.98
Lakota HS Ag 300.00

Michelle Linstad 5,394.40
Miller Repair 398.26

Nodak Electric Co-op 150.00
Packtrack 140.00

Pharmchem 63.90
Pomp's Tire Service 1,162.36

Premium Waters 222.62
Radisson Hotel--
Bismarck 908.00

The Duke's 16.00
Traci Trostad 263.00

Forks Freightliner 271.16
Gilbertson's 505.84

Gowan Construction 15,422.40
Interstate Battery

System 149.95
Matt Locken 256.00

Milton Skjervem 360.00
ND Dept. of Environ.
Quality 200.00

ND DOT 426.85
ND Telephone Co. 213.64

NDTAP-UGPT1 375.00
Otter Tail Power Co. 710.81

Quill Corporation 103.62
Verizon Connect 181.33

DHS-MMIS 111.85
ND Assn. of Counties ... 8,378.00

ND Co. Commissioners
Assn. 1,725.00
Gen Digital, Inc. 2,976.48

Catalis PWE 928.99
Total \$319,659.13

County General
Net Salary \$75,221.00

Road & Bridge
Net Salary 55,870.27

Human Service
Net Salary & Exp. 71,140.06

Weed Control
Net Salary & Exp. 2,308.60

Total \$204,539.93
Grand Total \$524,199.06

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks
Nelson County Auditor

Cody Johnson
Chairman
Nelson County Commissioners

Did You Know?



Advent calendars are a common sight in many households each December, and some historians believe this unique tradition can be traced to a creative nineteenth century German housewife. Though Britannica notes the precise origins of Advent calendars are still debated, one theory behind the popular tradition suggests a woman in Munich created the Advent calendar as a way for her young and impatient yet excited son to count down the days to December 25. Though details are fuzzy and difficult if not impossible to confirm, this legends suggests the crafty German mother filled 24 different small boxes with a baked treat, allowing her son to open one each day during Advent, the nearly monthlong period of preparation for Christmas that begins on the fourth Sunday before the holiday and ends by Christmas Eve. While this origin story connects Advent calendars with Christianity, and many Christians still make it part of their Christmas celebrations, many modern people with no such affiliation also incorporate the calendars into their holiday season routines.

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How to spot foundation issues at home

Home ownership can be a rewarding endeavor and a good investment over time. But homes require consistent upkeep to ensure a property remains safe, a condition of ownership that renters typically do not need to concern themselves with.

Foundation issues are a component of home ownership that can be easy to forget, as such concerns are not necessarily evident in frequently visited areas of a home. A foundation provides structural integrity for the entire home, so addressing damage is essential. The experts at This Old House indicate that some foundation issues can be relatively easy and inexpensive to address. Other issues may not be so simple, especially if they challenge the structural integrity of a home.

Learning to recognize foundation issues can help homeowners sort through small problems and big ones. But what are signs of foundation problems? Consider these potential issues, as noted by This Old House, Robbie Breaux & Team Real Broker, LLC and Bay Crawl Space Foundation Repair.

• **Cracks in walls:** Cracks appearing in foundation walls, drywall or plaster, especially di-



agonal or stair-step cracks forming near doorways, windows or corners, might be indicative of foundation movement. If a crack has formed in a living space, something is likely moving below since floors are supported from the foundation upward. Cracks thicker than one-quarter of an inch in foundation walls or home walls can be a problem.

• **Sagging porches and stoops:** Notable sagging of porches or stoops can indicate that a house is sinking or changing faster than other areas.

• **Separation between door and window frames and walls:** Gaps can form around windows and doors if the foundation is shifting. The gaps that form can lead to wa-

ter and pest infiltration if left untreated, causing even more issues.

• **Cabinets and countertops separating from walls:** Homeowners who notice considerable space forming between cabinets or countertops and the wall indicate that the frame of the home is out of square. That likely means a foundation is settling or sinking.

• **Squeaky, bouncy or sagging floors:** While these issues in floors may not always result from foundation issues, they often indicate that moisture has invaded the basement or crawl space. That moisture may have gained access through a cracked or compromised foundation.

• **Leaning or cracked chimney:** If a chimney resembles the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it could be a sign of possible foundation issues causing settling or sinking.

Bringing in a professional to assess potential foundation issues is a good idea. While certain foundation problems can be remedied by homeowners themselves, it's best to rule out more serious issues that may require professional expertise before going the DIY route.

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Signs a fireplace needs repair

Fireplaces are most heavily used during winter, when temperatures outside are less inviting and few activities sound more appealing than huddling up indoors around a warm fire. As winter winds down, a season of heavy use can take its toll on a fireplace, making spring an ideal time to inspect these popular features for damage.

The American Heritage Insurance Group notes that neglect of chimneys and fireplaces can pose a range of notable dangers, including increased risk for carbon monoxide poisoning and chimney fires.

Poorly maintained fireplaces also may fail prematurely, which is not insignificant, as a new fireplace can cost thousands of dollars.

With so much to gain from a well-maintained fireplace, homeowners can learn to spot signs suggesting a unit is in need of repair.

• **Insufficiently vented smoke:** Smoke from a fireplace is meant to go up and out of a

home through the chimney. If that's not happening, and smoke is instead entering living spaces, then a fireplace and chimney inspection is in order. When such situations unfold, the chimney may be blocked or a damper may be damaged. Such issues are easily and often affordably resolved.

But smoke coming into a home also might indicate structural damage to the chimney or fireplace, which can be a more costly fix.

• **Foul odors:** Fireplace aficionados tend to love the smoky aroma that emanates from the fixtures while a fire is burning. If that familiar aroma has been overtaken by a foul odor, then there might be a buildup of creosote within the chimney. The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes creosote is a derivative of the distillation of tar from wood or coal. Though creosote is a byproduct of burning wood, if it's allowed to accumulate over time, the risk of chimney fires increases

considerably.

A foul odor coming from the fireplace, particularly when it's not in use, is a sign of excessive creosote buildup, which necessitates immediate remediation.

• **Water damage:** Water damage, which can manifest as rust or dampness around the fireplace or chimney, is another sign a fireplace is in need of repair.

Water damage often indicates that water is getting inside. Sometimes that's due to a faulty chimney cap, which is a simple and affordable repair. Other times it could indicate issues with the masonry, which requires a more costly fix.

• **Diminished warmth:** If cuddling up around the fireplace isn't quite as cozy as it used to be, that drop in warmth could indicate issues with airflow or suggest the buildup of creosote. Diminished warmth around a lit fireplace should be brought to the attention of a fireplace professional immediately.

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Plywood and MDF: What's the difference?

For decades plywood was the go-to inexpensive wood of choice for many home-repair projects. In fact, it was actually the first manufactured wood product available.

Then the term MDF, or medium-density fiberboard, started making its way onto home-improvement shows and among do-it-yourselfers, making it a popular material in recent years. Still, many people do not know the differences between these types of wood products.

Plywood is constructed by gluing several layers of thin wood veneers between two pieces of wood to create a solid sheet. Experts say there is an odd number of veneer layers, and each one is attached at a right angle to the one below to add strength to the plywood.

There may be knots or irregularities in the plywood because it is made of actual slices

of wood. It comes in a variety of strengths, depending on the thickness of the plywood. Thickness can vary by sheet depending on the manufacturer, so each sheet may not be consistent.


MDF is formed with wood fibers or shavings mixed with glue or resin. Under heat or pressure, the MDF is made into a solid material. Because MDF is not made from slices of wood to form veneers, it will not have the traditional graining or knots associated with wood.

This can be an advantage or disadvantage depending on how it is ultimately used. MDF is often easy to cut, drill and manipulate because users will

not have to work around grain or knots. But users should be careful to drill pilot holes before attaching MDF because it can split. Due to machine creation, MDF is generally uniform in thickness, which makes it consistent for many uses. It is important to note that sanding and cutting of MDF can cause the release of formaldehyde. Safety goggles and a mask are a must when using this product.

Plywood is more readily used for walls, ceilings and subfloors because of its strength. MDF is widely relied on for building cabinets, crafts, shelving and trimwork.

-metrocreativeconnection




Lake Region Livestock Inc.
Devils Lake, ND
701-662-2223 | 800-858-7049
Chris Plummer - owner & manager

- **Tues., Dec 16: Feeder Cattle Special**
1,500+ consigned
(last feeder cattle sale of the year)
- **Fri., Dec. 19: Special Bred Cow & Weigh-up Sale**
9:00 a.m. Weigh-ups
12:00 p.m. Bred Cows
• Check Facebook for listing
- **Tues., Jan. 6: Regular & Feeder Cattle Special**
2,000+ consigned

► **REMEMBER. SHOTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

★ *Call ahead if interested in marketing any bred cattle to ensure proper advertising.* ★

For market information, a farm appraisal, to consign livestock or for trucking arrangements call
Chris Plummer @ 701-256-0878
Check out www.lakeregionlivestockinc.com or for current & past sale results.





HOLIDAY
Open House
THURSDAY | DECEMBER 18TH
Join us for refreshments and door prizes to celebrate the Christmas season and thank our members for choosing FCCU!
Plus, be sure to ask about our winter CD rates!



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