

Take steps to manage storm damage to irrigation systems

Storms and high winds pose a serious threat to irrigation systems, often resulting in costly damage. Taking informed action can minimize irrigation system downtime and avoid future irrigation delays, according to Laxmi Prasad, North Dakota State University Extension water engineer.

Center pivot irrigation systems are particularly susceptible to a variety of storm-related damages. High winds can flip over an irrigation machine or cause structural collapse on wet or uneven ground. Wind forces may cause towers to become misaligned, leading to drive-train strain or gear failure.

Prasad warns that electrical components such as control panels and wiring are at risk from lightning strikes and water intrusion.

“Anchors and foundations may shift or fail in softened ground, undermining the system’s stability,” says Prasad.

Airborne debris during high winds, such as tree limbs and sheet metal, can also damage parts of a center pivot, leading to further mechanical issues.

Examining these potential failures is essential for post-storm inspection and effective recovery.

Safety is always the top priority while examining a storm-damaged center

pivot system. Immediately disconnect power to the system and ensure proper grounding. Avoid contact with any part of the system if electrical hazards are suspected, and immediately contact a licensed electrician for advice.

“Also, watch for downed power lines, and be cautious around areas with high water pressure or chemical injection systems,” says Prasad.

Once safety is secured, assess and document the damage. Take clear photos and videos from multiple angles before starting any repairs. Review your farm insurance policies to understand what is cov-

ered, and promptly contact your insurance agent to begin the claims process.

Begin necessary emergency repairs to prevent further damage, such as securing loose components of the center pivot. For more complex issues, consult your irrigation supplier or service expert. Do not forget to check the grounding of electrical components to prevent hazards. Keep records of all repair-related expenses.

For more information about dealing with damage from summer storms, visit ndsu.ag/summer-storms25.



Dickey County Commission Minutes June 3, 2025 and June 10, 2025

Commissioner Meeting June 3, 2025

Chair Brandon Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Commissioners John Hokana, Jerry Walsh, Kacey Holm, and Marke Roberts were also present. Auditor Sheppard was also present. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also in attendance via electronic means were States Attorney Kim Radermacher, Dickey County Sheriff’s office, and resident Cindy Bagley.

Additions to the Agenda

- Pheasant Lake Park mowing
- Selling of property
- Floodplain ordinance
- Blading of roads during rainy times

Clerk of Court Andi Schimke joined the meeting via electronic means and Ottertail Power Company Kris Koch joined in person at 9:10.

Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes from May 20th as amended. Hokana seconded. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented two additional vouchers to be added to the list, one to L&O Acres in the amount of \$2,631.50 and one to Central Valley Health District in the amount of \$295.00. Roberts made a motion to approve the vouchers, including the two additional vouchers. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Kedish House Director Kristi Gilbert joined the meeting via electronic means at 9:27

Discussion followed concerning the selling of the county property at Pheasant Lake that is currently not mowed. The Commission stated the land is not a good investment for the county and that the land should be put back on the tax roll. The county will continue to mow the portions currently being mowed. There will be two parcels. Carlson made a motion to authorize Radermacher and Sheppard to compile an advertisement to sell the two tracks of land. Roberts seconded. Roll call was Walsh no; Roberts yes; Carlson yes; Holm yes; Hokan yes. Motion carried.

The meeting went into recess for five minutes while Walsh, Carlson, and Holm went with Schimke to view the changes made in the courtroom.

Deputy Treasurer Chris Robey joined the meeting at 9:45. The Treasurer’s office is asking for clarification on the handling of the omitted taxes that were approved at the May 20th meeting. Some of the parcels were paid with the discount and would now get charged a penalty due to the lateness of the payment. In the case of the omitted taxes approved at the May 20th meeting, Hokana made a motion to authorize the Treasurer’s office to allow the taxpayer the same payment option as earlier completed with the original tax payment,

with the additional tax payment due in 30 days. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Robey updated the Commission on the interest rates received on the CDs approved at the May 20th meeting. The CDs will be with CDARS at an interest rate of 4.3%.

Radermacher presented a proposed resolution regarding the public comment requirements at regular meetings, which was Senate Bill 2180 that passed, effective August 1, 2025. The resolution is required by the law and ensures the public’s right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful. The Commission decided to make a revision of the resolution to allow someone five minutes to speak, with the possibility of extending that time, at the discretion of the Commissioner Chair. Roberts made a motion to adopt the resolution as amended effective August 1, 2025. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The resolution is on file at the Auditor’s Office. To recap, the requirements of the resolution are as follows:

- 1) Each person interested in providing public comment at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via e-mail to the County Auditor prior to the meeting being called. This needs to include the person’s name, their address, and the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.
- 2) If any information is not included, the person is disqualified and will not be able to speak.
- 3) Individuals that follow the above requirements will be given five minutes to provide comments. During a meeting, the Chair will have discretion to abbreviate or extend such time, if necessity requires the same.
- 4) The comment period is thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.
- 5) All comments must address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda and must be pertinent to the county.
- 6) Comments may not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful; include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or interfere with the orderly conduct of the County’s meeting.
- 7) The person may submit in writing their comments to the County Auditor prior to the meeting, if they are unable or unwilling to speak in-person.

Tax Director Don Flaherty joined the meeting via electronic means at 9:55.

Sheppard presented three liquor license transfer applications received from the Angry Beaver Lodge. The transfers are to the Guelph Community Center for activities in July, September, and December. Roberts made a motion to approve the liquor license transfers. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented a letter in support of nominating a vendor the county uses for the dedicated partner for counties for the 2025 NDACo annual conference in October. Holm made a motion to have the Chair sign the letter. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented the quote from Chad’s Electric for the purchase and installation of a ceiling fan in the Commission room. Walsh made a motion to approve the installation of the 52” pinacle fan in 2025. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Flaherty reviewed the preliminary information for the county equalization meeting on Thursday, June 5th at 1:00 pm. Ag land is equalized at 848.12 per acre, which is 97.6% of the value set by the state of North Dakota. Based on residential sales in the county, residential property is at 94.1% of the sales ratio median value for the whole county. Based on commercial sales in the county over the past four years and the reassessment of commercial property in the city of Oakes, commercial is at 98.2% of the sales ratio median value for the whole county. Of the total value of commercial property in Dickey County, the Applied Digital plant west of Ellendale is \$66,000,000 of the total. This includes building 2 at 75% for 2025. Buildings 3 and 4 have not been started in construction and therefore are not part of this number. Buildings 1 and 2 have already been reviewed by Vanguard Appraisals to verify an accurate value on the buildings. Buildings 3 & 4 will be reviewed by Vanguard Appraisals by middle of 2026 to assist Flaherty in assigning values on these buildings, as well.

Flaherty reviewed the information for the city of Oakes, city of Ellendale, and all other. The city of Ellendale residential is 96.1% and commercial is 97.8% of the sales ratio median. The city of Oakes residential is 92% and commercial is 90.3% of the sales ratio median. All other residential parcels are 87% and commercial are 78.4% of the sales ratio median. Flaherty reminded the Commission that a commercial reassessment in the county will be completed in 2025. This information will be reviewed at the equalization meeting on Thursday. Flaherty reminded the Commission of the time of the meeting on Thursday and that a quorum is required.

EDF Renewables representative Sara Thronson joined the meeting at

10:24.

KLJ Engineering representatives Bryan Tykwinski and intern Kady Murphy joined the meeting at 10:30.

The meeting went into recess at 10:45 and returned at 10:50

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen and DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell joined the meeting at 10:50. Sheriff Chris Estes and Hearthside Vineyard and Winery representative Haley Moen joined the meeting at 10:54.

Sheppard requested a decision from the Commission on the application for the infrastructure loan program for the road work on the Elden Township/Ellendale City/Ellendale Township project for Applied Digital. The application deadline is June 20th. Discussion followed concerning the question of the county applying. Walsh made a motion to authorize Sheppard to apply for an infrastructure loan in the amount of \$3,000,000, dependent on finalizing a contract with Applied Digital that is agreeable to all parties involved. Holm seconded. Roberts stated his opposition to the loan as it could be putting taxpayers at risk for the loan if Applied Digital doesn’t follow through on the repayment agreement. Roll call was Roberts no; Carlson yes; Holm no; Hokana yes; Walsh yes. Motion carried. Discussion followed that there are many questions that need to be answered, and the loan application can be cancelled.

Tykwinski requested feedback from the Commission on the possibility of posting the advertising for submitting a bid for the project ahead of the special meeting next week. A decision was made to wait until after the June 10th special meeting.

Tykwinski presented a graph describing changes to funding for road projects from the 2025 legislative session.

Hagen received a quote from Dakota Improvement in the amount of \$15,790 to fix County Road 14A where the drain was installed in 2024. Now that the water has receded, there is a section of the road that needs to be raised and widened. Walsh made a motion to accept the bid from Dakota Improvement. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Discussion followed concerning the timing of blading roads after rain and the county shop employees only working four days a week. Depending on the timing of the rain, they may not be able to blade until Friday but are not working because of the four day workweek. The Commissioners request that the employees be more flexible when they have rainy days where they can’t be blading roads. Hagen will talk to the staff.

Moen requests that the county reconsider applying for flexible transportation

funding for 86th Street, which leads to her vineyard and winery. At the time of the last application, this project was high on the list of possible candidates for the funding. Moen stated 2025 will be their first year of harvest. Utilities are on the property now. Future items were discussed such as camping and rentals availability. Moen stated that Oakes Enhancement is also looking to put in a bike path this summer that would lead to the golf course and could ultimately lead to the winery. Discussion followed concerning the appropriate subdivision to request the funding. Tykwinski stated at this time, he felt the best option would be for the township to apply, as it may be a better chance of getting the funding. Tykwinski will make that suggestion as to who applies when the application process reopens.

Holm updated the Commission on the floodplain management ordinance that needs to be in place by June 18th. The County will not meet that deadline but will be able to get into compliance once the ordinance is processed through the required steps. Walsh made a motion to adopt the minimum standards set by the state of North Dakota for the Floodplain Management Ordinance, once approved by States Attorney Radermacher. Holm seconded. Radermacher stated it will need two readings, the first reading on June 17th at the next Commission meeting. Motion carried.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 12:15.

(June 26, 2025)

Commissioner Meeting June 10, 2025

Chair Brandon Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioners John Hokana, Jerry Walsh, and Marke Roberts were also present. Also in attendance were Auditor Wanda Sheppard; States Attorney Kim Radermacher, Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen, Elden Township Board members Gary Dathe and Julie Haase, Elden Township Clerk/Treasurer Judy Wedell, KLJ engineer Bryan Tykwinski, Applied Digital representative Martin Vega, and residents CarolLee Carruth, Pam Cook, Joel Hamar, and George Schaefer. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Carlson stated the purpose of this hearing is to discuss making two miles of 94th Street West of Highway 281 a county road. Carlson asked for public comment.

Dathe informed those in attendance that Elden Township supervisors had made and passed the motion to give up 95th Street west of Highway 281 for two miles. Dathe stated there are concerns on 87th Avenue and 95th Street as there are issues at that intersection

in the spring. According to Tykwinski, the project changes the 2 48” culverts that are currently installed there to 4 54” culverts.

Discussion followed concerning the legality of the county charging special assessments to Applied Digital for the road project. Radermacher stated that the county can charge special assessments to landowners. Vega stated that the Bank of North Dakota loan that had been discussed can be handled by Applied Digital directly, if that is where the problem lies with the project.

The amount of traffic on the road was discussed. Vega stated that for approximately six months, there could be 2,000 trucks a day. The question was asked how that road will withstand that amount of use for any length of time. Vega clarified that it would be approximately 1,000 trucks in and out, adding up to the 2,000 trucks.

Hamar asked about a written agreement between the city of Ellendale, the county, and Applied Digital concerning the handling of the project, along with the maintenance of the road once completed. Hamar stated that the agreement should be in place before any work starts. Hamar asked if the agreement was open record. Radermacher stated that the contract is not fully completed yet, as revisions are being discussed.

Discussion followed concerning the possibility of moving the project one mile further north, as 87th Avenue is basically a prairie trail and has no ditch. The road as it currently sits has no ditch. Hamar asked if the road should not be brought to county standards before the project is done. Tykwinski stated that the project would go into the 2026 construction year with a 2025 fall bid opening.

Hamar stated he is not against paving the road but feels that the project should be done right the first time. Those in attendance understand the need for change for the safety of everyone in the county, as well as those working on the project. The question was raised if turn lanes are enough. Vega stated that the ND DOT had approved the turn lane. A study has not been completed by the state at this time.

All agreed that something needs to be done but doesn’t fix everything. It would be a place to start. Hamar reiterated the need for agreements between the city, the county, and Applied Digital need to be signed and in writing before the project starts.

Walsh made a motion to adjourn at 7:08.

(June 26, 2025)

Public Notices

www.ndpublicnotices.com

NOTICE OF EQUALIZATION

The Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District will hold an equalization meeting for a special assessment for drainage. The meeting will be held from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. on July 16, 2025 at the Dickey-Sargent office at 810 7th Street South in Oakes, North Dakota. The lands to be assessed are the portion of Riverdale Township known as the Oakes Test Area.

(July 3 & 10, 2025)

Dickey County Senior Menu

Ellendale: 349-4513
Oakes: 742-3509

Friday: CLOSED - Happy 4th of July!
Monday: Chicken fettuccine alfredo, spinach, breadstick, rosey applesauce.
Tuesday: Sausage and sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, beets, warm apple slices.
Wednesday: Pork medallions, sweet potatoes, stewed tomatoes, fruited jello.
Thursday: Supreme pizza casserole, house salad with dressing, veg blend, garlic toast, pineapple.

NOTICE BEFORE FORECLOSURE

NOTICE BEFORE FORECLOSURE

To the Title Owners, Borrowers and Occupants of the Property:

Jesus Garza
718 S 5th St
Oakes, ND 58474

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that unless you dispute the validity of the foregoing debt or any portion thereof within thirty days after receipt of this letter, we will assume the debt to be valid. If the debt or any portion thereof is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt and will mail you a copy of such verification. You are also advised that upon your request within the thirty-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of your original creditor, if different from the creditor referred to in this Notice. We are attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

At this time, no attorney with this firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account. However, if you fail to contact our office, our client may consider additional remedies to recover the balance due.

The real property that this notice pertains to is located at 718 S 5th St, Oakes, ND 58474, and more particularly described as:

The Lots 8 and 9, Except the North 20' of Lot 9, Block 2 George Baldwin's Addition to Oakes, Dickey County, North Dakota.

Notice is hereby given that a certain mortgage, recorded against the above

described property by Jesus Garza, executed and delivered to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, dated December 4, 2003, ("Mortgage"); and given to secure the payment of \$30,400.00, and interest and other fees and costs according to the terms and obligations of a certain promissory note, is in default. The current Mortgagee of the Mortgage is Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

The following is a statement of the sum due for principal, interest, taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc. as of May 20, 2025:

Principal \$15,768.58
Interest to 06/02/2025 @ 6.25 % \$1,316.78
Unpaid Escrow Advance Balance \$2,255.83
Unpaid Late Charges \$683.28
Grand Total \$20,024.47

That as of May 20, 2025, the amount due to cure any default, or to be due under the terms of the mortgage, exists in the following respects:

Monthly Mortgage Payments \$6,100.48
Grand Total \$6,100.48

In the event that you either payoff or reinstatement the loan, payment must be paid by certified funds, and made payable to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., and mailed to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C., at 376 East 400 South, Suite 300, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. Additionally, you must pay any additional accrued interest, subsequent payments or late charges which become due and any

further expenses for preservation of the property which may be advanced. Please contact Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. for the exact amount due through a certain date.

You have the right, in accordance with the terms of the mortgage, to cure the default specified above. You also have the right in the foreclosure action to assert that no default exists or any other defense you may have to said action.

Notice is further provided that if the total sums in default, together with interest accrued thereon at the time of such payment, accrued payments then due and expenses advanced, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing or service of this Notice, the Mortgagee will deem the whole sum secured by the Mortgage to be due and payable in full without further notice. Furthermore, proceedings will be commenced to foreclosure such Mortgage, and in the event of Sheriff's sale as provided by the laws of the State of North Dakota, the time for redemption shall be as provided by law, but not less than sixty (60) days after the Sheriff's Sale.

Date: May 20, 2025

Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.

/s/ Tyler S. Wirick
Tyler S. Wirick
Attorney for Creditor
376 East 400 South, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Tel: 801-355-2886
Fax: 801-328-9714
Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com
HWM: ND21796

(June 19, 26 & July 3)

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