

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2025

The August meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:00 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Wade Anderson, Jackie Bauerle, Ivy Brye, Lucas Buerkley, David Clough, Connie Czech, Donna Edinger, Anne Ehni, Lydia Gessele, Carrie Krause, Wells McGiffert, Jana Mogren, Leann Schafer, Annette Sprague, Paul White, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

SB (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the July Annual Equalization Meeting that was continued from June. Unanimously carried.

BM (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the July Meeting. Unanimously carried.

SB (M), BL (S) to approve the minutes from the special meeting held July 29th. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

DM (M), BM (S) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds. BL (M), SB (S) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried.

SB (M), BM (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's and investments on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence from NDRIN regarding the Document Preservation Fund, the 2025 Pronghorn Bow & Gun Proclamation, and a letter from Kristen Hasbargen regarding HSZ funding was shared. Lastly, Wold Engineering reached out to let the Commission know they would be hosting a social at NDACo Sunday evening, October 26th, in Bismarck.

Commission Portfolios were discussed.

Under the new Public Comments portion of the meeting, no individuals were signed up to address the Commission.

Anne Ehni from the WC Soil Conservation District addressed the Commission. Ehni spoke about their budget remaining the same this year and personnel changes and challenges. Water assessments are ongoing in the Sheyenne River basin and the organization is planning a stakeholders meeting in the near future to address those water quality assessments and what, if anything, could ultimately be done to improve the Harvey Dam site as a recreational facility. Ehni also stated this year marks the 30 consecutive years of district tree planting in WC.

Wade Anderson and Leann Schafer from the WC Fair Board met with the Commission to discuss matters of the annual WC Fair. Anderson discussed the finances of the Board and then proceeded to put a wrap on the '25 WC Fair. Anderson also shared some of the upgrades to the fairgrounds. Schafer shared the successes of the '25 Fair as well as the challenges faced due to the heavy rainfall.

David Clough and Connie Czech sat down with the Commission to talk about their work with the WC Historical Society. Clough discussed activities put on by the Historical Society and projects

both completed and ongoing. The Emrick School, Pony Gulch School, Hurds Roundhouse are some of the areas managed by the organization and receiving some upgrades. The horse barn on the fairgrounds was discussed as it is likely in disrepair and needs to be razed. The Historical Society would like to create a scaled version of the barn and construct that near their other buildings on the fairgrounds. Czech discussed the current finances of the organization as well as some of the history.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller discussed the state shed and the recently expired lease on the building. A new lease has not been issued by the state as they have certain stipulations they would like addressed on the grounds. Keller also discussed personnel and the challenges of hiring in the Dept. Keller also shared info on upcoming road projects, and specifically addressed some bridge deck and approach work in the Bremen area.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering sat down with the Commission and talked about the Flexible Transportation Fund Program and prioritizing WC's needs for submission by/before August 19th. It is the consensus of the Commission to follow Wold's recommended priority list presented. Mayfield also discussed potential mill and overlay projects on WC #1 and Old 52, as well as a road realignment north and east of Fessenden to possibly eliminate a bridge. It is the consensus of the Commission to commit 25% towards Old 52 and to have the project bid ready, and 20% towards WC #1, with no preliminary engineering performed.

Bryan Tykwinski of KLJ Engineering addressed the Commission with updates on the bridge on WC #1. Hydraulic studies have been completed. A single span 87' bridge would be more desirable than a double span. It is the consensus of the Commission to accept the engineer's recommendation for this bridge replacement scheduled for 2026.

Paul White, Wells McGiffert, and Lucas Buerkley of PRC Wind attended the Commission meeting to share updates regarding the status of the Flickertail Wind Project in Eddy and Wells Counties. White shared communication efforts with applicable patrons and distributed and discussed an adjusted map of the project in WC. This continues to be a work in progress, and another public forum in the area is planned in the near future. McGiffert took a few questions from the Commissioners.

WC patron Lydia Gessele was scheduled to address the Commission regarding the county's budget. Gessele instead discussed the US Constitution and states laws that are allegedly in conflict with the Constitution. Gessele submitted multiple exhibits requesting they be entered in the record.

The Commission needs to select a delegate for the NDACo Convention in late October. The consensus of the Commission was to appoint Brian Miller for the role.

The Commission considered the Purdue Pharma L.P. bankruptcy plan. The Commission needs to respond to the plan to remain eligible for opioid settlement dollars. SB (M), BM (S) to approve the plan as submitted. Unanimously carried.

The Commission was asked to consider a new breastfeeding support policy (*Policy 713*) presented to be eligible for a grant for the purpose of providing a private area in the courthouse for this activity. BL (M), DM (S) to approve the Policy 713 as presented. Unanimously carried.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien presented the '26 WC Budget for consideration of the Commission and reviewed both the proposed WC levies and the levy limitations in ND. SB (M), DM (S) to

approve the preliminary budget as presented by Stutlien. Unanimously carried. WC will hold their public hearing on the budget Tuesday, October 7th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building in conjunction with the October meeting of the WC Commission.

The WC Commission was asked to establish the deadline for the mandatory mowing of ditches in the fall. SB (M), DM (S) to approve October 15th as the 2025 deadline. Unanimously carried. Stutlien will advertise this date in late September and early October.

WC DEM Tammy Roehrich presented the revised Model D Ordinance for floodplain management in WC. BM (M), SB (S) to approve the ordinance as presented, which goes into effect November 14th. Unanimously carried.

The Commission has long discussed moving forward with making the WC Recorder an appointed position following the current term of Carrie Krause, WC Recorder, which expires 12/31/26. SB (M), DM (S) to approve proceeding with the process. Unanimously carried. The Auditor will advertise as necessary and the Commission will hold a public hearing regarding this matter Thursday, September 4th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building in conjunction with the September meeting of the WC Commission.

The Commission then discussed the VSO Amy Dale's request for compensation for attending mandatory training conferences for VSO's. BL (M), BM (S) to approve \$1,200 for 2025's fall conferences to be paid out over the five remaining pay periods of 2025. Motion approved 3-2.

The next Departments Meeting will be held Thursday, August 21st, at 2:00 PM in the KTL Building.

The next regular meeting of the WCD Commission will be held Thursday, September 4th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9th, in Emmons Co. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$ 220.00
Recorder	\$ 3,987.40
Sheriff	\$ 1,105.00
Misc.	\$ 42,082.05

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (*Gross wages, when listed*)

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$ 100,831.91
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$ 50,930.26
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$ 1,308.55
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$ 3,194.47
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$ 62,000.46
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$ 56,961.62
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$ 32,741.95

25-Aug General

Wells County Treasurer	\$25.24 Central Supplies
ND Envelope Company	\$875.25 Central Supplies
Pitney Bowes Bank Inc. Reserve Account	\$10,000.00 Postage
Pitney Bowes	\$114.75 Postage Meter Supplies

Wells County Treasurer	\$384.75 Telephone
NDTC	\$678.73 Telephone
Fessenden City	\$437.75 Countywide Utilities
Central City H20+	\$189.00 Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,236.29 Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$386.50 Bank Charges
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$40.75 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
TK Elevator	\$36,291.42 Elevator
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$43.98 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$182.55 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$461.76 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Herald Press	\$114.84 Legal Publications
Foster County Independent	\$35.00 Legal Publications
ITD	\$1,655.05 Technology
NDTC	\$100.79 Technology
Idemia Identity & Security	\$1,428.00 Technology
Wells County Treasurer	\$581.95 Countywide Misc.
NDACS	\$50.00 Supt. Dues
ND State Treasurer	\$175.00 Marriage Licenses
Jana Mogren	\$330.40 Travel/Mileage
ND State Radio	\$120.00 Maintenance - State Radio
Wells County Treasurer	\$769.12 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Faye Schimelfenig	\$50.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$747.99 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$67.52 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$176.00 Uniforms
Guardian Fleet Safety	\$394.95 Vehicles
Wells County Treasurer	\$113.83 Telephone
NDTC	\$61.88 Telephone
Tammy Roehrich	\$187.60 Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$53.99 Utilities
Fessenden City	\$321.81 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,803.05 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
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	\$60,687.49

HB 1066

KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$9,547.85 HB 1066-Engineering
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911

ND State Radio	\$20,096.62 Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
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Jail & Transp.

HACTC	\$104.93 Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	\$5,985.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$6,089.93

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$600.00 Copier Lease & Maint.
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NDTC
Connie Loen
Otter Tail
NDSU-Ag Budget Office

\$123.58 Telephone
\$103.60 Travel/Mileage
\$51.42 Utilities
\$575.14 Share of County Agent

\$1,453.74

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
Wells County Treasurer
Alicia Lamm
Wells County Treasurer
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
Opdahl Body Shop
Lonetree Estates LLC
James River Transit
Transcript Publishing
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
Opdahl Body Shop
Wells County Treasurer
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford
Little Mart
Patriot Fuels
Bessette Motors, Inc.
Little Mart
Patriot Fuels
Foster County Independent
Wells County Treasurer
Advanced Business Methods
4th Corporation
Leaf
Wells County Treasurer
Dakota Central
NDTC
NDACo Resources Group
Central City H2O+
Wright Funeral Home & Cremation
ITD
NDACo Resources Group
Wells County Treasurer

\$153.73 Fuel/Foster Care
\$26.64 Fuel/Foster Care
\$109.63 Meals/Foster Care
\$12.47 Meals/Foster Care
\$39.54 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
\$20.00 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
\$410.80 Vehicles
\$750.00 Child Protect./Safety Perm.
\$42.50 Child Protect./Safety Perm.
\$280.00 Advertising
\$39.94 Family Social Worker/Fuel
\$410.80 Vehicles
\$17.50 Meals/Foster Care
\$193.20 In Home Care/Fuel
\$13.81 In Home Care/Fuel
\$38.20 In Home Care/Fuel
\$230.80 In Home Care/Fuel
\$78.43 Vehicles
\$14.99 Vehicles
\$10.00 Vehicles
\$280.00 Zone Admin Support/Advert.
\$262.60 Contracted Services
\$251.85 Contracted Services
\$140.00 Contracted Services
\$312.00 Contracted Services
\$579.48 Telephone
\$170.69 Telephone
\$568.46 Telephone
\$2,389.06 Technology
\$13.50 Zone Admin Support/Misc
\$3,500.00 BA Burial Account
\$104.26 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
\$1,020.00 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
\$30.98 Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials

\$12,515.86

Weed Control

Donna Rau
Steve Eckart

\$220.87 Salary - Employee
\$520.00 Chemical Spraying

\$740.87

Hwy Tax

Mid-Dakota Lumber	\$1,274.01 Building Upkeep
NDDOT	\$600.56 Bridge Inspection
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$7,661.80 Fuel
Harvey Oil Co.	\$5,819.09 Fuel
Gooseneck Implement	\$1,894.27 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$15.58 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Harvey	\$27.54 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
High Plains Equipment	\$490.45 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$204.05 Supplies
General Trading	\$438.77 Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$130.95 Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$149.74 Supplies
Newman Traffic Signs	\$292.32 Supplies
Menards-Minot	\$24.97 Supplies
NDTC	\$145.18 Telephone
Fessenden City	\$152.65 Utilities
Otter Tail	\$357.93 Utilities
Sykeston City	\$49.00 Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$73.83 Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$172.26 Utilities
Harvey City	\$94.20 Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$30.00 Misc.-to correct error
Western Dakota Energy Association	\$500.00 Truck Permit Dues
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	\$20,599.15

Preservation

Wells County Treasurer	\$145.00 Dues/Registration Fees
Underground Vaults & Storage	\$308.40 Scanning Documents Lease
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	\$453.40

24-7

Wells County Treasurer	\$1,247.19 Sweat Patch Analysis
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	\$53.03 Screenings
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	\$1,300.22

Co. Agency

ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$4.95 Office Supplies
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\$133,490.08



Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor