



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

4A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: February 26, 2019

Title of Item: Recognize Winners of Aitkin County Walleye Tank

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

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: 20 Minutes
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Summary of Issue:
 With the recently held Aitkin County Walleye Tank competition now complete, we would like to recognize the winners, judges and all the folks who submitted applications. All told, 16 separate ideas were submitted by 15 different individuals and businesses. Judges graded each entry and provided comments and suggestions and possible referrals which were then given to the entrants. Which are attached.

Top Finishers

- Forester Pontoons, Hill City for upgrades to their facility to increase production and energy efficiency, \$1,000.00.
- Aitkin Health Services, improvements to existing facility to for an extended hours child day-care facility, \$500.00.
- Butler Building/Sylvia Allen, convert part of Butler Building into Shared Office Space, \$250.00.
- Honorable mention to; Start a Flea Market at the County Fairgrounds; A.R.E.A. Rental Homes and New products for DAC.

A special thanks to our judges,

- Greg Bergman, Central Lakes SBDC, Brainerd, MN
- Harlan & Elaine Kingsley, retired small business owners, Hill City, MN
- Mike Korte, Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, Grand Rapids, MN
- Al Raushel, Savanna Pallets, McGregor, MN
- Christine Nelson, Minnewawa Lake, Coldwell Banker Realty
- Ross Wagner, Aitkin County

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

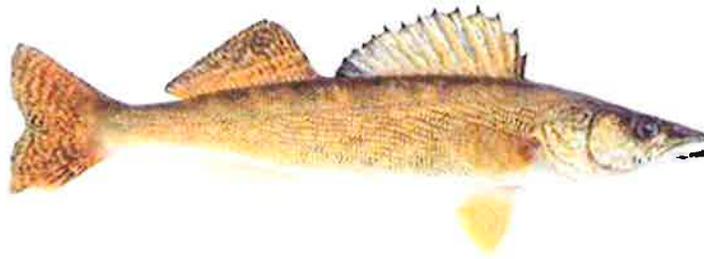
Financial Impact:

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:*

\$1,500.00 in total from the Tourism and Development Fund



Aitkin County Walleye Tank, helping to bring your business idea to life and win cash.

Forester Pontoons Expansion, Chad Christenson, Hill City, MN

- Upgrades to Forester Pontoon's facility to make it more efficient in terms of energy and production. Upgrades to equipment to enhance productivity.

Increasing efficiency and cost savings is extremely helpful in a business's bottom line. With a growing company such as yours any new gained profits or efficiency's would go directly back into the business. This allows for more expansion and jobs.

Existing business with an identified market and business model. They are going to execute it.

A business of this magnitude is needed in the Hill City area and northern Aitkin County. Hill City has lost Quadna, Hilltop Sports, and a Liquor store in the past few years. Residents drive to Grand Rapids for job opportunities. If this succeeds and grows, the potential of 60 new jobs would be huge to this area. Consider having a "Engineered Cost Segregation Review" since the property and upgrades have been done in <2 years. There could be real \$\$'s recovered upon making your first \$1.00. These cost savings are considered "engineer based" so there is a lower risk of audit from IRS. \$\$'s can be returned to the business for investment in the facilities, equipment or employees. It is also an additional legitimate write-off; cost will be recovered by having an outside consultant perform the Cost Segregation Review estimate. (Many businesses do not understand the new tax laws and in many cases, tax accountants are not current on the laws as well, so how would they know about what you're missing? -- It doesn't cost anything to pick up the phone and have that conversation with a professional that actually wrote the IRS laws. Craig Wannamaker - 651-2164744 Craig.wanamaker@gmail.com

In reality, expansion of this facility probably would have the biggest economic impact for Aitkin County. The proposal however was a little light on detail. It would have been helpful if the applicant could have identified a specific item or process that needed some assistance to get started which would then help propel his overall concept.



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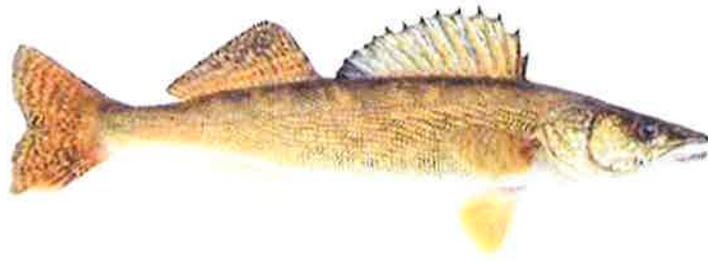
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**SAVANNA
PALLETTS**



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Extended Hours Daycare, Shelly Hanneken, Aitkin Health Services, Aitkin, MN

- Renovations to Aitkin Health Services building to accommodate a Day Care. Day Care would provide extended hours beyond traditional day care providers. Goal is to fulfill need for expanded hour's day care especially for workers in the medical health fields.

Extended hours Daycare is a need in many places and Aitkin County is no different. Especially when you consider how much the health industry contributes to our economy in the number of jobs provided, many of which require 24/7 workers.

Plan is well thought out with identified market and they have identified who will implement the project. Excellent idea. One of the biggest downfalls to bringing in outside employees to a community is daycare facilities. It is not just an issue in Aitkin County, it is statewide. A clean safe environment for children while the parents are working is the dream of every working adult with a family.

Consider having an "Engineered Cost Segregation Review" prior to the purchase of the property. If the property has already been purchased or leased, and improvements have been made to the property in <2 years, there could be real \$\$'s recovered upon making your first \$1.00. These cost savings are considered "engineer based" so there is a lower risk of audit from IRS. \$\$'s can be returned to the business for investment in the facilities, equipment or employees. It is also an additional legitimate write-off; cost will be recovered by having an outside consultant perform the Cost Segregation Review estimate.

Craig.wanamaker@gmail.com

I really liked this idea and it certainly fulfill a need within the community.



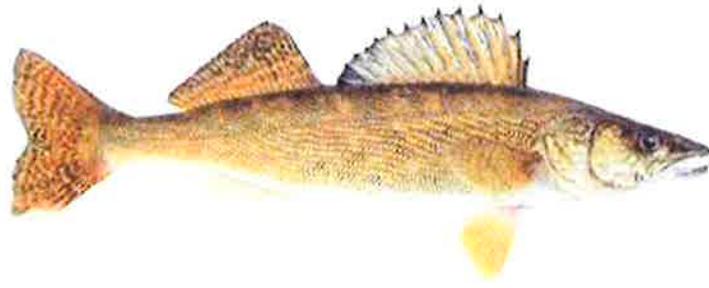
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Shared Office Space Butler Building, Sylvia Allen, Aitkin, MN

- Create a Shared Office Space (SOS) in the Butler Building downtown Aitkin. SOS would have space/office setting available at various times and rates. Allows for seasonal residents and business to do work and have a presence in town on a low cost short to long term basis.

These are successful in many areas for a variety of reasons. With such sporadic broadband in our area, this would fill a need. In other successful SOS's, young professionals are key tenants. This would be a nice addition to the community.

This is a well thought out project with specific details, identified market, someone who will implement it and sounds ready to go.

Well researched and planned out. Would love to see where this heads in the future.

This submission should most definitely be explored. There are SOS facilities popping up around the country.

For consideration on how one location in the metro area is being set-up:

<https://wellworthcowork.com/en>

Since the concept is still fairly new and there is not a whole lot of information on how well they are being embraced, it is encouraged as an R&D project to understand:

- How much total finished square feet would a short term renter need?
- Could the property be rented by the hour, day, month?
- Would the office space include internet access?
- Would the space have a computer readily available?
- Would there be an I.T. professional readily accessible if there are technical difficulties in gaining access to the technologies that are believed to be readily available?
- Would the lease include access to a printer?
- Could a consumer access the property 24/7?
- Could access be done via a web App that allowed for a person to enter a credit card that then provided a digital code access or simply a credit card swipe to gain access?
- How would this be advertised?
- The biggest struggle will be determining a price point that is profitable for the Landlord and affordable for the consumer.
- Could this be implemented as an extension to an existing restaurant?
- Will this create more jobs? - If so, how many?

- People gather where other people appear to be gathering. This project could possibly work well if the office/collaboration spaces are located in such a way that allows for the general public passing by and sees that there is human activity engaging. (Windows that allow for the outside world to see into the building.)

Are you sure it would get 40 hrs a wk?

I think this is a really good idea for the Butler Building and would be a great opportunity for them to increase revenues. At first review I was concerned with the limited expansion opportunities but I could see it grow into a full service office cooperative for small business such as insurance agents, realtors, etc.



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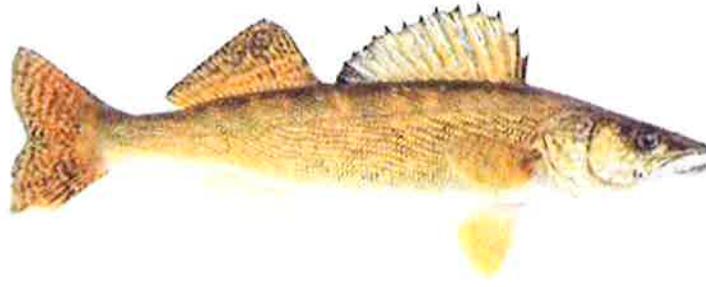
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Aitkin County Development Achievement Center, Tammy Jo Johnson, McGregor, MN

- In addition to the facility in McGregor, a site in Aitkin will increase the reach for certain individuals. New services/programs would be TOOLMART and night crawler sales and development for the fishing and ag markets.

Sounds like potential markets have already been established and a ready workforce maybe available. You might want to contact local bankers to see if there are existing buildings that they have had come back to them and would be willing to work with you as a potential buyer or Lessor of the building. Grants or low interest loans could be available and should be researched.

Clearly identified project, identified market and they are willing to do it.

Nice idea. The need for such a business increases every day. Funding and Grants are going to be essential for the expansion into new market areas. Please check with the city clerk to see if they have someone who writes their grant proposals and would be willing to help out a non-profit organization.

1) DAC would like to expand its net to help a larger population within Aitkin County but they need additional real estate to create education/training spaces for mental, physical and cogitatively challenged.

- It would be recommended that Tammy launch a LinkedIn profile (one did not appear in search engine) and look for talent

- A possible resource would be [linkedin.com/in/paul-force-emery-mackie-06142b62](https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-force-emery-mackie-06142b62)



Welcome to Aitkin County...



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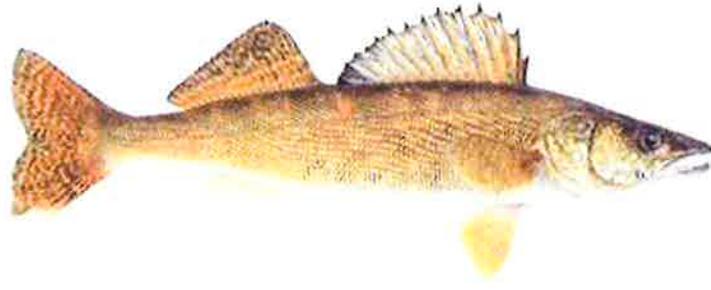
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Aitkin Flea Market, Martha Ehman, Aitkin, MN.

- Start a Flea Market at the Aitkin Fairgrounds, summer months, fee for vendors, free admission. People like Flea Markets and this could bring people to town and local vendors could earn \$.

Flea Markets are popular and draw people. Being a tourist area, one would think a flea market would work. If this is not something you are planning to undertake yourself, other organizations may be willing to pitch in, such as the Chamber or Farmer's Market. Planning should include cost to rent fairgrounds, if there is one as well as insurance and promotions.

It sounds like a good idea but it does not sound like the person who wrote it wants to do the project. Maybe something the FFA clubs would want to take on or the current operator of the farmer's market. Addresses an identified need, some thought on how it would work but does not identify who would do it.

Great idea. The concept should work, and would also bring people to the Aitkin area. The biggest issue that I have seen with similar ideas is that nobody takes charge and follows thru with it. May want to discuss this with the people running the Farmers Market to see if they would take on the duties of overseeing the Flea Market also. Marketing will be a big part of being successful. Vendors want customers if they are going to continue to show up.

Former write-ups about the use of the grounds for garage sale appeared to be positive.

Determining "who" to contact to find out if a Flea Market could be routinely implemented was not an easy task via internet. It would appear that sending an email might be most efficient to find out who the characters are that oversee the maintenance and grant such events.

<http://aitkincountyfair.com/aitkin-county-fair-board/>

AitkinCountyFairFoundation@Gmail.com
AitkinCountyFairFoundation.com

Will there be an oversight committee to assure that fees are collected from the vendors?
How much will it cost to assure that bathroom facilities are open to the public and garbage removal expense.

What would be the hours?

Would the facilities be open every weekend, and which months?

Would vendors sign a contract agreeing to show up for % of days during the year to assure that there

are vendors present to meet the advertising objectives?

PROS:

- Encourage entrepreneurship
- Engage people to participate in commerce
- Great launch pad to try out business ideas prior to a full-blown execution with real estate purchases/leases



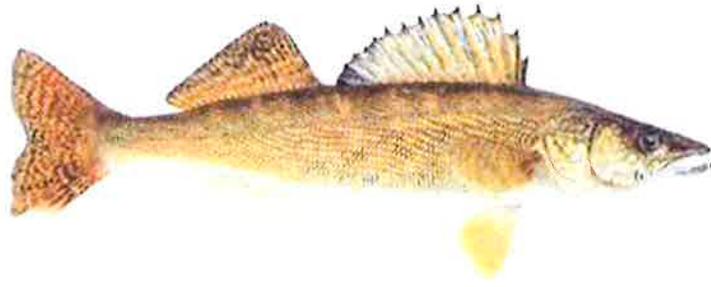
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A.R.E.A. Property Rental, Ashley & Andrew Gustafson, Aitkin, MN

- Start a property rental business in the Aitkin area. Start with one or two rentals then possibly expand with additional rentals and multi-family units

There is a need for good clean affordable rentals in the county. Starting small and building on success is a good idea, especially if this is a sideline or second job. Be sure to recognize all your costs when setting your rents.

The project does identify a specific need and who will do the project. Housing affordable to workers can be a challenge so they will want to analyze closer whether the project would ultimately cash flow on its own. Hopefully the Homeline training will help address that.

Rental properties can be an excellent source of retirement income. Although you may not see immediate return, you hopefully are building equity in the properties. It sounds as though you are in a unique position with both parties having outside income and also the ability to do some of the maintenance yourselves. Rental properties would need to be set up as commercial loans with the bank. The bank would normally require 30% down on each unit acquired. Background check of the potential renters is very important along with a strong understanding of your legal rights as a landlord.

This business idea certainly serves a market need in Aitkin County. The proposed plan starts out small but does provide an opportunity for meaningful growth.



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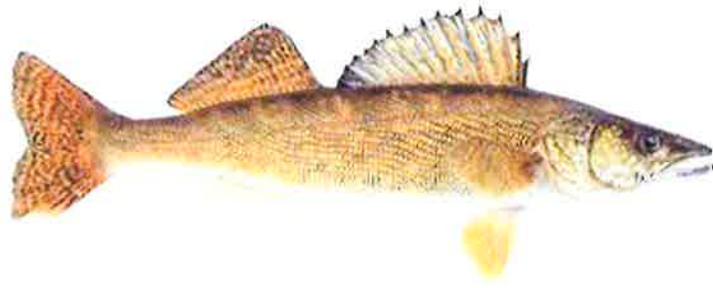
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Tour of Opportunities, Kasey James, Aitkin, MN

- A tour of open and empty buildings to showcase them to other businesses, community members, entrepreneurs and others. Provide history and other information on the buildings. Tour can help streamline the process for folks interested in bringing a business to town.

Kind of like the "Parade of Homes" you see in larger areas. This could be done monthly, quarterly etc. and on set dates. Banks and Realtors could coordinate it as they could gain potential new buyers. Chamber Downtown Committee could also be involved. Small cost but potential big gains. Project sounds beneficial and would have economic impact but they are not going to do it and suggests someone else. One time or periodic project rather than ongoing. Might be good chamber project as suggested but then they should get any prize money if they do it.

I agree that this, if done as you suggest, could help spur the economy of the town by potentially bringing in new businesses. I think it would all depend on if the Chamber could get all of the building owners to participate. If it works, I would think it could be done once or twice a year.

An OPEN HOUSE event that is exclusive to showcase available commercial real estate could be done, however there was no indication as to whether or not these properties will already be listed with Realtor(s). Building owners will need to have a "valuation" performed prior to an OPEN HOUSE event to address asking price/rent, disclosure of current condition. (Properties will not sell to a customer based on fictitious businesses future earnings unless it is stated as a part of the sale.)

Would there be "engineered cost segregation" reviews done prior to a tour to help potential Buyers understand how properties would be valued upon taking possession and make modifications that are specific for the owner/renter?

Are there business owners in the area that want to expand or move their businesses, which would find this of value?

Will the properties be in condition for immediate occupancy?

Is there an application process via the City/County?

Is there financing available?

- Consider inviting local banks to engage in this activity
- Consider inviting Grant writers to assist with possible grant availability

Has there been a defined group of business owners who might be interested in moving into the area?

Who is the audience that is going to be marketed to?

Does the County and Township entities have current data to explain to potential Buyers the readily

available talent base that would be interested in working in their businesses?

Will building owners be generating videographer to help with promoting of this event or will the listing agents?

Could any of the commercial real estate be converted into housing for low income?



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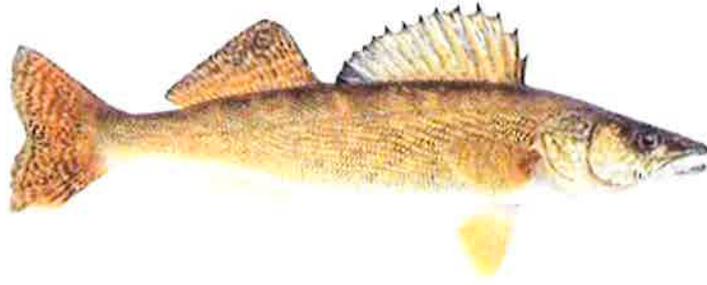
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New Business Mentorship Program, Jim Zdon, Aitkin, MN

- Establish a county wide volunteer pool of retired business people for mentoring individuals interested in starting a new business.

A SCORE Chapter, through the Brainerd Lakes does cover Aitkin County and is always looking for new volunteers/counselors. No doubt a needed service and an important one. Mentors are huge. Perhaps a presentation on SCORE to the community would be a good start.

SCORE is always looking for new mentors in the area. There is a SCORE mentor who lives in the McGregor area but it would be nice to have more.

This is pretty much the job of the Aitkin Co Econ Dev Corp. I don't know that past business owners would volunteer their time and knowledge. I understand what you are trying to accomplish, just don't know if it could happen.

How will the solicitation of talent take place?

What is in it for retired business owners?



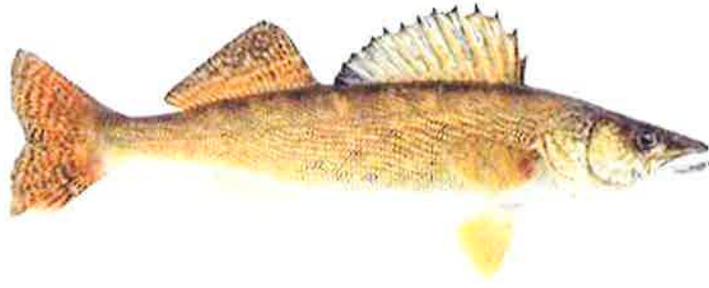
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Cost Segregation, Craig Wanamaker, Mendota Heights, MN

- Provide cost segregation studies for county businesses that own real-estate or are lease holders. These studies create more cash flow opportunities and potential investments in business or communities from cost savings.

Not sure of the size of market for this service. If you feel there is a need, and could very well be, perhaps working with a local Bank or Realtor to put on a workshop or seminar would be a good way to present the service.

While the project may benefit some businesses in the area it seems that these services are available to them right now.

Not quite sure where to go with this. Basically, if I am reading this correctly, it would be a consultant that helps businesses get every penny out of the current tax system by having a business analysis done by an outside source. I would need to know more about how this is completed to throw my support behind it.

This submission could potentially be significant for current and future commercial real estate holders.

- Current real estate holders whom have owned property for <4 years may want to seek out this vendor to see what they might have missed out in tax law opportunities.
- If current commercial real estate holders have made any improvements to the property, they may very well be depreciating incorrectly because IRS laws have changed significantly over the last few years and not all tax accounts are cognizant of those changes.
- These are "engineered cost segregation studies" which are tax deductible. They also provide significant documentation assuring less risk of audits via IRS.
- This submission could be a key to helping local commercial real estate holders where they may wish to invest in their own properties; or why their properties are not valued as they might believe them to be.
- As business owners consider leasing or purchasing commercial real estate, such studies could help them do a better job of seeing why investing in Aitkin County could be profitable for the current and future!
- These studies could also help the governing entities understand why they might want to bring to the table "financial incentives" to encourage business to move to the area.
- If this submission was enacted by the commercial real estate owners PRIOR to an OPEN HOUSE EVENT this could help promote what is actively taking place in Aitkin County

- Submitter has stated that he has the ability to hold a seminar for all business owners, lease holders, commercial real estate holder to participate in to better understand what this means to them.
 - Tax preparers for businesses/commercial real estate holders can participate and obtain "hour accreditation" to fulfill their annual education requirements -- in other words, this person is bringing significant value to the table for the area because the accredited hours do not necessarily need to be charged. They can be FREE to tax professionals.
 - It appears that there is an opportunity for a local person to be hired on with this company, if someone is willing to step-up and commit to learning how these engineered studies are performed.
- This type of service is widely available from national or state wide firms



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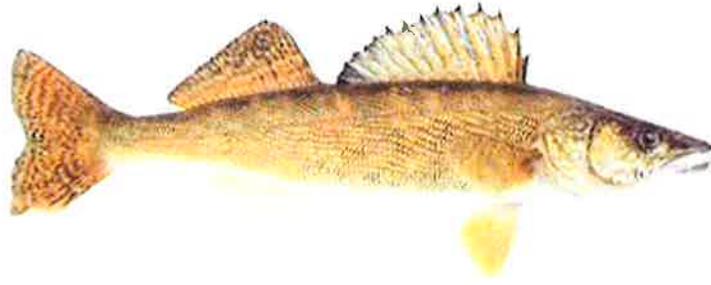
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Experience Aitkin Banner Project, Pamela Andell, Aitkin, MN

- Identify key sites to display banners/murals throughout town to maximize exposure to visitors and tourists.

Nice concept, take advantage of all the visual marketing areas in town and utilize them but in a tasteful way. Downtown Committee & Chamber should be involved, tourism and promotion type of grants could be available or perhaps local civic organizations could help with financing.

Nice project idea but a bit light on specifics and does not say specifically who would do the project.

I agree that this is not really an income based idea, but more of a support to the city concept. You are correct that making a town look attractive is very important to a community's survival. With support from the city, chamber, etc., this could really be a way to liven up the town.

Would this be a find-and-see promotion or a celebration of the area artists? Not clear how this submission would create long-term sustainable jobs. Maybe this could be tied somehow to the Barn/Quilt tour program.



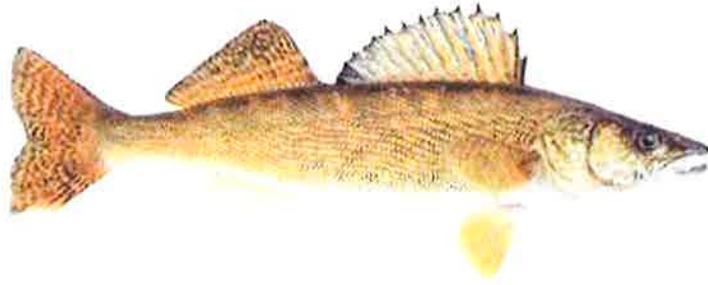
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Job Broker for Telecommuting Employees, Judy Cirilli, McGregor, MN

- A broker to match telecommuting jobs with potential employees in Aitkin County. Could utilize the senior population and others looking to work from home.

I like the idea of a more centralized broker to set up individuals who would be interested in performing this type of work. The proposal however was a little light on details as to how that was going to be accomplished.

A great idea, could very well be a supply and demand for this so it should be successful. Perhaps a website that potential employers and employees can access and update their information could fill this need. Aitkin Workforce Center, Aitkin Growth or Aitkin County could be good potentials to host and or promote this website.

While the project meets an identified need it does not sound like the applicant is planning on doing this so it is a nice idea but not developed enough yet.

This is tough to judge without a lot of research being completed. I think you are correct in that it needs to be something set up thru a government office.

This may be a big project, it could have huge returns for the entire county if it is executed collaboratively:

- Chamber(s) should consider soliciting several contract houses or Human Resource professional(s) to start such contract houses to solicit area businesses (including farms) to find skill sets.
- Mayors and leadership of the various townships should be ready to roll out the red-carpet and be prepared to have facts and supporting data to demonstrate the available educated personnel and skill sets that are fully ready to be utilized and how future skills will be obtained and retained.
- Another applicant was looking to open shared office space. This type of role might utilize this space for interviews or to hold classes to teach technology prior to on-boarding with local businesses.

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

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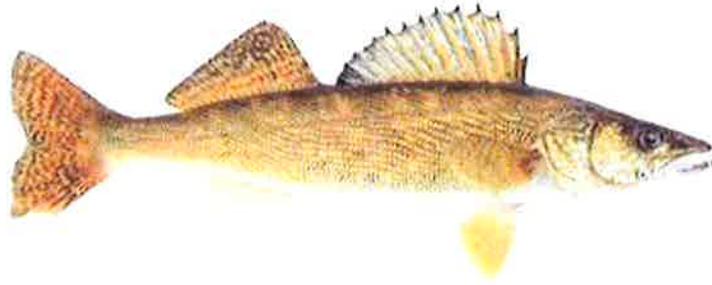
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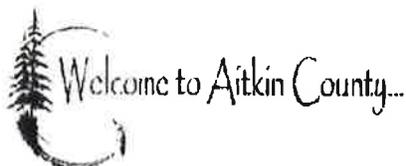
Increase Economic Development in Aitkin County, Steve Rorem, McGregor, MN

- Various suggestions for economic development in Aitkin County. Including business counseling, low cost loans and promoting the area.

Good ideas to help the Aitkin County Economy, some may already be in place and some should be implemented. Suggestions will be provided to Aitkin Growth, Area Chamber of Commerce's and the County.

Pretty much a laundry list of some reasonably good ideas. It would be nice if the applicant could pick one and implement it.

You have a number of great ideas. Hopefully we can pass these on to our government officials to see if any of them are financially viable for the city, county, etc.



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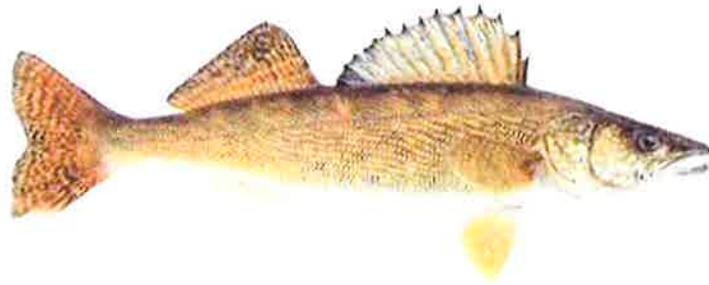
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Riverboat Paddlers, Frank & Sally Bowser, Aitkin, MN

- Provide paddle boats for folks to paddle/float the Ripple and Mississippi Rivers. Connects community to the Mississippi River and provides outdoor activities.

There has been quite a bit of effort to utilize the Ripple and Mississippi Rivers lately by the City and Chamber. The sport is also gaining in popularity. It could be a matter of time until some business or entrepreneur offers this service. There might not be enough demand for this quite yet. They have an idea but have not thought it out as a business venture. Does not sound like they want to do it. No identified market.

I have been involved with a business in Grand Rapids working on a similar concept. They actually sell or rent kayaks, paddle boards, etc and are located right on the Mississippi river. Depending on how far you take this, it could be just the paddle boats for enjoyment or you could take the risk and expand.

- Where would this business launch their customers?
- where would customers drop off equipment?
- would there be a service to return customers to the vehicles?
- Would the DNR need to issue permits or regulate this?

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/water_permit_contacts.html

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit.html>

Start here: Contact via LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/terry-neff-48911743](https://www.linkedin.com/in/terry-neff-48911743)

PROS:

- This could provide summer employment that could also be married up to camping and music festival events
 - Average fees charged in other communities is \$10-\$12 per person; unlimited floating per day (Cost per person X # potential people that would utilize the service = annual income)
 - Bring in new population
 - Excellent opportunity to promote other businesses via this business (advertising handed out to customers upon pick-up; on transportation vehicles, receipts)
 - Could be open for business 7 days week for at least 3 months out of year
 - Seasonal bonus opportunity for employees if Cash Flow exceeds initial cost to run business, minus future business investment = Retention Bonus pay-out for employees who remain through season.
- This could be put in place on a monthly basis to encourage employees to actively engage in

promoting the business via word-of-mouth or digital platforms.

Matters to be addressed:

- Would the city allow for launching or pick-up to take place in their city park?
- Are there other premier locations along the Ripple River that would allow for launch/pick-up?
- Are there premier locations along the Mississippi River that would allow for launch/pick-up?
- What would the cost of insurance be?
- Would the local population be tolerant to noise on the river(s)
- Would there be a "green" policy to encourage people to not pollute? (Can't only, can counting prior to launch and at pick-up with a small fine for not returning back with what was brought on the tubing adventure)
- Would there be medical emergency personnel on call?
- Would there be alternative transportation services could be added such as limo rides to local taverns or restaurants (Apple River's taverns provide free limo service to their patrons from various locations along the river or camp grounds to local taverns and return rides to launch/pick-up pads and camp grounds from noon until 2 a.m.)
- Would one location provide paddle boats and other provide tubing or alternative floating devices?
- How many business permits would be allotted?
- Is there enough parking locations?
- What is the expected usage of the river (# people per day)?
- How would river banks be protected to assure erosion is minimal?
- What would be the initial costs for paddle boats, tubes or other floating devices?
- What would the # of employees needed?
- Would there be employees needed with specific skills sets? (Job descriptions)

Look at how other communities are conducting this business <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/top-lists/best-rafting-and-tubing-near-minnesota/>

This business could easily be promoted by the employees that work there via Facebook, Twitter, other digital platforms as well radio, etc.

Some potential but needs detail.



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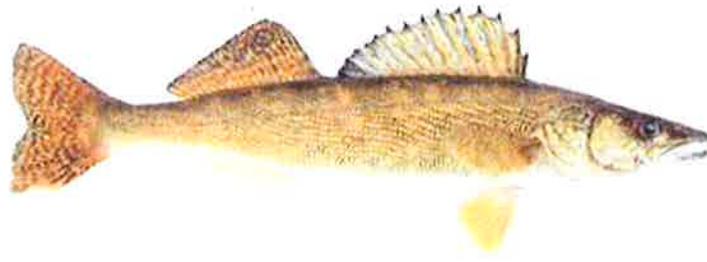
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**SAVANNA
PALLETTS**



Aitkin County Walleye Tank, helping to bring your business idea to life and win cash.

Sustainable and Durable Local Economy, Kevin Hagen, Aitkin, MN

- Promote year round ag production and sustainability through specialty greenhouses. Enhance transportation options in the county through Uber.

Supply and demand are the ultimate deciders on success. I am familiar with the Greater Mille Lacs Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association. There was a recent article in the Aitkin Age on a workshop they recently hosted on sustainable ag, <https://www.sfa-mn.org/greater-mille-lacs> has a lot of info. I would think there is demand for a Uber or Lyft service in Aitkin County.

Kevin, this is not just a problem in Aitkin, it is a problem in a lot of small rural communities where new ideas and change, are the something the "old Guards" of the community do not want to see.

- 1) Specialty Greenhouses
- More sustainability opportunities need to be reviewed and possibly exercised. This submission includes contacting greenhouseinthesnow.com
 - Make connection via LinkedIn with: [linkedin.com/in/russ-finch-7788b96b](https://www.linkedin.com/in/russ-finch-7788b96b)
 - Consider finding out more about the costs and implementation
 - Are there funds/grants for start-up if the property being utilized for such tunnel projects <10 acres?
 - Are there farmers in the area that would be willing to mentor those that have never farmed? -- This answer alone could potential engage people to step-up.

It appears that this submission was 2 separate ideas. Each will be addressed separately:
Submission 2 of 2...

- 2) Alternative Transportation
- While Uber & Lyft are existing businesses that can literally be launched by human with a driver's license with a vehicle; it is important to inform rural areas that they too can be part of the solution.
 - Drivers in the Aitkin County Area may wish to join their local Chamber and let the area businesses, hospital, medical facilities and other outreach area know that they are present and encourage people to try utilizing the service in lieu of struggle for transportation assistance from friends and neighbors; eliminating "burn-out" for those that lend a helping hand
 - Unknown cost per mile is not readily available so it will be difficult to understand if this could be a full-time business opportunity whereas someone could calculate earnings
 - If drivers don't have a reliable vehicle, they can coordinate a purchase/lease via Lyft or Uber or the driver could coordinate such a purchase from local car dealerships.
- Consider reading: <https://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2016/04/09/473422686/the-newest-public-transportation-in-town-uber>

PRO:

- There is no additional cost outside of gas, insurance, and a running vehicle

- As an independent contractor, one can be in business at any hours that work for them.
- It is easy for anyone to become an Uber or Lyft drive by simply going to:
www.uber.com
www.lyft.com/drive-with-lyft
- Drivers are automatically paid on each and every drive; automated payment to a bank account. No physical cash is exchanged by/between driver and client unless the client wishes. Most tips are dispersed on their digital apps that are loaded on to the general public's phone
- Drivers could be utilized as a delivery service for other businesses -- people are not the only thing that can be moved from point A:B
- Excellent source for Seniors without cars; sober driver alternative

CONS:

- General public, in rural areas, may not have enough drivers that are willing to operate 24-7
- Distances from point A:B are not necessarily short distance so there could be empty return drives if the driver accepts a drive one-way
- As a business owner, this is a business! Learn how to track business vs. personal travel. Consider utilizing an App call MileIQ.com by downloading on to a phone to track the mileage for IRS purposes.



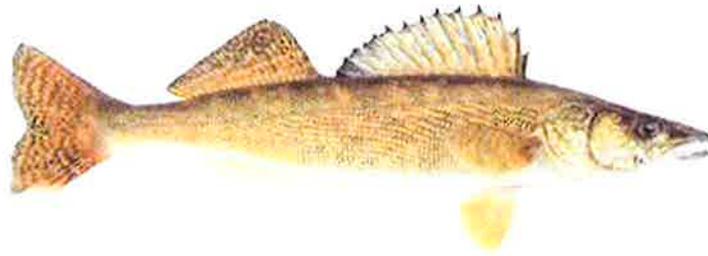
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Aitkin County Walleye Tank, helping to bring your business idea to life and win cash.

Aitkin County Barn Quilt Project, Jeanette Smith, Palisade, MN

- Create a Barn Quilt tour in Aitkin County. Form a committee to promote and capitalize on a growing trend that has been successful in other communities in attracting tourists.

A quick Google search shows barn quilts are indeed popular. The key to almost any project or event is finding the right volunteers to form a committee and then get it done. This is especially challenging in a small community such as ours. Since it appears that the cost of making and displaying the Barn Quilts are taken on by the property owner an active and committed group could get this done relatively quickly and inexpensively.

I am not quite sure what the project is and who will lead it. It sounds like they need someone to step up and take a leadership role in making this project happen. If that happens they might have a good project.

Like any successful business or organization, finding the right people to get it going is the key to success.

How routinely would these tours take place?

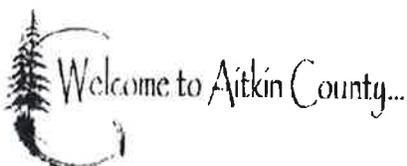
Will there be opportunities along the route to purchase local arts, canned goods, etc or will this be exclusive to quilts?

How many jobs will this create?

Will the tour touch upon all the townships in Aitkin County?

Has anyone contacted <https://barnquiltssofarvercountymn.com/order-barn-quilt/> to see what the return on the project has been?

Find out what "snags" they ran into to help eliminate them on the front end and save yourself some hassles



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