

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: TUESDAY, August 4, 2026 at 8:15 am

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

1. Meeting was brought to order by Chair Jepson. Commissioners in attendance: Jepson, Hansen, Meyer, Vareberg and Nelson, County Administrator Carrie Smith and minute taker Peggy Martin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Agenda – Motion and second to approve the agenda with the addition of a Verizon Tower Discussion (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
2. Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes of July 21, 2026 with the requested changes (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Consent Agenda

1. Motion and second to approve and accept the following Consent Agenda Items:
Auditor-Treasurer: Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants and Claims over 90 Days, June 2026 Cash Comparison, Sales Tax, and Investments, Human Services: Regular Claims, Public Health, & Transit, Land Use: NRM/Parks & Rec: Right of Entry Easement, Environmental Services: Capital Purchase Request – Roll Off Containers from Wastequip in the amount of \$26,850.34 (Hansen, Meyer) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:
 - Dean Lutz – Blighted Property on Brandy Lake.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Commissioner Nelson – Sunnyside, Lakeland Mental Health.
 - Commissioner Meyer – Dancing Sky.
 - Commissioner Hansen – PLMSWA, Highway, Emergency Management, MAGIC.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – Highway.
 - Commissioner Jepson – Emergency Management, Fair Recap.
3. Appointments.
 - Motion and second to appoint Commissioner Jepson to the Opioid Settlement Review Committee to include Per Diem (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

4. Verizon Tower Discussion with Marcus Williams.

- Wireless Industry is evolving and implementing satellites.
- Current contract options are to cash out or restructure the contract.
- Board wants to keep the contract as is.

Pickerel Lake Residents seeking a Water Surface Ordinance.

1. Comments:

- Sandy Stalemo – asking for an ordinance regulating the surface use on Pickerel Lake.
- Joe Louwagie – harassed by neighbors for using his wake surf boat. Does not support the ordinance request.
- John Lien – concerned with erosion and safety.
- Mark LeDoux – concerned with environmental impact.
- Nancy Johnson – waves can't dissipate before they get to shore.
- Nicole LeDoux – concerned with environmental impact and water quality.
- Bill Tesch – not possible to deconflict with wake surf boats while on the lake.
- Amy Swanie – lake is not fit for wake surf boats.
- Samantha Galloway – cable on the bottom of the lake is getting stirred to the surface.
- Chuck Becker – DNR did an initial analysis of 1,235 lakes in Minnesota.
- Robert Runquist – against wake surf boats on the lake.
- Marty Jenson – Pickerel Lake has no outlet or inlet. Not in favor of banning wake boats.

2. Request is to not allow wake boats in surf mode, which is filling of ballast tanks.

3. Not supporting at this time, the Board chose to take no action.

County Administrator: presented by Carrie Smith.

1. Report.

- 1st Negotiations scheduled.
- Policy Conference – September 16-18.
- MACA Meeting Topics were: Use of AI, Managing data requests.
- Budgeting continues with departments.

Auditor-Treasurer: presented by Mary Hendrickson.

1. Motion and second to set the Primary Election Canvass for August 13, 2026 at 11:00 am. with Commissioners Hansen and Nelson (Meyer, Jepson) carried.

Highway: presented by Jim Olson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-1A – 5-Yr Plan Amendment – Advertise CP 003-120-001 – Preliminary Work using Smart Funds (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Human Resources: presented by Teaira Christen.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-1B – Regrade Transfer Station Truck Driver and Compact Truck Driver Position pending DDA recommendation (Hansen, Nelson) carried.

Planning and Zoning: presented by Kyle Vareberg.

1. Planning Commission Recommendations 07/29/2026.
 - Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation to approve for Brenden & Deborah Mattson – A Conditional Use Permit to operate a Gunsmith Business to include retail sales of used firearms (Vareberg, Hansen) carried.
 - Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation to approve for Great Plains Towers, LLC on behalf of John Paul Grieser – A Conditional Use Permit for a one hundred-ninety (190) foot guyed tower with a nine (9) foot lightening rod and accompanying equipment with the addition of filing a copy of Natural Environment Protection Act Study with Planning & Zoning prior to the erection of the tower and a financial guarantee from Great Plains Towers, LLC of \$67,500 bond to ensure funds to remove the tower to be reviewed within 1-year to see how long the bond will be required, if not reviewed within a year the requirement for bond will be eliminated (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
 - Motion and second to concur with the Planning Commission recommendation to approve for William Jacobson on behalf of Louise Ann Ness – A Conditional Use Permit to operate a Metal Sales business and to coordinate with Audubon Township if and when the road is damaged to fix it (Vareberg, Meyer) carried.

Wild Rice Watershed District Update with Duane Erickson.

1. Commissioner Vareberg will attend the next meeting on August 12.

Being no further business, Board Chair Jepson adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am.

<u>/s/</u>	Carrie Smith	<u>/s/</u>	Erica Jepson
	Carrie Smith		Erica Jepson
	County Administrator		Board Chair