

Forman, North Dakota
September 1, 2026

The Sargent County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Commissioners present were Wade Anderson, Scott Johnson, Lyle Bopp, Jason Arth, and Chairman Jerry Waswick. Also present were Tia Bopp, Auditor; Tim Faber, Road Supervisor; BJ Kratz, SE Fishery Supervisor with the ND Game and Fish; David Hassebroek, Ron Stoddard and Richard Ruch.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Waswick. Waswick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda with additions. (Johnson/Bopp). Motion carried.

Introductions of those in attendance was done.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 18, 2026. (Arth/Anderson). Motion carried.

BJ Kratz from the ND Game and Fish was present to talk about a project he is proposing at Kraft Lake. One of the issues for the lake is access in winter months. There is a desire to develop more access to the south portion of the lake where people drive on the lake in the winter months. The issue is more about exiting the lake. Federal allies are in favor as long as no one is on the Waterfowl Production Area. Kratz would like to fortify the existing approach off of County Road 2, lay rock base over the existing run, then do an overlay with gravel/small rock. This would be approximately 14' wide by 230' long. Studies show one month alone there were over 600 trips to the lake. Material needed for the project includes 60 yards of fill, 40 yards of base material and 40 yards of gravel. Kratz is looking for assistance from the county for the material and the transportation of the material to the site. The North Dakota Game Fish would be willing to do the work. Faber stated the county has the clay and the gravel in the yard. Faber further stated he would suggest the NDGF buy the rock. Ron Stoddard spoke in favor of further developing the lake, particularly the southwest corner for people to access and exit the lake. Hassebroek asked if Kratz thought they would need 5-6 inch diameter rock. Arth questioned Faber how many yards they could get in the truck. A round trip to the lake and back is approximately 32 miles. 14 loads of material would be needed. Arth estimated less than \$1000.00 in fuel. Faber indicated he could do it himself over a couple days. There is approximately \$717.00 left in the Kraft Lake project fund. Arth made a motion to move forward with this project in conjunction with ND Game and Fish. The county will haul the material and provide the fill and gravel with the Game and Fish providing the rock. The Game and Fish will provide a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the same. The county portion will be offset by the Kraft Lake funds available. (Arth/Anderson). Discussion was held with Kratz suggesting a sign be put up letting people know who is supporting the project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Kratz, Hassebroek and Stoddard left the meeting at 9:26 a.m. and Joe Gregor and Jacy Bopp representing the Sargent County Fair Board arrived.

Tim Faber, Road Supervisor, asked the Commission for permission to rent a large tree grinder at a rate \$10,000.00 per month to do work for the county and the waterboard. The waterboard will cover the cost of the rent. Faber indicated if he did 40 hours at \$250.00/hr. for the waterboard that would be the rental fee of \$10,000. Faber plans on doing two weeks of waterboard work and two weeks of county work. Motion to rent a tree grinder for one month out of the equipment rental line item and any money reimbursed will be put back into the equipment rental line item. (Arth/Anderson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. It was mentioned that trees are over hanging in the gulch and should be cut back for visibility. Faber left the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Gregor and Bopp provided a recap of the 2026 Sargent County Fair. The Fair was awarded a resiliency grant and with those grant funds, bathrooms were brought up to ADA compliance in the exhibit building. This also included the construction of a new storage room which is bigger and will be able to store tables and chairs along with other equipment and supplies. Additional power has also been brought into the exhibit building. In regards to the fair event itself, attendance was impacted by the extreme heat but overall was an average fair. The demolition derby car counts were consistent with other years; however, the rodeo contestants were up this year resulting in a slack performance which wasn't needed in other years. The goat barn was over flowing this year with exhibits. In the cattle barn stanchions were put between animals since the cattle are required to be tied. Additional exhaust fans were put in the barns to help facilitate air movement. A new table was purchased for the poultry and rabbit exhibitors to use for their shows. Additional speakers have also been purchased. As more grant funds become available, the intent is to purchase grand stand speakers. There is more grant money to spend, however the board needs to wait for reimbursement funds to come in before proceeding with spending more. Upcoming events include an exotic animal sale in September followed by a wedding

reception the end of September. The Commission thanked Gregor and Bopp for coming in prior to their leaving at 9:40 a.m.

Lars Dyrdaahl arrived at the meeting to talk about his land in Section 6, Verner Township. Dyrdaahl reported that Sparky Engquist called him a few years back and said we have a problem on County Road 1 and we need to put a bigger culvert in which Dyrdaahl agreed to. Dyrdaahl is stating that since the culvert has been installed, there is more sediment on his land. He feels like he was being a good person to allow the culvert to be installed; however, he is requesting a scrape or a cleanout as less of his acres are able to be farmed. Dyrdaahl further stated since 2020 his cash rent has been reduced. Arth stated based on what the maps show from prior to the culvert being installed to now, there was more water on his property then versus now. Dyrdaahl stated he knows there is a problem now and he is looking for some help. Arth stated Damon DeVillers, of Interstate Engineering should be able to tell if the silt that is there is related to the installation of the culvert. Arth stated if Dyrdaahl is willing to cover the engineering costs if it is determined to be not a county issue, then the county could have DeVillers take a look at the matter; however, in the past the county incurred engineering expenses for situations where it was determined the county was not at fault and then were still left with an engineering bill to pay. Dyrdaahl reported he had been in discussions with Eric Wilson from the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. Wilson is in favor of removing the sediment. Dyrdaahl questioned if he had it cleaned out, would the county help pay for it. Arth stated he would like to have the engineer look at it before deciding. The next step the county is going to take is to ask Damon DeVillers what it would cost to have him look at the issue. Dyrdaahl isn't in favor of spending money on an engineer's opinion. Waswick stated Sparky didn't need to request Dyrdaahl's permission to install the culvert in the first place. Dyrdaahl left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Further discussion on Township zoning was held. Anderson wasn't able to find out anything in regard to zoning in his township. Waswick wants State's Attorney Pfau to review McIntosh County AI ordinances. Once Pfau's opinion is received the Commission can determine if they want to send the matter to the planning committee.

A heating and cooling quote for Social Services was reviewed and discussed. Johnson indicated Triton/Grotberg put in the initial mini splits. Arth told Weaving to also contact Crossroads Electric. Arth will be looking to get quotes through Triton and have the same brands quoted. After the meeting Waswick and Arth will look at the lighting which was also a concern.

Budgets were discussed and further budget work will be continued at the next meeting on September 15th.

Motion to pay the bills presented. (Anderson/Johnson). Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Lake Agassiz Water Authority request for funding for next year was discussed as well as the conversation held at the latest five county meeting. Motion to remove the \$1955 for administration fees for the LAWA from the 2027 budget. (Anderson/Arth). Discussion was held. Voting in favor was Anderson. Voting against were Arth, Johnson, Bopp and Waswick. Motion failed.

Dates to remember were reviewed. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

JERRY WASWICK, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TIA BOPP –AUDITOR