

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: November 28, 2023

Name	Please check the boxes that apply		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – Please list
Jeanne Abraham	✓		Aitkin Age
DJ Thompson		✓	Lead
Brian Martinson			AMC
ANDREW CARSTEN		✓	ESP2
Bobbie Danielson		✓	HR
MARIL JEFFERS		✓	ECON. DEV.

2023 Highlights

- We joined in on a bulk order of weed grabbers, to hand out to lake users.
- Establishing a network of County AIS Professionals
- Expanding and refining Social Media
- Expanding lake property owner awareness
- One new active AIS Task Force Board Member

Inspection numbers/ Data review

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Plug on Arrival	87	1	45	61
Issues found	40	38	72	104
Zebra Mussels Found	3	2	0	0
Drain Required	6	2	2	-
Decontamination	25	-	-	2
Lakes Inspected	26	17	17	17
Total Inspections	11696	9991	9417	10516

Lake Name	Inspection
FARM ISLAND, SOUTH	1280
FARM ISLAND, NORTH	1238
CEDAR, CEDAR	1093
CLEAR, CLEAR	1010
BIG SANDY, EAST	827
BIG SANDY, HWY 65	764
BIG PINE	703
BIG SANDY, NORTH WEST	685

List of water bodies monitored for zebra mussels using tow/ and vertical veliger net pulls.

Spirit Lake, Ripple Lake, Big Sandy Lake, Hammal Lake, Lone Lake, Minnewawa Lake, Hickory, , Wilkins Lake, Dam Lake, Long Lake.

No positive results in 2023!

Zebra Mussels found on watercraft	
Lake Name	Grand Total
1015701, BIG PINE	1
1015902, FARM ISLAND, SOUTH	2
Grand Total	3

Risks found on watercraft					
Lake name	mud	plants	water	zebra mussels	Grand Total
1003302, MINNEWAWA, SOUTH	1				1
1006203, BIG SANDY, HWY 65		2			2
1008901, LONG		2			2
1009301, CLEAR, CLEAR	1	3			4
1009901, GUN	2	2			4
1010201, WILKINS		1			1
1010501, FLEMING		2			2
1012501, LONE LAKE		1			1
1014601, RIPPLE LAKE, RIPPLE		2			2
1015701, BIG PINE		3			3
1015901, FARM ISLAND, NORTH	1	4		1	6
1015902, FARM ISLAND, SOUTH		2			2
1020401, ROUND (North of Mille Lacs)		1			1
1020901, CEDAR, CEDAR		1	1		2
Sissabagamah		2			2
Grand Total	5	28	1	1	35

*Invasive carp control is being implemented on Round Lake (ID 1020401) using an electrical curtain as the control method

Plans for 2024

- Weed grabbers and towels, to hand out to lake users.
- Looking into chemical treatment options for ballast water (BioBullets).
- Strengthen our network of County AIS Professionals
- Establishing an AIS Early Detection Program
- Continue expanding and refining Social Media
- Establishing relationships with High School Fishing Leagues
- Establishing Relationships with Aquatic Plant Management Professionals
- Expanding lake property owner awareness
- Retooling Train the Teachers to better access schools and classrooms—consider prioritizing Elementary grades
- Recruiting, retaining, and engaging AIS Task Force Board Members

Section 17: Vacation/Short-term Rental Ordinance

AMENDMENT 1:

To be entered as: Section 17.01, Subsection C (Changing current C to D and D to E)

Vacation/Short-term rentals shall be permitted on Natural Environmental (NE) Lakes and will be regulated by the conditions imposed by the Aitkin County Planning Commission. Guests of Vacation/Short-term rentals on NE lakes will not be allowed motorized watercraft; non-motorized only will be allowed. Non-motorized watercraft examples include, but are not limited to, canoes, kayaks, rafts, sailboats, paddle boards and paddle boats.

Section 17: Vacation/Short-term Rental Ordinance

AMENDMENT 2:

To be entered as: Section 17.04, subsection A, subdivision 3

The use of holding tanks for Vacation/Short-term rentals shall be permitted providing the Vacation/Short-term owner fully comply with the Aitkin County Environmental Services staff and application requirements. During application, owner must share the three previous years pumping records, as well as proof of current pumping agreement with a licensed septic pumper. In addition and to provide extra environmental safety, owner shall have installed commercial technology approved by Environmental Services staff. This shall include a remote monitoring system to safeguard against unanticipated septic discharge.

AITKIN COUNTY SUPPORTS INCREASED SCORE FUNDING LEGISLATION

For the past several years Aitkin County has experienced a marked increase in the cost of offering recycling free-of-charge to our 15,500 yearly residents. Aitkin County is currently contracted with Waste Management at the Aitkin Recycling Center (95% total budget) and Countryside Sanitation (5% total budget) at the McGregor Recycling Center. Increased funding would assist Aitkin County with rising recycling costs, more public education, and offering more convenient recycling canister sites throughout the county. Recycling end market prices continue to be very challenging for small, private haulers. Below are the last 5 years costs to offer recycling free-of-charge for Aitkin County residents at the Aitkin and McGregor county-owned facilities.

THEREFORE:

Aitkin County and SWAA support allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.

YEAR	COST	SCORE AMT.
2019	\$138,788.00	\$68,710.00
2020	\$113,773.00	\$69,692.00
2021	\$142,486.00	\$72,440.00
2022	\$190,904.00	\$72,440.00
2023	Est. \$200,000.00	\$72,440.00

SCORE Funding Legislation

(HFXXX, SFXXX)

WASTE REDUCTION + RECYCLING = CLEAN AIR + CLEAN WATER

What are SCORE Programs?

SCORE* grants provide funding for recycling programs, food waste management and prevention, composting and compostable management, waste reduction and management of household hazardous wastes and other problem materials.

SCORE is an important part of solid waste budgets, but it is insufficient for the infrastructure investments and program changes needed to achieve zero-waste.

*SCORE = Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment.

SCORE Programs Reduce Waste and Benefit the Economy

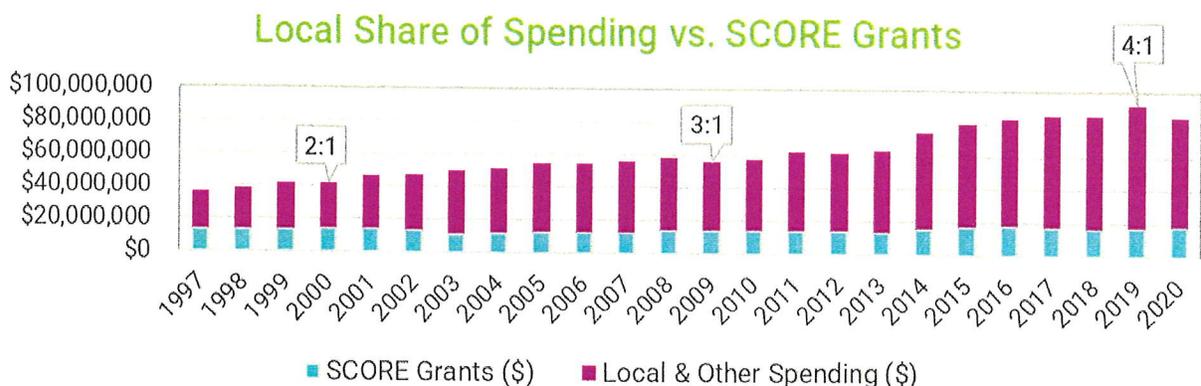
Minnesota recycles at a rate of 43.6% of materials discarded and decreased the total tonnage of solid waste. Minnesota's recycling industry adds \$15.7 billion to the state's economy and employs 37,000 workers – with room to grow.

SCORE Programs Combat Climate Change

In 2020, Minnesota posted a greenhouse gas savings of 4,280,365 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent through locally-operated SCORE programs. That is equivalent to offsetting the emissions of 909,000 passenger vehicles for a year.

Solid Waste Costs Falling to Locals

Despite the benefits that SCORE programs provide to the entire state and beyond, the majority of the cost of operations currently falls on local taxpayers, leading to inequitable access to recycling services.



Solid Waste Tax Dollars are Meant to Fund Solid Waste Management

The "Solid Waste Management Tax" (SWMT) was created for; and should be used to *manage solid waste* and reduce its environmental impacts

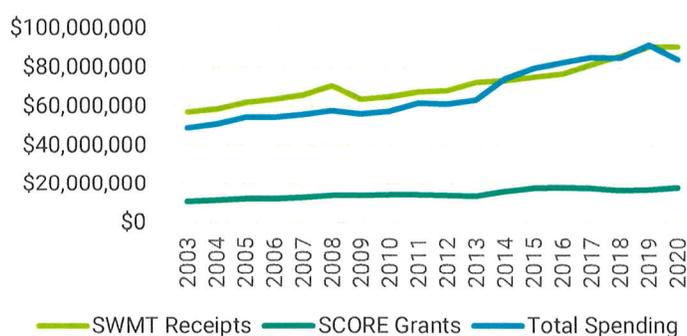
However, **30% of the SWMT revenue earned each year is sent to the General Fund.** The remaining 70% is deposited in the MPCA Environmental Fund, where only about 20% supports the work of local government waste efforts. Remaining Environmental Fund dollars are used by the MPCA for landfill cleanup and other solid waste programs.

The state current gives back a fixed amount of the SWMT to counties through SCORE grants to promote solid waste management.

- 22 years ago, about half of the solid waste management tax revenue was given back as SCORE grants (\$17.25 million of \$36.2 million in FY 1997).
- Between 1997 and 2020, SWMT revenue more than doubled but the percent contribution to SCORE grants has been cut in half (statewide from 47.6% to 20.9%, respectively).
- Meanwhile, the cost and level of expectation for our services has grown significantly.

State & Local Share of Spending 1998 to 2020			
	1998	2020	% Change
SWMT Revenue	\$40M	\$91M	125%
SCORE Grants	\$13M	\$18M	35%
Local SCORE Spending	\$25M	\$66M	167%
Total SCORE Spending	\$38M	\$84M	121%

SWMT Revenue, SCORE Grants, and Total SCORE Program Spending



Sources: MPCA Annual SCORE Reports; MPCA Data Services SCORE Overview; SWMT Tax Receipts; OLA Recycling and Waste Reduction Reports 2002 and 2015; and MN Session Laws and MN Statutes 1969-2022.

Solid Waste Management Taxes to SCORE Grants HF XXXX/SF XXXX

This bill would recapture the 30% of the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) that is currently being diverted to the general fund and redirect it to the environmental fund for distribution of these dollars to counties as part of their SCORE grants. This legislation will move us closer to a zero-waste future with benefits to the environment, economy and climate. ■

For more information, please contact:

Brian Martinson, AMC Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst

Office: 651-789-4322 | Mobile: 651-246-4156

bmartinson@mncounties.org



125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108 | www.mncounties.org | www.mn-swaa.org

2024 Aitkin County Legislative Priorities

DRAFT

Administration

1. Aitkin County supports promoting legislation that preserves tax base in response to increased property tax appeals, utility tax refunds, and potential “dark store” assessing practices.
2. Aitkin County supports State funding options for EMS/Ambulance Services and recruitment, retention, and training efforts that address funding and employee shortages.

Assessor

1. Simplification of the property tax system. We should support legislation that would reduce the number of classifications of property in Minnesota. When assessors spend lots of time classifying property, they have less time available to value property. The complexity makes the system difficult for most people to understand. After recent legislative changes, Minnesota now has a total of 68 classifications which is the most of any State in the US.
2. Increased safety of field employees. Change State Law to grant assessors access to location data of more predatory offenders. Field staff are required to do physical inspections of all real estate in the county. Not knowing where dangerous criminals live puts staff in the field at risk.
3. Change the Disabled Veterans Market Value Exclusion to a state administered refund program. If this change would take place, the costs of the program would be spread over the whole State instead of shifting the tax burden on local governments.
4. Any new program mandated by the State should be funded by the State.

Attorney's Office

1. Additional sustainable (on-going) funding for County Attorney's Offices in greater Minnesota to help increase County Attorney's Office staff wages and salaries so that they can be competitive with the new State Public Defender's wages and salaries.
2. Additional sustainable (on-going) funding for County Attorney's Offices for child protection.
3. Additional sustainable (on-going) funding for County Attorney's Offices for the state judiciary's shift of a substantial amount of court administration duties to the County Attorney's Offices.
4. Increased penalties for damage to public property and critical infrastructure.

Community Corrections

1. Funded data collection and research- State funding and support for improved data infrastructure necessary to provide information on outcomes of supervision. The creation of consistent statewide standards for data collection through the current database, CSTS, in order to ensure consistent data standards and regular collection and analysis of data.
2. Recruitment and Retention of Community Supervision Staff - efforts both locally and at a statewide level to increase effective recruitment and retention of community supervision staff.
3. Mental Health Supports - An increase in mental health services throughout the state, and particularly in rural Minnesota. An expansion in placement and program options is necessary to ensure that individuals are not incarcerated due to lack of mental health services.
4. Juvenile Detention Standards- making sure that changes to juvenile detention policies include collaboration and input from stakeholders including probation and the counties that run juvenile detention facilities.
5. Juvenile Stays of Adjudication - the option of longer periods of stayed adjudication for juvenile offenders in order to allow greater assessment and treatment of juveniles before an adjudication decision is made.
6. Juvenile Delinquency Age - while noting changes to juvenile delinquency age limits may be appropriate, we strongly encourage any enacted legislation should include consideration of exceptions related to serious offenses.

Economic Development

1. Emphasize Broadband development in rural areas, under-served and un-served areas. Continue to make Broadband improvement a state priority by increasing funding to Border to Border and ReConnect grant programs and lowering or eliminating Internet Service Provider's match requirements. Execute the BEAD program funding to the rural counties with the most need.
2. Increase availability of funds for new childcare providers by offering incentives that assist in at-home remodel and licensing fees and increase support for existing providers by offering programs that fund equipment upgrades and staffing support. Assign the current funding appropriately in order to reach the providers, not just the families.
3. Prioritize funding allocated for housing developments that solve the market rate and workforce housing shortages in rural counties.
4. Support the promotion of outdoor recreation in the rural counties.
5. Continue current programs that develop workforce training, vocational training and specialized trade training for all age demographic by offering or increasing funding to high school vocational training laboratories.

6. Increase programming to develop entrepreneurial business expansion in rural counties.

Environmental Services

1. Aitkin County and MACPZA support local government authority to regulate the time, place and manner of all cannabis businesses, Minnesota Session Law 2023 Chapter 60, within its jurisdiction.
2. Aitkin County and MACPZA support addressing solar and wind system end of life handling, including full decommissioning, to ensure the financial burden does not fall onto local governments and local taxpayers who may or may not have benefitted from the solar energy generated.
3. Aitkin County and MACPZA supports state (DNR) assistance with implementation of regional executive boards to address aquatic invasive species challenges and meet minimum standards developed by MAIRSC, MNDNR, MACPZA, and MLR.
4. Aitkin County and SWAA support allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.
5. Aitkin County and SWAA support bonding requests for proposed solid waste management projects as a partial match to the funds that counties invest in infrastructure for safe, environmentally sound management of solid wastes in response to state mandates and goals.
6. Aitkin County and SWAA support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to include improved product stewardship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers and which creates producer-led material and toxicity reductions, reuse, repair, and recycling programs. These programs must include transparency and accountability measures, maximize use of existing infrastructure, and provide local governments with a voluntary role in development and implementation.

Health & Human Services

1. Support legislation for System Modernization which would include the main computer systems for HHS staff. (Maxis, METS, Prism, SSIS) Legislation should include funds to cover county costs associated with DHS investments. Support legislation of an innovation fund for counties to co-develop collaborative solutions.
2. Support legislation for high acuity mental health hospital bed capacity for adults and children that will support planning for solutions.
3. Support legislation to allow MnCHOICES reassessments to be conducted as administrative reviews to reduce the amount of assessments and staff needed for this service. This will focus resources on new assessment needs and will improve access for clients.
4. Support legislation to change the child protection response of educational neglect to a child welfare response to increase access to supports for families.

Highway Department

1. Local Road Improvement Program/Local Bridge Bonding Program - Aitkin County supports immediate funding of the Local Road Improvement Program and the Local Bridge Bonding Program to fund regionally significant local road and bridge projects throughout the state.

Human Resources

1. Change the frequency of reporting for pay equity from every three years to every five years.
2. Simplify the process and shorten the timeline (no longer than 6 months) for Minnesota counties who are interested in exiting the Minnesota Merit System. Allow counties to exit at any time throughout the calendar year.
3. Clearly state in the law that County Boards (and city/township/school) are allowed to discuss non-union wages and benefits in closed session, in addition to union negotiations strategy.
4. Aitkin County supports legislation that would allow data to be shared between county departments giving appraisers and other field staff advance notice of potentially dangerous properties when working in the field.

Land Department

1. Support Outdoor School for All Minnesota legislation. This 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.
2. Support a legislative solution to Minnesota's tax forfeiture law that does not negatively affect the county's management responsibilities and apportionment. Many agencies are working on this as a result of the Tyler vs. Hennepin County legal case.
3. Aitkin County supports dedicated state funding to local government units for beaver control and opposes any legislation that would restrict type of trap used, trap size, and trap placement.

Recorder's Office

1. Aitkin County supports electronic submissions of well certificates through the Department of Health.
2. Aitkin opposes the addition of surcharges to the recording fee for non-recording activities and purposes.
3. Aitkin County supports statewide eRecording.

Sheriff's Office

1. Pursue legislation that would continue medical assistance payments for incarcerated individuals allowing for more mental health and chemical addiction treatment options, which may result in stabilization after release and reduced recidivism. (Federal program)

Treasurer's Office

1. Under Return of state fees - Suggest adding Marriage License fees to be retained by the county as the state receives most of the revenue but all the work is done in Treasurer's office.
2. Have Mobile Homes returned to tabs issued by the DMV rather than being taxed thru the property tax system or raising the value threshold for them to be taxed thru the property tax system.



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

8D
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 28, 2023

Title of Item: Approve Committee of the Whole Meeting

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input 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*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator		Estimated Time Needed: 5 Min.
Summary of Issue: Staff would like to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss facilities options and the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Suggested dates are December 7th or 8th.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve Committee of the Whole Meeting.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: 11-28-23

Title of Item: SAP 001-614-017 Resolution for LRIP Grant Request

<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*
Submitted by: John Welle		Department: Highway Department
Presenter (Name and Title): NA		Estimated Time Needed: NA
Summary of Issue: <p>The 2023 Legislature appropriated \$102.967 million to the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) as part of the bonding bill. These funds are available to fund improvements on city, township, and county roads throughout Minnesota. Grant applications are currently being accepted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects through December 8, 2023.</p> <p>Attached is the required resolution for SAP 001-614-017, a 2.0 mile reconstruction project on Aitkin County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 14 from CSAH 40 to CSAH 36 which is listed in the Aitkin County 2026 Capital Road Improvement Program.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Request approval of the attached resolution.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

By Commissioner: xxx

20231128-xxx

Resolution for LRIP Grant Request

WHEREAS, grant applications are currently being solicited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for eligible local projects for the Local Road Improvement Program, and

WHEREAS, State Aid Project (SAP) No. 001-614-017 is an eligible reconstruction project on Aitkin County State-Aid Highway No. 14.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Aitkin County hereby supports the application of SAP 001-614-017 for the Local Road Improvement Program and pledges support to fund engineering, right of way, inspection and other non-LRIP eligible costs, as well as construction costs in excess of the LRIP grant amount.

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 28th day of November 2023, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of November 2023

Jessica Seibert
County Administrator