	Aitkin	Carlton	Cook	Itasca	Lake of the Woods
	Becker	Cass	Crow Wing	Koochiching	Pine
	Beltrami	Clearwater	Hubbard	Lake	St. Louis

Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aitkin	Rich Courtemanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hubbard	Mark Lohmeier
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becker	Dan McLaughlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Itasca	Kory Cease
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beltrami	Dick Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koochiching	Nathan Heibel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carlton	Greg Bernu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake	Nate Eide
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cass	Kirk Titus	<input type="checkbox"/> Lk. of the Woods	Josh Stromlund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearwater	Bruce Cox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pine	Greg Beck
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cook	Lisa Kerr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Louis	Mark Weber
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crow Wing	Ryan Simonson		

Meeting Minutes

Date: Meeting held at St. Paul, MN at the Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Wednesday, February 19, 2020 and Thursday, February 20, 2020

Approval of Agenda: There was a motion and second to approve the agenda (Lohmeier/Moore). The motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: There was a motion and second to approve the January 29, 2020 minutes as submitted (Cox/Cease). The motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Kerr reported a balance of \$11,712.62 as of February 19, 2020. Just one member remains unpaid.


Legislative Priorities 2020 Session:

Conservation easements on tax forfeited lands will be coming out of the Governors Office next year. The effected statutes include 84-625 and 95.0503.

MS 282.04 Sub 1 (d) Timber Sales: Land Use, Lease, Partition, Easement Current lease language limits leases to \$12,000 per year. There are two options. Change to open ended “as determined by County Board or double the current amount. Weber said he would discuss with their legislative affairs person to move this forward.

Petrol fund legislation keeps moving along

University of MN-Department of Forest Resources– Dr. Mike Kilgore & Dr. Alan Ek Department of Forest Resources Update: Dr. Kilgore gave an update on the Department of Forestry including new faculty staff and retirements. Current enrollment is 75 students. Programs include forest management , urban forestry and parks. Facility upgrades at Cloquet Forestry Center are expected because of increased use. Teaching loads are increasing while expecting to see a 2-3% budget reduction

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Dr. Ek gave an overview of the history of growth and yield model. He says there is no perfect modeling system, but to go out 50 years for the planning horizon. Two examples of 5-year changes in net volume were reviewed for Red Pine and Aspen. The data from the forest type change over 5 years was interesting. Recommendations include to compile sort and graph your own inventory data. Overall while planning, consider growth mortality and disturbances and decline.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry-Forrest Boe, Jon Drimel, Jennifer Corcoran. Forrest Boe talked about a State Forester project called American Forests with Chuck Leavell, The States of Colorado and South Carolina have been featured. Next up is Minnesota. Brain storming will start soon and MACLC is invited to participate. Initial concepts include a focus on forests and clean water.

The Governor has a \$2 billion bonding bill. Forestry has requests for roads and bridges, acquisitions, reforestation, community tree planting and a \$4 million facility and equipment upgrade for Badura Nursery. Bills introduced by Legislators include 1 million trees for carbon sequestration, a no net loss of forest bill, HF3489 Carbon Sequestration, HF3484 Wood Pellet incentive, and a bill to expand the definition of ATV to greater than 80" width. A new initiative to create an enhanced approach to tribal consultation is a priority for the administration.


Drimel spoke about the extension policy. MN DNR is limited on options for extensions because of statute. A Frequently Asked Questions Document has been created for the Sustainable Timber Harvest analysis and Wildlife Management Areas. Corcoran reviewed the draft MN State Lidar Plan. The plan objectives were covered including the need for lidar, funding opportunities, benefits, a new approach to inventory, time and costs savings, data needs and scheduling . The Rainy Lake block is scheduled for 2020, Lake Superior block in 2021 and the North Central Lakes region in 2022.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Division of Lands and Minerals- Joseph Henderson Director, Susan Damon Assistant Director, Andrea Johnson Land Sale Coordinator and Heather Arends Damon discussed the lands bill, mineral leases, reviewed the Vermillion Gold lease request. Lease rental rates will vary depending on term length from \$1.50 per acre to \$30.00 per acre. Current ferrous and non-ferrous projects were reviewed. Exploration is being done by four different companies.

Johnson gave a summary of the 2019 land sale program which included 11 parcels totaling 614 acres. Six parcels remain on the over the counter list. Arends said that the Kennecott project has been transferred to Talon while \$7 million has been spent on the Tamarack project. The core shed and core mapping projects are completed. Aggregate mapping is looking at a 10-year plan with potential funding from LCCMR for four counties.

Mn Dept of Revenue Sara Adam: Emailing deed applications is working well. A new tool where DOR submits the deed for recording is being developed to speed up turn around times. MN DNR is proposing to change time of review from 60 days to 45 days. The state attorney said wetland banking and carbon credits is not allowed under MS 282. It would take legislation to get this done.

Brian Martinson Association of MN Counties. Jennifer Berquam Olmstead County, John Houck Mn Dept of Commerce: A roundtable discussion regarding various solutions for cleanup, remediation and costs

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associated with managing tax forfeited lands was held. Martinson reviewed the remediation cleanup cost survey. MACLC members expressed concern of high cost demolitions of commercial properties or former school buildings that were deeded for private use. Options include county setting aside dedicated funds from land sales for cleanup like in MS 383 where an environmental response fund was created. Another similar option where the 3% assurance fees used to be a dedicated fund 284.08. Lastly a change to the tax forfeit apportionment line item to include a portion for demo and cleanup.

Berquam provided sample language where the County board by resolution could set aside up to 100 percent for the receipts remaining to be used for expenditures to maintain TF lands 282.09 subd 2, remediation of contamination or the correction of blighted conditions at tax forfeited properties. Houck said the petrol fund legislation is likely to move forward and include tax forfeit lands.

Kirk Pederson Public Policy Manager Hennepin County Selling Carbon Credits on tax forfeit lands will require statutory approval. King County Washington (Seattle) is the first with such authority. Nationwide there are no other counties that are doing this kind of work. Hennepin County is developing their own carbon offset program on ROW, fee title parcels and parcels with conservation easements. The opinion of the Hennepin County Attorney is that special legislation is not needed for county fee title lands.

Aaron Vande Linde, School Trust Lands Director: The office of School Trust Lands is developing a 25-year asset management plan to guide long-term management of school trust lands. The plan is expected to identify the best and most efficient mix of revenue-generating opportunities that will increase the value of school trust assets and related cash flows. The trust assets will be classified, and a framework developed for business plans with performance goals and recommendations to manage risks that may influence future revenues. The school trust fund distributes \$37 million annually or about \$41 per student.

Laura Preus, Paul Perman. MN DNR Parks and Trails. The Grant in Aid programs were reviewed and updated. The snowmobile account is stable and fully funding itself. The fee increase has helped. The capital improvement grant program is launching this spring with a May 1 deadline for application. The GIA ski program delayed payment of the first benchmark until February 15, 2020. Payments will be made in full for this season 2019-20. Budget will be an issue going forward in the 2020-21 ski season. ATV use and registrations continue to grow. There is a need for strategic plan for new trail projects while still being able to maintain the existing trail system with volunteer clubs. An update was given on the status Border to Border Trail project. The route will go through environmental review processes at Mn DNR and two National Forests.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2020 10:00 am at the Itasca County Land Department.

Motion to pay the room: There was a motion (Bernu/Lohmeier) to pay the room. All in favor

Adjourn: There was a motion (Bernu/Cox) to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.