

# Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: November 26, 2024

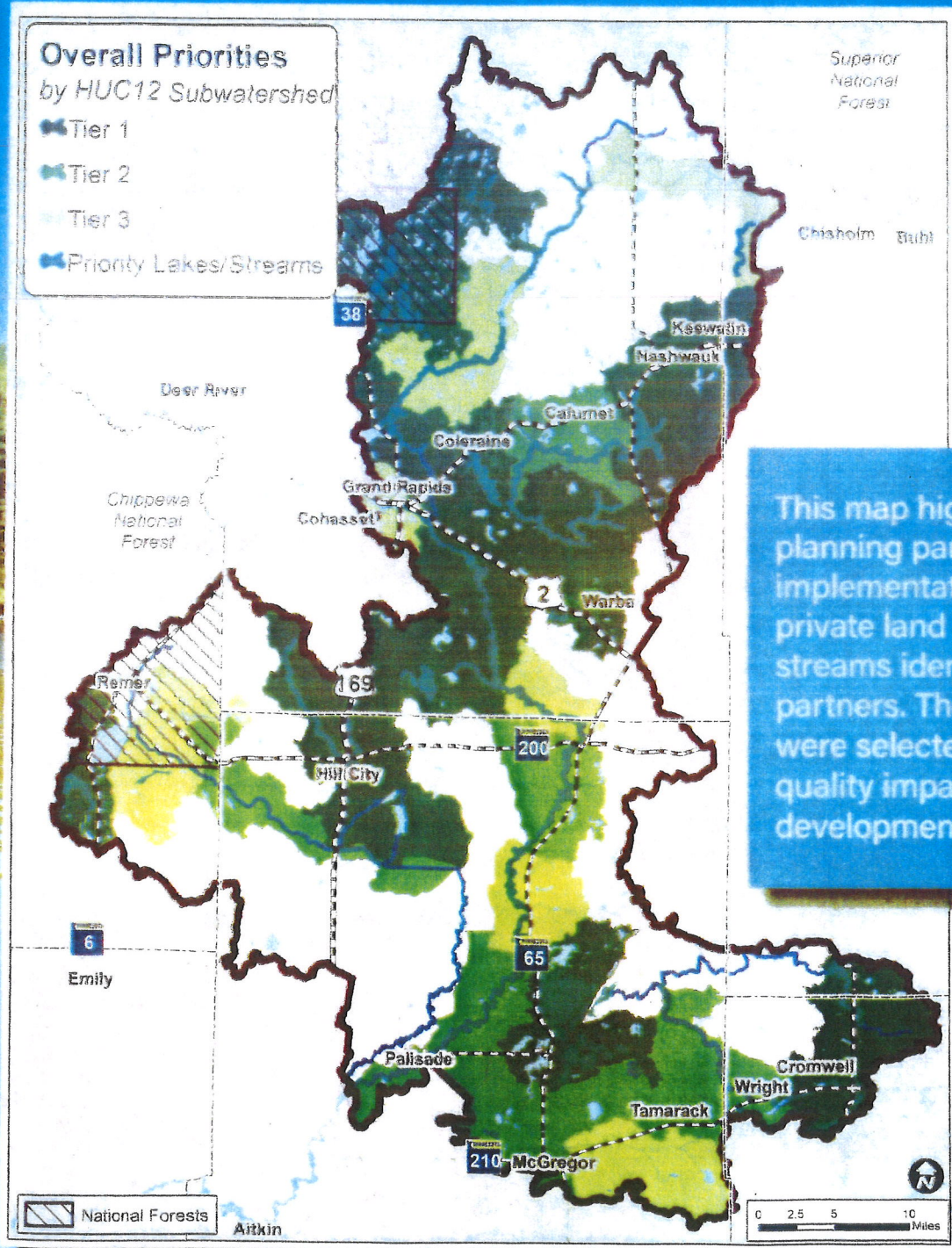
Name	Please check the boxes that apply		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – Please list
Zach Golkowski	NO	NO	Minnesota Power - Northland Reliability Project
Cindy Cheekowic	yes	no	H & H S Advisory
Tony Hansen	NO	NO	Extension
Jeanne Schiam	✓		Aitkin Age
Jim Moen	✓		ACH + HS
Kelvin Irvine		yes	ACHHS
DJ Thompson		✓	Land
Mme JEFFERS		✓	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Chris Sudd		✓	I.T.
Andrew Carstrom		✓	ESP 2
Jim Reitz	NO	NO	ADND
Mike Puhoy	NO	NO	Minnesota Power - NRP
Mike Dangers		yes	Assessor
Stacy Westerlund	yes	Yes	Assessors office
B Danulson		yes ✓	HA Dept



# Plan Highlights

- Implementation of this plan is voluntary, and outreach, cost share, and incentive programs will be used to assist with voluntary implementation on private lands (See map below).
- A Landscape Stewardship Plan was developed in parallel with this watershed plan that helped prioritize forest protection and management for water quality and habitat improvement.
- The Planning partners set goals during the planning process. The goals and their outcomes are highlighted below. Funding from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment will be provided for plan implementation.

## Where to Focus Work



This map highlights where planning partners can prioritize implementation efforts, including private land and priority lakes and streams identified by the planning partners. These lakes and streams were selected based on water quality impairments, trends, and development pressures.





# Watershed Highlights

- The Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids watershed is the first watershed downstream from the Mississippi Headwaters.
- It spans 1.3 million acres in Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis counties.
- It also includes portions of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indian Reservation, and a number of communities including Grand Rapids, Coleraine, Cromwell, Hill City, McGregor, and Remer.
- It is home to over 600 high-quality lakes, 2,000 miles of rivers, and abundant forests and wetlands.

## 10-Year Goals for the UM-GR Watershed



### Lakes

Goal: Reduce phosphorus in priority lakes by **40lbs/yr**. Restore **3 linear miles** of shoreline on priority lakes.

Outcome: Improved water quality and shoreland habitat.



### Farms

Goal: Implement **3,659 acres** of agricultural best management practices.

Outcome: Improved water quality and soil health.



### Streams

Goal: Protect or enhance **1 miles** of priority streams.

Outcome: Improved water quality and riparian habitat.



### Wetlands

Goal: Maintain and enhance wetlands and peatlands at current rate.

Outcome: Water storage and wetland habitat is maintained.



### Forests

Goal: Implement **8,162 acres** of forest protection. Implement **36,000 acres** of forest

management.

Outcome: healthy forests that protect water quality and are resilient to climate variability and invasive species.



### Groundwater

Goal: Seal **50 unused wells**.

Outcome: Groundwater quality is protected.



### Stormwater

Goal: Complete stormwater retrofit analysis for **3 communities**. Implement **5 stormwater projects**.

Outcome: Water quality is improved and communities are resilient to climate variability.



**COMMISSIONER SALARY COMPARISONS**

	2024 salary	per diem	per diem total estimated	
Aitkin	\$ 36,471.89	no		\$ 36,471.89
Beltrami	\$ 35,844.34	\$50/\$75	\$ 5,331.94	\$ 41,176.28
Cass	\$ 37,359.20	\$75	\$ 6,398.33	\$ 43,757.53
Crow Wing	\$ 48,194.00	no		\$ 48,194.00
Itasca	\$ 36,122.00	no		\$ 36,122.00
Morrison	\$ 35,922.00	no		\$ 35,922.00
Todd	\$ 35,084.00	no		\$ 35,084.00
Wadena	\$ 38,000.00	no		\$ 38,000.00
Hubbard	\$ 30,698.00	\$90	\$ 7,678.00	\$ 38,376.00
		average		\$ 39,233.75
		average removing high/low		\$ 38,546.53

**Aitkin AVG high/low Comparison \$ (2,074.64)**

	**2025 salary	per diem	per diem total estimated	
Aitkin	\$ 37,566.05	no		\$ 37,566.05 proposed 3% increase
Beltrami	\$ 36,919.67	\$50/\$75	\$ 5,331.94	\$ 42,251.61 proposed 3% increase
Cass	\$ 39,227.16	\$75	\$ 6,398.33	\$ 45,625.49 proposed 5% increase
Crow Wing	\$ 50,363.00	no		\$ 50,363.00 proposed 4.5% increase
Itasca	\$ 36,122.00	no		\$ 36,122.00
Morrison	\$ 37,000.00	no		\$ 37,000.00 proposed 3% increase
Todd	\$ 35,084.00	no		\$ 35,084.00 No increase for 2025
Wadena				\$ - haven't discussed 2025 yet
Hubbard				\$ - haven't discussed 2025 yet
		average		\$ 40,573.16
		average removing high/low		\$ 39,713.03

**Aitkin AVG high/low Comparison \$ (2,146.98)**

\*\*Note: Estimates for discussion. Board action not yet taken in most cases.