EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 05-26-02

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN OHV CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT

Section 1. Authority.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the powers granted to the Township under Minnesota Statutes, Section 394.33 and Chapter 462.

Section 2. Background.

Subd. 1.

Eagles Nest Township values its unique natural environment, quiet residential areas, and recreational opportunities that contribute to a high quality of life. Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are an important part of Minnesota's outdoor culture and economy. However, unmanaged OHV use can create unwanted impacts to community safety, financial resources and infrastructure, the environment, and neighborhood livability. The OHV Corridor Overlay District reflects the community's commitment to balancing recreational freedom with other equally important community values such as safety, financial and environmental stewardship, neighborhood livability, and respect for private property.

Subd. 2.

The following community values express the Township's priorities for balancing outdoor recreation with other equally important community values.

A. Respect for Property and Neighborhood Livability.
    1. Residents shall be protected from excessive noise, with an emphasis on promoting quietude.
    2. Trespassing on private property shall be prevented and discouraged.
    3. Statement of Value: *"We value a peaceful and livable community for all residents."*
B. Local Control and Accountability.
    1. Ordinances shall be tailored to reflect local needs and priorities.
    2. Partnerships shall be fostered between the Township, St. Louis County, and trail associations.
    3. Rider responsibility shall be promoted, with enforcement of appropriate consequences for misuse.

4. Statement of Value: *"We value community-led decision making and personal responsibility."*

C. Stewardship of the Township's Financial Resources.
   1. OHV trail usage shall not create an undue burden on Township infrastructure and services or on other public resources.
   2. Statement of Value: *"We value the responsible use of limited public financial resources."*

D. Safe and Responsible Recreation.
   1. Safe and respectful OHV use shall be promoted on designated routes and trails, in compliance with Township Ordinances and State Law.
   2. Statement of Value: *"We value outdoor recreation that benefits residents of all ages and abilities."*

E. Environmental Stewardship.
   1. Sensitive lands shall be protected from damage, including wetlands, shorelines, and forested areas.
   2. Excessive erosion, pollution, and disturbance to wildlife shall be prevented.
   3. Statement of Value: *"We value responsible land use and the protection of natural resources."*

F. Fairness and Inclusion.
   1. Responsible OHV users shall be provided with reasonable access; Blanket prohibitions are to be avoided.
   2. The rights of private property owners and the integrity of Township infrastructure and services shall be respected.
   3. The Township shall maintain a meaningful role in all OHV trail planning processes.
   4. The economic benefits of OHV activity to the local area shall be recognized.
   5. Statement of Value: *"We value fairness and seek policies that work for all members of the community."*

Section 3. Title. This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "OHV Corridor Overlay District Ordinance (OHV-OD)."

Section 4. Findings and Purpose.

Subd. 1. The ownership and lawful recreational use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) is valued in Minnesota; however, the operation of OHVs on land occupied by existing routes and trails is resulting in unacceptable environmental, public, and neighborhood impacts. These impacts include excessive noise, increased safety risks, trespassing on private property, heightened demand on local fire and emergency medical services, and significant environmental degradation such as soil erosion, habitat loss, and disturbances to wildlife.

Subd. 2. The creation or expansion of OHV routes and trails further compounds these unacceptable impacts, and residents have expressed the need for clear rules that protect private property rights, reduce trespass, limit demands on public services, and minimize excessive noise and other nuisances.

Subd. 3. The Township Board recognizes that properly managed OHV corridors can provide clear regulations for the siting of OHV corridors and trails in the Township.

Subd. 4. The Township Board finds it necessary and appropriate to establish an OHV Corridor Overlay District (OHV-OD) that reflects community values and ensures that the location of OHV trails occurs in a safe, fair, and sustainable manner.

Subd. 5. The Township Board further finds that the regulation of OHV operation through an overlay district is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of Township residents and property owners.

Section 5. Definitions.

Subd. 1. Off-Highway Vehicles. For purposes of this Ordinance, an "Off-Highway Vehicle" is defined the same as in Minnesota Statutes, Section 84.771.

Subd. 2. OHV Corridor Overlay District (OHV-OD). "OHV Corridor Overlay District" or "OHV-OD" means the overlay zoning district established by this ordinance that regulates the location of OHV routes and trails within designated corridors in addition to the requirements of the underlying zoning district.

Subd. 3. OHV Corridor. "OHV Corridor" means a designated OHV route or right-of-way as depicted on the Overlay Map.

Subd. 4. Overlay Map. "Overlay Map" means the map attached to this Ordinance as Attachment 1 depicting the boundaries of the OHV corridors.

Section 6. Creation of OHV Corridor Overlay District (OHV-OD).

Subd. 1. Establishment. An Off-Highway Vehicle Corridor Overlay District (OHV-OD) is established as an overlay to existing zoning districts, as depicted on the Overlay Map. The purpose of establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District (OHV-OD) is to provide a mechanism that overlays, rather than replaces, the base zoning districts. By using an overlay district, the Township can apply uniform rules for OHV corridors that cross multiple zoning districts, ensuring consistent standards for siting, design, and operation. This approach protects neighborhood livability, natural

resources, private property, and public infrastructure and resources while allowing designated corridors that provide safe and responsible recreational opportunities.

Subd. 2. Applicability.

A. The provisions of this Overlay District shall apply in addition to those of the underlying zoning district. Where a conflict occurs, the provisions of the OHV-OD shall control.
B. The provisions of the OHV-OD shall regulate the location of OHV trails and routes in the Township.

Subd. 3. Regulations.

A. OHV trails or routes must only be located in either: (1) the OHV-OD; (2) the corridors depicted in the existing St. Louis County Official All-Terrain Vehicle Map, a copy of which is attached to this Ordinance as Attachment 2; or (3) the right-of-way for Township roads as approved by the Township Board of Supervisors.
B. The location of OHV trails or routes outside of the areas described in paragraph A of this subdivision is prohibited.
C. Maximum trail corridor width is 16 feet.
D. Road crossings of OHV trails must conform to applicable MnDOT, St. Louis County, and Township Road authority standards.

Section 7. Enforcement.

Subd. 1. Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provisions in the Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 609.02. Subd. 3, as subsequently amended, plus costs of prosecution.

Subd. 2. The Township may institute appropriate judicial actions or administrative proceedings, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief, to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance or to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Separability. The provisions of this Ordinance are separable. If any court of competent jurisdiction adjudges any provision of this Ordinance to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Ordinance takes effect from and after its passage and publication.

This Ordinance takes effect from and after its passage and publication.

Passed this 5th day of May, 2026.

Supervisor Chiabotti: Aye

Supervisor Monahan-Junek: Aye

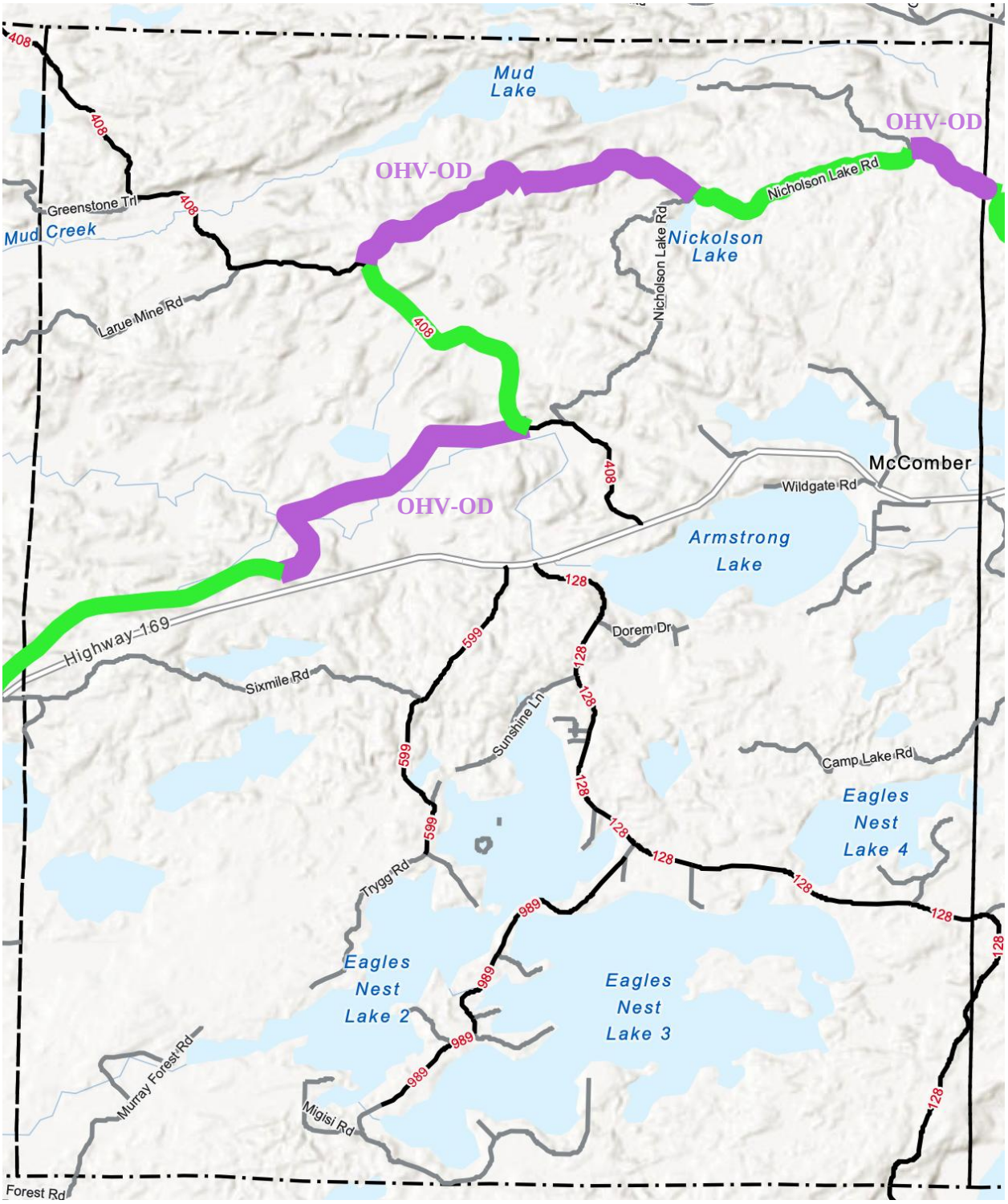
Supervisor Harrington: Aye

Supervisor Carlson: Aye

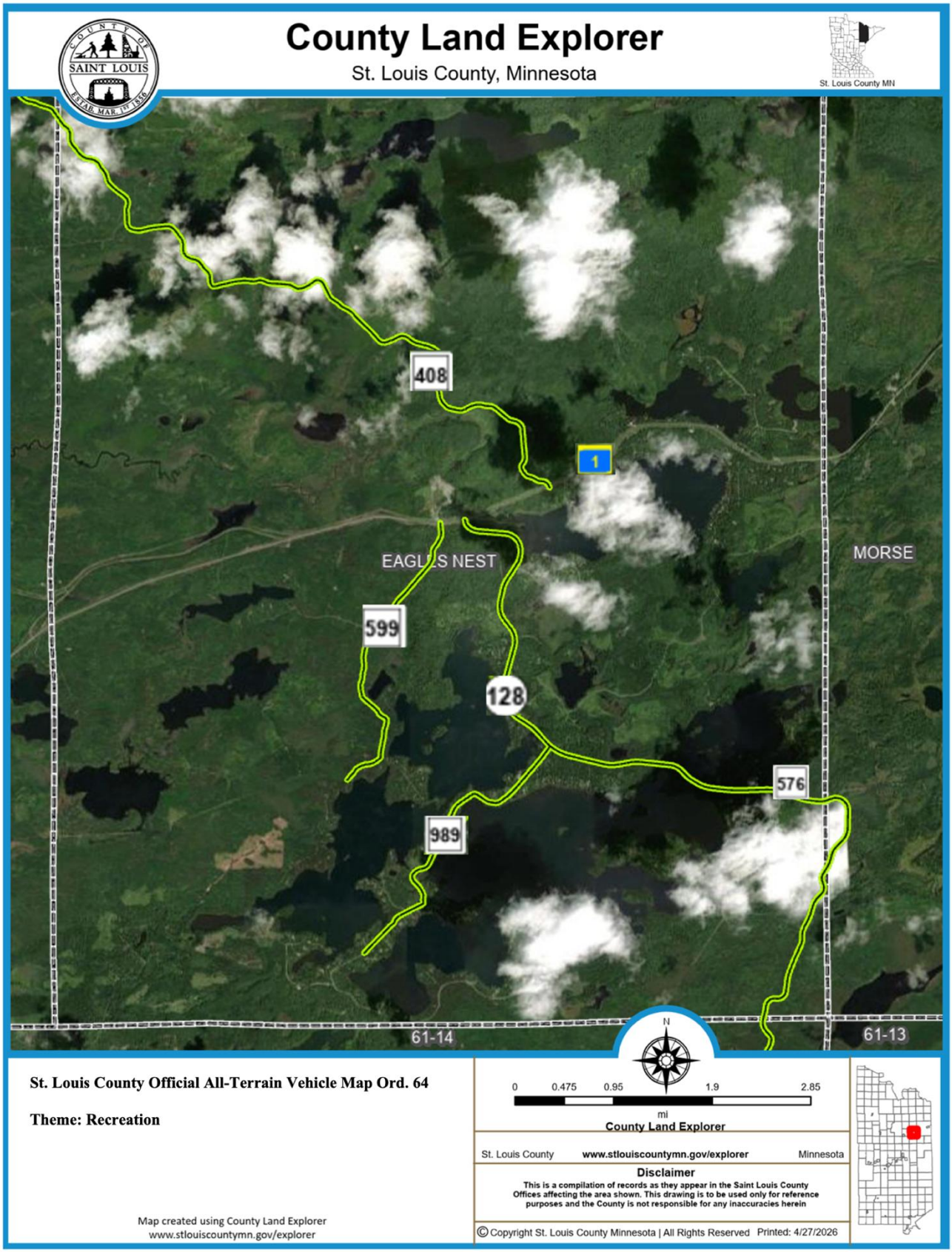
Township Chairperson: _____
David Chiabotti

Township Clerk: _____
Keely Drange

Attachment 1 - Overlay Map



OHV-OD

Attachment 2

St. Louis County Existing Official All-Terrain Vehicle Map