



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

21
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: September 12, 2017

Title of Item: Approve Government Center Expansion EAW

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

Submitted by: Jessica Seibert, County Administrator	Department: Administration
---	--------------------------------------

Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator	Estimated Time Needed:
---	-------------------------------

Summary of Issue:

An Environmental Assessment Worksheet is required for the Government Center Expansion Project in accordance with MN Statute 4410.1500-4410.1700. The assessment have been completed, published, and reviewed by the EAW committee. Attached is the Findings of Fact and Record of Decision for Board approval.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Approve EIS Record of Decision

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

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

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED September 12, 2017

By Commissioner: xx

20170912-0xx

EAW Record of Decision – Aitkin County Government Center Expansion Project

BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Record of Decision for the Aitkin County Government Center Expansion Project, noting that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the project.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

**STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}**

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 12th day of September 2017, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of September 2017

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

RECORD OF DECISION

In the Matter of the Determination
Of Need for an Environmental
Impact Statement for the Aitkin County
Government Center Expansion
Aitkin County, Minnesota.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1) The Aitkin County Road & Bridge Department prepared an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed Aitkin County Government Center Expansion pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.1500.
- 2) The EAW was filed with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and notice of its availability was published in the EQB Monitor on July 24, 2017. A copy of the EAW was sent to all persons on the EQB Distribution List, and a copy was available for review in the Aitkin County Administration Office. A press release announcing the availability of the EAW was published in the Aitkin Independent Age newspaper.
- 3) The 30 day EAW public review and comment period began July 24, 2017 and ended August 23, 2017.
- 4) The EAW is incorporated by reference into this Record of Decision on the Determination of Need for an Environmental Impact Statement.
- 5) The proposed project consists of three distinct activities: demolishing the circa 1915 jail building, constructing a county government center building on the site of the existing building and interior remodeling of the existing 1929 courthouse building to better accommodate the courts and justice functions.
- 6) During the 30 day public review and comment period, the Aitkin County Administration Department received written comments on the EAW from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Brian Napstad.
- 7) The following comments were submitted by Karen Kromar of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:
 - A. The Mississippi River is considered a Special Water and is listed as impaired for turbidity. The Special Water designation and impairment will dictate additional increased stormwater treatment during construction and require additional increased permanent treatment post construction. The Project proposer should determine that compliance with these increased stormwater water quality treatments can be achieved on the Project site or elsewhere.

Ms. Kromar, MPCA:

The Project will be designed and constructed in compliance with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. MN R100001 including additional permit requirements based on proximity to the impaired water of the Mississippi River. The site plan will be designed to minimize additional impervious surface created by the project. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will include the use of various best management practices to minimize the amount of stormwater leaving the site and will also include provisions for permanent stormwater treatment.

8) The following are comments submitted by Brian Napstad, Aitkin County resident:

- A) Section b)ii needs to inform the public of the flooding of public infrastructure which occurs with the present amount of impervious surface. The cause of that flooding, and the on-site/off-site mitigation measures which will be required to mitigate an increase in impervious surface.

Mr. Napstad:

Stormwater from the existing site is collected by storm sewer inlets at the intersection of 1st Street NW and 3rd Avenue NW and discharged through the City of Aitkin's storm sewer system. Due to the deficiency of the storm sewer system in this area, public streets in the vicinity of this intersection currently become flooded during heavy rain events. Improvements to the storm sewer system are needed to increase the capacity of the system to reduce the frequency, magnitude, and duration of flooding.

Although the final site plan for the proposed project is not yet completed, the volume of storm water collected at this intersection is likely to increase due to increased impervious surface area created by the project. Options being considered to address the storm water flooding at this area include stormwater retention and capacity improvements of the existing storm water system.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) The Aitkin County Administration Department has fulfilled all the procedural requirements of law and rule applicable to the need for an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Aitkin County Government Center Expansion.
- 2) The identified environmental effects of the project are minor and /or temporary.
- 3) There are no elements of the project that pose the potential for significant environmental effects that cannot be addressed through permit and regulatory processes.
- 4) Based on consideration of the criteria and factors specified in the Minnesota Environmental Review Program Rules to determine whether a project has the potential for significant environmental effects, and on the finding and record in this matter, Aitkin County determines that the proposed Aitkin County Government Center Expansion does not have the potential for significant environmental effects.

- 5) An Environmental Impact Statement on the Aitkin County Government Center Expansion in Aitkin County is not required.
- 6) That any Findings that might properly be termed Conclusions and any Conclusions that might properly be termed Findings are hereby adopted as such.

ORDER

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions:

Aitkin County determines that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the Aitkin County Government Center Expansion

Dated this 12th day of September, 2017.

Mark Wedel
Chair Person, Aitkin County
Board of Commissioners
Aitkin County, Minnesota