

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



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 5-29-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Presentation from Gordon Prickett, President ACRALA

Requested Meeting Date: 6-11-13 Estimated Presentation Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter: Gordon Prickett

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

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion with possible 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: Patrick Wussow, Aitkin County Administrator**

**RE: Presentation from Gordon Prickett, President ACRALA**

**DATE: May 29, 2013**

Gordon Prickett, President of Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Association (ACRALA) has asked to present their association findings to the County Board.

38639 337<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
(218) 927-2267  
[gordmett@crosbyronton.net](mailto:gordmett@crosbyronton.net)

April 10, 2013

Aitkin County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Patrick Wussow, Administrator  
209 Second Street NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

As a follow up to the extreme lake conditions of last summer and the temporary boating restrictions that the County enacted, ACLARA has surveyed its membership to give you some sense of the public's response from lake country.

The twenty lake associations in ACLARA were given six questions to send out to their members. On the following pages you will find these questions and a tally of the 105 responses received from 12 member lakes.

In addition there is a detailed worksheet enclosed with available lake level elevations for the twenty member lakes of ACLARA. Over half of the survey responses were received from just two lakes, Farm Island and Ripple. At these lakes the Highest Recorded Level in 2012 was well above Ordinary High Water. Five of the ACLARA lakes have no lake level gages.

Situations vary greatly at individual lakes. Obtaining measurements and determining threat levels was difficult last summer. We compliment you for the promptness of the actions which you took to safeguard our waters.

Sincerely,



Gordon Prickett, President  
Aitkin County Rivers And Lakes Association

Enclosures

**To: ACLARA Member Lake Associations:**

The recent heavy rains and high water levels have caused many serious problems for lakeshore and other riparian landowners, as well as some inconveniences for lake users. Aitkin County imposed a series of no wake restrictions during this time, in order to minimize the damages to lake shores and property, and there was considerable disagreement about these restrictions.

As a reminder, the County initially placed no wake restrictions on all lakes; then, after determining actual lake levels, the County lifted restrictions on lakes that were less than 12 inches above their Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), and continued no wake restrictions on lakes that were at least 12 inches higher than their OHWM. Lakes that were 12-18 inches above this level were restricted to 300 foot no wake zones, while those with levels higher than 18 inches above the OHWM were completely no wake. A few weeks later all restrictions were lifted, even though many lakes remained higher than normal.

Now that we have experienced these extreme events and the resulting damages, the Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association wants to hear your thoughts about the County's no wake restrictions in general, and your evaluation of whether the restrictions were appropriate for your lake.

Please send us your responses to the following questions. We plan to develop a set of recommendations to guide County policy for future events like this.

Based on your experiences and observations,

1. Should no wake restrictions be imposed when lake levels rise to extreme highs?  
If you answer no, please explain why.
2. If you approve of the concept of no wake restrictions, do you agree that the Ordinary High Water Mark is an appropriate benchmark for triggering restrictions?  
If you answer no, please explain an alternative benchmark.
3. If you approve of the OHWM as a benchmark, what level above this should trigger no wake restrictions?
4. Do you think that 300 feet from shore is a useful no wake restriction, or should restrictions apply to the entire lake?
5. If no wake restrictions are required, how long should they remain in force?
6. Should violations of these no wake regulations result in warnings or fines?

Please send your responses to

**Steve Spigarelli**, ACLARA Representative of Spirit Lake

[bwspig@centurylink.net](mailto:bwspig@centurylink.net)

or 29965 400th Ave, Aitkin , MN 56431

*Thank You!*

ACLARA SURVEY

RESULTS as of 4/10/2013 105 responses

1. Should no wake restrictions be imposed when lake levels rise to extreme highs?  
If you answer no please explain why. *yes*

YES: 96      NO: 9

2. If you approve of the concept of no wake restrictions, do you agree that the Ordinary High Water Mark is an appropriate benchmark for triggering restrictions? If you answer no, please explain an alternative benchmark. *yes*

YES: 98      NO: 4

3. If you approve of the OHWM as a benchmark, what level above this should trigger no wake restrictions? *6"*

OHW: 20      OHW to 11 in.: 23      12-23 in. Above: 21      GT 2 ft Above: 12

Don't know: 6      Lake specific: 3

4. Do you think that 300 feet from shore is a useful no wake restriction, ~~or should the restriction apply to the entire lake?~~ *yes*

300 ft: 49      Entire Lake: 41

5. If no wake restrictions are required, how long should they remain in force?

*until water goes down,  
below threshold, etc.* 47

other: 40

6. Should violations of these no wake regulations result in ~~warnings~~ or fines? *yes*

Warnings: 27

Fines: 26

Both: 43

# WORKSHEET for ACLARA LAKES

XX

Responses

Lake	ID #	HRL	OHWL	HRL-OHWL	2012 Max	HRL-2012	2012-OHWL	Total Range	Years (#)	Survey
Big Pine	010157	(2005) 1263.98	1263.60'	4.6" 0.38'	-	-	-	3.48'	81(11)	
Big Sandy	010062	(1950) 1224.80	1216.56'	8.24'	-	-	-	16.84'	111(402)	
Cedar	010209	(1975) 1202.33	1200.30'	24.4" 2.03'	1201.90'	5.2" 0.43'	19.2" 1.60'	4.02'	75(227)	1
Clear	010093	(1966) 1297.49	1297.40'	7.1" 0.59'	1297.47'	6.2" 0.52'	0.8" 0.07'	4.39'	56(584)	11+
Dam	010096	(2012) 1222.0	1219.30'	32.4" 2.70'	1222.0'	0	32.4" 2.70'	4.45'	82(1005)	1
Elm Island	010123	(2005) 1230.02	1227.80'	26.6" 2.22'	1229.5'	6.2" 0.52'	20.4" 1.70'	3.19'	18(386)	
Farm Island	010159	(2012) 1257.75	1255.50'	21.0" 1.75'	1257.25'	0	21.0" 1.75'	4.05'	100(854)	32
Fleming	010105	(2001) 1217.36	1216.46'	11.5" 0.96'	1216.75'	7.3" 0.61'	4.2" 0.35'	2.65'	38(384)	
Gun	010099	(2012) 1214.87	1214.40'	5.6" 0.47'	1214.87'	0	5.6" 0.47'	1.81'	34(364)	
Hammel	010161	(2012) 1240.45	1240.40'	0.6" 0.05'	1240.45'	0	0.6" 0.05'	0.67'	43(5)	7
Lone	010125	(1973) 1265.06	1264.60'	5.5" 0.46'	1264.50'	6.7" 0.56'	-1.2" -0.10'	4.65'	55(506)	
Long	010089	(2010) 1220.38	1219.40'	11.8" 0.98'	-	-	-	1.43'	14(6)	3
Minnewauza	010033	(2012) 1226.07	1224.70'	16.4" 1.37'	1226.07'	0	16.4" 1.37'	2.73'	74(1515)	8
Nord	010117	(2000) 1248.15	1245.00'	1.8" 0.15'	-	-	-	0.32'	8(3)	2
Rabbit	010091	(2012) 1264.13	1262.70'	17.2" 1.43'	1264.13'	0	17.2" 1.43'	2.42'	74(1753)	
Ripple	010146	(1943) 1230.51	1227.50'	36.1" 3.01'	1228.80'	20.5" 1.71'	15.6" 1.30'	3.85'	75(969)	26+27
Round	010204	(2012) 1259.76	1258.60'	13.9" 1.16'	1259.76'	0	13.9" 1.16'	2.47'	43(517)	1
Spirit	010178	(1997) 1255.15	1254.70'	5.4" 0.45'	1254.83'	3.8" 0.32'	1.6" 0.13'	3.03'	81(1989)	4
Sugar	010087	(2012) 1295.87	1295.20'	8.0" 0.67'	1295.87'	0	8.0" 0.67'	2.91'	56(725)	7
Wilkins	010102	(2012) 1218.54	1217.10'	17.9" 1.49'	1218.54'	0	17.9" 1.49'	3.48'	38(340)	

14 lakes ignored  
+ Big Sandy  
USACOE

5 w/ ↑  
no  
gauge

1  
67  
105

- ① Highest Recorded Level (HRL)
- ② Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL)
- ③ HRL - OHWL = potential to rise
- ④ 2012 Highest recorded level
- ⑤ HRL - 2012 HRL i.e. level below HRL in 2012
- ⑥ 2012 HRL - OHWL i.e. level above OHWL in 2012
- ⑦ Total range in recorded levels
- ⑧ Years of data (number of measurements)
- ⑨ Number of responses to Survey as of 12/10/12

12 lakes

## AITKIN COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION 2013

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Lake Name</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>DNR# 01-xx</u>	<u>Township</u>
1.	Big Pine	Larry Foote	157	Hazelton
2.	Big Sandy	Bill Reed	62	Shamrock
3.	Cedar	Les Martin	209	Farm Island
4.	Clear	Bill Feyo	93	Glen
5.	Dam	Dolores Wickham	96	Kimberly
6.	Elm Island	Dave Sanders	123	Nordland
7.	Farm Island	Fred Husom	159	Farm Island
8.	Fleming	Rick King	105	Fleming
9.	Gun	Lois Peacock	99	Fleming
10.	Hammal	Dave Graf	161	Farm Island
11.	Lone	Dave Scott	125	Nordland
12.	Long	Dick Holmberg	89	Glen
13.	Minnewawa	Greg Pfeiffer	33	Shamrock
14.	Nord	Gordon Prickett	117	Nordland
15.	Rabbit	Duane Christopher	91	Glen
16.	Ripple	John Steeber	146	Nordland
17.	Round	Don Ryan	204	Hazelton
18.	Spirit	Steve Spigarelli	178	Farm Island
19.	Sugar	Ken Hoffman	87	Malmo
20.	Wilkins	Gary Rognrud	102	Fleming