



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

20
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: January 23, 2018

Title of Item: Resolution of Support for H. F. 492, Mille Lacs ATV Trail

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| <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* |

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| Submitted by: Ross Wagner | Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind |
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| Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator | Estimated Time Needed: Consent |
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Summary of Issue:
A few years back, in response to the Mille Lacs Lake area economic difficulties Aitkin County proposed a connector trail from the East side of Mille Lacs Lake to the Northwood's ATV Trail System. To fund the new connector, State Representative Dale Lueck has introduced a bonding bill, attached. The bill seems to be gaining momentum, this past fall, Aitkin County Land Department and members of the Aitkin County ATV Alliance hosted the House Capital Investment (Bonding) Committee and took them on a tour of portions of the Northwood's ATV Trail. The tour was very successful and Aitkin County was encouraged to pass a resolution in support. The Aitkin County ATV Alliance will also be submitting a resolution and other organizations will be contacted as well. Attached is a project description with maps and a draft resolution.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Approve Resolution of Support

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:*

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 492

01/26/2017 Authored by Lueck

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for an ATV trail connection;
1.3 authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Appropriation. (a) \$1,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds
1.7 fund to the commissioner of natural resources for predesign, design, acquisition, and
1.8 development of a trail to connect the Northwoods ATV trail system with the Mille
1.9 Lacs-Malmo East Loop trail system.

1.10 (b) The appropriation is not available until the commissioner determines that \$150,000
1.11 has been committed to the project from nonstate sources.

1.12 Subd. 2. Bond sale. To provide the money appropriated in this section from the bond
1.13 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of
1.14 the state in an amount up to \$1,500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect
1.15 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota
1.16 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

1.17 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System

Mille Lacs-Malmo East ATV Loop Trail Project

This project requests a \$1,500,000 appropriation from bond proceeds to be provided to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for predesign, design, acquisition, and development of a trail to connect the Northwoods Regional ATV trail system with the MilleLacs-Malmo East Loop trail system.

The appropriation would not be available until the commissioner determines that \$150,000 has been committed to the project from non-state sources.

This request would fund the addition of a major ATV trail loop to the existing Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System, which serves Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, Itasca and Cass Counties, as well as counties further north. See Map #1 for details.

The project would add about 58 miles of trail to the existing Northwoods Regional ATV trail system. Major portions of the proposed Mille Lacs-Malmo East Loop would be located on existing county and state lands, with many already existing forestry roads that would be incorporated into the new trail.

Map #2 shows the general location of the proposed addition relative to the existing Northwoods Regional ATV trail system and how it would connect the communities of Malmo, Glen, and Isle along the existing South Soo Line ATV Trail.

In addition to adding a significant new section to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System, this project would also provide a long term and much needed diversification to the east and northern side of Mille Lacs Lake due to the on-going issue with the walleye fishery.

The project would be constructed in phases, with the northern leg which would connect Malmo and Glen east to the existing Soo Line Trail east of the Solana ATV Loop. The second phase would focus a direct connection between Malmo and Isle to the south. That route would generally parallel with the east side of Mille Lacs Lake.

Map #3 illustrates the large expanse of territory that the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail covers and highlights the lack of ATV trail presence on east and north side of Mille Lacs Lake.

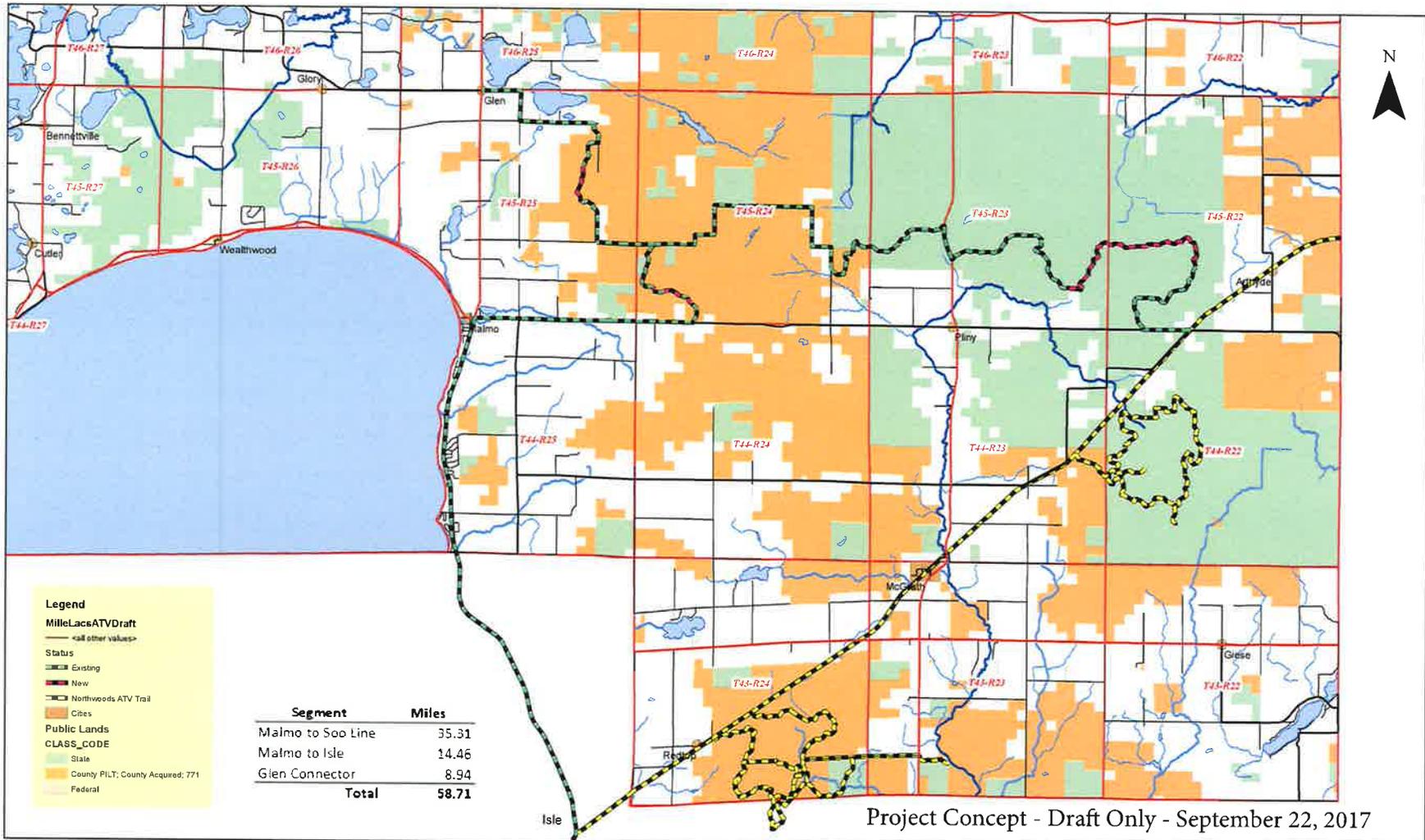
Over the past two years the State of Minnesota has provided almost \$4 million dollars in direct local economic aid in the form of low interest loans, grants and promotional funds to help mitigate the severe economic impact the Mille Lacs Lake fishery issue has had on the area.

This project will provide lasting public infrastructure that will support a healthy and diverse tourism industry well into the future for the Mille Lacs Lake area.

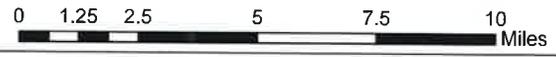
Map #3 illustrates that Aitkin County and the area ATV/Snowmobile Clubs have a long successful history of building and maintaining summer and winter recreational use trails. This project will build on an already successful program of 200 miles of trails.

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System (Map #1)

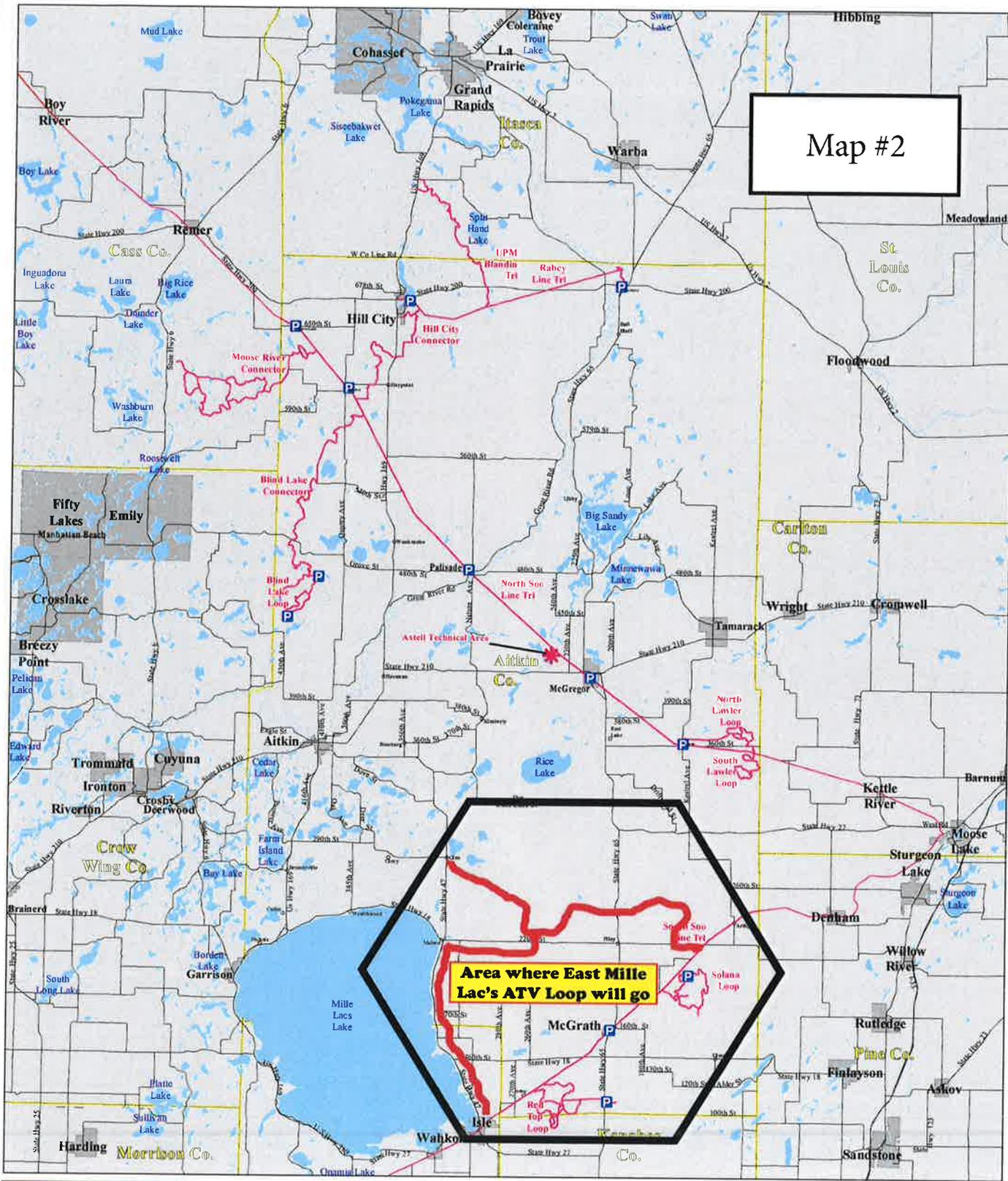
Mille Lac-Malmo East ATV Trail Loop - **Project Concept - Draft Only**



Project Concept - Draft Only - September 22, 2017



Map #2



Legend

- ATV Trail Parking
- ATV Trail
- Major Road

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System General Trail Map

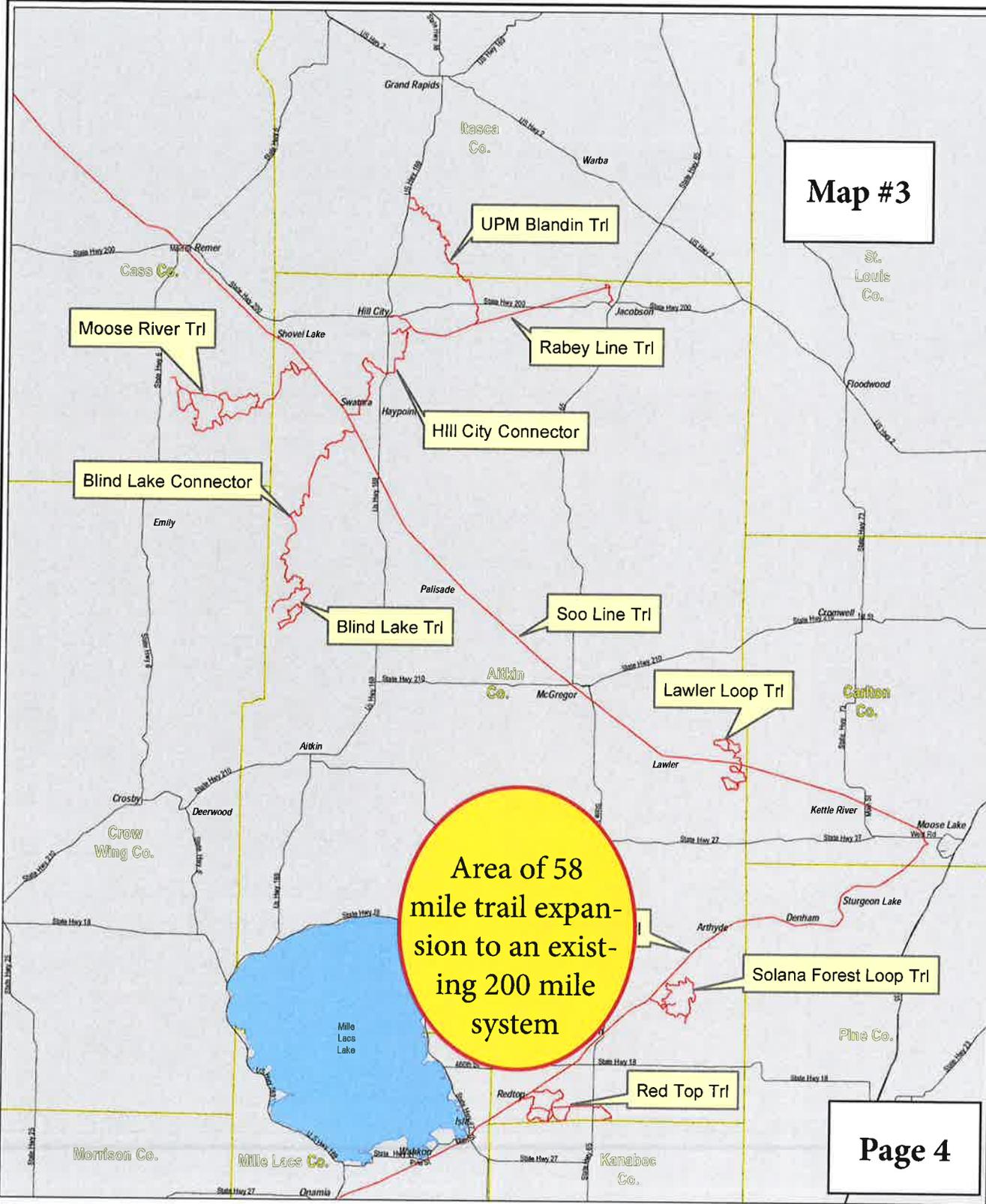


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Map prepared by Aitkin County's GIS for graphic display purposes only.

Map #3



Area of 58 mile trail expansion to an existing 200 mile system

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Legend

- ATV Trail
- Major Highway
- - - County Boundary

Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Trail Map



Author: ddh

Map prepared by Aitkin County's GIS for graphic display purposes only.

Date: 7/13/2012

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

ADOPTED January 23, 2018

By Commissioner: xx

20180123-0xx

In Support of HF 492

Relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for an ATV trail connection; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

WHEREAS, Aitkin and Itasca Counties along with numerous regional partners has built and developed the Northwood's ATV Trail System which has been greatly successful in attracting ATV riders and ATV related events to Aitkin County and the surrounding region, and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County and surrounding counties have seen a noticeable, positive impact on the local economy due to the ATV riders and events, and

WHEREAS, due to mitigating factors beyond our control, the Mille Lacs Lake area in Aitkin, Mille Lacs and Crow Wing Counties is suffering economic losses because of a major reduction in resort patrons and visitors to the area, and

WHEREAS, it is Aitkin County's desire to help add to the Mille Lacs Lake area economy by constructing a connection to the existing Northwood's ATV Trail System with a segment known as Mille Lacs-Malmo East ATV Loop, and

WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs-Malmo East ATV Loop will become full segment of the Northwood's ATV Trail System and will be maintained and promoted as such.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners is in support of HF 492 for the positive effects and impacts on the Mille Lacs Lake area and the surrounding region.

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 23rd day of January 2018, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 23rd day of January 2018

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator