



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: September 10, 2024

Title of Item: Consider Mississippi Headwaters Letter of Support

<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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator		Estimated Time Needed: 20 Min.
Summary of Issue: Mississippi Headwaters Executive Director Tim Terrill will present a short overview of the history of the board and its mission. The Board of Commissioners will also be asked to take action on the attached letter of support.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve/Deny attached letter of support.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ \$1,500 Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Asking to sign a letter of support for an increase in appropriation from \$1,500 to \$3,000 dependent on legislative funding.		

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



Mississippi Headwaters Board

Crow Wing County Land Service Bldg. - 322 Laurel St. Ste. 34- Brainerd, MN 56401

Web Site: www.mississippiheadwaters.org

DATE _____

From: _____ County
To: Mississippi Headwaters Board
RE: MHB legislative increase

Dear Chair Van Kempen,

_____ County realizes that the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) was created as a Joint Powers Board in 1980 to protect the first 400 miles of the Mississippi river. The boards mission is to enhance and protect outstanding and unique natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values in the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River from its source at Lake Itasca in Clearwater County to the southerly boundary of Morrison County.

Over the past 40 years the MHB has protected their jurisdictional area through a regulatory program that places consistent zoning controls on the first four hundred miles of shoreline on the Mississippi river and Headwaters lakes. This has enabled people to enjoy the wild and scenic values of the Mississippi river while keeping local control in the hands of county commissioners instead of the federal government. We also agree that their voluntary programs like the easement and acquisition program, social media program, and recreational signage on the Mississippi river have contributed to our county's mission while adding value to our area as well.

_____ County fully supports the request of the MHB to the legislature for a biennium increase in base funding from \$248,000 to \$350,000 to help fulfill their statutory obligation and continue to allow local control and voluntary programs that promote water quality, habitat, and a vibrant recreational economy. If this measure was passed by the legislature, then our county would consider increasing its annual contribution to use as a match for this funding. We would also continue the total eight county in-kind contribution of 1/3rd to ½ million dollars of annual contribution as well.

Sincerely,

_____ County

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

ADOPTED July 9, 2019

By Commissioner: Westerlund

20190709-055

Adoption of Mississippi Headwaters Board 2019 Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB), is required by Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-378 to identify and protect the natural, cultural, historical, scientific and recreational values of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Headwaters Board Technical & Management Committee, consisting of Zoning Administrators from each of the eight counties, met and recommended changes to the 2002 Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the MHB Board has reviewed changes to the 2002 Comprehensive Plan at previous board meetings, and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Comprehensive Management Plan was updated and approved on May 24, 2019 by the Mississippi Headwaters Board to create the 2019 Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is a member county of the Mississippi Headwaters Board; and

WHEREAS, a public comment period was given in each of the eight member counties of the Mississippi Headwaters Board to review the 2019 Comprehensive Management Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Aitkin County officially adopts the 2019 MHB Comprehensive Management Plan through this resolution.

Commissioner Pratt moved for adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

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 9th day of July, 2019 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 9th day of July, 2019



Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

103F.361 FINDINGS AND INTENT.

Subdivision 1. **Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) the Mississippi River from its outlet at Lake Itasca, Clearwater County, to the southerly boundary of Morrison County, Minnesota, possesses outstanding and unique natural, scientific, historical, recreational and cultural values deserving of protection and enhancement;

(2) the counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison have entered into a joint powers agreement pursuant to law to develop a plan for the protection and enhancement of the foregoing values; and

(3) the plan adopted by the counties pursuant to the joint powers agreement establishes guidelines and minimum standards for cooperative local management of this segment of the Mississippi River.

Subd. 2. **Legislative intent.** It is the intent of sections 103F.361 to 103F.377 to authorize and direct the board and zoning authorities to implement the plan for the Mississippi headwaters area.

History: 1990 c 391 art 6 s 41; 1992 c 476 s 1; 1Sp2019 c 4 art 3 s 78

103F.367 MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Mississippi Headwaters Board established by the counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison by agreement entered into on February 22, 1980, pursuant to section 471.59, is established as a permanent board with authority to prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive land use plan designed to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and related shoreland areas situated within the counties.

Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The board shall consist of eight members. The governing body of each county shall appoint one of its members to serve on the board.

(b) The terms of board members are two years commencing on the first Monday in January of odd-numbered years.

(c) Vacancies on the board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the governing body that made the original appointment.

(d) The governing body of a county may designate another member of the governing body or a county officer to act as an alternate for the member appointed by that county.

Subd. 3. **Officers.** (a) The board shall annually appoint from among its members a chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer who shall serve for concurrent one-year terms.

(b) The chair shall preside over all meetings of the board and may call special meetings at reasonable times and upon adequate notice when necessary.

(c) The vice-chair shall preside over the meetings of the board in the absence of the chair.

(d) The secretary-treasurer or the designee of the secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of the board. The secretary-treasurer shall provide for the proper receipt and disbursement of funds.

Subd. 4. **Meetings.** (a) The regular meetings of the board shall be held at times and places prescribed by it.

(b) A majority of all members of the board shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote of all members shall be required for actions taken by the board.

Subd. 5. **Staff and contracts.** The board may employ staff and contract for goods and services as necessary to implement sections 103F.361 to 103F.377. Contracts are subject to the statutory procedures and restrictions applicable to county contracts.

Subd. 6. **Funding.** The board shall annually submit to each county for its approval an estimate of the funds it will need from that county in the next fiscal year to prepare and implement the plan and otherwise carry out the duties imposed upon it by sections 103F.361 to 103F.377. Each county shall, upon approval of the estimate by its governing body, furnish the necessary funds to the board. The board may apply for, receive, and disburse federal, state, and other grants and donations.

Subd. 7. **Advisory committees.** The board shall appoint advisory committees, representing a broad geographical area and diverse public interests, and conduct public meetings and hearings necessary to afford the public an opportunity to become fully informed of all deliberations in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF CLEARWATER, HUBBARD, BELTRAMI,
CASS, ITASCA, AITKIN, CROW WING, AND MORRISON TO ESTABLISH A
JOINT POWERS BOARD.

SECTION I - ESTABLISHMENT

Pursuant to the authority contained in M.S.A. 471.59
it is hereby resolved that Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass,
Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison County Boards do thereby
establish a joint powers board hereinafter referred to as the
Mississippi Headwaters Board.

SECTION II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mississippi Headwaters Board shall
be to formulate plans for the area under its jurisdiction; to
protect the Upper Mississippi River from uncontrolled and unplanned
development through the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive
management plan for the river and adjacent lands. This management
plan will provide for: the adoption of strong local zoning
ordinances, recreational use of the river and adjacent public
lands, donation or purchase of critical lands in the public
interest, and sound management of existing public lands along
the River.

SECTION III - ORGANIZATION

- A. MEMBERSHIPS - The membership of the Mississippi
Headwaters Board shall be composed of one
county commissioner, designated by the county
board, from each member county.
- B. TERM OF OFFICE - The term of office will
run concurrently with each member's term

1. Chairman: It shall be the duty of the chairman to preside over all meetings of the Mississippi Headwaters Board. He shall have the power to call special meetings at reasonable times with reasonable notice when it is deemed such a meeting is necessary to the conduct of the business of the Mississippi Headwaters Board.
 2. Vice Chairman: It shall be the duty of the vice chairman to preside over the meetings of the Mississippi Headwaters Board in the absence of the chairman. The term of office of the vice chairman shall run concurrently with the chairman.
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the secretary/treasurer to keep, or designate a person to assist in keeping a record of all proceedings of the Mississippi Headwaters Board, to provide for the proper receipt and disbursement of funds, and to perform all other duties normally assigned to the secretary/treasurer of a deliberative body. The term of office of the secretary shall run concurrently with the chairman.
- D. VOTING - Each member of the Mississippi Headwaters Board shall have one (1) vote.

SECTION IV - MEETINGS

- A. The Mississippi Headwaters Board shall meet in regular session on 3rd Fri day of each month at walker in the county courthouse.
- B. The meetings will be alternately held in each county courthouse of member counties. The rotation of county meetings are to be set by the chairman.
- C. Special meetings may be held under the circumstances outlined in Section III-C-1.
- D. A quorum shall consist of a majority attendance of board members.

SECTION V - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- C. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the power to develop and recommend a schedule for plan implementation by member counties and to provide for common administration of essential parts thereof.
- D. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the responsibility to initiate and maintain a liaison with governmental agencies necessary to complete a comprehensive plan for the Mississippi River within the member counties jurisdiction.
- E. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the authority to appoint advisory committees and conduct such public meetings and hearings as are necessary to provide full public review and participation of the management plan for the Mississippi River.
- F. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will also have the responsibility to arrange for the independent audit of its expenditures and disbursements, consistent with state law.
- G. Exercise of these powers and duties will require a majority of the Mississippi Headwaters Board voting members.

SECTION VI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this agreement will require a consensus of all voting members.

SECTION VII - EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its signing.

SECTION VIII - AUTHORIZATION

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the respective counties by resolution duly adopted by its county board(s), causes this agreement to be signed by its designee and attested to all on the day and year signed.

FOR: CLEARWATER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 

FOR: BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Ray Dayer Sr.

WITNESS: Jim Thoren

DATE: February 22, 1980

FOR: CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Viggo H. Hoster

WITNESS: Albin R. Carlson

DATE: February 22, 1980

FOR: ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Art Madsen

WITNESS: Lloyd Nesseth

DATE: Feb 22 1980

FOR: AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: L N Schroeder

WITNESS: Franklin O. Draper

DATE: February 22, 1980

FOR: CROW WING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: ~~Ray Dayer Sr.~~ Ray Dayer Sr.

WITNESS: Art Madsen

DATE: 22 Feb 1980

FOR: MORRISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: Michael B. Tins

WITNESS: Wynne R. Johnson

DATE: 2/22/80

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF CLEARWATER, HUBBARD, BELTRAMI, CASS, ITASCA, AITKIN, CROW WING, AND MORRISON TO ESTABLISH A JOINT POWERS BOARD.

SECTION I – ESTABLISHMENT

Pursuant to the authority contained in M.S.A. 471.59 it is hereby resolved that Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison County Boards do thereby establish a joint powers board hereinafter referred to as the Mississippi Headwaters Board.

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The purpose of the Mississippi Headwaters Board shall be to formulate plans for the area under its jurisdiction; to protect the Upper Mississippi River from uncontrolled and unplanned development through the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive management plan for the river and adjacent lands. This management plan will provide for: the adoption of strong local zoning ordinances, recreational use of the river and adjacent public lands, donation or purchase of critical lands in the public interest, and sound management of existing public lands along the River.

SECTION III - ORGANIZATION

- A. MEMBERSHIPS – The membership of the Mississippi Headwaters Board shall be composed of one county commissioner, designated by the county board, from each member county.
- B. TERM OF OFFICE – The term of office will run concurrently with each member’s term on their respective county boards. The chairman shall serve a term of office of one (1) year.
- C. OFFICERS – The officers of the board shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman, and a secretary. The chairman, vice chairman, and secretary shall be selected by a majority vote of the board members.
 - 1. Chairman: It shall be the duty of the chairman to preside over all meetings of the Mississippi Headwaters Board. He shall have the

Mississippi Headwaters Board
Joint Powers Agreement

power to call special meetings at reasonable times with reasonable notice when it is deemed such a meeting is necessary to the conduct of the business of the Mississippi Headwaters Board.

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- C. Special meetings may be held under the circumstances outlined in Section III-C-1.
- D. A quorum shall consist of a majority attendance of board members.

SECTION V – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Mississippi Headwaters Board shall have the power to contract for services, in the manner prescribed by law, that are required and necessary to prepare a comprehensive plan for protection of the Upper Mississippi River within the boundaries of the member counties.
- B. The Mississippi Headwaters Board shall have the power to accept and disburse funds; and to apply for state and federal funds necessary to prepare and implement its plan.

Mississippi Headwaters Board
Joint Powers Agreement

- C. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the power to develop and recommend a schedule for plan implementation by member counties and to provide for common administration of essential parts thereof.
- D. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the responsibility to initiate and maintain a liaison with governmental agencies necessary to complete a comprehensive plan for the Mississippi River within the member counties jurisdiction.
- E. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will have the authority to appoint advisory committees and conduct such public meetings and hearings as are necessary to provide full public review and participation of the management plan for the Mississippi River.
- F. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will also have the responsibility to arrange for the independent audit of its expenditures and disbursements, consistent with state law.
- G. Exercise of these powers and duties will require a majority of the Mississippi Headwaters Board voting members.

SECTION VI – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this agreement will require a consensus of all voting members.

SECTION VII – EFFECTIVE DATE

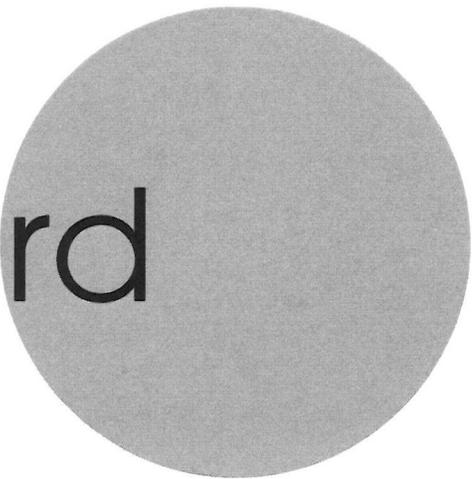
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SECTION VIII – AUTHORIZATION

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the respective counties by resolution duly adopted by its county board(s), causes this agreement to be signed by its designee and attested to all on the day and year signed.

Clearwater County Commissioner Donald McCollum
Hubbard County Commissioner Ervin Kahlstorf
Beltrami County Commissioner R.E. Boyer, Sr.
Cass County Commissioner Virgil F. Foster
Itasca County Commissioner Alf Madsen
Aitkin County Commissioner L.H. Schroeder
Crow Wing County Commissioner B. Murphy
Morrison County Commissioner Michael B. Amo

Signed February 22, 1980



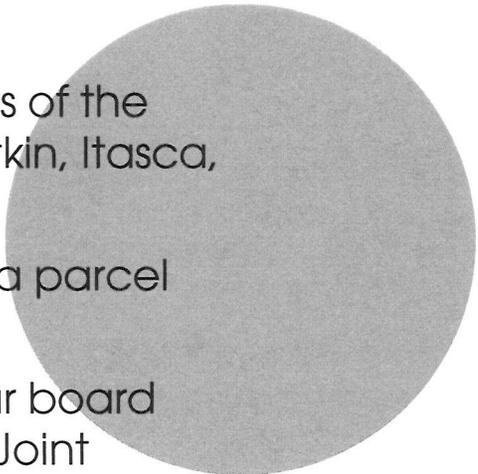
Mississippi Headwaters Board Update

A SHORT REVIEW OF THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Who is the MHB?

- ▶ We are a regulatory agency that uses regulatory and voluntary actions to protect the Mississippi River.
- ▶ Counties perceive us as more regulatory (P&Z), but see value as we provide them non-regulatory grants to accomplish their goals.
- ▶ The average citizen thinks we are a non-profit.

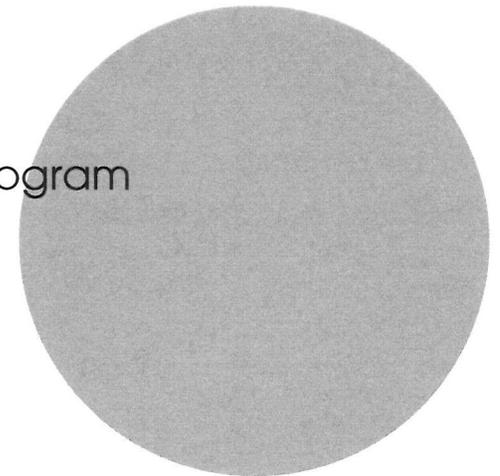
Regulatory powers



- ▶ Possess planning and zoning authority on the first 400 miles of the Miss. River in the 8 MHB counties (Morrison, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Beltrami, and Clearwater).
- ▶ Have a Comprehensive Plan for Counties to administer if a parcel falls within our jurisdiction.
- ▶ 8 county commissioners from 8 different counties sit on our board and are decisionmakers. Formed in 1980 as an 8 county Joint Powers Agreement, and are in your One Watershed One Plan and County Zoning Ordinance.

Non-regulatory actions

- ▶ Minnesota Traditions AIS social media program
- ▶ Miss. Headwaters (MHHCP) easement and acquisition program
- ▶ Stormwater initiative with cities.
- ▶ Recreational signage/Resource retention project.



MN Traditions

- ▶ Utilize social media to influence behavioral change in the MN recreational user about protecting our lakes from aquatic Invasive Species. Almost 60,000 followers
- ▶ Experienced a 60% increase in engagement.



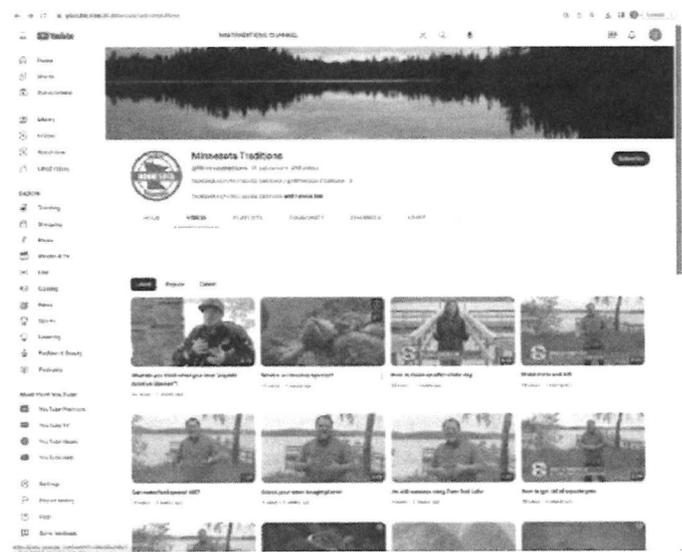
July Overview | Boosted Posts
Facebook

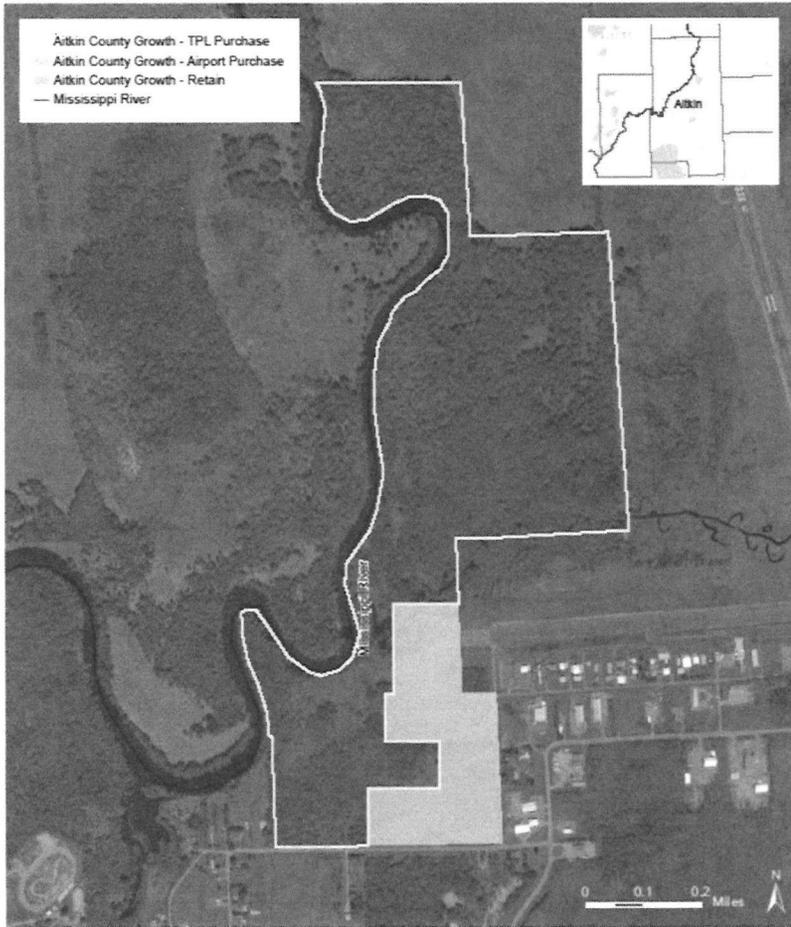
Jul 1, 2024

impressions 109,804	Reach 69,926	Post Reactions 1,125	Post Shares 72	Post Comments 140
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Ad Name	Impressions	Reach	Post Engagement	Post Reactions	Post Shares	Post Comments
Post: "True or False: Minnes..."	35,498	20,170	899	551	50	114
Post: "Can you find the bear..."	25,748	19,101	1,165	134	2	5
Post: "Protecting our lakes..."	23,486	16,867	12,170	34	5	3

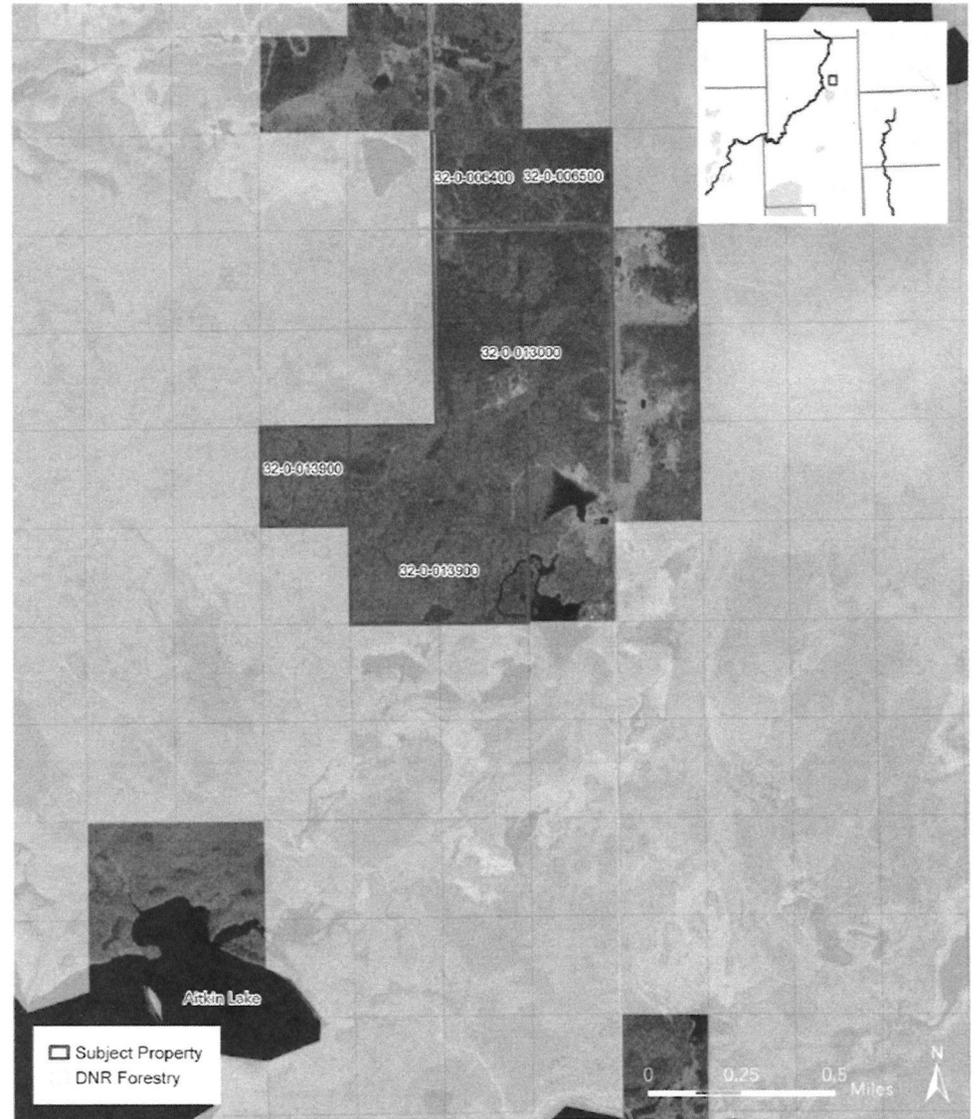




Aitkin County Growth
 Proposed Addition to Aitkin County Forest
 Aitkin County, MN

February 9, 2018
 Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are service marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of illustration and orientation only. www.tpl.org

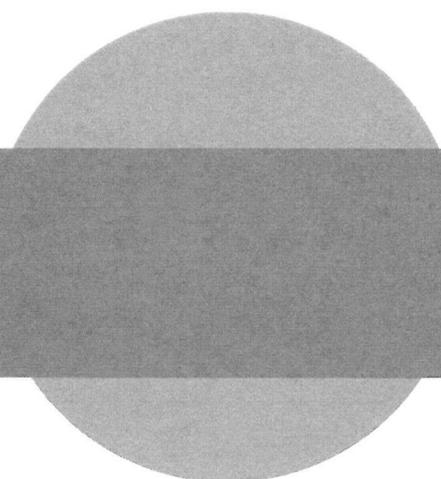
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Resource Retainment



oment-



Steamboat to Blackberry Bridge

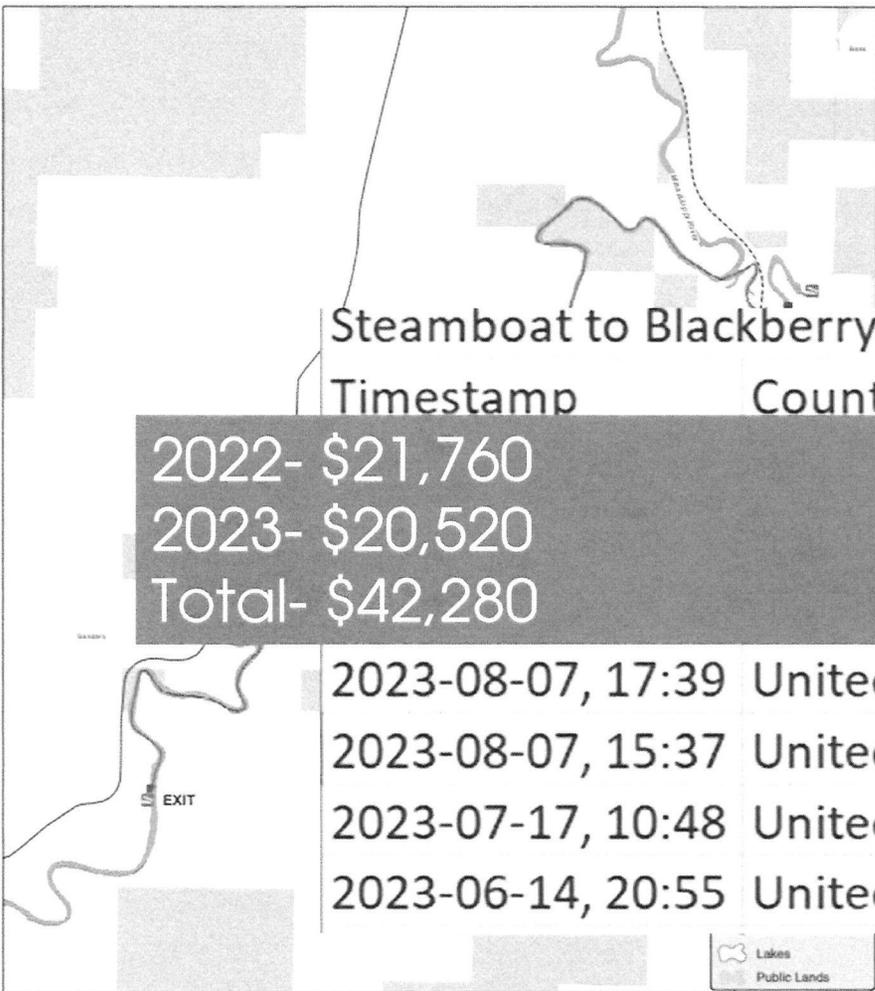
Timestamp	Country	Platform
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2022- \$21,760

2023- \$20,520

Total- \$42,280

2023-08-07, 17:39	United States	Android
2023-08-07, 15:37	United States	iOS
2023-07-17, 10:48	United States	Android
2023-06-14, 20:55	United States	Android



Mississippi River Water Trail:

Big Sandy Lake Rec. Area to Wold's Ferry Landing

Length of River Stretch: 11 miles, Paddle Time: 4.5 hours



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Association of Minnesota Counties
Annual Conference
2023

MAPCED
Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers

**OUTSTANDING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AWARD**

MAPCED

Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers

OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

**UTILIZING RESOURCETAINMENT
TO RETAIN WORKERS
AND ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**Aitkin County and
Mississippi Headwaters Board**

Presented in recognition of successful economic development efforts and partnerships that fulfill the MAPCED mission of fostering economic growth, expanding the tax base, and enhancing the quality of life in Minnesota counties.

2023



PROTECTING THE FIRST 400 MILES

Mississippi Headwaters Board

Crow Wing County Land Service Bldg. - 322 Laurel St. Ste. 34- Brainerd, MN 56401
Web Site: www.mississippiheadwaters.org

DATE _____

From: _____ County
To: Mississippi Headwaters Board
RE: MHB legislative increase

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Sincerely,

_____ County

