MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Tuesday January 20, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Heidi Maxwell, President
Steve Best, Vice-President
Cecil Mayle, Member

The commissioners did the following over the past week:
Commissioner Best attended a meeting with Prosecutor Welch on Tuesday. He also attended a Health Department meeting on Thursday.

26-051- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026
Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Able's Heating Cooling has ordered a new Fan Motor for the air handler on the 2nd floor West side of the Courthouse. Unit is still under Warranty, but we will have to pay the Labor 12-3-25

Chevrolet Truck has a broken brake line for the rear brakes, truck has been parked in the old garage until lines are replaced 1-7-26

Scheduling time to install TV mounts for Sheriff Fisher in the Dispatch Room, One mount and TV has been mounted. 12-22-25 Waiting for the second TV to arrive.

Right side overhead door at the garage won't go up, checked breakers for power. We will need to contact Westfall Doors and Buildings check out the door after the first of the year.

Installed all new LED lights in the second floor hallway. 1-13-26

Heidi Burns, JFS

Union Contract
OVER Budget

Sunny Clay, Pound Keeper

Facility Maintenance and Safety Issues

A recurring heating outage was traced to a critical switch that was mistakenly turned off in the dark because it sits immediately adjacent to the light switch. The switch is labeled “do not touch,” yet it was inadvertently toggled during a routine attempt to turn on the lights. When the heat was off, the indoor temperature dropped to about 55 degrees. Miss Clay initially suspected a lack of natural gas before discovering the switch issue. As a practical safeguard, she proposed placing duct tape over the critical switch to prevent accidental shutoff.

Separately, the facility has a safety and maintenance problem involving dogs sliding on wet floors and busting through an air filter area. Miss Clay reported going through two or three filters due to these incidents. To mitigate the risk a physical block was installed in front of the filter access point to keep dogs from reaching it. Miss Clay emphasized safety efforts to clear excess items from the area to reduce hazards.

The conversation raised firm cautions about regulatory compliance for planned building changes, likely related to kennel installations. The commissioners stressed that any structural work—such as drilling holes in the building or pouring concrete—will trigger permitting requirements and inspections.

Timing considerations were acknowledged, including that pouring concrete during cold weather is impractical. It was also referenced uncertainty about some specifics and mentioned seeing plans that include concrete work. Overall, the guidance prioritized procedural adherence, engineering review where needed, and careful planning before any structural change.

Administrative and Programmatic Coordination

Administrative coordination centered on upcoming deliverables and program testing. A program needs to be tested live next week; Miss Clay indicated that if the test is run through SPOT, there is assistance, whereas reaching out to Morgan Veterinarian would result in a bill. To manage costs, the pound keeper preferred not to involve Morgan Veterinarian.

Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator

January 6th Sophia attended a STEAM design team meeting. January 8th Sophia attended a Sale Committee meeting where the sale committee reviewed the rules and prepared recommendations to take to the Senior Fair board. January 9th Sophia had a meeting with her supervisor, Pam Montgomery. January 12th Sophia attended an extension advisory meeting with Jordan Penrose, Alivia Mock, Pam Montgomery and Amy Kirkbride. January 14th Sophia attended a zoom meeting to decide which months she would do WHIZ TV interviews with Pam Montgomery and Jessica Rockey, Perry County 4-H extension educator. January 20th Sophia will attend a zoom meeting with the state 4-H office to receive program updates, she will also attend Junior Fair Board and Senior Fair board meetings.

Sophia works on prepping QA, older youth programs and training for new volunteers and returning volunteers at this time.

Pam Montgomery-4-H/FCS Extension Educator and Area Leader

4-H Activities

- 12/17/25 Area 19 & Area 20 4-H Professionals meeting at Belle Valley
- 12/30/25 Master Clothing Educator Volunteers and 4-H State Fashion Board Annual meeting to plan for 2026.
- 1/5/26 First Camp Counselor/CIT training for 2026
- 1/8/26 4-H Fashion Board Organizational meeting for 2026

FCS Activities

- 12/17/25 Basics to a Household Budget offered for DJFS
- Attended Morgan County Family and Children First Council 1/9/26
- 1/14/26 Basics to a Household Budget offered for DJFS

Area Leader Activities:

- One-on-one sessions with employees in Area 19 (Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties) regularly. Continuing to work on Fall check-ins reviewing both performance and professional development goals for the year.

- In the hiring process for new Office staff in Washington County.
- Attend monthly two online monthly Area Leader meetings.

Other

- 1/13/26 Extension Advisory Committee

Betsy Ellingsworth- FCS Extension Educators Coordinator 3

On December 17, Betsy concluded a 6 week "Taking Care of Me" Series at Morgan East Elementary which was taught to kindergarten, first and second grade students.
She continues to partner with Morgan United Ministries to distribute recipes and healthy eating resources at the monthly food distributions in Malta, Stockport, and Chesterhill which she participated at on January 7.
At the senior center, Betsy is leading a Wits Workout program and led sessions there on December 18 and January 8 & 15.
She attended the FCFC meeting with Pam Montgomery on January 9.
Betsy held a Meet & Greet with parents and students on January 6 at Tabor Ridge School and has begun planning and preparing for the 6 week "Taking Care of Me" series which will be offered to Preschool – 8th grade students.
She also met with the teachers at Morgan West Elementary on January 15 to schedule FCS programming there.

Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

In December, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, Christmas Trees, and Fire Safety. He also attended OSU Extension pesticide in-service to go over new information for the year before pesticide recertification starts. He also had an article published in the Farm and Dairy titled "Year-end reflection for forage managers: pastures, hay quality & lessons learned." In January, Jordan had an article come out in the Ohio Cattleman titled "Winter is Time for planning. Jordan has also continued to participate in various meetings, including the bi-weekly corn call meeting, bi-weekly between-the-rows meetings, monthly beef team meetings, and monthly forage team meetings, to share updates about crops, forages, livestock, and conditions in Morgan County with his coworkers around the state. He has also been writing weekly for the Herald, posting weekly blog posts on the Morgan County ANR Blog, and sending monthly email newsletters.

Alivia Mock- Extension Educator Coordinator

4H – Alivia will attend the 4H Committee Meeting on 1/26/2026.

ANR – Alivia assisted in bringing a program to Morgan County in collaboration with Morgan County Soil and Water and The Agricultural Navigator called Brewing Connections. This program will be held at Misty's Coffee Shop on Main St McConnelsville the 3rd Thursday of each month in the mornings as a space for community office hours that encourage discussions on the mental health of Morgan County farmers. Alivia also assisted on launching The Back 40 Connections in collaboration with Morgan County Soil and Water and The Agricultural Navigator. This program will be held the third Thursday of each month in the evening. This program will feature different topics based on the needs of the local community plus guest speakers from local agricultural health and community resources to offer an additional support to the county's farmers.

FCS – Alivia attended the office meeting on 1/05/2026. Alivia will also meet with her assigned Extension Mentor on 1/16/2026. Alivia attended the OSU Extension Advisory Committee Meeting on 1/12/2026.

Alivia will be out of the office from February 3rd 2026 until April 8th 2026 for maternity leave.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Shannon Wells will participate in a webinar today at 1pm for an AARP Community Challenge grant.
The contractor will be holding a training for the generator at the transit facility January 21, 2026 at 2pm.
Shannon Wells is working with ODOD to get approval to add additional addresses for the demolition program.
Shannon Wells is reviewing a TMobile hometown grant for the McConnelsville Main Street group.

Wendy Gorell, DD

Meeting Notes

- Topic Title: Levy Strategy and Carryover Management
  - Participants discussed using the existing levy to manage carryover without new spending.
  - Proposed placing the levy on the ballot and then rolling back collections to reduce carryover and benefit taxpayers.
  - Goal: Maintain flexibility by keeping millage unchanged, preserving funds for potential needs in year two.
  - A ten-year financial forecast will be updated with scenarios (including potential rollback impacts).
  - Conclusion: Proceed with board discussion tonight and move forward with resolutions and the budget commission process to determine the rollback amount.
- Topic Title: Public Communications and Outreach
  - Observed that probate judge appointments shared on Facebook increased engagement (example: appointment of Jessica Miller).
  - Suggestion: Share appointment posts with candidate photos and info (e.g., Cara) to boost reach through recognizability.
  - Coordination with communications (John) to gather and share accurate information and images.
  - Conclusion: Consider adopting a social media strategy for appointments to increase public engagement.
- Topic Title: Compensation Discussion
  - Brief exchange about a suggested “ten percent,” context unclear (possibly pay or budget adjustment).
  - No agreement reached; views differed on the ten percent figure.
  - Conclusion: No decision; requires further clarification with numbers and board input.

26-052- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to appoint Cara Wickham to the DD board effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030.

Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried

26-053- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the resolution of necessity to levy a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation. See Attachment A

Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The Engineer's servers were moved to the Auditor's office server room this week. There were no issues following the move. The IT Director will monitor the temperature of the Auditor's server room with the added heat load.

New scanners were procured and installed in the Prosecutor's office this week. The Prosecutor's office needed TWAIN compliant scanners to scan directly to their case management system.

The newest single line interface card on the Sheriff's office phone switch went down again this week. A reboot of the phone switch fixed the issue. The IT Director is working with Advanced Business Communications on the issue.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-054 Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve to Morgan SWCD Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the transfer of $30,000.00 in appropriated funds from the Commissioner's General Fund to their account #015-0015-4001.00. Our records show a total of $30,000.00 was appropriated to Soil Conservation for 2026. The total appropriation is requested.
Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried

26-055- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve all transfers. Attachment B

Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried

26-055-Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve payment of bills. *See attached*
Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried

26-056 Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioners meeting on January 20, 2026 at 4:00pm.

Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried

Heidi Maxwell, President

Steve Best, Vice-President

Cecil Mayle, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MORGAN COUNTY, OHIO

The Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Morgan County, Ohio, (the "County"), met in regular session on January 20, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at the 155 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, McConnelsville, Ohio 43756, with the following members present:

Res# 26-053

Mr. Cecil Mayle introduced the following resolution and moved its passage:

RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY TO LEVY A RENEWAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION

(Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.03, 5705.222 and 5705.25)
(Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5126)

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio (the "DD Board"), a board subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board is currently levying a 1.97 mill, five year operating levy for the purpose of the operation of programs and services by Morgan County Board of Development Disabilities and for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance and operation of intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities facilities (the "Existing Levy"), which Existing Levy was approved by the voters of the County on November 3, 2020, and first placed on the tax list and duplicate in 2021 for collection in years 2022 through 2026; and

WHEREAS, the DD Board passed a resolution, dated November 25, 2025, requesting the Board to seek voter approval to renew all of the Existing Levy for the purpose of the operation of community programs and services authorized by county boards of developmental disabilities, for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance, and operation of developmental disabilities facilities, or for both of such purposes; and

WHEREAS, a resolution declaring the necessity of levying a renewal tax outside the ten-mill limitation must be passed and certified to the County Auditor of Morgan County, Ohio (the "County Auditor") in order to permit the Board to consider the levy of such a renewal tax, and must request that the County Auditor certify to the Board the current total taxable value of the County, the estimated property tax revenue (rounded to the nearest $1) that will be produced by such renewal tax based on such total taxable value, and the amount of the renewal tax (based on the renewal tax's "effective rate" (as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.01(Q)), as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03(B)(2)(c)(i)) expressed in dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar, for each $100,000 of the "county auditor's market value" (as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.01(P));

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio, two-thirds of all of the members thereof concurring, that:

Section 1. It is necessary for the Board to renew all of the Existing Levy, which is a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, for the purpose of the operation of community programs and services authorized by county boards of developmental disabilities, for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance, and operation of developmental disabilities facilities, or for both of such purposes (the "Renewal Levy").

Section 2. As authorized by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.222 and other applicable provisions of law, the question of the Renewal Levy shall be submitted to all of the electors in the entire territory of the County at the election to be held on May 5, 2026. All of the territory of the DD Board is located in Morgan County, Ohio.

Section 3. The Renewal Levy shall be at a rate not exceeding 1.97 mills for each $1 of taxable value upon the entire territory of the County, for five years.

Section 4. The Renewal Levy shall include a levy on the tax list and duplicate for the 2026 tax year (commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027), if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

Section 5. The Clerk of the Board is directed to promptly certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor with instructions for the County Auditor to calculate and certify to the Board the current total taxable value of the County, the estimated property tax revenue (rounded to the nearest $1) that will be produced by the Renewal Levy based on such total taxable value, and the amount of the Renewal Levy (based on its effective rate) expressed in dollars (rounded to the nearest $1) for each $100,000 of the county auditor's market value.

Section 6. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Mr. Steve Best seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes: Steven Best, Heidi L Maxwell [signature]

Nays: ______

The Resolution passed.

Passed: January 20, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MORGAN COUNTY, OHIO

Attest: Steven Best
Treasurer

By: Heidi L Maxwell
President

25204617v1

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of said County on January 20,2026 thereof was certified to the County Auditor of Morgan County, Ohio.

Sheila Welch

Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
Morgan County, Ohio

25204617v1

Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue

DTE 140R
Rev. 01/26
R.C. 5705.01, 5705.03

Use this form when a taxing authority certifies a millage rate and requests the revenue produced by that rate.

The county auditor of Morgan County, Ohio, does hereby certify the following:

1. On January 20, 2026, the taxing authority of the Board of County Commissioners (political subdivision name) certified a copy of its resolution or ordinance adopted January 20, 2026, requesting the county auditor to certify the current taxable value of the subdivision and the amount of revenue that would be produced by (1.970) mills, to levy a tax outside the 10-mill limitation for Dev. Dis. Operations purposes pursuant to Revised Code § 5709.19, to be placed on the ballot at the May 5, 2026, election. The levy type is Renewal.

2. The property tax revenue that will be produced by the stated millage, assuming the taxable value of the subdivision remains constant throughout the life of the levy, is calculated to be $ 613,255.00.

3. The total taxable value of the subdivision used in calculating the estimated property tax revenue is $ 538,941,606.00.

4. The millage for the requested levy is (1.970) mills per $1 of taxable value, which amounts to $ 68.95 for each $100,000 of the county auditor's market value.

5. Applicable only if this form is being completed by a school district with a current expense levy. The amount by which the carry-over balance in the school district's general operating budget from the preceding fiscal year exceeds the school district's general fund expenditures made in the preceding fiscal year, is $ N/A, and N/A % of those expenditures.

Randy Williams
Auditor's signature

1-20-24
Date

Instructions

1. "Total taxable value" includes the taxable value of all real property in the subdivision as indicated on the tax list most recently certified for collection and estimates of the taxable value of public utility personal property for the first year the levy will be collected as set forth on the worksheets prescribed in conjunction with this form. If the subdivision is located in more than one county, the home county auditor (where the greatest taxable value of the subdivision is located) shall obtain the assistance of the other county auditors to establish the total tax valuation of the subdivision.
2. For purposes of this certification, "subdivision" includes any agency, board, commission or other authority authorized to request a taxing authority to submit a tax levy on its behalf. See R.C. 5705.01(A) & (C).
3. "Levy type" includes the following: (1) additional, (2) renewal, (3) renewal with an increase, (4) renewal with a decrease.
4. In completing Lines 1 and 4 of this form, mills should be identified in whole numbers or fractions thereof, i.e., 5 mills or 5.25 mills, rather than as a fraction of a dollar, i.e., $0.005. This expression is consistent with the prior practice of identifying mills in whole numbers or fractions thereof per $1 of valuation.
5. "The county auditor's market value" means the true value in money of real property. R.C. 5705.01(P).
6. For any levy or portion of a levy, an estimate of the levy's annual collections, rounded to the nearest dollar, which shall be calculated assuming that the amount of the tax list of the taxing authority remains throughout the life of the levy the same as the amount of the tax list most recently certified by the county auditor under R.C. 319.28(B). See R.C. 5705.03(B).
7. Line 5 of the form should only be completed if the purpose of the tax is for current expenses or current operating expenses and the resolution is by a city, local, or exempted village school district. Any amounts designated in the school district's resolution for current or future permanent improvement must be excluded in determining the school district's carry-over balance. See R.C. 5705.03(B)(2)(f).
8. Please file this certificate with the subdivision as soon as possible, so the taxing authority can pass a resolution to proceed not later than 90 days before the election.

MCBDD Board Resolution 2025-11-1

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, OHIO

The Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio (the "DD Board") met in regular session on November 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m., at the 155 East Main Street, Room 306, McConnelsville, Ohio 43756, with the following members present:

Ms. Jessica Miller introduced the following resolution and moved its passage:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORGAN COUNTY, OHIO TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY THE QUESTION OF A RENEWAL TAX LEVY FOR THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.03, 5705.222 and 5705.25)
(Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5126)

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide for the necessary requirements of the DD Board, a board subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Morgan County, Ohio (the "County"); and

WHEREAS the Board is currently levying a 1.97 mill, five year operating levy for the purpose of the operation of community programs and services authorized by county boards of developmental disabilities, for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance, and operation of intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities facilities, or for both of such purposes (the "Existing Levy"), which Existing Levy was approved by the voters of the County on November 3, 2020, and first placed on the tax list and duplicate in 2021 for collection in years 2022 through 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Morgan County, Ohio that:

Section 1. It is hereby found and determined that the amount of taxes that may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax list and duplicate will be insufficient to provide for the necessary requirements of the DD Board.

Section 2. This DD Board wishes to initiate proceedings for the submission to the electors of the County the question of renewing all of the Existing Levy, which is a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, for the purpose of the operation of community programs and services authorized by county boards of developmental disabilities, for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance, and operation of developmental disabilities facilities, or for both of such purposes.

Section 3. This DD Board hereby requests the Board to pass a resolution as authorized by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.222 and other applicable provisions of law providing that the question of such renewal tax levy (the "Renewal Levy") shall be submitted to all of the electors in the entire territory of the County at the election to be held on May 5, 2026. All of the territory of the DD Board is located in Morgan County, Ohio.

Section 4. The Renewal Levy shall be at a rate not exceeding 1.97 mills for each $1 of taxable value upon the entire territory of the County, for five years.

Section 5. The Renewal Levy shall include a levy on the tax list and duplicate for the 2026 tax year (commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027), if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

Section 6. The Superintendent of this DD Board is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Board.

Section 7. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this DD Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this DD Board, and all deliberations of this DD Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Ms. Katelynn Blackburn seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes: K. Blackburn; Roger Calendine; Jess Miller, Jennifer Ponchak

Nays: None

The resolution passed.

Passed: November 25, 2025

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, OHIO

Attest: Wendy [signature]
Superintendent

[signature] Ponchak
Board President

25204617v1

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Superintendent of the Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly passed by said DD Board on November 25, 2025, and that a certified copy thereof was filed in the office of the Morgan County Board of County Commissioners on _______, 2025.

Wendy L Howell

Superintendent
Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio

25204617v1

Attachment B:

Morgan Soil and Water Conservation District
167 S. Kennebec Ave.
McConnelsville, OH 43756

January 16, 2026

To: Morgan County Commissioners

From: Morgan Soil & Water Conservation District

Subject: Transfer of 2026 Appropriation

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2026
BY:____________

The Morgan SWCD Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the transfer of $30,000.00 in appropriated funds from the Commissioner's General Fund to their account #015-0015-4001.00. Our records show a total of $30,000.00 was appropriated to Soil Conservation for 2026. The total appropriation is requested

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Respectfully,

Trista A. Nelson

Trista Nelson
District Program Administrator
For the Morgan SWCD Board of Supervisors

HLM 1/20/26
SCB 1/20/26
Cmm 1/20/26