

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Tuesday, December 3, 2019. Lake County Board of Commissioners, Lake County, Minnesota. Board Meeting was held in the Lake County Service Center, in the Split Rock River Room, located at 616 Third Ave, Two Harbors, Minnesota. Board members present: District 1 Commissioner Peter "Pete" R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick "Rick" L. Goutermont, District 3 Commissioner Richard "Rick" C. Hogenson, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd, and District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. Absent: None. Also present: County Administrator Matthew Huddleston and Laurel D. Buchanan, Clerk of the Board. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas vote. Board Chairperson Rich Sve called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 01 – Approval of the agenda. Absent: None

Clerk of the Board Laurel D. Buchanan announced the time change for the Organizational Meeting to be held at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve opened the floor for public comments. Jim Hagen spoke about the proposed lodging tax. Mr. Hagen inquired about the auditing process and how funds will be spent. Three percent (3%) would be used for funding countywide marketing campaigns and one percent (1%) would be for communities for funding festivals and events. Chair Sve thanked Mr. Hagen for his comments and input on the proposed countywide lodging tax.

Sonja Smerud, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator and Water Plan Coordinator for the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provided an update on the AIS Prevention Plan at Lake County. Lake SWCD coordinates the Lake County AIS Prevention Program through a bi-annual contract with Lake County. AIS are defined under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84D as non-native species that: a) Cause or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health, or b) Threaten or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state. Lake County AIS Prevention Plan programming is overseen by Lake County Environmental Services Department Director Christine McCarthy. Ms. Smerud discussed several outreach efforts and events, including youth education programs such as 4H, in-school presentations, parades and booths at festivals, publications, online engagement, all over media, posters, online and print. The AIS Prevention Plan focuses on outreach and education, early detection and monitoring, watercraft inspections and compliance, management and rapid response, and partnerships. Ms. Smerud discussed outreach efforts to encourage "Clean, Drain, Dry" behaviors. Vulnerability studies check calcium levels as a predictor for zebra mussels. AIS infestations are tracked through studies. Reports may show, for instance, "no new infestations of zebra mussels" in a specific lake. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will add a lake, river, pond or wetland to the infested waters list if it contains an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters or is closely connected to a waterway that is infested. DNR may also remove a water body from the list if they confirm that the water body is no longer infested. AIS found in Lake County, Minnesota, include spiny waterfleas, rusty crayfish, and purple loosestrife. Ms. Smerud also discussed a native species called rock snot, a type of freshwater algae found along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Ms. Smerud reviewed a snapshot of AIS prevention accomplishments in 2019. Further, she reviewed 2020-at-a-glance plans and goals. Some geographical areas may experience higher costs as treatment is much more expensive than prevention. Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy provided an overview of the AIS Prevention Budget and talked about metrics for reporting successes.

Ms. Smerud provided an overview of a proposed Lake County AIS Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2020. Lake County AIS grant program would be contingent upon state funding being appropriated to Lake County. Lake County AIS Committee would review grant proposals submitted by applicants. Project eligibility information is included in the AIS Grant Program application form. Ms. Smerud explained the process for receipt of funds, reporting requirements and final invoicing. County Sheriff Carey Johnson and County Auditor Lindal Libal were also present for the presentation.

Lake County Administrator Matthew Huddleston introduced Personnel Committee items for discussion. County Sheriff Carey Johnson spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding a resignation of a Deputy Sheriff and requested that Lake County recruit for the position and fill the vacancy. Sheriff Johnson advises that the position provides vacation relief. Sheriff Johnson will coordinate the request with the Human Resources (HR) Department for possible board action on December 17. Administrator Huddleston reviewed a proposed resolution from the Veterans on the Lake Resort (VOTLR). Commissioners questioned whether the request would compete with other bonding requests and discussed that Lake County may have other bonding priorities. Board Chairperson Sve will follow up with the Senator and Representative regarding these questions. Administrator Huddleston has been in contact with the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) with respect to the proposed Lake County Lodging Tax and a special legislation resolution. Mr. Huddleston provided an update from the Highway Department for allocating resources for plowing.

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) executive committee has made recommendations to County Administrators, Board Chairs, and County Health & Human Services Directors, regarding payment issues with the state agency Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). The State is seeking repayment from Minnesota counties to reimburse the state for approximately \$8.8 million in overpayments of federal funds. AMC recommends not paying at this time. The state agency DHS made these overpayments and faces an end-of-year deadline with the federal government.

Lake County Environmental Services Director Christine McCarthy reviewed that terms will be expiring for several appointments on the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission. Ms. McCarthy discussed the appointment application process and asked County Commissioners to refer potential applicants to apply.

Board Chairperson Sve discussed Thye-Blatnik funding and lobbying efforts on the counties' behalf. After hearing our concerns and receiving the County's formal response to the Forest Service's appraisal, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture now has the final report.

**MOTION HOGENSON, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 02 – Approve Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the resolution for Lake County to opt out of the optional participation in the St. Louis River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning process and to adopt the Plan upon completion for the designated component of Lake County within the planning region.
2. Approve the resolution allowing for the Environmental Services Director to use the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan as the guideline for the use of AIS Prevention proceeds received in CY 2019.
3. Authorize Commissioner Sve to sign the resolution requesting separate grant agreements from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for Lake Superior North Watershed Implementation at the Policy Committee meeting on December 6, 2019.

4. Approve Lake County as the fiscal agent for the administration of the Lake Superior North, One Watershed, One Plan (LSN1W1P) Fiscal Year 2020 Implementation Funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for \$330,508 for Cook and Lake County.
5. Authorize 2019 Budget Adjustment request from the Forestry Department as follows:
  - 1) 85-950.6380 from \$0 to \$20,000
  - 2) 85-950.6345 from \$22,500 to \$2,500      Absent: None

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 03 – Approve the probationary appointment of Daniel Fraser to Information Technology Specialist at the Step 3 rate of \$19.23 per hour effective December 4, 2019. Absent: None

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND HOGENSON: 04 – Approve the resignation of Hayley Mattila, Deputy Sheriff, effective December 11, 2019. Absent: None

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND HOGENSON: 05 – Approve resolution to establish a Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Program as a component of the AIS County Program Aid to address goals as outlined by the Lake County AIS Prevention Plan. Absent: None

MOTION WALSH, SECOND HURD: 06 – Approve the temporary assignment of Timothy Weber, Mechanic's Assistant, to Highway Maintenance Worker, at the Step 1 rate of \$17.97 per hour effective December 4, 2019, as needed. Absent: None

MOTION HURD, SECOND GOUTERMONT: 07 – Adjourn County Board meeting at 3:40 p.m. Absent: None

The Lake County Board of Commissioners will convene for the following meetings:

- Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. Regular meeting, Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota.
- Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Organizational meeting, Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan  
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Board Chairperson  
Lake County Board of Commissioners