



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

24
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: March 24, 2020

Title of Item: Timber Auction

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input 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: Rich Courtemanche		Department: Land
Presenter (Name and Title): Rich Courtemanche-Land Commissioner		Estimated Time Needed: NA
Summary of Issue: In light of the COVID-19 and the Governor's recommendations to practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings, the Aitkin County Land Department would like to change a timber auction from an oral sale to a sealed bid sale. This will prevent a mass gathering of loggers in one spot.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Change the May 18, 2020 oral timber auction to a sealed bid auction.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

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

282.04, Subdivision 1.

(k) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may lease tax-forfeited land at the prices and under the terms as the county board may prescribe, for the purpose of investigating, analyzing, and developing conservation easements that provide ecosystem services benefits.

Subd. 4b. Conservation easements. The county auditor, when and for such price and on such terms and for such period as the county board prescribes, including reversion in the event of nonuse, may convey conservation easements as defined in section 84C.01 on tax-forfeited land.

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is exploring the establishment of wetland banks, carbon offsets, and other ecosystem services on state tax forfeited lands; and

WHEREAS, A legislative change in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 282 is needed to allow Aitkin County and other counties to enter into conservation planning leases and convey conservation easements on state tax forfeited lands in order to seek opportunities in these markets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Aitkin County Board supports legislation enabling the conveyance of conservation easements and conservation planning leases on state tax forfeited lands.