

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



Marcotte

To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 1-3-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Priority Items for MRCC

Requested Meeting Date: 1-8-13 Estimated Presentation Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter: Commissioner Anne Marcotte

**Type of Action Requested** (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion only with possible future action
- 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
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute \_\_\_\_\_
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**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  Capital  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 affected.  Yes  No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision.  Yes  No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy.  Yes  No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level.  Yes  No



**Supporting Attachment(s)**

- 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
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.**

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**Aitkin County Courthouse**  
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-7276  
Fax: 218-927-7374

**TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners**

**FROM: Sue Bingham, Administrative Assistant**

**RE: Board Discussion – January 8, 2013**

**DATE: January 3, 2013**

Commissioner Marcotte requested an item be added to the January 8, 2013 County Board agenda for discussion. This item has been placed under Board Discussion.

**Commissioner Anne Marcotte**  
**A) Priority Issues for MRCC**

From: Dan Larson [<mailto:dan27@frontiernet.net>]  
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 6:43 PM  
Subject: MRCC Issues Document / w attachment

Members:

Please review the attached issues document that will help us prioritize what the MRCC will be working on during the coming legislative session. One thing I did not mention in the document is you may suggest an issue you do not see on the list, but know that the group will have a prioritized list and clear direction at the conclusion of the January 10th meeting in Grand Rapids.

Please discuss with your board and send your top five ranked and prioritized issues back to me by e-mail by close of business, Tuesday, January 8th, so I have time to compile for the meeting.

Thanks to the members who brought issues forward. Thanks to the rest of you for your attention to this important task.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dan Larson  
MRCC Administrator  
612-210-2493

# MRCC Issue Prioritization Document 2013

The 2013 legislative session will convene on January 8<sup>th</sup>, with democrats in firm control of both houses and the governor's office. Their primary task will be addressing the \$1.095 budget deficit. This document is an issue primer to reveal issues member counties have brought forward for consideration as a primary concern for 2013, and to remind members of on-going issues that still need attention. I will tally results received after reviewing this document and the board will prioritize on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the meeting in Grand Rapids.

Please review and rate the top five issues of importance to your county, with #1 being the most important and #5 being the least important. ***Please send me the completed list of five ranked issues with number and title by end of business Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.***

In the last several years, MRCC has worked with some success to focus its legislative activities on amending policies and funding formulas that are unfair or inequitable to Greater Minnesota. The group has given primacy to issues that affect Greater Minnesota specifically (Legacy Parks and Trails). It has also incorporated more member involvement through the creation of work teams assigned to each issue.

The impact of the election reached beyond a simple shift in majority control of the legislature, to significantly affect the continuing shift of power from rural Minnesota to the metro area. Under that framework, we asked members to bring issues forth that were inequitable or unfair to Greater Minnesota. We received the following responses:

**Vulnerable Children and Adults Act / VCAA:** The changes in the VCAA formula caused substantial decreases in funding for a majority of counties and substantial increases for a small amount of counties. 48 counties lost funding ranging from 0-69% with 36 counties gaining 0-197%. The formula weighted money heavily into the metro and suburban areas and out of rural counties. At its December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, MRCC adopted a position in support of the VCAA formula currently supported by MACSSA and AMC. \*Check your county under "Proposed VCA Allocation" column on the attachment titled VCAA to determine how you do under this formula.

**#1) Changing the VCAA formula to the one currently supported by MACSSA and AMC should be an MRCC priority in 2013.**

**Land Use:** Many members feel the state has too much land (about 8.4 million acres) and that the state should divest itself of a significant portion of that land. Future land acquisition should be targeted in areas which would provide the best value for the largest number of state residents, i.e. nearer the metro area. That land acquisition could be funded with proceeds from the sale of existing state land (mostly in northern Minnesota).

**#2) An MRCC priority issue should be a frank discussion (legislation) at the state level over how much land Minnesota should own, and where those land holdings should be located.**

**#3) Wetland Policy:** Follow up on the final recommendations that went to the Governor mid-December. **This issue should be a focus as we go through the year, to ensure favorable implementation of the changed guidelines moving forward.**

**#4) Shoreland regulations:** The DNR will be seeking legislative approval to reinstate rule making authority, something that should cause MRCC concern unless the scope and purpose are clearly defined. **MRCC should monitor this issue as a priority in 2013.**

### **On-going MRCC Issues:**

**Legacy Park and Trail Funding:** Greater MN has moved from zero in guaranteed funding three years ago to 20% dedicated to Greater Minnesota in 2011. We have reached agreement with DNR and metro parks in support of that 20% dedicated funding for the next five years to allow Greater Minnesota to complete its plan.

Apart from that agreement, the Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition will introduce legislation early in the session creating a Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission. The bill is designed to allow funding to flow directly from the state Legacy fund to Greater Minnesota parks and trails – without having the DNR act as intermediary. It will also provide greater controls – the same type metro counties have – over park and trail legacy funding.

#### **#5) The MRCC should support this park and trail legacy initiative as a priority in 2013.**

**Transportation Funding / Tax Increase:** Raise revenues for Greater MN highway needs. These revenues could come from one or several of a variety of sources to include motor fuel tax, motor vehicle registration tax, sales tax on leased and purchased vehicles and other sources. We can work out the specifics. The question for your county is:

#### **#6) Should increasing the gas tax or other revenues be a priority issue for MRCC in 2013?**

**Bonding:** Provide general obligation bond proceeds for transportation projects in a capital bonding bill with:

- o \$30-\$50M for Local Bridge Program
- o \$30-50M for Local Road Improvement Program
- o \$9M for Railroad Crossings with County Highways
- o \$5-10M for Greater MN Transit Facilities

#### **#7) Should MRCC support \$30 - \$50 M for Local Bridge Program, and \$30 - \$50 M for Local Road Improvement Program, as well as funding for rail crossings, ports, and Greater MN Transit Facilities as a priority for 2013?**

The following is a selected list of transportation proposals supported by the MN Transportation Alliance that also benefit Greater Minnesota.

- Remove the referendum requirement for counties outside of the 7 county metropolitan area with regard to the local option sales tax for transportation purposes.
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- Expand authorization to levy the wheelage tax to all 87 counties and remove the \$5 per vehicle cap.
- Charge and dedicate sales tax on all motor vehicle parts and services
- Dedicate all of the revenue from the sales tax on leased vehicles to Greater MN transit (and metro counties for highway improvements).

#### **#8) Should MRCC support some or all of the four items above as priorities for 2013? Please identify which, if any item you would eliminate.**