



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

4 A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: January 28, 2020

Title of Item: Local Match for the Mille Lacs East ATV Trail & RFP

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Ross Wagner		Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		Estimated Time Needed: 30 Minutes
Summary of Issue: <p>Aitkin County has received a State of MN Bonding grant of \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose of connecting the East side of Mille Lacs Lake to the existing Northwood's ATV Trail System. In order to access the bonding grant, Aitkin County must first pass a resolution stating that a local match of \$150,000 of non-state funds must first be secured. Please see the attached memo for further details on securing the local match and on the Northwood's ATV Trails.</p> <p>The subsequent step in the process will be to then hire an Engineering firm for trail layout, design and construction. Assuming a resolution stating that the local match is secured, I am requesting permission to issue a Request for Proposals to firms that would perform the those services. The RFP would be advertised as well as sent to firms that have been known to do trail work.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: Total cost of the local match is \$150,000; \$70,000 CIP, \$65,000 Ec Dev Reserve, \$15,000.00 Mille Lacs Trails. No levy or general fund money will be used.		
Recommended Action/Motion: Pass Resolution confirming local match of non-state funds. Authorize a Request for Proposals from Engineering firms for scoping, design and build services.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 150,000.00; Reserves and CIP Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED xx, 2020

By Commissioner: xx

20200128-0xx

RESOLUTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NORTHWOODS ATV TRAIL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Aitkin County has been awarded State Bonding Funds in the amount of \$1,500,000, from the 2018 bonding bill by the State of Minnesota for predesign, design, acquisition, and development of a trail to connect the Northwood's ATV trail system with the Mille Lacs-Malmo East community trail. The appropriation is not available until the commissioner of management and budget determines that \$150,000 has been committed to the project from non-state sources.

BE IT RESOLVED that Aitkin County has the legal authority to receive financial assistance, and financial capability to meet the match requirement and ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Aitkin County has secured the required \$150,000.00 in non-state funds for the local match. Aitkin County funds for the local match will be made available for project costs and expenses as incurred under the scope of this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Aitkin County has not incurred any acquisition or development costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that THE AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Aitkin County.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners on January 28, 2020

Commissioner xx moved for adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 28th day of January, 2020 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of January, 2020

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

Aitkin County Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator
Aitkin County Courthouse
Ross Wagner
217 Second Street N.W.
Aitkin, MN 56431
Phone: 218/927-7305
Fax: 218/927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Local Match and RFP for Mille Lacs East ATV Trail

Aitkin County has received a State of MN Bonding grant of \$1,500,000.00 for the purpose of connecting the East side of Mille Lacs Lake to the existing Northwood's ATV Trail System. Previously the Board passed a resolution agreeing to be the grant sponsor and administrator. The next step, in order to access the bonding grant, Aitkin County must first pass a resolution stating that a local match of \$150,000 of non-state funds are secured. This is obviously a great opportunity for Aitkin County to make a significant investment of \$150,000.00 in an important piece of one of our economic engines, trails, for the cost of \$150,000.00. Some figures on the Northwood's ATV Trail System;

* Since the implementation of the Northwood's, Aitkin County Campground receipts have nearly tripled, 3 of the 4 campgrounds have direct access to the trail.

* Starting with the 2019 riding season the Land Department placed trail counters in selected areas, 11,974 riders were counted through August on the various trails and connectors, other than the Red Top Trail that the club has trail counters. The club's counters show an average of 425 riders per week on the Red Top. So, approximately, 18,349 riders have used our trails with 2 months remaining in the season.

* For the 2016 and 2017 we had a counter on the Northwood's ATV Trail website; in 2016 we had 8,599 unique visits to the site and in 2017 that number climbed to 28,645.

* A Dovetail Partners report was commissioned shortly after the trail opened on the impact of the Northwood's ATV on area businesses. All of the businesses that took part in the survey had experienced some increase in business with 42% seeing a modest increase and 25% seeing a significant increase. These numbers will all have increased now the trail has been in use for an additional 5 years since the survey.

There is no doubt that the Northwood's ATV Trail System is having a positive effect on the Aitkin County Economy. Again, we have the opportunity to not only expand ridership opportunities but connecting the trail to the food and lodging amenities in the East Mille Lacs area is a win-win for riders and the community. My recommendation for funding the local match is as follows;

- \$65,000.00 from the Economic Development reserve fund. After our obligations to the Aitkin County Broadband Grants there will be approximately \$75,000.00

remaining in this fund. The purpose of the reserve fund is economic development projects. I feel similar to Broadband, this is an investment in Aitkin County infrastructure that will pay dividends for years to come. I can't think of a better way to use those remaining funds.

- \$70,000.00 from the Land Department 2021 Capital Improvement budget. The Land Department is planning to purchase equipment for ATV trail building and maintenance that we would purchase from grant funds for ATV trail use.
- \$15,000.00 from the Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile and ATV Club. In addition to contributing 10% of the match, Mille Lacs Trails has also agreed to be the trail sponsor.

Some additional information on the impact of ATV riding and trails;

Economic Impact Study for the Hatfield and McCoy Trail System in Virginia, we see them as our model and main competition.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17qfQbBcrJ2KzdlyMlik96Xp3-Pbxy6JF/view>

Economic Impact Report on Iowa, around page 8 they get into demographics.

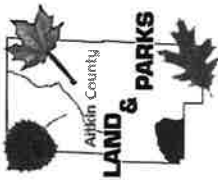
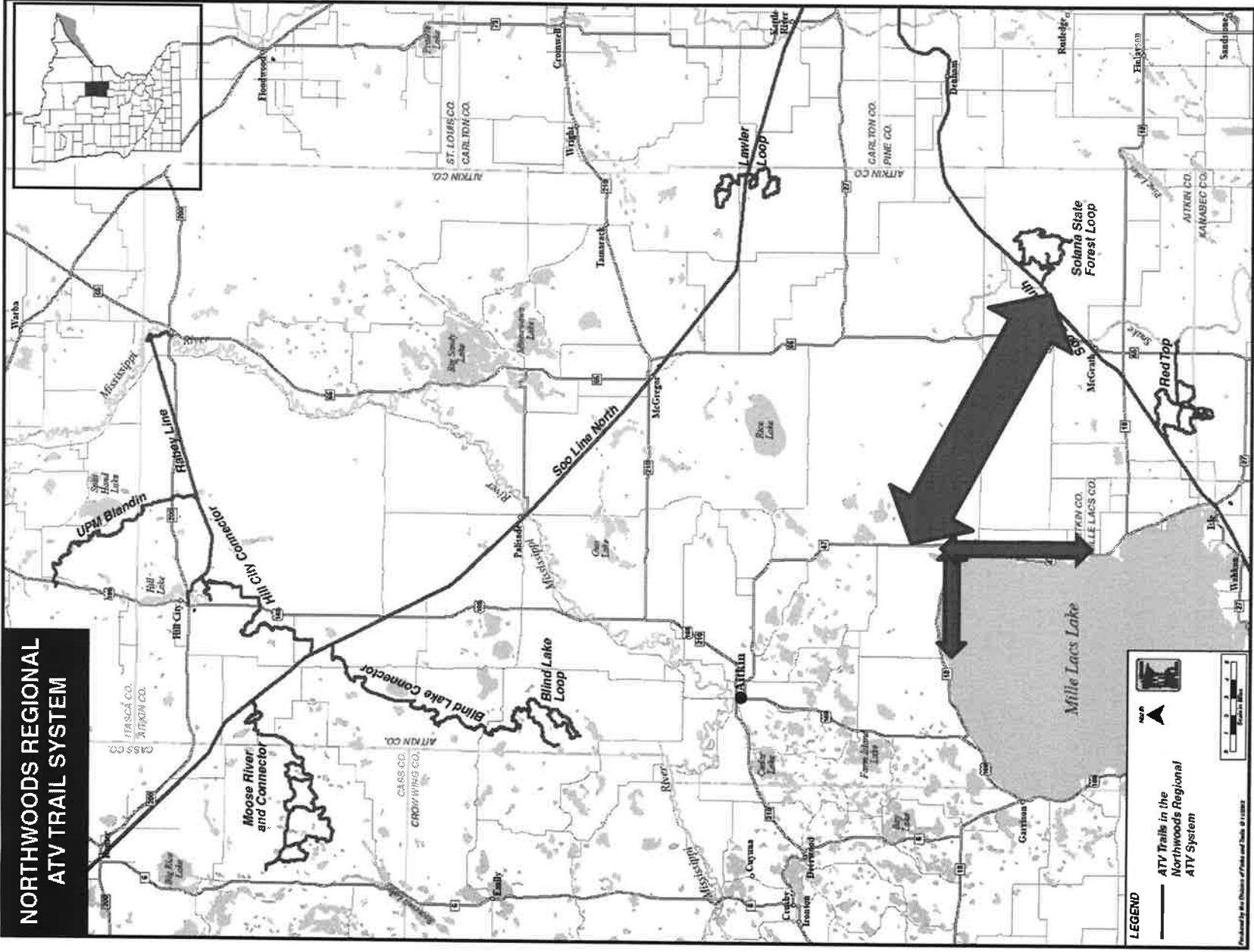
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lz3eN9IrAU7XUeoZF7xgv4sYthEOGKx4/view>

Impact study for parts of Missouri, some national stats.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DyqTdm16RtbkgqIK3M8_mpqsmvHgUeP5/view

A map of the proposed Trail extension is attached.

**NORTHWOODS REGIONAL
ATV TRAIL SYSTEM**



Aitkin County's Northwoods ATV Trail System

Proposed Mille Lacs East Connector
www.northwoodsatvtrail.com

