

Mills County Veterans Affairs

April 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes

To: All MCVA Commissioners, Board of Supervisors Liaison, MCVA staff

Christina Hankins, CVSO/Caseworker

Lori Swisher, CVSO/Clerk

Commissioners have staggered three-year terms

Paul Hathaway, Commissioner 1974-2026

Jeanne Wilkins, Commissioner 2019-2025

Yolanda Hardesty, Commissioner 2019-2025

Jess Cook, Commissioner/Secretary 2019-2026

Jim Schoening, Commissioner/Chair 2017-2025

Richard Crouch, BOS Liaison 2003 - 2025

From: Elizabeth Richardson, CVSO/Administrator

April Regular Meeting 8:33 am Location: 403 Railroad Avenue, Glenwood

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call All were present. Guests included: Dave Farmer, Brian and Judy Ring

C. Old Business

1. Jess made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting; Yolanda seconded. Motion passed.
2. Final proposed budget for 2026-2027 – discussion with Amber Farnan, County Auditor postponed. (Amber was unable to attend).
3. Annex Department Head meeting update re signage. All is going well at new location. Mostly ambivalence towards any new types of signage. All would be approved by BOS before implementing anything permanent.
4. Richard shared how proud he is of the MCVA department and our hard work. He is being recognized at his County Supervisor events for our #1 rating in the state. He asked the Commissioner's help in getting the office state recognized for an ISAC Award. It is due June 1st and Richard will need to sign off before it is submitted. Jess and Elizabeth will work on this submission together.

D. Reports and Outreach/Training

1. Monthly Reports/Awards
 - a. Communication and Forms Reports
 - b. Quarterly Assistance ReportNo new Assistance requested.
2. Running Awards C and P
 - February 2026: \$1,367,235
 - Running count of **awards only**: 650 people (veterans/widows/dependents)
 - *This does not include current claims and appeals
 - Current # **eligible** veterans for 100% Disabled Property Tax Exemption: approximately 128
3. Upcoming IDVA Training: April 14 – 16th in Des Moines
Upcoming CVSO Training: May 5 – 7th Des Moines

E. New Business

1. Commissioners' Updates

2. Bills – VISA/FNBO and US Cellular. The VISA account will not let us change the mailing address. Thus our bills are late. This is just for one of our cards. There is no way to identify who the “person in charge” of the account is. Tried calling them and ran through all BOS members, past and present, last three Auditors, etc. and no one was recognized, by VISA, as the person in charge. Will discuss with Katelyn (bills). Cellular has similar problem. Will discuss with them in person at the local store. Richard suggested that the BOS could help look into this problem if we cannot fix it.
3. Update Website Jess/Elizabeth are still working on the updates.
4. East Liberty Cemetery: possibly replace up to 22 flag holders. Mostly Civil War and WWII. Have discussed people requesting flag holders. It may take until after Memorial Day to verify information and have flag holders ordered and in the office for distribution. Noted that the Malvern Cemetery had some recent storm damage as well. Gene Mitchell was noted as the contact person for Hillsdale Cemetery. Richard said there were some flags missing there.
5. Legislative Update: HB 2446 with Amendment H-8341
6. American Legion and IACVSO approved. Discussed current standing of this pending legislation. Mostly discussed how IACVSO and IDVA issues have been overriding the focus of both groups.

F. Adjournment

Jess made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jeanne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.