

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24th day of May, 2022 at 9:01 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Donald Niemi, Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, Laurie Westerlund, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, and Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle.

Motion made by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all voting yes to approve the May 24th, 2022 agenda as amended. Adding item 6.5 Emergency Declaration Resolution.

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24th day of May 2022, at 9:00 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Laurie Westerlund, and Ann Marcotte. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Admin/HR Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz and Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Lakes & Pines WRAP Coordinator Janet Watson and other public guests. Joining via WebEx: AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the May 24, 2022 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the April 26, 2022 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the bills.

Director Update

- Cynthia updated the board on:
- 2022 end of Legislative Session update
 - Building Project
 - Annual Services Delivery Report Completed

Call to Order

Approved Agenda

**Health and
Human Services**

Janet Watson – Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Janet presented an update on the WRAP (“We Rally Around Parents”) program. This program is in partnership with ACHHS and is available to parents or guardians of children birth to 2nd grade living in Aitkin County. The mission statement of the program is, “To empower parents to build holistically healthy, strong families by connecting to community resources.” Janet’s work includes determining goals, challenges, strengths and needs with the parents and then proceeding with providing resources within the community to help the family progress towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, Janet is a mental health practitioner and addresses clients’ mental health concerns.

Janet reviewed the categories of areas addressed in the program and also shared examples of resources provided to the clients. The story of a client’s successful ascension in the program was noted and Janet closed by acknowledging the collaboration between Lakes & Pines and ACHHS and various providers in the community to bring about the intended results.

Committee Updates

H&HS Advisory Committee Update – Cynthia Bennett gave a presentation on the Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP), a FEMA funded program created to supplement and expand the work of local social service agencies, both nonprofit and governmental, to help people with economic emergencies. Funds are used to supplement feeding, sheltering and rent/mortgage and utility assistance efforts.

CARE Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund discussed the many programs the CARE Board is involved in to include: Aging with Gusto, Arts & Aging, and Hill City Garden. They are in the process of applying for a couple of grants. The Super Shelf Food Shelf is coming along great and the Walkable Audit is coming up on July 21st at 9:00am, they are meeting at the Library if anyone is interested in joining.

Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi mentioned that the catalytic converters were stolen out of the Head Start buses and vans. They now have funding to help people from being evicted. Weatherization has seen a 20% uptick in assistance and he believes that energy assistance is likely to go up this winter with the rising cost of fuel. He will have a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Shout out to H&HS Accounting and Financial Services Teams

Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble recognized the Accounting Team for their hard work in making it possible to complete all required major state and federal reports on time and in proper order during this last calendar year. The accounting team plays an instrumental part in being able to submit all the required reports on time by processing payments correctly, running additional reports to reconcile accounts, and making sure any errors are conveyed immediately upon discovery to allow accurate information at reporting time. Carli introduced the Accounting Team to the board and guests.

Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble recognized the Financial Services Team for having zero errors in 2021 Medical Assistance Audit of 60 cases in February. Shout out to all of the Eligibility Workers and the support staff. Jessi introduced her team to the board and guests.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – June 28, 2022

Public Comment was made about concerns about Open Range Pay Scale and environment from the following: Mary Hakes-Floater in Assessor/Auditor/Record/Treasurer's Office, Melissa Blazek-Dispatcher, Troy Bauch-AFSCME Business Agent, Rebecca Persons-Mental Health Practitioner, Janet Hatfield-Eligibility Worker, and Brenda Butterfield-Social Worker.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

A) Correspondence File May 10, 2022 to May 23, 2022; B) Approve May 10, 2022 County Board Minutes; C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers \$864,438.36; D) Approve Commissioner Vouchers: General Fund \$148,352.46, Reserves Fund \$17,501.26, Road & Bridge \$142,897.87, HHS \$28,394.48, State \$7,869.00, Trust \$14,969.30, Forest Development \$567.11, LLCC \$26,728.82, Park \$1,079.31, Coronavirus Relief Fund \$3,000.00, for a total of \$391,359.61; E) Approve Auditor's Vouchers – R&B Final Contract Payment: Road & Bridge \$42,527.97, for a total of \$42,527.97; F) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Camping Refund: Parks \$35.00, for a total of \$35.00; G) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Returned Payment, Unable to Locate: Taxes and Penalties \$686.00, for a total of \$686.00; H) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Sales/Use and Diesel Tax-April 2022: General Fund \$346.69, Road & Bridge \$527.05, Trust \$14.99, LLCC \$63.94, Parks \$148.01, for a total of \$1,100.68; I) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan Paid 04.28.2022: General Fund \$-1,148.35, Road & Bridge \$129.98, HHS \$687.28, Trust \$331.09 for a total of \$0.00; J) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Returned Payments: Taxes & Penalties \$2,565.00, for a total of \$2,565.00; K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims 05.18.2022: General Fund \$1,631.52, for a total of \$1,631.52; L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – FSA Claims, Camping Refund, Returned Payments: General Fund \$64.15, Tax & Penalties \$1,578.00, Parks \$70.00 for a total of \$1,712.15; M) Approve Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products; N) Approve Lost Warrant Affidavit: Lake Country Power; O) Adopt Resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Clark Township; P) Adopt Resolution: Snowmobile and Ski Trails GIA Funding; Q) Adopt Resolution: 2021 Annual Apportionment of Forfeited Tax Sales; R) Adopt Resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Seavey Township

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to approve – Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to approve – Lost Warrant Affidavit: Lake Country Power.

Citizens' Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Application to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products

Lost Warrant Affidavit: Lake Country Power

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Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Clark Township

**Resolution
#20220524-068 SR
Donation: Clark
Township**

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Clark Township \$250.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Clark Township Aitkin County Search and Rescue

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Snowmobile and Ski Trails GIA Funding

**Resolution
#20220524-069
Snowmobile and
Ski Trails GIA
Funding**

WHEREAS, Local units of government can apply for Grant-in-Aid funds for trail development, maintenance, grooming, and administration from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at the rate of 65% reimbursement of the cost of trail maintenance and 90% reimbursement of costs of grooming, and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County does not have the facilities to maintain the entire trail system in Aitkin County, and

WHEREAS, Snowmobile Clubs have maintained these trails in the past, and wish to contract with the County for maintaining trails during the 2022-2023 winter season, and

WHEREAS, these trails benefit the winter recreation, resort, industry, and economy of Aitkin County,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Aitkin County Trail Administrator be authorized to apply for Grant-in-Aid assistance funds for snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming, and ski trail maintenance and grooming for the following trails.

Aitkin Sno-Drifters Trails
McGrath/Finlayson Trails
Tamarack Trails

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Haypoint Trails
Palisade Trails
Mille Lacs Trails
No Achen / LLCC Ski Trails

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Aitkin County Trail Administrator be authorized to contract for the 2022-2023 winter season for the development, maintenance, and grooming of the aforementioned trails with each of the corresponding interested clubs.

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: 2021 Annual Apportionment of Forfeited Tax Sales

WHEREAS, according to M.S. 282.09, Subdivision 1, the County Board does hereby determine that the \$0.50 fee from each certificate of sale, contract for deed, and each lease executed by the Auditor and the compensation for clerical help on tax-forfeited land matters in the County Auditor's office during the 2021 calendar year was \$30,000, and

WHEREAS, a gravel pit rehabilitation account has been established, and \$0.15 per yard of gravel taken out of county pits will be placed in this account, the 2021 amount to be placed in this account is \$163.50,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amount of:

\$30,000 be transferred from the Forfeited Tax Sales Account (10-923-6900) to the County Auditor account (01-040-5590), AND

\$163.50 shall be transferred from the Forfeited Tax Sales Account (10-923-6900) to the Gravel Pit Account (11-936-5252).

Under the consent agenda, motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution: Search & Rescue Donation: Seavey Township

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property with a 2/3 majority vote pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the county:

Seavey Township \$350.00

WHEREAS, the terms or conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:

Seavey Township Aitkin County Search and Rescue

**Resolution #20220524-070
2021 Annual Apportionment of Forfeited Tax Sales**

**Resolution #20220524-071 SR
Donation: Seavey Township**

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WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the county for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

John Eisele – Enbridge Community Relations Specialist presented the Aitkin County Board with a Commemorative Plaque for the county’s support on Line 3.

Phil Steger – Brother Justus Whiskey Company provided the board with an update.

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution as amended – Zoning Ordinance Amendment-New CERVID Farms;

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious fata neurodegenerative disease afflicting white tailed deer (cervids), and

WHEREAS, CWD is caused by misfolded proteins called prions, which attack the brain of infected animals, result in death, and

WHEREAS, CWD has spread to 26 states, three Canadian provinces, several counties in Southeast Minnesota, and now Northern Minnesota counties including: Beltrami, Itasca and Polk; and

WHEREAS, nearly all CWD-infected cervids (deer) originate in captive commercial farms, of which 259 are located in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota wild deer are an important source of food, recreation, and tradition for our nearly 500,000 firearm and archery hunters who in turn, generate over a half billion dollars in economic activity in rural counties, and

WHEREAS, CWD spread reached a crisis level in Minnesota in the spring of 2021 after several CWD infected deer were found on a Beltrami County deer farm, and
WHEREAS, the owners of the Beltrami County deer farm disposed several CWD-infected deer carcasses on nearby tax-forfeited land where disease carrying prion were found in the soil, allowing for their ongoing and indefinite viability.

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on March 8, 2022 to discuss cervid farms, CWD, and adopted a cervid farm legislation support resolution.

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on May 16, 2022 to discuss regulating cervid farms, and voted unanimously to restrict any new cervid farms.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this resolution and change to Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance.

**Commemorative
Plaque**

**Brother Justus
Whiskey
Company Update**

**Resolution
#20220524-072**

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Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting Grant;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County (Minnesota) has applied for and been awarded a grant of \$91,325.00 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY2022 Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to accept this grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County authorizes the County Administrator, Jessica Seibert as authorized signer of the grant and Aitkin County Environmental Services Director, Andrew Carlstrom as Program Grant Manger and signer.

Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator provided the board with an update on upcoming and ongoing projects.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voted to adopt resolution – Emergency Declaration;

WHEREAS, a severe storm on May 11th has caused destruction of county buildings, as well as flooding and rain making impassable the roads and bridges within Aitkin County; and

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Highway Department has neither the manpower or resources needed to prepare the plans, specifications, and proposal documents required to advertise for competitive bids to do the repairs on all of the effected sites; and

WHEREAS, advertising for competitive bids would delay the prompt execution of repairs to Aitkin County's roads and bridges, potentially preventing the repairs from being completed before the end of the 2022 construction season;

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners may, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375.21, enter into contracts for the repair of the roads and bridges without advertising for competitive bids, upon finding that a state of emergency exists within the County and that the public health, safety and welfare would suffer by delays;

THEREFORE, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners **FINDS** as follows:

1. That a state of emergency exists within Aitkin County, arising from the severe storm's destruction of the County's building, or impassability of roads and bridges due to flooding and rain,
2. That the public health, safety, and welfare would suffer by the delay necessarily accompanying the advertising for competitive bids to perform needed repairs to the County's buildings, roads and bridges.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this 24th day of May 2022, by the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, that they Aitkin County Engineer is hereby directed to let contracts for the repair of the County's buildings, roads and bridges destroyed or

**Resolution
#20220524-073
Accept Greater
Minnesota
Recycling and
Composting
Grant**

Facility Update

**Resolution
#20220524-074
Emergency
Declaration**

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made impassable by floods and rain without advertising for competitive bids.

The Board discussed: Arrowhead Counties, HHS Advisory, CARE Board, Lakes & Pines, Planning Commission, Personnel, Extension, Snake River Watershed, Joint Counties Natural resource, ATV Committee, Big Sandy Watershed, Toward Zero Death, and Historical Society.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to close the meeting at 12:01 p.m. under Minnesota Statute 13D.03 Subd.1(b)-Labor Negotiations.


Commissioner Wedel left meeting at 12:58

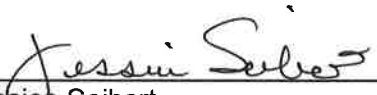
Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to reopen the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Jessica Seibert, County Administrator updated the Board on the following:

- Regular 1:1's
- Department Head Meeting
- Policy and Procedure Work (Agenda Request Guide, Property Tax Supplement Info)
- Senator Klobuchar Arrangements
- MACA Regional Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m. until Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at the Aitkin County Government Center.


J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners


Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

Board Discussion

**Close Meeting
under MN Statute
13D.03 Subd.1(b)
Labor
Negotiations**

Reopen Meeting

**Administrator
Updates**

Adjourn