

**BADLANDS**

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cludes two cats, Shadow and Oscar, plus a fish.  
 “We were only supposed to have one furry pet at a time,” she said. “But a stray followed my daughter home, and now here we are.” Oscar earned his name because, as Sarah puts it, “he’s the garbage cat.”  
 Her kids are active, too. Slater and Sophia are black belts in taekwondo, run cross country, compete in speech, and keep stats for the track team. Oswald is a brown belt and a budding actor, he’ll appear in a local production of Mary Poppins next month.  
 When she’s not working, Gunkel is happiest outdoors. She grew up with the Sentinel Butte skyline in her backyard and hiked there often.  
 “I love the Badlands, the

flowers, the animals, everything,” she said. “When I see the Badlands, I know I’m home.”  
 She also enjoys baking and gardening, two hobbies that fit neatly into her small-town rhythm.  
 As she settles into her new role, Gunkel is eager to get to know the Underwood community, preferably when the weather cooperates.  
 “I’m looking forward to seeing everything in nicer weather,” she said. “The route I take each month is going to be beautiful soon.”  
 Until then, she’s already becoming part of the team, one spreadsheet, board meeting and friendly introduction at a time.

**Notice Of Leasing State School Lands**

The Board of University and School Lands will Conduct Surface Lease Auctions in the following Counties:  
 Benson Logan Mountrail  
 Divide McHenry Oliver  
 Dunn McIntosh Pierce  
 Eddy McKenzie Rolette  
 Griggs McLean Slope  
 Williams

Auctions will be held in person at location in the County Seat. Refer to the advertisement in the official county newspaper or the public lease auctions schedule posted on the Department of Trust Lands’ website for auction dates, times, locations, & list of tracts offered. Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For more information, visit <https://land.nd.gov> or call (701) 328-2800.

Joseph A. Heringer COMMISSIONER  
 1707 N 9th St | Bismarck ND 58506  
 PHONE: 701-328-2800 | FAX: 701-328-3650 | WEB: <https://land.nd.gov>  
 (Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2026)



**Candidates Sought for County Boards**

McLean County residents interested in being considered for appointments to the following county boards have until March 31, 2026 to submit letters of interest.

A total of 5 positions that are currently vacant on various boards are listed below.

According to County Auditor Beth A. Knutson, to be eligible for consideration for appointment to any of the positions, interested individuals must submit a letter of interest for the position that includes a short background statement. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and in some instances must reside in a specific commission district or geographical area of the county.

**Planning & Zoning Commission:**  
 One three-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/2028. This position is for the Underwood area and is currently vacant.

**McLean County School Reorganization Committee:**  
 One three-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/2028. This position is currently vacant.

**McLean County Special Assessment District Board:**  
 One six-year unexpired term expiring the first commission meeting held in April of 2027.  
 One six-year unexpired term expiring the first commission meeting held in April of 2029.  
 One six-year term expiring the first commission meeting held in April of 2031.

Letters of interest can be mailed or delivered to:  
 By Mail: McLean County Auditor  
 P.O. Box 1108  
 Washburn ND 58577  
 By Email: [baknutson@nd.gov](mailto:baknutson@nd.gov)  
 By Fax: 701-462-3542

On or before 4:30 PM, Tuesday, March 31, 2026.  
 (Mar. 12 & 19, 2026)

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

City of Turtle Lake  
 Turtle Lake, NORTH DAKOTA  
 Street Improvement District No. 2025-1  
 City-Wide Street Replacement, Mill & Overlay, Chipseal and ADA Improvements MOORE PROJECT NO. 22810A

**General Notice**

Owner is requesting Bids for the construction of the project listed above.  
 Bids for the construction of the Project will be received and accepted via electronic bid (vBid) through Quest CDN until April 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. local time. Bids will be viewed and read via video/phone conference at 2:30 p.m. Mailed or hand delivered bids will not be opened or considered. Link for the video/phone conference is provided at [www.mooreengineeringinc.com](http://www.mooreengineeringinc.com) by clicking the Bid Information tab, or at [www.Quest CDN.com](http://www.Quest CDN.com).

The Project includes the following Work: Full depth street replacement, asphalt mill and overlays, chipseal, ADA improvements, and other miscellaneous work.

**Obtaining the Bidding Documents**

Digital project bidding documents will be available at [www.mooreengineeringinc.com](http://www.mooreengineeringinc.com) by clicking the Bid Information tab, or at [www.Quest CDN.com](http://www.Quest CDN.com). You may download the complete set of digital documents for a nonrefundable fee of \$50.00 by locating eBidDoc™ Number 10116291 on the website. Contact Quest CDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or [info@Quest CDN.com](mailto:info@Quest CDN.com) for assistance in membership registration, downloading digital project information, and vBid online bid submittal questions.

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Moore Engineering, Inc.  
 4503 Coleman Street, Suite 105, Bismarck, ND 58503

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder’s bond in a sum equal to 5% of the full amount of the bid executed by the bidder as principal and by a surety, conditioned that if the principal’s bid is accepted and a contract is awarded to the principal, the principal, within ten (10) days after the notice of the award, shall execute a contract in accordance with the terms of the bid and the bid bond, and any conditions of the City of Turtle Lake, as required by law. A countersignature of a bid bond is not required. If the City of Turtle Lake elects to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder, and the lowest responsible bidder does not execute a contract within ten (10) days, the bidder’s bond will be forfeited to the City of Turtle Lake, and the City of Turtle Lake may award the project to the next lowest responsible bidder.

Each bidder must possess a valid North Dakota contractor’s license for the full amount of their bid, as required by N.D.C.C. § 43-07-7. Each bidder MUST enclose a copy of their Contractor’s License or Certificate of Renewal, issued by the North Dakota Secretary of State, and each license must be valid and dated at least 10 days prior to the date set for bid opening, as required under N.D.C.C. § 43-07-12.

No bid may be read or considered if the bid does not fully comply with the requirements of this section and that any deficient bid submitted must be resealed and returned to the bidder immediately.

City of Turtle Lake reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received.

**Instructions to Bidders:**

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Use the following ONLY for equivalency projects which use Clean Water Fund or Drinking Water Fund State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding.

[Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title 40 CFR Part 33— Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the United States Environmental Protection Agency Programs. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this regulation concern utilization of Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women’s Business Enterprises (WBE), and Small Business Enterprises (SBE) and are explained in the specifications.

The goal for MBE is 2% of the total dollar value of the project. The goal for WBE is 3% of the total dollar value of the project. To demonstrate a good faith effort to comply, bidders must include the MBE/WBE subcontractor solicitation form in the bid package.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.

Bidders are required to comply with the Build America, Buy America Act Requirements.]

Include the following language for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) equivalency projects and/or projects with loan forgiveness:

[Bidders are required to comply with BIL signage requirements.]

Use the following language for all DWSRF and CWSRF treatment works projects.

Use the following ONLY for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: City of Turtle Lake

By: Michelle Pickett

Title: Auditor

Date: March 9, 2026

**Two McLean Electric Cooperative Director Seats Up for Election**



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A DIRECTOR?**

This year, the two districts up for election are:

**District 2**, which is a three-year term, includes the townships of Douglas, Blue Hill, Gate, Roseglen, 149-86, 149-85, Saint Mary, 148-86, Blackwater, 147-88, 147-87, 147-86. Clarence Behles currently serves District 2. Clarence Behles is not seeking re-election.

**District 7**, which is a three-year term, includes the townships of Mercer, 146-80, 145-80, 145-84, 145-79, 144-80, 144-81, 144-82, 144-83, 144-84, 143-81, 143-80. Larry Gessele currently serves District 7. Larry Gessele is seeking re-election.

Pick up a petition at the McLean Electric Cooperative headquarters in Garrison and secure 15 signatures of members from within your district. You can start circulating the petition right away, but it must be filed not less than 60 days before the annual meeting. **Petitions for the 2026 director elections must be filed with McLean Electric Cooperative by April 13, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.**

According to the bylaws, any member of McLean Electric Cooperative who is a member of this cooperative as a bona fide resident of the district they represent and is in no way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise can become a candidate for the board of directors. Directors shall be elected by the members at large at the MEC annual meeting on June 16, 2026, in Garrison.

Directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time, and responsibility in reviewing cooperative matters. Directors treat cooperative business as if it were their own. Directors devote a certain amount of time to the cooperative. At a minimum, a director attends each monthly board meeting. Directors learn about the industry as a whole by reading other materials and by attending state and national meetings. An understanding of the industry’s issues is vital. To help directors with their responsibilities, training is offered through the electric cooperative’s statewide organization. Courses cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning, and financial decision-making. Directors currently serving on the cooperative’s board find the duty extremely rewarding.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

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