



## Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



**Requested Meeting Date:** March 24, 2020

**Title of Item:** Out-of-state travel for Northern Hardwood conference

- ☒ REGULAR AGENDA  
☐ CONSENT AGENDA  
☐ INFORMATION ONLY

**Action Requested:**

- ☒ Approve/Deny Motion  
☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft)

- ☐ Direction Requested  
☐ Discussion Item  
☐ Hold Public Hearing\*

*\*provide copy of hearing notice that was published*

**Submitted by:**

Rich Courtemanche

**Department:**

Land

**Presenter (Name and Title):**

Rich Courtemanche-Land Commissioner & DJ Thompson-Asst. Land Commissioner

**Estimated Time Needed:**

5 min

**Summary of Issue:**

Request to send 6 staff members of the Aitkin County Land Department (ACLD) to an out-of-state Northern Hardwood conference in Green Bay Wisconsin. Dates are June 16-18, 2020. There has not been a major northern hardwood conference like this in the Great Lakes Region for over 30 years.

Several months ago, workshop organizers sent out a request for abstracts. If your abstract was selected, you were invited to come and give a 30 minute presentation at the conference. At the urging of University of Minnesota Professor Marcella Windmuller-Campione, the ACLD submitted two abstracts. Both were selected! The ACLD is extremely proud of the forest management it does and takes pride in being innovative and forward thinking. That is why we were honored to have both of our abstracts selected for a presentation at the 2020 Northern Hardwood Conference. All of our forest districts have thousands of acres of northern hardwoods, making it critical that all foresters understand the complexity of managing them. In fact, 22% (35,000 acres) of the commercial forest land administered by the county is northern hardwoods.

It is critical that everyone is on the same page when it comes to our hardwood management. Relaying what you heard and what you learned to someone who was not there is not a substitute for first hand learning and rarely conveys all of what was said. Everybody takes away something different from a speaker so having more ears in the audience will be important.

**Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:**

- Northern hardwoods represent the second largest cover type the ACLD manages, trailing only aspen.
- 58% of management will be treating upland hardwood acres (ACLD Tactical Plan).
- 48% of harvested cords are from upland hardwoods cover types (ACLD Tactical Plan).

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

Approve out-of-state travel for 6 employees.

**Financial Impact:**

Is there a cost associated with this request?

☒ Yes

☐ No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 2325.00

Is this budgeted?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please Explain:

This was not budgeted for. Money from reserves will be used.