



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3B
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Title of Item: Resolution and Letter of Support for Outdoor School for All Minnesota

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
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Submitted by: DJ Thompson	Department: Land
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Presenter (Name and Title): DJ Thompson, Land Commissioner	Estimated Time Needed: 5 Minutes
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Summary of Issue:

Long Lake Conservation Center is part of the Outdoor Schools for All Minnesota - a coalition of the state's five accredited, overnight Outdoor Schools. The coalition is championing legislation that would give every Minnesota student the opportunity to connect with nature by attending an accredited overnight outdoor school. The bill, entitled Outdoor School For All Minnesota was introduced in the legislature on May 11, 2023. It was carried by Rep. Kristi Pursell and Sen. Grant Hauschild.

Minnesota Outdoor School For All is a grant that would fund a three-day, two-night immersive nature experience for every fourth through eighth grade student. This would include all programming fees, transportation and ancillary costs such as teacher stipends, thus making these trips entirely free to students and schools.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Adopt resolution in support of Outdoor School for All Minnesota legislation and sign letter 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:*



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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August 23, 2023

Dave McMillan, Manager
Long Lake Conservation Center
28952 438th Lane
Palisade, MN. 56469

Re: Letter of Support for Outdoor School for All Minnesota

Dear Mr. McMillan,

I am writing on behalf of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners who, on August 22, 2023, adopted a resolution in support of legislation for the proposed Outdoor School for All Minnesota.

As the oldest residential environmental learning center in Minnesota, Long Lake Conservation Center has been a leader in environmental education and the wise-use of our natural resources. Aitkin County is proud of the center's legacy and the impact it has had on all who visit and supports the proposed legislation for the Outdoor School for All Minnesota.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Wedel
County Board Chair

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

ADOPTED August 22, 2023

By Commissioner: xxx

20230822-xxx

Support of Legislation for the Proposed Outdoor School for All Minnesota

WHEREAS, Minnesota is home to five accredited outdoor schools, including Long Lake Conservation Center in Aitkin County, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has a rich outdoor heritage and ethic, and prides itself on its close connection to nature through outdoor recreation, appreciation, conservation, and

WHEREAS, all Minnesotans benefit from education in environment-related subjects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Aitkin County supports Long Lake Conservation Center in its pursuit of legislation to provide an opportunity for all Minnesota students in grades 4 to 8 to attend an accredited overnight outdoor school.

Commissioner xxx seconded the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

xxx MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting xxx

**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 22nd day of August 2023, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of August 2023

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator