

City Council Meeting
June 9, 2025

City Office at 7pm
BEING PUBLISHED SUBJECT
TO THE GOVERNING BODY'S
REVIEW AND REVISION
Mayor Olson called the meeting
to order at 7pm. Council
members present were
Larson, Weimer, T. Van Camp,
Nelson and Halcrow. Not present
was Grundstrom. City Employees
present were DeGeldere,
Mattice and Misialek. Others
present were D. Bratlie.
Motion to approve Johnny Bravoz
event permits for the Golf Course,
Downtown Mainstreet and for
Purse Bingo at Community Center
was made T. Van Camp, seconded
by Halcrow, all in favor. Motion
to approve amending event permit
for the Zoo Too for the street dance
to use the Johnson Hall as a secondary
location in case of weather was
made by T. Van Camp, seconded
by Weimer, all in favor. Motion
to approve paying \$1800 towards
the Riverfest portable restrooms
was made by T. Van Camp,
seconded by Weimer, all in favor.
DeGeldere informed the council
that the South Lift Station main
pump went out and was replaced.
Perry will be getting quotes on
lift station and generators for
repairs, replacement, etc to include
in 2026 budget. Mattice gave his
May report. He informed the council
that warning violations were sent
out and citations were later sent
out to those not in compliance.
Court date for these is July 8,
2025. Motion was made to approve
holding a special election on
September 9, 2025 to increase
city sales tax by T. Van Camp,
seconded by Halcrow, all in favor.
Motion was made to approve
building permit with a variance
for 213 N. 5th St by Halcrow,
seconded by T. Van Camp, all in
favor. Misialek informed the council
that City Wide clean up cost was
\$1980.60 and the fees collected of
\$601 were donated to the class of
2026 for helping with the clean up.
Misialek presented the contract
for Countrywide Sanitation for
recycling services. The pricing on
the contract stayed the same. Motion
to approve the 1 year contract was
made by Halcrow, seconded by
Weimer, with Larson, Halcrow,
T. Van Camp and Weimer voting
yes and Nelson voting no, motion
approved. Motion to approve May
minutes was made by Nelson,
seconded by T. Van Camp, all in
favor. Vendor Bills:
B & S \$125.00; Barco Products
\$4,634.64; Blawat \$5,675.00;
Countrywide \$3,302.04; Dakota
Natural Gas \$757.02; Display Sales
\$102.00; Ewing Oil \$405.82;
Ferguson \$100.04, \$11,315.91;
Information Technology \$46.35;
Jet-Way \$2,832.50; Linde \$297.30;
ND One Call \$12.85; Otter Tail
\$22.98; Patterson Plumbing
\$100.00; RDO \$4,170.55; Refuse
Disposal \$887.70; Riteway \$233.50;
Russ's \$139.90; Sanitation
Products \$740.00; Team Lab
\$2,775.00, \$1,311.00; Valley
Landfill \$10,826.00; Valley News
\$377.07; Vestis \$101.04. \$101.04;
Walsh Water \$44,835.62.
Motion to approve bills made
by Weimer, seconded by T.
Van Camp, all in favor.
Motion to adjourn made by
Weimer, seconded by T. Van
Camp, all in favor.
Next Meeting is July 14,
2025, 7pm at City Office

Charles Olson, Mayor

Sonia Misialek, Auditor

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North Dakota outdoors: The benefits of grasslands

By Doug Leier



You don't have to be a biologist or range scientist to see how the land use of grasslands of North Dakota has changed.

Ashlyn Herron, a University of North Dakota master's in biology student, is using technology to determine if high-quality grassland habitat restoration through the Meadowlark Initiative is successfully occurring. The Meadowlark Initiative is a statewide strategy that teams landowners, conservation groups, scientists and others to enhance, restore and sustain native grasslands in North Dakota.

Herron's research employs the use of autonomous recording units, or ARUs, to record bird presence on reseeded grasslands.

"And we're also comparing bird response from the reseeded grasslands to intact grasslands in the area, as well as cropland, so we can kind of see how occupancy of vocal birds is changing through stages of restoration," she said.

The ARUs are composed of a circuit board, microphone, battery pack and a computer chip housed in vacuumed-sealed bags to protect them from the elements.

Eleven study sites selected from a database of landowners who actively partnered with the Meadowlark Initiative to restore grasslands were used during the 2023 field season, which was similar to the 2024 field season.

Counties included in the study were Logan, Dickey, Burleigh, Sheridan, McLean, McHenry, McKenzie and Divide.

"While this is anecdotal at this point, what we're noticing is even a little bit of grass being planted is creating habitat for these birds. And we're not seeing these dead zones that some croplands can be attributed to," she said. "In these reseeded areas, birds are singing, they're defending their territories ... there is a use here that's going on. And it's also going to be creating grazing opportunities for these landowners in the future."

North Dakota is primarily privately owned so their partnership is what makes this possible, Herron said, and she said she was personally



These restored grasslands mean a lot especially with habitat conditions the way they are right now in our state. Chestnut Colored Long Spur photo courtesy of North Dakota Game & Fish

indebted to every single one of the landowners who partnered with her.

"They are a great, great group of people and I've learned so much from working with them that I will take with me for the rest of my career," she said.

The amount of information Herron is gathering across several counties wouldn't be possible without the high-tech gadgets attached to metal posts. To fund a field staff, and it would take many individuals to equal what the ARUs accomplish, just doesn't make financial sense.

"The ARUs really get to be our ears on the ground for a period of time," she said. "I have 108 units on the landscape doing three-point counts a day for the entire summer. To have a field staff do that wouldn't be feasible. And we also have a high degree of data standardization with these units that you just don't get with field teams."

"These restored grasslands mean a lot especially with habitat conditions the way they are right now in our state," said Kevin Kading, Game and Fish Department private land section leader. "These acres can make a difference for a lot of grassland birds," (and other wildlife, too).

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'FORAGE MATTERS'
CON'T FROM PAGE 4

efficiency, and there are many guides available on what these scores look like. Monitoring BCS until weaning is a good idea, especially if dry weather conditions continue to develop and forage availability becomes limited. Monitor overall animal health as well and especially with bulls. Bulls with sore feet or that have lost significant body condition probably have little interest in servicing cows.

Summertime livestock water quality can be an issue as temperatures warm. Blue-green algae blooms can produce toxins that can be harmful to livestock, wildlife and people.

Management results can be monitored within a year and over time to determine trends. All livestock production data, such as conception, birth and weaning rates, weaning weights and economic indicators, should be monitored over time.

On the pasture and range side of the equation, photo points are a neat way to monitor pasture and range conditions and document change over time. Learn what key plant species make up your forage base and are the backbone of your grazing operation, and monitor them over time. Are these key species increasing, decreasing or staying constant? How has the stocking rate changed over time? Has cow weight changed over the years, and has that had an influence on your stocking rate? Has carrying capacity changed over time?

Another important monitoring estimation is ground cover. Losses of ground cover can indicate change from a number of reasons, such as drought, stocking rates, grazing intensity and duration. Take a walk across a pasture and, after a predetermined number of steps, take a look at what you are standing on. Note the plant species present or bare ground. Keep track of the responses as you move across an area. If the area is too large to walk, ride across, then stop and take a look. Take the same route once or twice a year at the same time each year. This will give a good idea of how stable the plant population is over time.

I'm not sure there is a lay-by time anymore. Seems like there are always things that we can monitor and measure to make sure that we are staying on track. I remember one thing about cultivating soybeans on hot summer days in the field: when someone brought me a quart Mason jar of iced tea, it sure tasted good.

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