



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

## 6B

Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** March 26, 2024

**Title of Item:** Approve Letter of Support and Resolution for St. Louis County Regional Landfill

<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 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*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Andrew Carlstrom		<b>Department:</b> Environmental Services
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 10 Minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is currently reviewing and working with St. Louis County Environmental Services on future plans to increase solid waste and recycling capacities at their regional landfill located in Virginia, Minnesota. At the direction of the MPCA, St. Louis County is currently requesting a Letter of Support from all counties within the northeast region of Minnesota. The expansion of the St. Louis County Regional Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Facility could provide future opportunities for Aitkin County and its private haulers for regional waste disposal and recyclable materials processing in Virginia, Minnesota. Please see letter of support and a proposed resolution.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b> Motion to deny Letter of Support and Resolution for the St. Louis County Regional Landfill		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Motion to approve Letter of Support and Resolution for the St. Louis County Regional Landfill		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ _____ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <span style="margin-left: 50px;">Please Explain:</span>		

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



## AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 310  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 218-927-3093  
Fax: 218-927-7374

March 26, 2024

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Solid Waste Permitting Unit  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

RE: Letter of Support for a Regional Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Facility

Dear Solid Waste Permitting Unit,

Aitkin County is wholeheartedly committed to the waste management goals of the State which is to “foster an integrated waste management system in a manner appropriate to the characteristics of the waste stream and thereby protect the states land, air, water and other natural resources and the public health”.

As stated in the 2023 adopted Northeast Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Aitkin County’s goal is to “Ensure viable outlets for waste material via joint cooperation with private enterprises and enforcement of the Aitkin County Solid Waste Ordinance.” Aitkin County recognizes, however that there is still a need for environmentally protective landfills as part of this integrated waste management system. Aitkin County is supportive of a regional Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal facility that would improve logistics, help support recycling, and be environmentally and economically beneficial to Aitkin County, its residents, and the State of Minnesota.

Aitkin County currently disposes of approximately 9,777 tons of MSW on an annual basis and this volume could be available for disposal at a regional facility if the economics and environmental factors are favorable to the County and its private waste haulers. Aitkin County is aware of existing opportunities provided by St. Louis County for regional waste disposal and recyclable materials processing in Virginia, Minnesota. For the reasons stated above and in the approved Regional Plan, Aitkin County is supportive of existing and future regional MSW disposal capacity, state of the art onsite leachate treatment, and recyclable materials processing at the St. Louis County Regional Landfill in Virginia, Minnesota.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Wedel  
Aitkin County Board Chairperson

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

PROPOSED March 26, 2024

By Commissioner: xxx

**20240326-xxx**

**Aitkin County's General Support for the St. Louis County Regional Landfill in Virginia, Minnesota**

**WHEREAS**, Aitkin County and its private waste haulers continuously seek more economic and efficient opportunities for regional solid waste disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis County is proposing expansion of their regional solid waste disposal and recycling located in Virginia, Minnesota; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby give notice to the MPCA of general support for this regional landfill expansion in Virginia, Minnesota.

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 26th day of March 2024 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

**Witness my hand and seal this 26th day of March 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator

## Andrew Carlstrom

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**From:** David Fink <FinkD2@StLouisCountyMN.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 8:57 AM  
**To:** Andrew Carlstrom  
**Subject:** Attached letter  
**Attachments:** Aitkin County LOS.docx

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the Aitkin County Mail System -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

I appreciate the conversation Andrew,

The recently approved Northeast Minnesota Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (PLAN) identifies the need for municipal solid waste (MSW) capacity within the northeast region of Minnesota. St. Louis County owns and operates the Regional Landfill (Permit SW-405), the only MSW landfill within the northeast region. Per the Plan, St. Louis County has the capacity to accept MSW from other counties and WLSSD within our region. This year, we will be constructing several new cells within our existing permitted footprint to support regional capacity needs well into the future. Additionally, we are finalizing upgrades to our mixed recycling facility and entering into a contract to construct an upgraded on-site leachate treatment plant to remove PFAS compounds and provide environmental protection beyond existing requirements.

We continue to work with MPCA staff to modify the existing permit that incorporates many of these important upgrades to our facility. Our application(s) to modify and expand these upgrades would be strengthened by submitting letters of support from our regional partners. My request is that the attached letter is submitted to your respective board for approval and signatures and sent back to me at your earliest convenience.

Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dave

Dave Fink  
Director  
St. Louis County Environmental Services Department  
Virginia Government Services Center  
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