



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

7B  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** August 25, 2020

**Title of Item:** LLCC Distance Learning

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Rich Courtemanche		<b>Department:</b> Land
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Rich Courtemanche - Land Commissioner		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 15 min
<b>Summary of Issue:</b>  The LLCC distance learning efforts will be discussed with the County Board. Handout will be provided to the Board on August 25, 2020.		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Providing an overview and the opportunity for County Board comments		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      Please Explain:		

## Current Distance Learning Programs at Long Lake Conservation Center:

### Audio Tours of LLCC & Video Education Series

- We are currently developing self-guided audio tours of Long Lake that visitors would be able to purchase for their use. These tours would hopefully encourage more visitors to the Center. This is also a way that we could make some revenue along with keeping to our mission and keeping nature-based education available.
  - Pam is taking the lead on the audio tours, creating the scripts while Molly will be working on the recording, editing, and publishing of these. Both Molly and Pam will be working on creating and installing the “stop” points for the recordings. Currently, the Bog tour is being created.
  - These tours will include:
    - Bog
    - Campus Tour
    - Long Lake Loop
    - Blue/Brigade Trail
    - Forestry for the birds
- Video Education Series: This series consists of 6 short chapters or videos where a Long Lake Naturalist takes you along on a guided exploration of the bog and you are led in an education-based exploration! Our first chapter in this series focuses on how learners can explore in nature and what tools or skills you can use in your exploration. This specific chapter would focus on the use of your senses and how you can hone these skills to help you explore, learn, conserve and appreciate nature. Throughout the series, we will be getting our ‘hands dirty’ with hands-on activities and experiments. We will be using elements of storytelling to enrich students' knowledge of what is a bog and what different things grow and thrive in that ecosystem.
  - Molly is working on the script for the video education series, the start is “Bog”. Molly will also be working on acting, recording, editing, and publishing these.
  - This project can be expanded to cover more topics, currently, the only script being created is for the Bog.
  - This program would be geared towards a preschool or Head Start program, trying to instill a love of the outdoors in children at a younger age and to provide education on how to explore safely, and answer questions about and see experiments and exploration in a bog.
- The Long Lake Conservation Foundation has a Tourism grant (received from Aitkin County Economic Development) that LLCC would like to use to build a Tourism Kiosk. (Similar to the Kiosks at the campgrounds and landings)
  - This kiosk would contain signs with information about the facility, maps, and trail information and also panel about the above videos and audio files.
  - There would be a QR code along with the website address and instructions on how these can be purchased and downloaded for visitors.
  - The Audio tours and the educational series would be available via the QR code, allowing visitors to freely explore Long Lake Conservation Center without a standard guided tour.
- The outreach that has been conducted so far indicates that schools do not foresee or do not have the budget for any new distance learning programs at this time. This is why these programs are geared towards a different audience. Many families have chosen to homeschool their children and they are a possible market for these, however, they are less willing to pay a higher price for learning material so the Audio tours would be priced at \$5 per tour and the Video Education Series would be priced more in the \$25 range per series for the public.
  - The Head Start programs would possibly be a bigger audience to market the Educational Video Series to, we would need outreach to gain contacts in this field and to gauge price range. We would still need research on what a comparable price range would be for this possible market. Currently, we do not have any Head Start programs that are committed to purchasing any products from Long Lake.
- The Needs for both of these programs would be: New video recording equipment including but not limited to: camcorder of some kind, Bluetooth mic, Tripod, photo & video editing software. Long Lake Staff (Molly) would need time to learn how to use the equipment and also learn how to use the video editing software. The lead time on this equipment is unknown, once approval is given to order these supplies it would push back the time that is available to learn about the equipment, film, and edit the product.