

LOCALNEWS

LCCMR recommends nearly \$46 million in projects

Funding is from the MN Lottery-generated Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Study of the hydrologic effects of contemporary forest practices in Minnesota is among 65 environmental projects throughout Minnesota recommended for \$45.8 million in funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources met July 10 and selected 65 environment and natural resources projects totaling \$45.8 million to recommend to the Minnesota Legislature for funding. The recommendations are the result of a competitive, multi-stage process for allocating funds available next year from the Minnesota Lottery-generated ENRTF. If approved by the Legislature, the projects will

begin in July 2015. The panel recommends \$150,000 for the study of the hydrologic effects of contemporary forest practices by the University of Minnesota Duluth. The LCCMR's 2015 request for proposal sought projects across several priority issue areas, including water quality, invasive species, climate change, renewable energy, natural resource management, habitat protection, outdoor recreation, and environmental education. The 65 projects being recommended for funding address this spectrum of issue areas and will collectively benefit every region of the state. Some highlights include: A new research center at the University of Minnesota dedicated to providing

science-based solutions for preventing and controlling terrestrial invasive species – including introduced plants, animals, insects, and diseases – that threaten the health of the state's prairies, forests, wetlands, and agricultural resources. Acceleration of the Minnesota Biological Survey, Minnesota Geological Atlas, the updating of the National Wetlands Inventory, and other related surveying and monitoring efforts that are acquiring essential information for understanding Minnesota's plants, pollinators, animals, water and groundwater resources, and wetlands; Development of a comprehensive, statewide framework for transitioning Minnesota away from fossil fuels and toward a long-term sus-

tainable energy future. Research, analysis, and planning efforts to inform water management for sustainability and protect water quality from challenges posed by groundwater overuse, drainage systems, and nutrient and sediment runoff. Protection, enhancement, and restoration of lands for unique natural areas and parks and trails around the state, including regional parks in the metro area, scientific and natural areas throughout the state, the Mesabi Trail in northern Minnesota, and several state parks and trails. One project involves the reintroduction of American bison at Minneopa State Park, which will provide a unique recreational opportunity for visitors while assisting with national ge-

netic preservation efforts for the species. Research and data collection on Minnesota habitat and wildlife species including bats, turtles, elk, loons, white pelicans, and other species in order to inform species preservation and habitat management efforts. Research into potential impacts and control methods for emerald ash borer; Canada thistle, and an emerging pine disease. A total of approximately \$46.3 million is available from the ENRTF for recommendation by the LCCMR for 2015. The commission chose to reserve some funds to consider for addition to some of the recommended projects at its November or December meeting. Following those meetings, the

LCCMR's recommendations will next go before the 2015 Legislature for consideration and approval during the legislative session beginning January 6. Recommended projects will begin work on July 1, 2015, when the funds become available. In response to the LCCMR's 2014 proposal process, 152 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$126.3 million were received. Combined requests amounted to nearly \$3 requested for every \$1 available, making for a very competitive process. Of the original 152 proposals received, 76 were requested to give presentations and answer questions before the LCCMR. From this reduced pool, 65 proposals received a recommendation for some portion of the funds available.

Public Notices

Public Notice

MINUTE SUMMARY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, June 24, 2014; 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The County Board approved the June 24th agenda; approved the minutes from the June 17, 2014 meeting; approved the employment separation of part time County Attorney Secretary Mary Lou Jensen and authorized the County Attorney to fill the vacant position; approve the employment separation of County Jail/E911 Administrator Florence Hervey and authorized the County Sheriff to fill the position with the hire of Correctional Officer Tim Milette; authorized the County Sheriff to fill a full time Correctional Officer position and to fill part time Correctional Officer position; that due to the flooding event occurring in Koochiching County and the work assignment of County management staff for emergency management response, to compensate management their salary for time worked beyond their regularly held county position for public flood emergency management response.

2014/06-24 Motion by Adee, seconded by McBride to approve payment of the Courthouse claims in the amount of \$16,305.60; Health claims in the amount of \$9,972.67; Community Services administration and program claims as presented and burial claims as presented. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-25 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe authorizing Board members attendance to the DNR Wetlands Work Session for county commissioners and land managers. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-26 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe that with the passage of the Subordinate Service Taxing District for the Littlefork Medical Center (LMC) Capital Needs Loan, to approve a designation of \$1 million of the County General Revenue Fund for a loan to the City of Littlefork for the LMC capital needs as outlined in the taxing district agreement. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-27 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe that the service district board for the LMC Subordinate Service Taxing District shall be the City of Littlefork Council with the two District County Commissioners and LMC Director. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-28 Motion by Adee, seconded by McBride to close the Environmental Services Department's change fund of \$150. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-29 Motion by Adee, seconded by McBride to ratify the Board Chair's approval of a Facilities Use Agreement with RIRCC under the emergency management plan to establish temporary shelter/housing for the flood control effort. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-30 Motion by Skoe, seconded by Pavleck authorizing the Board Chair to appoint an officer or employee of the County for nomination to the MN Department of

Commerce for advisory task force members for the Minnesota Power Great Northern Transmission Line Project based on qualifications and availability to attend meetings. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/06-31 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Skoe authorizing the County Board members attendance to the Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting on July 17, 2014 at the Littlefork Community Center for the Minnesota Power Great Northern Transmission Line Project's route permit. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

000 The Board received notice on the hire of Sevon Simon to the Case Aide position.

2014/06-32 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to approve service agreement amendments as recommended by the Health/Human Services Director and upon approval of the County Attorney for a State rate reduction for GRH services. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Adee, Pavleck; abstaining: Skoe. Motion carried.

2014/06-33 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to renew the Hasbargen Foster Care Service Agreement with no change as recommended the Health/Human Services Director and upon approval of the County Attorney. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. A full copy of the minutes is available on the County website at www.co.koochiching.mn.us and for public inspection at the County Administration Office during regular business hours.

The Journal
July 16, 2014

Public Notice

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION
Opening Session 2014 Tuesday,
June 17, 2014; 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck, Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDING: County Assessor Peterson, Administration Director Briggs

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dianna Hoopingarner

Oaths of Office were conducted for members of the County Board of Equalization. The County Board of Appeal and Equalization Certification Form was completed with two of the Board members having training certification. The Chairman opened the Board of Equalization (BOE) session to review 2014 property valuation and classification for taxes payable in 2015. The Auditor-Treasurer stated that there were no scheduled appointments for today's session but that there was one written appeal received.

The County Assessor opened with a report on the Department's work plan and what was done for the 2014 assessment year. The Assessor viewed a map of the Assessing Zones for the County and where work was done for value equalization. The Assessor stated that the State has informed the County that required adjustments in the City of International Falls and Lake Area are needed and will be applied next year. Assessor reviewed the assessment data to sales ratios in

the specific assessment zones of the County.

1. Letter received from Robert and Faye Thomson, Parcel # 15-066-02030 (Lot with garage in the Plat of Glenhaven). The property owner is contesting the 2014 assessment of this property on the basis that it does not reflect the current actual market value. Property owner appealed the property value in 2013 for the same purpose. The property value did not change from 2013 to 2014 remains at \$30,500 for land and building. In reviewing the 2014 appeal letter, the County Assessor stated that they had the garage on with a cement floor and it stated in the letter that it was a dirt floor. He therefore recalculated the garage value with a dirt floor and changed the building value from \$7,200 to \$5,767 and recommends this adjustment in the value. This brings overall value from \$30,500 down to \$29,067. Assessor did notify the property owner of the adjustment by phone, noting the property owner still felt the overall value of the property was too high. Assessor recommends the adjustment to the building value but no adjustment to the land value. Board agreed with the recommendation.

2. Walk in Appointment: Dianna Hoopingarner, parcel #98-001-16010, stated that her taxes go up every year but her valuation has dropped and asked for an explanation of the process. Further stated that she feels her property has been damaged by area blasting and if that is considered in the assessment process. County Assessor explained that in equalizing land value in the City of Ranier a few years back, her land value dropped. Regarding devaluing property for damage, County Assessor stated that his Office does not evaluate land and building for structural damage but determines value based on sales ratio and building conditions per their assessment schedules. In review of assessment values for this property, the County Assessor stated that in 2007 the land value was \$9,200 and building \$75,000 and the 2014 assessment has land at \$6,100 and building \$77,800 resulting in less value than in 2007. Regarding the tax issue, Board members explained the tax levy process and how property owners are informed on their annual Truth in Taxation Statement of the various taxing authorities budget/levy hearings to attend to discuss tax concerns, noting that property owners need to know which taxing authority levy caused the increase in the tax to attend the appropriate hearing. No action was recommended on this assessment review.

With no other business, the Board Chair recessed the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and will reconvene on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION
Reconvened 2014 Session Tuesday,
June 24, 2014; 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson

COUNTY STAFF ATTENDING: County Assessor Peterson, Administration Director Briggs

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dina Zastavskiy

The Board Chair reconvened the 2014 County Board of Equalization. Administration Director stated that there were no scheduled appointments or written appeals submitted. Meeting was opened for walk ins.

1. Walk In: Dina Zastavskiy, Parcel Number 25-003-4110: They purchased the property for \$110,250 at a mortgage foreclosure auction and the County has \$181,000 value on the property and they feel the County value is too high. County Assessor stated that the property includes 80 acres of good land val-

ued at \$54,600 and the home has 2,100 square feet in addition to the attached garage valued at \$126,900 for a total value of \$181,500. The Assessor stated that foreclosure sales are not a good sale for the purposes of determining sales ratio for assessing purposes. Banks sell property to get what is owed to them and not for what the property is worth in the market. County Assessor stated that the value is correct for this property. Mrs. Zastavskiy stated that they purchased the property which had flood damage in the basement and the heating system needs to be replaced and the water system is not working. In response to the question, she stated the sewer system is working and the house is livable. In further response, she stated that they are going to fix the heat and water system. Assessor recommends no change in the current valuation of this property

With no other appeals submitted, the County Board of Equalization acted on the business coming before the Board.

BOE2014/06-01 Motion by Adee, seconded by McBride accepting the recommendation of the County Assessor for valuation of properties reviewed by the County Board of Equalization: Robert and Faye Thomson, Parcel # 15-066-02030 change the garage value for a dirt floor and reduce the building value from \$7,200 to \$5,767; Dianna Hoopingarner, parcel #98-001-16010 - no change from the County Assessor's value; Dina Zastavskiy, Parcel Number 25-003-4110 - no change from the County Assessor's value and further, to approve the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Record for 2014 as submitted by the County Assessor with three appeals and one adjustment of valuation (Thompson). Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

With no further business, the Board Chair adjourned the 2014 County Board of Equalization.

The Journal
July 16th, 2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR
ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 362 LITTLEFORK-BIG FALLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing

Affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 362 shall begin on July 29, 2014 and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 12, 2014. The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each. Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 700 Main Street, Littlefork Minnesota. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election. The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. August 12, 2014.

Dated: July 7, 2014

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Anita Gray
School District Clerk

The Journal
July 12th & 16th, 2014

Public Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING

DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File No. 36-PR-12-658

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON CLOSING THE ESTATE OF DECEDENT

Estate of Ida Mae Taylor,
Decedent

It is ordered and Notice is given that on 14 August 2014, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at International Falls, Minnesota, to close the Estate of the Decedent, Ida Mae Taylor. Any parties claiming an interest in the estate must appear at the hearing or their interest will be waived. Prior to the hearing, any party claiming an interest in the estate should contact the Griffith Law Office by mail at 343 Third Street, International Falls, MN 56649.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) any creditors having claims against the Estate were required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Representative or the claims would be barred.

COURT SEAL

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Charles H. LeDuc
Judge
Date: June 19, 2014

Griffith Law Office
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343 Third Street
International Falls, MN 56649
(218) 283-8400

The Journal
July 16th & 23rd, 2014

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