

**MONTHLY STATEMENT OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN
OFFICE OF COUNTY RECORDER, AITKIN COUNTY
March 2019**

NATURE OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED	FEES RECEIVED
COUNTY RECORDER FEES	\$80.00
MISC RECEIPTS	\$0.00
COPIES & C/COPIES	\$3,369.25
NOTARY	\$100.00
TORRENS	\$26.00
TORRENS ASSURANCE *** 9.2031	\$3.00
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$5,379.50
STATE TREASURY GENERAL FUND *** 9.2036	\$3,916.50
LAND RECORDS COMPLIANCE FUND (UNALLOC) 1-100-195-5529	\$4,103.00
RECORDER TECHNOLOGY FUND 1-100-196-5529	\$3,730.00
COUNTY WELL CERTIFICATE	\$75.00
STATE WELL CERTIFICATE *** 9.2027	\$425.00
COUNTY DEATH CERTIFICATE	\$290.00
STATE DEATH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$328.00
COUNTY BIRTH CERTIFICATES	\$308.00
STATE BIRTH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$140.00
CHILDREN'S SURCHARGE *** 9.2024	\$105.00
LEGISLATIVE SURCHARGE (144.226 SUBD 3 (b)) *** 9.2036	\$350.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT OF CASH OR CHECKS TO THE AITKIN COUNTY TREASURER	\$22,728.25

RECORDING DONE FOR WHICH NO PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED

VETERANS HONORABLE DISCHARGES	\$0.00
AITKIN COUNTY	\$92.00
AITKIN CO ROAD & BRIDGE	\$0.00
OTHERS	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$92.00


 Michael T. Moriarty, Aitkin County Recorder

By 
 Deputy March 29, 2019

Documents Recorded for Month: 377
 Documents Recorded for Year: 752

Previous Year Statistics	
Documents Recorded for Month:	446
Documents Recorded for Year:	1165
Last Year's Monthly Deposit:	25,369.30

3A

AITKIN COUNTY POSITIONS

2019 LEGISLATION

1. H.F. 5/H.F. 11 – Paid FMLA

Would like to see an exemption for public employers or counties in particular. Public employers already offer large amount of sick leave banks and PTO/vacation. Many employees will not be happy to have some of their wages taken to put into this insurance program. Seems to infringe on the private STD/LTD insurance market.

2. Appointment of Row Officers

Aitkin County supports the ability for counties to appoint the Auditor, Treasurer, and Recorder. A reverse referendum is included along with protections for current elected officials in these positions. Many counties have already transitioned and are able to ensure that qualified, educated employees fill these important positions.

3. Increase in CPA

Joint legislation introduced that gives both \$30 million to cities and \$30 million to counties. This would bring counties back to the 2001 CPA levels.

4. Keep Provider Healthcare Tax

Supports healthcare programs in Aitkin County. Has the support of Riverwood Healthcare.

5. Pipeline tax reimbursement

Counties should not be held liable for changes in state tax valuation methods. The State should reimburse counties for any tax changes incurred as a result of a change in methodology.

6. Assessor Licensing

There is currently no bill introduced to change the licensing requirements, however Commissioner Niemi, myself and Mike Dangers have had conversation about introducing a bill next year that exempts certain counties or employees. These requirements will affect current employees that may be forced to leave and may also affect the ability for rural counties to attract future employees.

7. Transportation Funding

*Year in Review 2018, Aitkin County Economic Development & Forest Industry
Coordinator and Community.*

- Land exchange with Aitkin County Growth, Aitkin Airport and Trust for Public Land. Exchange opened up approximately 20 acres of Industrial property which has since been zoned to industrial, provided land for Aitkin Airport future expansion and provided economic development funds for Aitkin County Growth.
- Formal Business Retention and Expansion Visits with team as well as individually. Over 30 visits to business sites or in office. Visits have led to the creation of the Aitkin County Junior Achievement Satellite Advisory Board. Eight referrals to the Aitkin County Web Diagnostics for Small Businesses. Aitkin Health Services extended hours daycare brought to forefront. Reinforced housing as a major issue, housing study undertaken by Aitkin Growth. Many "starting or expanding a business" informational packets and referrals. Other financing or business help program information sent out to individuals and businesses.
- Opportunity Zone Designation awarded for Aitkin and McGregor Census Tracts. Working to get projects investment ready, questions remain. Process resulted in new partnerships.
- Scenic Byway designation received for Hwy's 169, 18 and 47 in Aitkin County and State Highways in Mille Lacs and Crow Wing counties that surrounding Lake Mille Lacs. Dedication Ceremony held in November and currently developing a committee structure to carry forward.
- Mille Lacs East ATV Connector Trail was awarded \$1,500,000.00 in State of MN bonding funds to connect the East side of Mille Lacs Lake to the Northwood's ATV Trail System. Letters of support provided and trail tour for legislative bonding committee provided. Information and Township meeting started in 2018, work plan being developed for next step. Continued as Chairperson, Aitkin County ATV Alliance. Coordinate with High Lifter and the Mud Nationals provide trail maps and other information for the event. Advertise and promote Aitkin County and Northwood's ATV Trial; MN Off Road, Iowa Outdoors, Mankato Sportshow publication, Sportsman Guide, map and other. Display Booth at St Paul Sportsman Show.
- Administration of the Aitkin County Broadband Grant Program. Submitted and awarded \$150,000.00 grant from the IRRRB as a match for Aitkin County funds. Aitkin County Iron Range Broadband Committee was able to access and distribute 50 PC's for People Computers. This was in addition to the 80 PC's distributed in 2017. Aitkin County Iron Range Broadband Committee, through Aitkin County, was granted an additional \$50,000.00 to enhance broadband adoption and usage in Aitkin County. Process is still ongoing in 2019.
- Small Cities Development Grant for housing re-hab in Wagner and Williams Townships submitted in 2017 and 2018. Unfortunately neither application was awarded.

- Applied for and received a new product development grant from NRRI for Savanna Pallets. Research the feasibility of producing timber access mats and similar timber products using locally sourced wood. Actual production is too costly for market at this time. Research resulted in improved efficiency in Savanna Pallets operations which resulted in higher earning jobs.
- Worked with the owner of the Butler Building in her development of a Shared Office Space, (SOS).
- Aitkin County Walleye Tank developed and launched in 2018, finalized in 2019. Coordinated with Aitkin County IT Dept to develop the application process, judges, and sponsors etc, 2018.
- Informational tour at Forester Pontoons with MN DEED, City of Hill City, NE Entrepreneur Fund and others. SCORE and other business assistance referrals provided and ongoing. Meetings and financial information provided to Lemco Hydraulics.
- Worked with Aitkin County GIS to develop Aitkin County Recreational maps, water routes and others.
- Coordinated with others for various workshops and information dissemination; including Farm Finances and Getting and Keeping Good Talent.

Other, ongoing projects that require varying amounts of attention and time.

- ARDC Loan Advisory Committee.
- Administer Aitkin County Tourism and Development Grant.
- Blandin Community Leadership Program steering committee.
- Monitor and keep in touch with Enbridge project, toured pumping station.
- Working relationship with Kennecott/Talon Metals, tour and group as well as individual meetings.
- American Peat Technologies expansion project.
- Aitkin County Building Committee.

Attachments;

- City of Aitkin Ordinance 392, rezoning of Aitkin Growth property to industrial.
- Junior Achievement Advisory Boards in MN, including Aitkin County.
- Opportunity Zone release from MN DEED.
- Lake Mille Lacs Byway Designation release from MN DOT.
- Duluth Tribune article on IRRRB grants awarded.
- Blandin Foundation release on additional broadband community grant.
- Farm Finance Workshop Flyer.
- Getting and Keeping Good Talent Workshop Flyer.
- Updates given to the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee in absence of meetings.

ORDINANCE NO. 392

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE "CITY OF AITKIN ZONING & SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE" BY AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF AITKIN

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AITKIN, MINNESOTA, ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

That the official Zoning District Map established by Chapter 152, Appendix A of the City of Aitkin Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance shall be amended as follows:

The following property is hereby rezoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Open Space (OS):

The Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4-NE1/4), except the North 385.00 feet of the East 1150.00 feet of said SE1/4-NE1/4, except the South 470.00 feet of the East 1183.00 feet of said SE1/4-NE1/4 and except the East 610.00 feet of said SE1/4-NE1/4, said Section Twenty-Four (24), Township Forty-seven (47), Range Twenty-seven (27)

The following property is hereby rezoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Open Space (OS):

That part of Government Lot Nine (9), said Section Twenty-Four (24), Township Forty-seven (47), Range Twenty-seven (27), described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of said Government Lot 9, thence South 89 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds East, bearing based on Aitkin County Coordinate Database NAD 83, 442.40 feet along the south line of said Government Lot 9 to the point of beginning of the tract to be described, thence North 00 degrees 01 minute 30 seconds West, parallel to the west line of said Government Lot 9, 926.00 feet; thence North 64 degrees 15 minutes 38 seconds West 67 feet, more or less, to the Mississippi River, thence northerly, easterly and southeasterly along said Mississippi River to the east line of said Government Lot 9; thence southerly along said east line of Government Lot 9 to the southeast corner of said Government Lot 9; thence westerly along said south line of Government Lot 9 to the point of beginning.

→ **The following property is hereby rezoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Industrial (I):**

The North 385.00 feet of the East 1150.00 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4-NE1/4) said Section Twenty-four (24), Township Forty-seven (47), Range Twenty-seven (27). Subject to easements, reservations or restrictions of record, if any.

→ **The following property is hereby rezoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Industrial (I):**

The South 470.00 feet of the East 1183.00 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4-NE1/4) and the East 610.00 feet of said SE1/4-NE1/4, except the North 385.00 feet of said East 610.00 feet of the SE1/4-NE1/4, Section Twenty-Four (24), Township Forty-seven (47), Range Twenty-seven (27). Subject to the right of way for Air Park Drive and also subject to other easements, reservations or restrictions of record, if any.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

Adopted by the Aitkin City Council this 7th day of January 2019. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption and publication according to law.

X 
Gary Tibbitts
Mayor

X 
Kathleen Rybin
City Administrator

search

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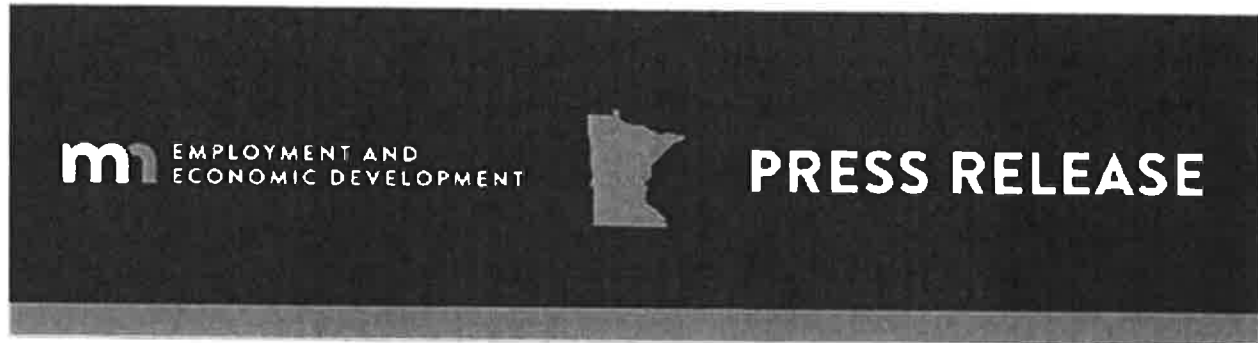
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U.S. Treasury Approves Minnesota Opportunity Zones

128 census tracts in Minnesota to receive the designation

May 18, 2018 | [Economic Development](#)

Shane Delaney, 651-259-7236

Shane.M.Delaney@state.mn.us

ST. PAUL – The U.S. Department of Treasury today approved 128 low-income census tracts in Minnesota (<https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/tax-credits/opp-zones/census-opp-zone-tracts.jsp>) to be designated as Opportunity Zones. All of the approved census tracts were recommended to Treasury by Gov. Mark Dayton in April following recommendations from cities, counties and tribal nations.

Opportunity Zones are a new economic and community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1/text>) to encourage long-term economic development and housing investments in low-income communities nationwide.

“Expanding access to good jobs and better opportunities has been a top priority for my Administration. These efforts have been especially important in communities that are experiencing continuing economic disparities,” said Governor Dayton. “The Opportunity Zones program provides Minnesota a great opportunity to work with local community leaders and our federal partners to build upon that important work and improve people’s lives.”

“This approval by the U.S. Treasury Department will open the door to much needed investment to some of Minnesota’s lowest-income areas to spur economic development,” said DEED Commissioner Shawntera Hardy. “This program could lead to new strategies to bridge public-private partnerships.”

“Investments in Opportunity Zones can help spur development of housing too,” said Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal. “We look forward to working with communities and developers to explore the potential of this new tool for housing.”

Projects in Opportunity Zones will be eligible for funding through Opportunity Funds. Opportunity Funds are an investment vehicle that is set up as either a partnership or corporation for investing in eligible property that is located in an Opportunity Zone and that utilizes the investor’s gains from a prior investment for funding the Opportunity Fund. Guidance for opportunity funds are being developed by the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service and should be available later this year.

DEED is the state’s principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development. For more details about the agency and its services, visit the [DEED website \(https://mn.gov/deed/\)](https://mn.gov/deed/) or follow us on [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/mndeed\)](https://twitter.com/mndeed).

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Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting the DEED Communications Office at 651-259-7161.

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News Release

July 19, 2018

Contact: Sue Roe
Office: 651-366-4268
Cell: 651-503-2467
Susan.Roe@state.mn.us

Lake Mille Lacs is designated state's latest Scenic Byway

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Scenic Byways Commission designated Lake Mille Lacs as the state's newest scenic byway this week. The designation will open up opportunities for increased tourism and promote the region's unique character.

The commission is made up of the Minnesota departments of transportation and natural resources, the Minnesota Historical Society and Explore Minnesota.

"The Scenic Byways Commission has been tremendously successful in preserving and highlighting some of the very best destinations in Minnesota," said Governor Dayton. "Designating Lake Mille Lacs as Minnesota's newest scenic byway corridor will encourage Minnesotans to enjoy a unique part of our state and support the Mille Lacs Area's economic growth and vitality. I encourage all Minnesotans, and visitors beyond our borders, to plan a trip to Mille Lacs and enjoy all that our newest scenic byway has to offer."

The Lake Mille Lacs 68-mile Scenic Byway is the state's 22nd byway. The state's byways comprise 2,948 miles of regionally outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic or archaeological significant corridors.

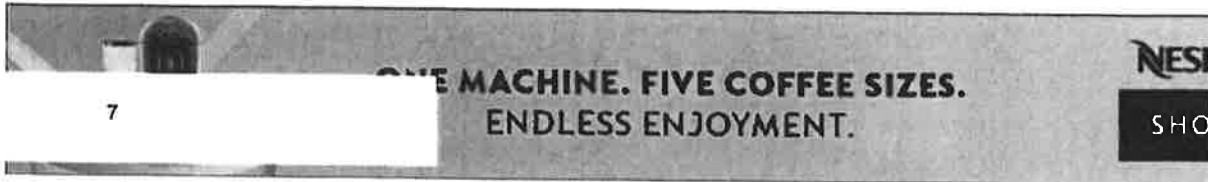
"Scenic byways offer the best of Minnesota, by vehicle, foot or bicycle," said Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle. "Designating scenic byways increases economic benefits through improved traveler and community services, promotion of tourism and a broadened appreciation of the state's historic and natural resources. We are pleased that Lake Mille Lacs now joins the list of scenic byways."

Work on the designation began about two years ago when the East Central Regional Development Commission and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission led a grassroots effort to gain support. The two commissions studied the route possibilities, inventoried the prominent features and held public meetings in communities, including tribal communities, to gather input.

"Partnerships were key to getting this historic and popular recreational lake designated as a scenic byway," Zelle said. "The good work of the two development commissions and the support of the Lake Mille Lacs communities made this happen to ensure this northern Minnesota gem will be enhanced and preserved."

All roadways, except one, on the scenic byway are MnDOT-maintained roads. The byway loops around Lake Mille Lacs and includes highways 169, 27, 18 and 47. Shakopee Lake Road, which is a county-owned road, is also part of the loop.

The state's other byways are listed on MnDOT's [Scenic Byways webpage](#).



Hibbing-based aircraft refurbisher awarded \$600,000 loan

By Jimmy Lovrien on Aug 23, 2018 at 5:28 p.m.



Midwest Aircraft Refinishers was awarded a \$600,000 loan Thursday by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board to expand their business of refurbishing Cirrus aircraft, which are built in Duluth. 2007 file / News Tribune

The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board approved a \$600,000 loan for a Hibbing-based aircraft refurbishing company at their meeting in Eveleth on Thursday.

Midwest Aircraft Refinishing, or MAR, specializes in repainting and refurbishing single-engine composite airplanes, namely planes built by Duluth-based Cirrus. The company, based at the Chisholm-Hibbing Airport, said the loan would go toward installing a paint booth and create 6-10 new jobs on top of the existing 10 full-time positions.

MAR Chief Financial Officer George Virnig told the IRRRB that the company's backlog now could help them catch up with demand.

Ad closed by Google

"We're losing some of the market to the fact that we can't capture all of it," Virnig said, adding that they're dealing with a backlog of 13 months.

Prior to the IRRRB's vote, advisory board member and state Rep. Jason Metsa of Virginia said he likes to see the prospect of outside money coming into the area through MAR.

At Thursday's meeting, the IRRRB also awarded 10 grants totalling nearly \$1.6 million to Iron Range communities for infrastructure projects.

Three separate \$250,000 grants went to the city of Biwabik to fix underground utilities, roads and alleys; the city of Coleraine for the installation of a larger water main pipe; and the city of

Eveleth for a water tower reconditioning project.

The city of Nashwauk also received \$220,000 for the replacement of 300 feet of aging sewer line.

→ Aitkin County received \$150,000 to expand broadband access to up to 738 households.

The City of McKinley, City of Chisholm, City of Tower, Goodland Township, and the Cook County/Grand Marais Economic Development Authority also received grants.

Jimmy Lovrien

Jimmy Lovrien is a reporter for the Duluth News Tribune. He spent the summer of 2015 as an intern for the Duluth News Tribune and was hired full time in October 2017 as a reporter for the Weekly Observer. He also reported for the Lake County News-Chronicle in 2017-18. Lovrien grew up in Alexandria, Minn., but moved to Duluth in 2013 to attend The College of St.



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aitkin receives Blandin Foundation broadband grant to address community technology priorities

Grand Rapids, MINN. (February XX, 2019) – Blandin Foundation announced today that it has awarded six grants totaling \$325,000 that assist rural Minnesota communities in advancing high-speed Internet access and use in their communities. Through a sustained funding partnership with Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and St. Louis County, Aitkin County was awarded a \$50,000 grant to address community technology goals.

Aitkin County was named a Blandin Broadband Community (BBC) in November 2016. Since then leaders have convened the community twice to identify technology priorities and, through grants awarded in 2017-18, implemented projects like wifi on school buses, wifi hotspots for check out at East Central Regional Library, and community conference centers.

At a recent visioning meeting, Aitkin County community members re-evaluated their technology goals and named the following:

1. To have 100% of our homes and businesses to have access to a broadband network at the speed guidelines established by the State of Minnesota Office of Broadband.
2. Increased number of hotspots available throughout the county, and robust adoption and use of broadband by our citizens and businesses.

Using these goals as the guide, community leaders will build on existing work to enhance access and use of broadband Internet in Aitkin County.

We are honored to continue to participate in the Iron Range Blandin Broadband Community program. Our goal is to continue to make improvements in Broadband adoption and education. To build on our successes from the first time we participated. Many thanks to the Blandin Foundation, IRRRB and St Louis County for funding this great community program.

“The success Aitkin County has seen in increasing broadband access and use through the BBC program is a prime example of what can happen when community passion and resources meet,” said Blandin Foundation President and CEO Dr. Kathleen Annette. “We’re thrilled to continue our partnership with Aitkin County leaders as they build a digitally-driven future.”

-END-

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TEAM

Taking Charge of YOUR Finances: *How to Survive and Thrive*



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This short course will use an interactive and fun approach to teach participants how to organize and use financial records; develop and analyze financial statements; and make informed decisions regarding finances and production. Producer teams will act as loan review committees and learn about these concepts as they review a case study farm. The concepts covered promote better internal decisions for farm management and stronger relationships with external partners, such as farm lenders. **Date of workshop is March 27, 2018.** The doors will open at 9:00 AM with the class starting at 9:30 AM and will conclude around 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided, please RSVP.

- The workshop will be held at Mille Lacs Energy Coperative, 36559 Hwy 169 Aitkin, MN 56431
- Please RSVP to Ross Wagner, rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us or 218-927-7305 by March 22nd.
- There is no charge for this informational packed workshop!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand components and use of **Balance Sheet** (including related key ratios).
- Understand components and use of **Income Statement** (including related key ratios).
- Understand components and use of **Cash Flow** (including related key ratios).
- Organize and utilize **Farm Financial Records**.
- Greater understanding of financial tools to make better internal management and financing decisions.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please contact Nathan Hulinsky, Moorhead, MN with related questions or comments. Phone: (218) 236-2009. Email: huli0013@umn.edu.



NORTH CENTRAL
EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2015-49200-24226.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

Getting & Keeping

Good Talent

Presented by:
Moxy Coaching
Jen Betsch

AITKIN

Birchstreet Center
20 Third Street NE
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-735-6121

HILL CITY

Hill City School
500 Lone Avenue
Hill City, MN 55748
218-697-2394 ext. 172

MCGREGOR

Chamber of Commerce
94 Maddy Street
McGregor, MN 56431
218-768-3692

Wednesday, November 14
11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

RSVP by November 7
to your location of interest

-Space is limited-
Lunch provided

Hosted by:

Aitkin County Economic Development
NE MN Office of Job Training
Blandin Foundation
Aitkin County Growth



Ross Wagner

From: Ross Wagner [rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 3:31 PM
To: 'Bill Pratt'; 'Don Niemi'; 'Jessica Seibert'; 'mjacobs@co.aitkin.mn.us'; 'Kirk Peysar'
Subject: Economic Development Committee
Attachments: 0784_001.pdf

Hello, a couple of updates. I will be off the week of February 5th so there will be no Economic Development Committee meeting in February.

- Aitkin County Growth land exchange. We have met with the Airport Commission and have all agreed that the Airport Commission will have the option to purchase property that is listed in their Master Plan for runway clear zones and future expansion. This would amount to approximately 17 acres. The Airport would purchase that land from Aitkin Growth. The Trust for Public Land (TPT) would then purchase the remaining acres less the 40 retained by Aitkin Growth. The conditions for making the Aitkin Growth remaining property shovel ready and up to 3 years of PILT remain. However, since those meetings, Aitkin Growth has had some preliminary site work done by Wiseth Smith Nolting, (WSN). The work shows that out of the 40 acres less than half is buildable with the remaining acres wetland. Aitkin Growth does not want to own land that is not buildable, the TPT would purchase whatever land that Aitkin Growth does not want or can't use. So essentially, moving ahead with this scenario, Aitkin Growth would retain approximately 20 acres rather than 40, the Airport purchasing 17 acres and the remaining acres purchased by the TPL and then transferred to the county. I would recommend we proceed with this scenario. The goal of having shovel ready commercial/industrial property would remain. We are still scheduled to bring this before the board at the February 13th meeting. The map from WSN showing possible building lots is attached.
- Small Cities Development Program – Housing Re-hab in Williams and Wagner Townships. I will be attending the Wagner Town Board meeting on February 14th, Williams Town Board on February 8th and the City of McGrath February 1st to explain the program and ask for possible candidates for the program. This is designed to promote the program and make a stronger application. Other actions to strengthen our application will be information on septic system compliance and Lakes and Pines will lower the payback period and required down payment. Public Hearing is set for February 13th. Don, if you are interested in attending any of the board meetings let me know.
- Sportsman Show in St Paul last week went well, though attendance was down from last year. My goal on a 4 day show is to give out over 1,000 pieces of information on Aitkin County, I fell short of that but came close. The ATV Trail continues to bring the most people to the booth as there are few legitimate ATV riding areas in Minnesota but I get a lot of folks looking for new areas to vacation and recreate. Overall, I felt the show was a success but I am considering doing the Ice Fishing Show held in early December next year. After ATV'ing, places to fish is the next biggest area of questions I get. I worked with Dan Haasken to develop a Recreation Map that I brought down and handed out. It shows the lakes with a public access prominently. That was a popular map and I went through around 200 of them. I think that would appeal to ice fisherman, who many own ATV's, and snowmobilers.
- Junior Achievement. Kurt Klicker, Neighborhood Bank, is heading up the Junior Achievement (JA) effort in the Aitkin schools. He has served on JA boards in other communities in the past. I told him that our plan is to help him however we can to get established in Aitkin before looking to expand into McGregor and Hill City.
- I am continuing to gather information on a possible lobbyist. I should have a report sent out next week.
- The Iron Range Broadband Committee met with the Blandin Foundation folks yesterday for what they call the "Strut Your Stuff Tour". It was a update to Blandin on our projects and they were very happy with our progress. I will be giving a full report to the Board at the February 27th meeting.

Ross Wagner
Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator
Aitkin County

Ross Wagner

From: Ross Wagner [rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 4:29 PM
To: 'Bill Pratt'; 'Don Niemi'; 'Jessica Seibert'; 'Mark Jacobs'; 'Kirk Peysar'
Subject: Economic Development Committee

Hello, I hate to cancel another Economic Development Committee meeting but May 2nd is the Aitkin Area Dollars for Scholars annual awards banquets and I will be tied up with that all day.

For the June 6th committee meeting, I will plan on us meeting with Al Raushel at Savanna Pallets. Our product development project is completed, wooden access mats may not be as feasible as we had hoped. However, Al is very happy with the overall process and feel it has helped their production. He would give us a demonstration on how we helped. Second item for the day is reviewing the new, proposed site for the American Peat Technologies expansion. Doug Green inquired recently if there were grants or other type of assistance to help with access roads. There may be some State of MN programs and Tax Abatement could be used. What I told Doug is the Economic Development Committee will start a discussion.

Some quick updates;

- Opportunity Zones, Gov Dayton is recommending that 2 out of our 3 tracts we submitted for an opportunity zone be approved. The recommendation goes to the Federal Government and they are supposed to announce the selections within the next 60 days. Hard to believe ours will not be selected once recommended by the Governor. The tracts are the 2 that were among the lowest rated. All told there 507 tracts eligible and only 128 could be recommended. So I feel pretty good that we were able to get 2. They are the City of Aitkin and surrounding area and the east side of the county that includes McGregor and Tamarack then to the south border of the county.
- Myself, Barb and Jeanie from Aitkin Growth met with the Mark Phillips, IRRRB Commissioner, Janelle Greschner IRRB Business Recruitment and the Economic Development Team from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. It was a good meeting and discussion was based on partnering on possible Economic Development projects in Aitkin County. Affordable Housing being the main topic and the Shovel Ready property. A follow up meeting is set for May 10th in Aitkin.

Ross Wagner
Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator
Aitkin County
217 2nd Street NW #131
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7305 Fax 218-927-7374
rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us

Ross Wagner

From: Ross Wagner [rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2018 3:18 PM
To: 'Bill Pratt'; 'Don Niemi'; 'Jessica Seibert'; 'Rich Courtemanche'; 'Kirk Peysar'
Subject: Economic Development update
Attachments: Aitkin County Water Trail Master Plan Proposal 9.10.2018.pdf; image001.jpg; BywayDedicationInvite.FINAL.PDF

Hello, as promised below is an update instead of meeting today. Please let me know if you have any questions or want information on something I may have not covered.

- Blue Water Creations (BWC) Update – Pontoon makers in Hill City have purchased NIVI.
 - Chad Christenson is the President of Blue Water Creations. They have purchased NIVI, the boat maker in Hill City near Quadna which has been idle for around 3 years. They have hired back 2 production managers from NIVI and plan to start making pontoons this month. They project to be up to 25 – 30 employees in a few years. The purchase is complete and financed. I have introduced and helped set up a meeting and tour last week with our regional lender type entities as BWC seeks financing to expand beyond the start up phase. They will continue with the Forester brand name and have partnered with Honda to use Honda Outboards exclusively which in turn opens their market to all of the Honda dealers. We discussed Tax Abatement should they undertake a major building improvement or expansion but nothing like that is imminent. Because so much of their assets are going into getting the business back to being operational, they most likely will need assistance from the regional lender types for expansion until they can cash flow from operations. Lake Country Power has indicated they could provide a low interest loan. I also invited Diana M., Hill City Clerk/Treasurer for the tour so the City would be aware and knowledgeable of this very positive development in Hill City.
- East Mille Lacs ATV Connector update
 - A kick-off/informational meeting on the East Mille Lacs ATV route was held last month. About 30 people came including area business owners, DNR rep's and area citizens. The consensus from the meeting was to make the connection from the East shore of Mille Lacs to the Soo Line as the first phase of the project. This is to get the resorts and other establishments a route to the trail as soon as possible with loops and other trails to come as phase 2. A good group of folks volunteered to serve on the Oversight Committee to oversee the trail construction, fund raising and promotion. We have already received suggestions from local ATV riders on possible routes. The oversight committee will meet this month with routes and fund raising as the main topics.
- Aitkin County Water Trail Proposal – Attached, discussion and update
 - The Aitkin County Water Trail proposal came about from the group working to establish water and other trails in the Aitkin area. Andy Hubly, ARDC, was invited to a meeting to discuss a plan for the Aitkin Area, however, it was determined not be cost effective to do a plan for such a small area, so the Countywide proposal was submitted instead. The Aitkin group has prioritized the Aitkin area and would certainly look to include the entire county as it moves forward but I wanted to bring up to the Committee to see if it something we might want to consider on a county level. I think this something for discussion at our next meeting and Rich will be attending the next Aitkin Trails meeting so it will get additional discussion there.
- Mille Lacs Scenic Byway update, November 1st Ribbon Cutting
 - With the action taken to formally establish the Mille Lacs Scenic Byway the committee will be holding a Ribbon Cutting/Open House November 1st at 2:00 at the Y Club in Garrison. Many of the original ad-hoc committee, myself included, that worked to get the designation have agreed to form a permanent committee to make this more than signs on the Highway. Through the ERDC we have received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls for promotions and other expenses. Consensus for the first project seems to be to try and make the Garrison Public access back into the park like setting it was at one time. This is a high traffic volume area and highly visible so it makes sense. Malmo public access is also on the list. A sign sample and invitation are attached.

- Blandin Broadband Community Update, visioning session, December 4th
 - As has been mentioned previously, Aitkin County and our fellow Blandin Broadband Community cohorts have been awarded an additional \$50,000 to carry on the good work. A visioning session is scheduled for December 4th location and time TBD. This on top of the previously awarded ~\$76,000 that went for the Wifi Hotspots, Wifi on Busses, Wifi in Palisade and other projects. I guess I am unsure if this is a continuation of an existing grant program or a new grant program. I will work with Blandin and Jessica to see if this will need board action or not.
- Walleye Tank
 - I am working with the IT Department on how Walleye Tank ideas can get submitted either by email or a website. An initial request for ideas will go out and with ideas with merit will be asked to submit a more formal business plan type submittal. All ideas will be critiqued and input provided, we do not want to discourage anybody with an idea from submitting. Prizes are \$1,000.00 for first, \$500.00 for 2nd and \$250.00 for 3rd.
- Small Cities Development Program, Housing rehab. Grant.
 - I have placed this item on the October 9th agenda for the County to apply again for housing rehabilitation for Williams and Wagner Townships. Nicole Klosner with Lakes and Pines has met with our DEED rep and he has offered ideas to make our application better. They want more information on septic tank condition. DEED doesn't want to provide money to a homeowner for a new roof and furnace only to have the septic system fail in a couple of years. Both Nicole and I felt that we had a great application last year but we will do some type of mailing or survey on septic systems of potential applicants. DEED has a bias against counties, in my opinion, because they don't understand septic systems and they want the project area to be small geographically. Preliminary applications are due November 15th and there is no \$750.00 application fee from Lakes & Pines as we paid last year and weren't successful.

Ross Wagner
Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator
Aitkin County
217 2nd Street NW #131
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7305 Fax 218-927-7374
rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us

Aitkin County - Government Center Addition

Date: April 20, 2019

Handout GC



CATEGORY OF WORK	TRADE CONTRACTOR NAME	ORIGINAL CONTRACT	CHANGE ORDERS	ADJUSTED CONTRACT	PAID TO DATE	BALANCE TO FINISH
1 Earthwork / Utilities / Improvements / Demo.	Eagle Construction	\$652,666.00	-\$6,831.25	\$645,834.75	\$335,729.00	\$310,105.75
2 Concrete	Thompson Construction of Princeton, Inc.	\$236,442.00	\$8,356.00	\$244,798.00	\$162,425.30	\$82,372.70
3 Masonry	Harbor City Masonry	\$690,990.00	\$12,226.79	\$703,216.79	\$262,213.30	\$441,003.49
4 Steel Erection	Roden Iron	\$220,000.00	-\$1,525.00	\$218,475.00	\$185,915.00	\$32,560.00
5 Carpentry	Gopher State Contractors	\$245,300.00	\$1,184.03	\$246,484.03	\$64,172.51	\$182,311.52
6 & 20 Roofing / HVAC	Thelen Heating & Roofing	\$720,000.00	\$87,383.00	\$807,383.00	\$393,975.45	\$413,407.55
7 Metal Wall Panels	Progressive Building Systems	\$226,000.00	\$0.00	\$226,000.00	\$7,079.40	\$218,920.60
8 Joint Sealants	Sunrise Specialties	\$51,750.00	\$0.00	\$51,750.00	\$0.00	\$51,750.00
9 Coiling Grilles	Garage Door Store	\$49,950.00	\$0.00	\$49,950.00	\$0.00	\$49,950.00
9A Folding Panel Partitions	Skold Specialty Contracting	\$15,340.00	\$1,050.00	\$16,390.00	\$0.00	\$16,390.00
10 Aluminum Windows / Doors & Glazing	Anderson Glass Co.	\$315,100.00	\$6,700.00	\$321,800.00	\$86,830.00	\$234,970.00
11 Gypsum Board	Olympic Companies	\$889,350.00	\$43,619.00	\$932,969.00	\$600,237.08	\$332,731.92
12 Tile	Dorholt Tile	\$207,164.00	\$3,254.00	\$210,418.00	\$23,892.50	\$186,525.50
13 Acoustical Treatments	Twin City Acoustics	\$298,873.00	-\$257.00	\$298,616.00	\$5,350.40	\$293,265.60
14 Flooring	Contract Tile & Carpet	\$134,768.00	\$1,425.00	\$136,193.00	\$0.00	\$136,193.00
16 Painting	Fransen Decorating	\$209,750.00	-\$45,316.00	\$164,434.00	\$6,708.82	\$157,725.18
17 Elevator	MEI Total Elevator	\$258,232.00	\$0.00	\$258,232.00	\$0.00	\$258,232.00
18 Fire Protection	LVC Companies	\$244,800.00	\$0.00	\$244,800.00	\$110,865.00	\$133,935.00
19 Plumbing / Piping	Masters Plumbing & Heating	\$845,000.00	\$64,154.01	\$909,154.01	\$496,917.36	\$412,236.65
21 Controls	Honeywell	\$205,970.00	\$30,048.00	\$236,018.00	\$110,906.06	\$125,111.94
22 Testing / Adjusting & Balancing	SMB of MN	\$34,700.00	\$0.00	\$34,700.00	\$0.00	\$34,700.00
23 Electrical / Communications / Security	Holden Electric	\$974,350.00	\$59,101.33	\$1,033,451.33	\$536,092.60	\$497,358.73
24 Steel Supply - Material Only	Thurbeck Steel	\$419,600.00	\$7,345.01	\$426,945.01	\$341,785.22	\$85,159.79
25 Standard Doors / Frames / Hardware (material only)	Sell Hardware	\$106,785.00	\$8,113.00	\$114,898.00	\$19,745.75	\$95,152.25
26 Casework (material only)	Northwest Cabinets	\$163,676.00	-\$1,818.37	\$161,857.63	\$0.00	\$161,857.63
27 Specialties (material only)	Bartley Sales Company, Inc.	\$36,523.00	\$0.00	\$36,523.00	\$2,308.50	\$34,214.50
TRADE CONTRACTOR TOTAL:		\$8,453,079.00	\$278,211.55	\$8,731,290.55	\$3,753,149.25	\$4,978,141.30
Contingency	Budget	\$537,436.00	-\$278,211.55	\$259,224.45	\$0.00	\$259,224.45
General Conditions	Budget	\$688,066.00	\$0.00	\$688,066.00	\$372,049.13	\$316,016.87
CM Fee	Contegrity Group, Inc.	\$261,495.00	\$0.00	\$261,495.00	\$145,379.24	\$116,115.76
Permitting	Budget	\$62,500.00	\$0.00	\$62,500.00	\$62,500.00	\$0.00
Architect & Engineer Fee	BKV Group	\$634,000.00	\$0.00	\$634,000.00	\$572,069.20	\$61,930.80
Architect Reimbursables	BKV Group	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$9,612.80	\$10,387.20
CONSTRUCTION TOTAL:		\$10,656,576.00	\$0.00	\$10,656,576.00	\$4,914,759.62	\$5,741,816.38
Owner Items						
Asbestos Abatement	Arrowhead / ACCT (Allowance)	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	\$17,900.00	\$47,100.00
FF&E	Budget	\$216,990.00	\$0.00	\$216,990.00	\$12,109.13	\$204,880.87
Historic Assessment	Summit Envirosolutions	\$7,297.60	\$0.00	\$7,297.60	\$7,119.05	\$178.55
Finance Costs - Allowance	Springsted / Dorsey / Moody's	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$31,500.00	\$18,500.00
PROJECT TOTAL:		\$10,995,863.60	\$0.00	\$10,995,863.60	\$4,983,387.80	\$6,012,475.80

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: April 9, 2019

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
BOB HARRMARTH	✓		BY SELF
KATHRYN BEATTY	✓		ANGELS Mc GREGOR
CURT LUGERT	✓		ANGELS
Randy Quake		✓	
Rich Countermarele		✓	
Pam Wagner		✓	
Reht Mann	✓		
Joel Hoppe	✓	✓	
Susan Clark Harris	✓		AC Child Abuse Prevention Council