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To: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

From: Scott O. Arneson, County Administrator

Date: May 13, 2026

Re: MCHRMA HR Professional of the Year

I am pleased to announce that Human Resources Manager Jessica Ahlbrecht has been selected as the recipient of the MCHRMA HR Professional of the Year Award. This recognition reflects her outstanding leadership, dedication to public service, and meaningful contributions to strengthening the County's Human Resources operations.

In 2022, the County restructured the Human Resources Department from a single-director model to a team of three Human Resources Managers. In this updated structure, Jessica assumed a lead role as one of the Managers and has provided strategic direction, operational oversight, and consistent support to both new and existing HR staff. Her leadership was central to building a cohesive, high-performing team and ensuring continuity of service throughout the transition.

Jessica has been instrumental in enhancing the County's overall HR services. She guided the implementation of the new leadership model, supported staff onboarding, and strengthened internal processes. Her work has contributed to key improvements, including a comprehensive new-hire orientation program, expanded supervisory training opportunities, and successful benefits negotiations that helped reduce projected premium increases. Jessica is widely recognized for her professionalism, responsive service, and collaborative approach.

Her ability to provide stability during organizational change, combined with her forward-thinking mindset, has elevated the delivery of human resources services across the County. Departments consistently express trust and confidence in her work, and her efforts have helped ensure the County meets—and exceeds—expectations for high-quality HR support.

We congratulate Jessica on this well-deserved recognition.

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