Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



10: Chairperson, Altkin County Board of Commissioners Date: April 25, 2012
Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
From: Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director
Title of Item:
Environmental Services Annual Report
Requested Meeting Date: May 1, 2012 Estimated Presentation Time: 15 Min
Presenter: Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director
Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)
X For info only, no action requested Approve under Consent Agenda
For discussion only with possible future action Adopt Ordinance Revision
Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote
comparison) Approve/adopt proposal by motion Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
Authorize filling vacant staff position
Request to schedule public hearing or sale Other (please list)
Request by member of the public to be heard
Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute
Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)
Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes No (attach explanation)
What type of expenditure is this? Operating Other (attach explanation)
Revenue line account # that funds this item is:
Expenditure line account # for this item is:
Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)
Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affectedYes _x_No
Applicable job description(s) may require revisionYes _x_ No Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policyYes _x_ No
Item may change the department's authorized staffing levelYes_x_No
Supporting Attachment(s)
X Memorandum Summary of Item
Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
Bid/quote comparison worksheet
Draft County Board resolution
Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
X Other supporting document(s) (please list) Annual Report

Provide eleven (11) copies of supporting documentation <u>NO LATER THAN Wednesday at 12:00 pm</u> to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. Items <u>WILL NOT</u> be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for mailing in the Board packets. (see reverse side for details)

Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning 209 Second Street NW, Rm 100

Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 218-927-7342 Fax: 218-927-4372



MEMORANDUM

DATE:

April 24, 2012

TO:

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM:

Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

RE:

Environmental Services 2011 - Annual Report

Enclosed is a copy of the 2011 Annual Report for the Environmental Services Department. I will be at the May 1, 2012, Aitkin County Board of Commissioner meeting to answer any questions you may have with the report.

enclosure

c:\ctybrd\ctybrd2012

Aitkin County Environmental Services And Planning & Zoning



Annual Report for the year 2011







Aitkin County Environmental Services 2011 Staff

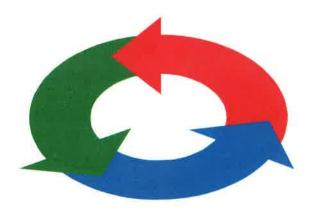
Director	Terry Neff
Assistant Zoning	Pete Gansen
Administrator	
Environmental Health	Doug Pearson
Specialist	
Compliance	Becky Sovde
Officer/Wetland Specialist	
Zoning Inspector	Kevin Turnock
Secretary/Clerk/	Kristi Kunz
Bookkeeper	(hire date 1-30-11)
Secretary/Clerk/	Barb Williamson
Bookkeeper	
Contract Inspector	Joe Fuhrer
Intern	Lori Hughes

Aitkin County Environmental Services and Planning and Zoning

Mission Statement:
To Promote the Judicious Use of
Our Vast Resources While
Protecting and Preserving
"Our" Environment.

Goals:

- 1. Establish a Positive Working Relationship With All Customers that We Do Business With
- 2. Be Fair and Consistent in Our Planning Practices.
- 3. Work within the Framework of Our Ordinances.
- 4. Promote and Maintain a Healthful Environment for All Residents of Aitkin County.
- 5. Enforce All Ordinances.
- 6. Coordinate Our Efforts with All Agencies We Work With.
- 7. Issue Permits in a Manner Consistent with the Standards Set Forth in Our Ordinances.
- 8. Educate the Public on Environmental Issues and Land Use Management.
- 9. Aitkin County Government is committed to provide quality services in a cost-effective, timely and respectful manner.
- 10. Promote a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between customers and employees and to provide healthy work environment.





Aitkin County Environmental Services

Planning and Zoning

The Zoning section regulates land use so as to encourage the most appropriate utilization of land while preserving economic and environmental values. It administers and enforces the Zoning Ordinance except in incorporated cities and townships with their own zoning administration.

Land Use Permitting

Provide land use zone district identification and information for specific properties.

Issue land use permits for residential construction, commercial business and industrial operations.

Investigate reported violations.

Variance Appeals

Review and inspect applications for waivers to specific zoning ordinance requirements.

Conditional Use Applications

Review and inspect planned unit developments, resorts, campgrounds, rural industry and highway commercial developments and residential commercial land uses not allowed by standard permit.

General Public Information

Provide Federal Flood Hazard area identification. Identify DNR protected waters and wetland areas.

Comprehensive Land Use Management Planning

Adopted by the board in April, 2000. Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan adopted.

Wetland Conservation Act and Environmental Quality Board Act

Issue wetland exemptions, wetland filling and banking applications.

Coordinate Technical Evaluation Panel.

Enforce violations of the Act.

Maintain records and notify Environmental Quality Board.

Individual Sewage Treatment Systems

Issue permits and perform inspections of the installation of sewage treatment systems.

Review soil borings and septic system designs.

Issue 90-day notices for sewer systems that are not in compliance.

Maintain records of septic system installations.

Solid Waste

Educate the public on proper solid waste disposal.

Educate the public on waste reduction, reduce - reuse- recycling of solid and hazardous waste.

Provide citizens of the county with the opportunity to recycle solid and hazardous waste.

Food Beverage and Lodging Inspection (FBL Program)

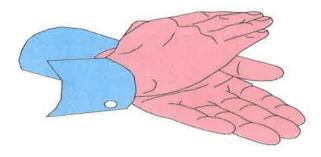
This program licenses and inspects food establishments, beverage establishments, lodging establishments, mobile home parks, recreational camping areas and pools. The FBL program provides both regulatory and educational experiences to all licensed establishments. Licensed Establishments that have wells have their water sampled at least annually.

Aitkin County Water Lab

The lab samples and analyzes private water wells. The wells are tested for Coliform bacteria and nitrate nitrogen. Educational information is available to County Residents regarding well construction, maintenance, sampling and correction.

Aithin County Environmental Services 2011 Accomplishments!

- > Aitkin County Environmental Services hosted the 2011 Environmental Education Day along with Long Lake Conservation Center. Over the course of 2 days, the event had 125 sixth grade students from Hill City, McGregor, and Aitkin.
- > Aitkin County Environmental Services held a Household Hazardous Waste Day in May and in September at the Aitkin County Recycling Center. Both days were a success, and 280 households participated.
- ➤ Aitkin County Environmental Services held a county-wide Waste Tire Collection on July 9, 2011. A total of 282 tires were collected from three collection sites at Aitkin, McGregor, and Palisade.
- > Townships are notified of all permits within their area.
- > Septic and all other violations are treated more efficiently.
- > Recycling relays were given for the 6th graders from Aitkin and Hill City Schools.
- > The Department hosted their annual Clean Shop Program in for small quantity generators of hazardous waste.
- > The office was involved with the Commerce and Industry Show, the Aitkin County Fair and the River and Lakes Fair.
- > Wetland Management Plan and Ordinance update in process.
- > Presentation of permitting system at MACPZA Annual Conference.
- > Waste electronics collection held June 10 June 25.



Aitkin County Environmental Services 2012 Goals and Objectives

- 1. Continue to integrate a computerized permit process from the AS400 utilizing ePermitting program.
- 2. Provide quality services in a cost-effective, timely, respectful and consistent manner.
- 3. To be more sensitive and responsive to concerns and issues in the County and to go above and beyond to help resolve any and all issues our office is involved in.
- 4. To administer and enforce septic system regulations in the county based on the Aitkin County ISTS and Wastewater ordinance.
- 5. Provide more education to the public regarding the importance of our land use controls in protecting our natural resources.
- 6. Streamline services identify and reduce redundancy and waste.
- 7. Further educate and inform the public on proper recycling, reuse, and reduction of hazardous and solid waste.
- 8. To resolve violations in a more efficient manner.
- 9. Maintain a strong voice in legislation.
- 10. Make administrative amendments to the Zoning and Shoreland ordinances as needed.
- 11. Update Wetland Management Plan and Ordinance.
- 12. Work with MPCA, AMC and MACPZA to resolve SSTS Rule adoption.



Aitkin County Environmental Services

Permits issued for 2011

		After the fact
Drainfield/Bed	40	
Mounds	84	
Other/Performance Systems	10	
Holding Tanks	14	
Outhouses	8	
Commercial Septic	3	
Tank Replacements	4	
Total Septic Permits	163	3
Accessory Structures	236	3
Signs	3	
Residences	118	4
Residence Addition	53	1
Commercial Building	4	
Commercial Addition	0	
Deck	32	
Fences over 8'	2	1
Platform/Landing	10	
Administrative Subdivision/Lot splits	35	
Plats	2	
Gravel Crushing	7	
9-1-1 Addresses	12	
Land - Shoreland Alterations	24	
Variances	17	2
Variances Denied	6	
Conditional Use Permits	12	
Wetland Exemptions		
Wetland Banking		
Wetland Fill/Replacement	5	
Total Number of Structure, Wetland, etc. permits	578	
Total Number of After the Fact Permits		14

Number does not include revoked,	Total Amount of Permit cards	628
denied or voided permits	Total Amount of Pemits:	741

	Palisade City	Aitkin City	McGregor City	Unorganized	Workman	Williams	White Pine	Wealthwood	Waukenabo	Wagner	Verdon	Turner	Spencer	Spalding	Shamrock	Seavey	Salo	TICE TIVEL	Pliny	Mointain	Nordiand	Morrison	McGregor	Millward	Malmo	Macville	Logan	Libby	Lee	Lakeside	Kimberly	Jevne	Idun	Hill Lake	Hazelton	Haugen	Glen	Fleming	Farm Island	Cornish	Clark	Beaver	Balsam	Ball Bluff	Aitkin		Township R
118				ü	6	1		_	2	2			. _	_	23	_		_					1	2		1		3		6	2	2	3	1	20		7	4	8		2				Çn.		Residence
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ω																									1					_															1		Commercial Accessory Land - S/L
236				12	5	2		2	7	4		0	72	3	22	2	2			10	18			2	8	6	3	1		8	ω	4	3	6	35	2	16	10	18		2			6	4	Structures & Altrs.	Accessory
24				-				2	2						2					,	4									1			3	1	2		2		2						2	Structures Alterations & Altrs.	Land - S/L
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6															2																				1												
12															2																	1		2	1		2							_		Permits	Cond. Use Wetland Gravel
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^{**} All Unorganized townships were added together...

** Numbers are for each structure permitted

** A total of 628 permit cards were issued

Aitkin County Environmental Services

Permit Comparison for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Septic	302	192	168	140	163
System					
Permits					
Residence	247	148	128	106	118
Permits					
Residence	96	66	83	74	53
Additions					1
Commercial	794	2	3	5	4
Buildings					
Commercial	F=3	3	6	1	0
Additions					
911 Address		23	26	9	12
Decks	85	99	107	59	32
Land &	32	11	19	24	24
Shoreland		1			
Alterations					
Platforms	39	33	31	13	10
Fence > 8'					2
Variances	34	29	22	32	17
Approved					
Variance			3	7	6
Denied					
Conditional	17	19	29	17	12
Use Permits					
Rezoning	2	0	0	1	0
Access Struct	325	292	257	227	236
Signs					
			3	- 8	3
Plats/	5	0	5	2	2
Admin Sub.			32	33	35
Gravel			4	2	7
Crushing					
Wetlands	-	13	3	4	5
Permits	1143	930	929	761	741
Issued					

Total Number of Permits issued for 2011: 741 Total Number of <u>Permit Cards</u> issued for 2011: 628

Aitkin County Environmental Services Summary of 2011 Variance and Conditional Use Applications

Board of Adjustment

Total Variance Applications	25
Approved as Submitted	15
Approved with modifications or changes to the proposed variance	2
Denied	6
Withdrawn	2
Appeals	
Tabled Applications	4

Planning Commission

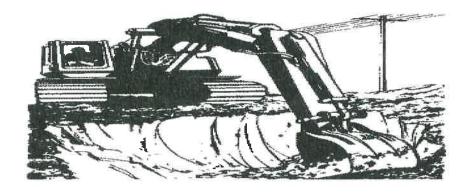
Total Conditional Use Permits	14
Approved	14
Denied	0
Withdrawn applications	0
Tabled/Extension	0
Appealed	0
EAW's	0
Planned Unit Developments	0
Others	11
Cell Towers	0
Subdivisions	2
Rezone	0
Crushing/Asphalt/mining	1



Septic Installers & Designers Activity Report

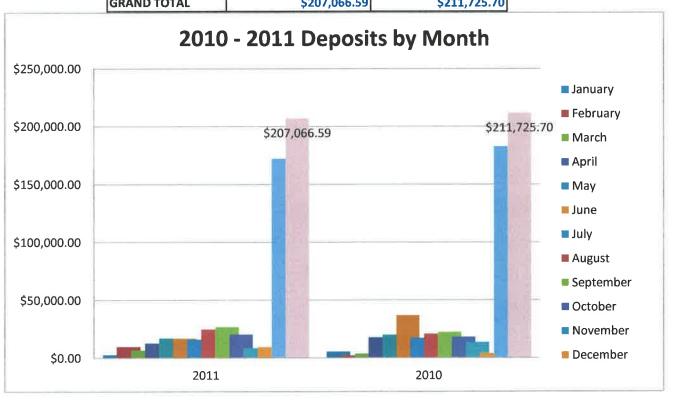
Name	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Antonsen, Tom			1		0	2	4	3	6	6
Ammala, Allen	3		4	3	4	1	2	2	6	3
Bartel, Bob					2	3	5	2	2	3
Bartelma, Steve				1	2	3	1	4	1	1
Benson, John				5	1					
Bitner, Dean	1									
Boyd, Tuffy	9	7	3	4	9	15	12	16	17	13
Brogard, Brian			1							
Brynteson, Scott				2						
Darlow, Ernie Sr. & Jr.	6	3	7	6	14	15	17	28	14	12
DeChantal, Al	1	1	2	4	2	6	5	4	2	1
Ekelund Excavating	3	3	6	7	13	15	14	24	14	12
Ellwood, Vern	1		1		1					
Engdahl, Dave		4	8	9	10	13	13	13	9	8
Engen, Dean/Jaden	3		1							
Farley, Jerold	15	5	9	2	5	7	10	3		
Goble, Tony		1	1							
Harp, Craig	1									
Hietala, John			1		0	1	1	1	1	0
Hjort Exc.	1								9	
Hoffman Gravel and Ex.					0	2	0	1	0	0
Homeowner [6	6		2	11	2	20	16	21	12
Holmquist, Larry	2			2	1	2	3	1	0	0
Horsman, Ronnie				2	2	5	1	5	1	0
J & J Dirtwork	1									
Jensen, Scott	1				0	1	0	1	0	0
Johnson, Cory				2	16	14	14	15	12	10
Johnson, Mike	12	6	6	7	8	23	15	31	13	12
Johnson, Michael B.	1		1	3	1	9	7	9		
Juenbauer/Larson					. 0		1			
Kangas, Tony	2	4	5	5	8	15	8	20		
Karjahlahti, Craig	1	6	6	5	11	7	11	5	6	3
Kelley, Kurt	3		4	4	10	14	16	15	29	25
Kern, Rodney	11	6	13	12	14	32	31	32	21	16
Kimman, Jim				1						
Kosec, Tom					0	0	2			
Ladd, Adam	9	4	4	3	7					
Lamke, Darryl			1	1	0	7	3	6	2	3
Lange, Dave	3	4	1	6	5	13	10	12	9	6
Larson, Eric		4	3	3	15	5	7	6		
Liljenquist, Larry	9	13	11	7	15	31	26	33	33	26
Lindholm, Andy					2	6	3	4	2	2
Lundquist, Dale	3	3	1	2	1	5	4	6	4	2
MacDonnell, Randy			1							
MacGlover, R.A.	1									
Maxwell, James					0		0	4		
McNeil, Craig	2	1	1	1	6	2	8	7		
Milton, Chad	5				1	2	1	1	1	

Totals	135	117	168	160	302	384	438	499	360	262
TBD/Other		6	24	0	28	0	50	3	16	0
Wruck Excavating	1									
Westerlund, Greg	6	8	3	9	7	16	9	24	17	11
Welk, John			1							
Weaver, Daniel					1	3	1			
Wagner, David					0		1	2	3	3
Trout, Wesley					1	1	1			
Thompson, Dennis			4	2	7	5	5	4		
Tetrault, Daniel			_		1					
Swizer, Dan			2							
Sutherland, Randy					1	1	1			
Stransky, Larry	1									
Strandlund, Steven			1							
Straka, Ronald			1							
Stafne Constr.	1									
Soderstrom, Tom			1		2	1	1	0	1	1
Snidarich, William					1	1	1			
Shaw, Jim		- +		1	0	1	0	0	8	3
Schultz, Kevin				2	4	4	1	2		
Scrupp, Raymond				3						·
Sandberg, Dale		1		1	3	11	6	8	10	7
Salisbury, Corey				3					-	
Rowell, George					0	1	7	6	8	- (
Robert, Ronny	1			1						
Ritter, Mark		3	14	15	24	24	22	37	20	11
Ristow, Ed					1	3	3	4	8	7
Revier, Roger	2	5	2	4	4	5	2	4	4	1
Reid's Backhoe		2			3					
Opatz, Ed	1									
O'Neil, Thomas	6	7	7	3	8	15	11	16	6	
Olson, Jack					4	1	0	5	3	2
Nystrom, Alan			1							
Northburg Exc.					Ö	1	2	1		·
Moritz, Randy Nistler, Leroy		3	4	1 4	1 4	12	14	17	7	



2010 - 2011 Deposits by Month

	2011	2010
January	\$2,800.00	\$5,635.00
February	\$9,850.00	\$2,300.00
March	\$6,750.00	\$3,825.00
April	\$12,835.00	\$17,725.00
May	\$17,025.00	\$19,985.00
June	\$16,905.00	\$36,885.00
July	\$15,950.00	\$17,190.00
August	\$24,855.00	\$21,000.00
September	\$26,700.00	\$22,300.00
October	\$20,450.00	\$18,179.00
November	\$8,600.00	\$13,575.00
December	\$9,525.00	\$4,210.00
Total	\$172,245.00	\$182,809.00
Misc Receipts	2447.75	\$1,970.70
Big Sandy Grant	n/a	ended
WCA Grant	Funding arrived in 2010	\$16,341.00
Shoreland Grant	Funding arrived in 2010	\$10,605.00
		Funding arrived in
MPCA Grant	\$ 11,431.00	2011
Mille Lacs		
Watershed Grant	\$ 20,942.84	
GRAND TOTAL	\$207,066.59	\$211,725.70



AITKIN COUNTY				
E911 ADDRESS APP	PLICATION 2011			
Date 14-Apr 21-Apr 17-Jun 17-Jun 6-Jun 29-Jun 11-Jul 14-Jul 29-Jul 22-Aug 29-Aug	Mame Mille Lacs Band Thomas Unterberger Mille Lacs Band Mille Lacs Band Stu Mortrude David Muirhead Gene Striefel Randal Radziej Jim & Rae Zandlo Larye & Pam Wachal Paul & Bonnie Clark	29-1-534500 29-1-534600 29-1-534700 29-1-098700 29-0-023701 09-0-036501 49-0-014100 13-0-004301	Amo	\$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00 \$55.00
			\$	660.00

Road & Bridge's account number and dept. number

\$30.00 to go to the Hwy. Dept with each address

Dept. 03

Object #5855

Transfer

\$360.00

12 x \$30.

Land Dept.'s account number and dept. number

\$25.00 to go to the Land Dept. with each address

Dept. 10921

Object #5558

Transfer

\$300.00

12 x \$25.

12 Addresses and 12 Signs

Aitkin County Environmental Services

2011 Interns

Our intern for 2011 was Lori Hughes

Lori worked 3 days per week from June to August and assisted in keeping the paperwork caught up in the Zoning Office, as well as handling a large mailing project for Lake Stewardship which was mailed to all lake homeowners on Mille Lacs, Big Pine, and Round lakes.



Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning

Complaints Investigated in 2011

Total Complaints Received	91
Total Complaint On-Sites Conducted	97

Complaint Categories:

♦ Shoreland

- -Excavation/Fill in shore impact zone
- -Vegetation removal
- -Fill creating problems for other properties
- -Extensive earth moving in shoreland
- -Changing drainage patterns

Solid Waste

- -Storage of solid waste
- -Junk yards

♦ Building Permit Violations

- -No permits
- -Exceeding structure size permitted
- -Converting garage to living quarters
- -Expansion of non-conforming structure
- -Operating business without a permit

♦ Septic Systems

- -Non-conforming
- -Surface discharge

Other

- -Filling wetlands
- -Public health threat/nuisance
- -Illegal lot creations
- -Miscellaneous

Complaint Notes

- The number of complaints received by this office is up 30% since last year.
- The number of finalized complaints is down 9% compared to last year
- The number of active complaints is up 8% compared to last year.



Finalized Complaints	59
Active Complaints	418*

^{*} Either still working to comply or at Attorney's office



Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning

2011 Wetland Conservation Act Activities

The Administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) had another challenging year this year.

This is a brief summary of the activities for the year 2011:

- √ 10 wetland replacement applications were approved (includes four road projects)
- ✓ 0 wetland delineations were reviewed and approved
- ✓ 23 wetland exemptions were reviewed and approved
- ✓ 5 new wetland violations were brought to our attention, 2 violations from last year were closed
- √ 1 wetland bank application was approved (received in 2010)
- ✓ Additional credits were released on an existing wetland bank
- ✓ The wetland bank application under appeal to the Board of Water and Soil Resources has not yet been heard by the Board
- ✓ The September, 2011 revision for the US Steel mitigation plan was increased from 605 acres to 1400 acres. The 640-acre Polymet site is on hold.

Aitkin County Environmental Services Workshops – Seminars – Classes – Continuing Education Attended in 2011

Title of Class	Date	Location
MOWA Conference	January 31-Feb 2, 2011	Duluth
Land Use Workshop	March 11, 2011	Brainerd
Legislative Conference	March 23-24, 2011	St. Paul
BMP's for Small Stormwater	April 26, 2011	Brainerd
Defensive Driving	May 10, 2011	Aitkin
New Variance Standards	June 1, 2011	St. Paul
MACPZA Legislative update	June 16-17, 2011	St. Cloud
SWAA Annual Conference	September 8-9, 2011	Brainerd
Motivating Employees	September 29, 2011	Aitkin
MACPZA Annual Conference	October 5-7, 2011	Bemidji
AMC Annual Conference	December 5-7, 2011	Minneapolis



Pete Gansen,			
Assistant Zoning Administrator			
Title of Class	Date	Location	
Land Use Workshop	March 11, 2011	Brainerd	
MACPZA Legislative Update	June 16, 2011	St. Cloud	
SSTS Advanced Design I	September 27-29, 2011	St. Cloud	
MACPZA Annual Conference	October 5-7, 2011	Bemidji	
BOA Land Use Workshop	October 12, 2011	Brainerd	
SSTS Advanced Design II	October 17-21, 2011	St. Cloud	

Doug Pearson,			
Environmental Health Specialist			
Title of Class	Date	Location	
SSTS Design workshop	April 19, 2011	Hinckley	

Becky Sovde, Wetland Specialist- Compliance Officer		
Title of Class	Date	Location
SSTS Design Continuing Ed	April 19, 2011	Hinckley
Hazardous Waste Refresher	April 26, 2011	Brainerd
Customer Service Conference	September 20, 2011	St. Cloud
BWSR Academy	October 25-27, 2011	Breezy Point

Kevin Turnock,		
Zoning Inspector		
Title of Class	Date	Location
Hazardous Waste Refresher	April 19, 2011	Brainerd
Customer Service Conference	September 20, 2011	St. Cloud
BOA Land Use Workshop	October 12, 2011	Brainerd

Joe Fuhrer,			
Contract Inspector			
Title of Class	Date	Location	
SSTS Class	September 12, 2011	Racine, MN	

Barb Williamson, Secretary/Bookkeeper			
Title of Class	Date	Location	
Land Use Workshop	March 11, 2011	Brainerd	
New Variance Standards	June 1, 2011	St. Paul	

Kristi Kunz, Secretary/Bookkeeper			
Title of Class	Date	Location	
Land Use Workshop	March 11, 2011	Brainerd	
BOA Land Use Workshop	October 12, 2011	Brainerd	

Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning

Semi-Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days Summary

Costs for Household Hazardous Waste Days 2011
MAY 7th AND SEPTEMBER 10th!

WLSSD Administrative Fees	\$7140.00
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Fee	\$3982.19
Overtime Salaries	\$548.46
Food, Pop, Rolls, Supplies	\$ 411.90
Roll Off Container/Can Disposal	\$924.30
Advertising	\$1317.75
MPCA County Stipend	<u> \$2798.32</u>

TOTAL COSTS

\$11526.28



2011 Aitkin County Household Hazardous Waste Days

Date, Start Time and End Time	City	Location	Total Vehicles that Participated	Total Number of Households that Participated
	Aitkin	Aitkin Recycling Center		
May 7, 2011			118	164
September 10, 2011			93	116
9:00 am – 12:00 pm			Total= 211	Total= 280

2011 Aitkin County Waste Tire Collection Day

	3 locations.	Total Tires Collected	
July 9, 2011	Aitkin Recycling Center	257	
8:00 am – 1:00 pm	McGregor County Shop	17	
	Palisade County Shop	8	
		Total= 282	Total Funds Collected \$755.00

2011 Aitkin County Waste Electronics Collection

		Pounds Collected		
June 10 – 25	Garrison Disposal	61,279		
	McGregor Transfer	9,067		
	7.44.0.24	3,00	Total = 70,346	D
				Page20

SURVEY

AITKIN HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

MAY 7, 2011 AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

Number of cars for the two days: 211

Number of households represented: 280

Number of cars that had been at Household Hazardous Waste Day before: 124

Number of cars that attended for the first time: 87

City traveled from:

\rightarrow	Aitkin:	173
\rightarrow	Jacobson:	3
\rightarrow	McGregor:	18
\rightarrow	McGrath:	0
\rightarrow	Hill City:	3
\rightarrow	Malmo:	1
\rightarrow	Palisade:	9
\rightarrow	Other:	4

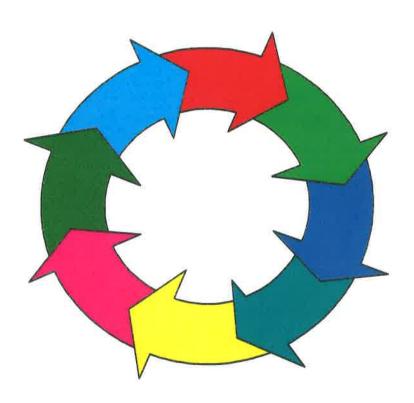
How did you hear of the collection?

**These numbers will be more than the number of cars because some people heard of the collection in more than one way.

\rightarrow	Newspaper:	152
\rightarrow	Friend/Neighbor:	6
\rightarrow	City/County Gov't:	14
\rightarrow	Local Organizations:	9
\rightarrow	Brochures/Flyers:	12
\rightarrow	Radio:	4
\rightarrow	County Web Page	1
\rightarrow	Other:	20

How often do you think a collection should be held?

\rightarrow	More often	12
\rightarrow	Once every 6 months:	140
\rightarrow	Once a year:	45
\rightarrow	18 months:	2
\rightarrow	2 years:	5
\rightarrow	5 years:	2
\rightarrow	Never	2



WLSSD Collection Disposal Costs - 2011

Location: Aitkin County

Location. Airkin County		16	
	Cost	<u>Unit</u>	4th Qtr.
			Disposal Cost
Latex Paint Bulked	\$ 2.29	gal.	
Latex Paint Labpacked	08.00	drum	MIN-APIN S
Oil Base Paint Bulked	\$ 1.69	gal.	
Oil Base Paint Labpacked	 55.00	drum	
Flammable Liquids	\$ 0.89	gal.	
Antifreeze	\$ 1.36	gal.	
Fluor Lamps-4 ft	\$ 0.18	each	
Fluor Lamps-8 ft	\$ 0.34	each	
Fluor Lamps-Circ	\$ 0.30	each	
Fluor Lamps -U-bulbs	\$ 0.47	each	
Fluor Lamps - HID	\$ 0.75	each	
Fluor Lamps - Comp.	\$ 0.28	each	
Fluor Lamps-Broken	\$ 1.75	lbs.	
Paint Related Material	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Direct Charge (Flammable)	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
HHW3 (Flam. Liquid)	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Flammable Solids	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Spontaneously Combustible	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Dangerous When Wet	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Oxidizer	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Organic Peroxides	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Poison	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Acids	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Base	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Mercury Elemental	\$ 0.92	lbs.	
Mercury Debris/items	\$ 2.95	lbs.	
Asbestos Waste	\$ 0.54	lbs.	
Aerosols	\$ 0.59	lbs.	Burger Jack
Pesticides Aerosols	\$ 16	lbs.	
Pesticides Liquids	\$ 18	lbs.	
Pesticides Solids	\$ £	lbs.	
Medical Sharps	\$ 5.00	gal.	
Fire Extinguishers	\$ 12.00	each	
Propane Cylinders	\$ 1.75	each	
PCB Ballasts	\$ 0.75	lbs.	· ·
Rechargeable batteries	\$ 1.00	lbs.	
Lead Acid Batteries	\$ 0.20	lbs.	examinate in
Button Batteries	\$ 3.66	lbs.	K81P1R 88
X			\$

Annual Summary	
Waste Totals	Disposal Costs
847.00	1,939.63
0.00	2
368.00	621.92
0.00	
101.00	89.89
12.00	16.32
662.00	119.16
171.00	58.14
6.00	1.80
3.00	1.41
1.00	0.75
70.00	19.60
16.00	28.00
198.00	182.16
105.00	96.60
0.00	¥
0.00	
0.00	H.
4.00	3.68
8.00	7.36
1.00	0.92
0.00	(H)
185.00	170.20
52.00	47.84
3.00	2.76
0.00	2
20.00	10.80
550.00	324.50
53.00	725
283.00	(*)
195.00	
0.00	達:
2.00	24.00
8.00	14.00
125.00	93.75
107.00	107.00
0.00	-
) .
	\$ 3,982.19

Aitkin County VSQG Report 2011

Disposal Total	Admin Total	Mileage Total	Grand Total	
\$296.70	\$75.00	\$0.00		\$371.70

S	ent Tota	S
	eut	Tota

Waste Tyne	Amount	Waste Tyne	Amount	Waste Tyne	Amount
od from	3111001111			od from	t
Latex Paint (gal)	18	Bulb 4' (each)	55	Non-hazardous Solid (Ib	d (lb) 0
Oil Paint (gal)	40	Bulb 8' (each)	32	Oil-used (gal)	0
Paint Related Material(lb)	4	Bulb Compact (each)	0	Oil Debris (lb)	0
Solvent (gal)	19	Bulb U/Circ (each)	0	Oil Filters (each)	35
Acid Organic (Ib)	0	Bulb HID (each)	0	Oxidizer (Ib)	0
Acid inorganic (Ib)	0	Bulb Crushed (lb)	0	Paint booth Filters(Ib)	0 (q
Aerosol (lb)	35	Bulb broken (each)	0	Pesticides (lb)	0
Amalgam (Ib)	0	Cyanide (Ib)	0	Pesticide Aero (lb)	0
Antifreeze (gal)	1	DVVVV (Ib)	0	Pharms/Medications (lb)	0 (qı) s
Asbestos (Ib)	0	Flammable Solid (lb)	0	Poison (lb)	0
Ballast PCB (lb)	0	Fire Extinguisher (each)	0	Propane Cylinders(each)	each) 0 0
Ballast Non PCB (lb)	0	Photo Fixer (gal)	0	Reuse paint (gal)	0
Base (lb)	0	Mercury compounds (lb)	0	Sharps (gal)	0
Battery-button (lb)	0	Mercury Debris (lb)	0	Specimens (lb)	0
Battery- lithium (lb)	0	Mercury Elemental (lb)	0	Spon Combustible (lb)	0 (q)
Battery- lead acid(lb)	0	Lead Debris (lb)	0	Supplies (each)	0
Battery Wet Nicd (lb)	0	Lead foil (lb)	0	Unknown-analysis (each)	each) 0
Battery Other Rechargeables	0	Non-hazardous liquids (gal)	0	Unknown-disposal (lb)	0 (q)
2				X-Ray film (lb)	0
Customer	Date	Customer	Date	Customer	Date

	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00
Date	1,	1,	1,	1,	1/	1	1,	1,	1	1,	1,	1,	1,	1,	1	7	7	7
Customer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Date	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00	01/00/00
Customer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Date	9/10/11	9/10/11	9/10/11	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00	1/0/00
Customer	Hickory Lake Auto	Mille Lacs Wild Rice Corp	Aitkin Motor Company	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pounds Recycled through Recycling Center (out of County and Aitkin County)

Less Baled Cardboard 2011

			TOO DAIGA CAIANCAIA FOI	od mino			
MONTH	GLASS	PAPER	CARDBOARD TIN		ALUMINUM	PLASTIC	ALUMINUM PLASTIC YEAR TOTAL
JANUARY	57530	162754	216811	19826	35129	30506	522556
FEBRUARY	49257	`	217992	16844	28435		
MARCH	54385	154153	230676	18928	32337	29551	520030
APRIL	63121	177780	228821	22768	34988		563054
MAY	75469	205077	308534	29536	45152	42972	706740
JUNE	89199	272293	232951	14077	9911	32319	
JULY	96546	285559	236933	14771	11299	37712	682820
AUGUST	105464		286538	20366	11586		
SEPTEMBER	90435	272360	196773	14775	10157	34148	618648
OCTOBER	83919	254923	165957	13761			559686
NOVEMBER	82325		171114	13444	8628	31842	557580
DECEMBER	75851	230349	135483	12470	8527	29976	492656
TOTAL	923501	2725767	2628583	211566	245376	397772	7132565

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MONTHLY GROSS REVENUE FROM SALE OF MATERIALS (TRANS COST NOT SUBTRACTED - BALED CARDBOARD IS SUBTRACTED)

2011							
MONTH	GLASS	PAPER	CARDBOARD	TIN	ALUMINUM	PLASTIC	YEAR TOTAL
JANUARY FEBRUARY			7885.94 10939.81				7885.94 10939.81
MARCH APRIL	1149.50	1149.50	7037.68 20514.18		1149.50	1149.47	7037.68 26261.65
MAY JUNE	1107.80 2481.42	1107.80 2481.42	9305.64 15337.70				14844.68 27744.82
JULY AUGUST	1733.80 1993.52	1733.80 1993.52	21722.56 18541.70	1733.80 1993.52			30391.58 28509.26
SEPTEMBER OCTOBER	1274.08 868.30	1274.08 868.30	14529.08 9691.71	1274.08 868.30		1274.09 868.26	20899.49 14033.17
NOVEMBER DECEMBER	768.13 428.48	428.48	5171.39 7635.12	428.48	428.48		9777.51
TOTAL	11805.03	11805.03	148312.51	11805.03	11805.03	11804.97	207337.60

<u>AITKIN COUNTY MATERIAL GARRISON RESIDENTIAL & COMMERICAL (POUNDS)</u> 2011

MONTH	CLACC	DADED	CADDDOADD	TIM	A L L IB ALB II IB A	DI ACTIC	VEAD TOTAL
MONTH	GLASS	PAPER	CARDBOARD	TIN	ALUMINUM	PLASTIC	YEAR TOTAL
LIANULA DV (D)	40011	050		40-4			
JANUARY (R)	12211	35952	36863	4951	4876	8366	103219
JANUARY (C)	3460	8770	24101	835	2088	1253	40507
FEBRUARY (R)	12998	37499	33921	4851	3483	8758	101510
FEBRUARY (C)	3240	9719	22684	926	2314	1387	40270
MARCH (R)	12199	35276	37420	4492	3825	8058	101270
MARCH (C)	2220	6659	22975	634	1585	951	35024
APRIL (R)	18780	53978	37344	7166	4156	13115	134539
APRIL (C)	4527	10333	26100	2453	3698	2869	49980
MAY (R)	16026	51250	64259	11016	8248	15386	166185
MAY (C)	8683	10975	27781	1045	2613	1568	52665
JUNE (R)	15390	46980	41969	2422	2142	12897	121800
JUNE (C)	5077	15498	37604	802	534	1335	60850
JULY (R)	20696	63174	45168	3268	3632	18542	154480
JULY (C)	5319	16238	30589	840	560	1400	54946
AUGUST (R)	19385	56069	56740	6773	2525	12568	154060
AUGUST (C)	5231	15970	30509	826	551	1377	54464
No. Market							
SEPTEMBER (R)	19403	57744	19239	3674	2755	15649	118464
SEPTEMBER (C)	7014	19200	28634	993	662	1655	58158
OCTOBER (R)	17340	53536	45038	3344	2282	14540	136080
OCTOBER (C)	5404	14646	33473	758	505	1262	56048
NOVEMBER (R)	17349	53484	42604	3265	1845	14888	133435
NOVEMBER (C)	4411	11864	22079	614	409	1023	40400
DECEMBER (R)	17853	53304	32492	3313	2422	14712	124096
DECEMBER (C)	4316	13176	20963	682	454	1136	40727
TOTAL (R) & (C)	258532	751294	820549	69943	58164	174695	2133177
TOTAL (R)	199630	598246	493057	58535	42191	157479	1549138
TOTAL (C)	58902	153048	327492	11408	15973	17216	584039

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anne Marcotte Brian Napstad Don Nieme Mark Wedel Laurie Westerlund

2011 ANNUAL REPORT for FOOD, BEVERAGE AND LODGING and WATER LABORATORY given January 2012

by Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director and Doug Pearson Environmental Health Specialist

Executive Summary

The inspection emphasis continues to be on high-risk areas such as food safety versus lower risk areas such as lodging. Although lower risk-based establishments only need to be inspected once every two years, our County continues to inspect all licensed establishments at least annually.

The most significant happening for the FB&L was assisting Lake County from mid-February through mid-June when they were without a registered Sanitarian. Gross receipts from Lake County brought in totaled \$3,224 while maintaining the Aitkin County FBL program.

The total number of licensed establishments in the County over the past 5 years has remained fairly steady. In 2011 there was a 17% <u>decrease</u> in the number of resorts and motels. There was however, an increase in food licenses giving a slight increase overall in the total number of establishments.

Total number of establishments with a pool license continues to remain steady at 9. Some establishments have several "pools" such as a deep pool, wading pool, spa, etc. but are only issued one license for all of that particular establishment's "pools". Due to the stability in the number of pools this report will no longer graph that particular data.

There were 6 Environmental Services Ordinances amended: Administrative, Lodging, MHP/RCA, Food, Ledging and Youth that brought them into full compliance with applicable State Statutes and Rules.

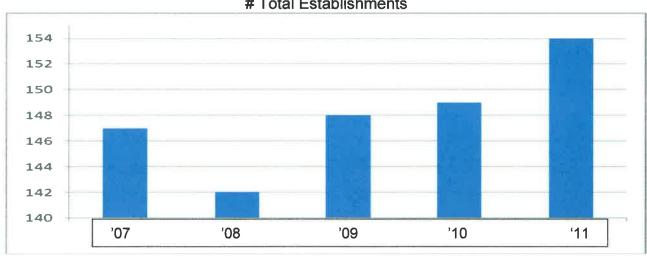
Aitkin County continues to maintain a certified drinking water laboratory for County residents and/or anyone who may drop off a sample for testing. A 26% increase in testing indicates an increasing need for a locally certified water testing laboratory.

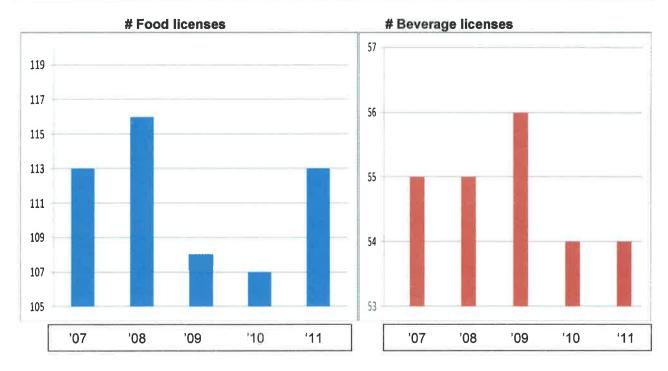
FOOD, BEVERAGE AND LODGING Data for 2011

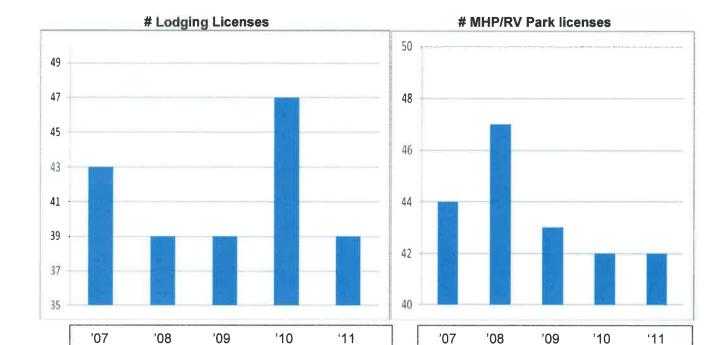
Total Licensed Establishments (of these establishments, several may have more than one type of license such as recreational vehicles, mobile homes, food, etc.) These totals do not include the 57 temporary food licenses ("special events") issued.

	TOTAL NO OF ESTABLISHMENTS	FOOD	BEVERAGE	LODGING	MHP/RCA	POOLS
2011	154	113	54	39	42	9
ANNUAL % + OR - CHANGE	3% ↑	5.6%	0% ◆ →	17% ↓	0% ←→	10%









2011 INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

All establishments had at least one annual inspection. Schools continue to have two mandatory inspections per year. Only 4 establishments had more than one annual inspection due to problems (down from 5 in 2010 and 9 in 2009).

Complaints - logged through complaint database maintained by the Compliance Officer. Areas however specific to licensed FB&L establishments were:

- Mold complaints, mainly by renters, continue to be received. The MN Building Code has not been adopted and the County does not have an inspector for this area.
- No foodborne illness outbreaks.
- Dirty and under-maintained public pool. Complaint resolved and issue corrected. Another pool
 complaint about it contributing to respiratory illness. Investigation showed no problems with that
 pool.
- Dumping of sewage in the woods. Investigation showed this to not be happening.
- Unlawful set-back of RVs from body of water. Complaint substantiated and problem corrected.
- A few concerns voiced by the Public about dirty restaurants, poor food handling practices, etc.
 Investigation of these complaints showed no problem.

2011 New Ownership/Transfer/ and Activity for FB&L Establishments

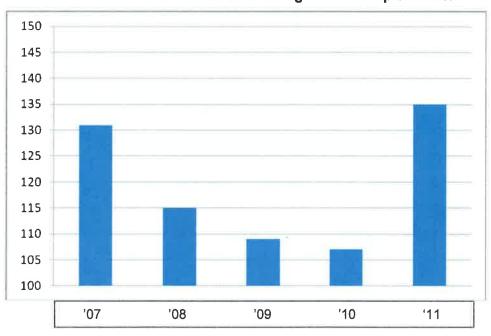
Number of new licenses for establishments not having a previous related license	2
Chappy's Assisted Living and McGregor Angels	
Number of establishments that closed	5
ADC in McGregor, Chuckwagon Saloon (fire), Sunset Bay Resort (exempt), Giese B&B (exempt), Blue Moon Resort.	
Number of establishments that re-opened under new ownership	7
Aitkin and McGregor Subways to Mike Jones. Meals on Wheels to County Market. Golden Age Club now doing pancake breakfasts. Rosallini's to Ackleys. Buckhorn Bar to Eken Enterprises. Mike's Uptown to Blanchard and renamed Buckshot Bar.	

ADC taken on by Golden Horizons. McGregor Community Center license held by City picked up by McGregor Lions.	
Number of establishments that underwent major remodeling Butler building is undergoing major renovation with a May '12 target opening date. New restaurant being put in at Red Door resort with target opening date of Jan '12. Prairie River finished upgrading the kitchen. Eken Enterprises (formerly Buckshot) redid kitchen and bar area. Golden Horizons adding on for ADC.	5

2011 WATER LAB OVERVIEW

- 1. Increase of 26.5% in total number of water samples run in 2011 (135 vs. 107 in 2010).
- 2. Expenses budgeted were \$5,745 with \$6,820 spent. Total income brought in was \$7,792 for a NET \$972.

of PRIVATE Drinking Water Samples Tested*



*2009 our County returned testing of licenses establishment's drinking water back to the MDH. The State does not charge for this due to receiving federal monies (but which were not shared with the County).

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- All set goals were achieved.
- County Sanitarian assisted Lake County, through our assistance agreement with them due to their Sanitarian resigning, from mid-February through mid-June.

Seminars

- Septic Design in Hinckley 4/19/11.
- Doug presented a free re-certification food safety class to 13 participants in June.

Environmental Education Day 2011

On September 12-13, 2011 Aitkin County Environmental Services and Long Lake Conservation Center hosted Environmental Education Day. Over the course of two days, 125 sixth graders attended the event. The sixth graders were from Hill City (17), McGregor (25) and Aitkin (83). The kids were very well behaved and really enjoyed the experience. This year we offered four exciting and educational classes. Classes presented were by The Science Museum of Minnesota (Water), The Minnesota Zoo (How Animals Adapt), and two classes offered by Long Lake Conservation Center. The two Long Lake Conservation Center classes included a class on Lake Bottom Organisms and a presentation on Minnesota Frogs and Toads.

1) The Science Museum of Minnesota's program was on Water. Aaron, the Science Museum official, did a great job getting the kids to volunteer to help him with his presentation, which gives students an idea of how everyday life activities use so much water. 97% of the water on earth is salt water. Of the 3% that is left, 2% is frozen. That leaves 1% of all the water on the Earth for human use. This water formed 4 Billion



years ago! Large, entertain-ing props
were used to explain groundwater, the
water cycle, usable water sources and
other concepts regarding water. Aaron
explained that the smallest amount of
available water is groundwater, which is
what we use the most. The program
stressed the responsibility to the students
to protect the environment and to help

conserve water, and Aaron showed the students how our ground water gets contaminated. Another point he made was how much of our water usage is from using electricity; far more than from personal use, agriculture, or manufacturing combined. Aaron explained to the students that every person uses about 750 gallons of water per day, and challenged them to think of ways to use less water. The students love that they get to actively participate in this class.

2) The Minnesota Zoo presented a program on Animals and how they survive. The Minnesota Zoo official, Chris, did a great job with the children and the animals. Chris brought a beautiful Red-tailed Hawk, an

opossum, (an omnivore, it eats meat, vegetables, and doesn't care if its food is alive or dead, has 50 teeth and is shy and nocturnal); a Blandings turtle, and a female bull snake. Chris shared fascinating facts with the students about the animals she brought. Among those, the fact that only about 40 to 50 of the 200 birds in Minnesota stay through the



winter; that the red-tailed hawk can see a mouse from over a football field away; and that a turtle's shell is attached to their body at the hip and along the spine. The Blandings turtle isn't a fast swimmer, but has a long neck and waits for something to swim by that it can reach out and grab. Year after year, this is a favorite class of the students.

3) Long Lake instructors Melanie and Ashley taught very informative sessions on Frogs and Toads. They explained that Amphibian means they have two lives. Minnesota has 14 different species of frogs and toads.



The instructors showed the students a salamander and several different frogs and toads. The salamander is from the caudada family, which means it has a tail. It's legs are not good for hopping, it's eyes are on top of it's head, and it is mainly a land animal but needs to be close to water. One difference between

frogs and toads is that toads have thicker skin and can be away from water for longer periods of time, and have bumps for better camouflage. Of the 14 species in Minnesota, 3 are toads and 11 are frogs. An interesting fact is that frogs and toads make an interesting Bio-indicator which can tell us if something is polluting our water or is wrong in our environment, because they will have deformities (extra leg, extra eye, etc.) if something isn't right. The kids were amazed that frogs can freeze almost solid in the winter and still survive..... a chemical in them makes them not expand and explode. The students played a Nature Bingo game which showed how much they had learned about amphibians, and were able to study the frogs and toads close up.

The second class provided by Long Lake Conservation Center was called Lake Bottom Organisms, and sessions were taught by Melanie and Marie. The class started out with the instructor explaining the different parts of a lake, and that the students would be looking for invertibrates. This session also reinforced some facts about water that had been learned in the Science Museum session on water. The instructors also pointed out that while a glass of tap water and a glass of lake water might look quite

different, if the lake water wasn't "clean" then all the organisms wouldn't be able to live there. The students were divided into groups, and each student was given a strainer so that they could explore the "Littoral" zone of the lake – the instructors were careful to explain what kinds of things the students would be able to collect and cautioned them about not



damaging the shoreline or living things they found. Students had about 15 minutes to collect specimens, and then returned to the classroom to look under the microscope and categorize what they had found and list each of them on the board. There were at least 20 different things located by the different groups of 6th

graders, and the excitement could be felt, with students shouting back and forth about what they had found.

They found things such as minnows, leeches, different kinds of larvae, etc.

After the exciting day we asked all of the sixth grade students and teachers to fill out an evaluation form. Our office relies on their input to assist in planning for the next year.

The first question was:

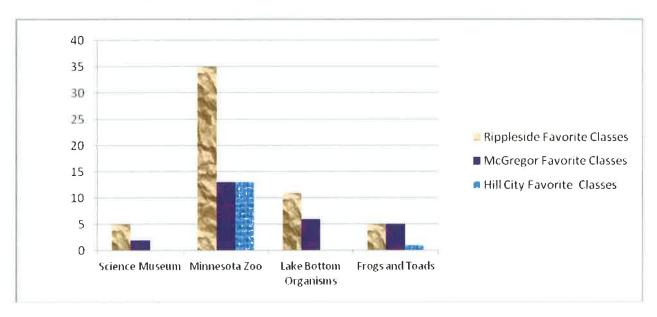
1. Did you enjoy your time at Long Lake Conservation Center and why?

99% of those who participated and filled out an evaluation form enjoyed themselves. Some of the comments we received were:

- It was fun because of the groups.
- We got to learn new things.
- Fun sessions and the staff is nice.
- We got to be outside.
- > There was audience participation.

2. Did you enjoy the speakers? Which class was your favorite and why?

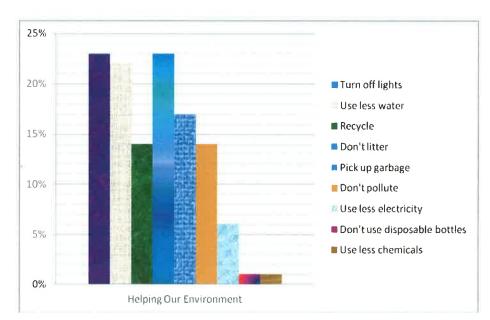
➤ Below is a chart showing how each school rated the classes as their favorites.



When asked why, students responded that they liked seeing the animals, liked being able to touch the animals, and loved the outdoor class and finding bugs and eggs. This year, they particularly loved the red-tailed hawk.

3. Tell us what you can do to help our environment?

- > Turn off lights (23%)
- Use less water (22%)
- Recycle (14%)
- ➤ Don't litter! (23%)
- ➤ Pick up garbage (17%)
- ➤ Don't pollute (14%)
- ➤ Use less electricity (6%)
- ➤ Don't use disposable bottles (1%)
- ➤ Use less chemicals (1%)



4. Name a specimen that is native from Minnesota.

- Red-tail Hawk (26)
- > Opossums (2)
- > Deer (8)
- > Frogs (13)
- > Toad (3)
- ➤ Bull/Gopher Snake (10)
- ➤ Wolf (4)
- ➤ Black Bear (8)
- ➤ Wood Turtle (5)
- ➤ Loon (7)
- ➤ Bald Eagle (2)
- ➤ Fox (2)
- ➤ Garter snake (3)
- > Salamander (4)

> Students also commented on others such crow, horse, skunk, moose, beaver, and minx.

We also asked the students to give us any additional comments or recommendations so that we can make the event better every year. Some of the comments were:

- ➤ I think I want to work at the Minnesota Zoo.
- All the classes really taught me about the environment.
- ➤ It was awesome!
- Best field trip ever.
- > LLCC was amazing.
- I would love to go there again.
- > The water thing was cool.
- ➤ I love science.
- > The staff was nice
- > There were several comments about the good pizza.

The days were a huge success and the students had a good learning experience. They have an opportunity to learn a lot about the environment and about our natural resources. Every year we hope to provide these outstanding environmental classes and to encourage all of our young people to respect and protect our environment. In order to reduce costs, Aitkin County Environmental Services asked for sponsors to assist with this event. The sponsors for the year 2011 were: Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association, Aitkin Eyecare Center, Aitkin Moose Lodge, Big Sandy Lake Assoc., Bremer Bank, Cedar Lake Conservancy, Friends of Rice Lake Refuge, Long Lake Assoc. (Glen), McGregor Lions Club, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, Minnewawa Sportsmans Club, Moose Willow Sportsmans Club, Riverwood Healthcare Center, The Office Shop, Wealthwood Rod and Gun Club, and Long Lake Conservation Center. A huge thank-you to those sponsors in helping make this day possible for our 6th graders!

The 2011 Essay Winners are:

From Aitkin Rippleside Elementary: (combined Language Arts Classes)

1st PLACE:

Shelby Wood and Rachel Sherman

2nd PLACE:

Romeo Hall and Heather Gaulke

From Hill City Elementary: (Mr. Tulla's Class)

1ST PLACE:

Bella Bishop

2ND PLACE:

Jerimiah Butler

From McGregor Elementary: (Ms. Hawkinson's Class)

1ST PLACE:

Chloe Larson

2ND PLACE:

Joseph Heagle