



## BOARD MINUTES

### BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 3, 2022

DATE APPROVED: MAY 17, 2022

Christine Husom	District 1
Darek Vetsch	District 2
Mark Daleiden	District 3
Mary Wetter	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek	District 5

The Wright County Board met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter, and Kaczmarek present.

#### COUNTY BOARD MINUTES 04-26-2022

Commissioner Christine Husom requested changes to the minutes be made to include changing one precinct to two precincts when talking about St. Michael's representation on page 3, adding the phrase "added in 2021" at the end of the sentence addressing population growth in St. Michael and Otsego on page 4, to add townships to her list of constituents that she reached out to in regard to redistricting on page 5. She lastly requested to strike the following sentence on page 5 from the minutes: "She explained that there are meetings that the commissioners attend within their districts' cities and townships where the double representation is blatantly unfair."

Commissioner Darek Vetsch moved to approve the County Board Minutes from Tuesday, April 26, 2022, with the changes made by Husom. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mark Daleiden and carried 5-0.

#### AGENDA

County Administrator Lee Kelly clarified that French Lake Township, not Cokato, is the correct location for the Planning and Zoning Consent Agenda item B1.

Vetsch moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the clarification from Kelly. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Wetter and carried 5-0.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Michael Kaczmarek requested Consent Agenda Item A1 held for discussion.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, removing Item A1 for discussion. The motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 5-0.

##### A. ADMINISTRATION – FINANCE

1. Approved The State Of Minnesota 2022 Voting Equipment Grant Agreement (VEGA-3) Accepting Grant Funds Of \$74,992.06 To Be Utilized Toward The Purchase Of Omni Ballot Assistive Voting Devices.

Kaczmarek pointed out that there was a lot of public interest in the different steps of the voting process and getting to know the new machine the County will be using. He added that there would be an upcoming meeting regarding voter integrity, and he expressed the wish to familiarize himself with the new machine in order to aptly discuss it. He understood there are many vendors for the machines and expressed his desire to get to know all the models. Daleiden clarified that those machines were strictly for very specialized use only for the hard of hearing. This machine is an assisted voting device and is not for regular public use. Vetsch understood the need to discuss this item as there are many different names for voting devices and recognized the need to address public concerns about voting devices and the differences. He thought it would be good idea to delineate these for the public for clarification and transparency.

Kaczmarek moved to approve the delineation of voting devices to the public for clarification. The motion was seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

2. Approved The Reimbursement Of The American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP).
3. Acknowledged Warrants Issued Between April 20, 2022 And April 26, 2022.

**B. PLANNING & ZONING**

1. Approved The Findings And Recommendations Of The Planning Commission For The Following Request To Rezone:  
Kayla Barthel - (French Lake Township) Commission Unanimously Recommends Approval Of The Request To Rezone From B-1 Highway Business District To B-2 General Business District.

**C. RECORDER**

1. Approved The Plat:  
Authorize The Recording Of "Franklin Ridge" (Franklin Township)

**RECOMMENDATION: *Delineation of Voting Devices for Public Clarification.***

**TIMED AGENDA ITEMS**

**VIRGIL HAWKINS, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Approve Agreement No. 22-52 For The County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 Pavement Preservation Project And The Joint Powers Water Board Of Albertville, Hanover, And St. Michael. Agreement No. 22-52 Outlines The Funding Participation, Construction, And Maintenance Responsibilities Between The Joint Powers Board And Wright County. Kaczmarek moved to approve Agreement No. 22-52 for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 Pavement Preservation Project. The motion was seconded by Daleiden and carried 5-0.

Approve Resolution And MnDOT Cooperative Construction Agreement No. 1050038. This Agreement Provides For MnDOT To Invoice The County For MnDOT Furnished Materials/Equipment For The Traffic Control Signal System That Will Be Constructed As Part Of The CSAH 19 Project This Summer Between Chestnut Avenue And Ash Street (SP 086-619-035).

Daleiden moved to approve the resolution and The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Cooperative Construction Agreement No. 1050038. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 5-0.

After the vote, Daleiden asked if the project had already been put out for bid. County Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins explained that it was not because the department was waiting on MnDOT approval.

Approve Resolution And MnDOT Agency Advance Construction Agreement No 1049873. This Agreement Provides For MnDOT To Advance To The County The \$400,000 In Federal Funds In 2022 For Construction Of The CSAH 35 Roundabout Project. The Federal HSIP Grant Funds Are Programmed In Federal Fiscal Year 2024.

Daleiden moved to approve the resolution and MnDOT Agency Advance Construction Agreement No 1049873. The motion was seconded by Kaczmarek and carried 5-0.

After the vote, Wetter asked where on CSAH 35 the roundabout was going to be. Hawkins said it was by the High School. Hawkins added that The Highway Department was waiting for confirmation from MnDOT to set a letting date, but that the plan was to start building this in the summer of 2022.

Awarded Contract No. 22-08, Maple Lake Township State Park Road Account Project To Knife River Corporation Of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

Hawkins said the bids came in Tuesday, April 19, 2022 and that the bids came in under the estimate. Maple Lake Township requested to proceed and move forward with the project. Daleiden asked if it was near Robert Ney Memorial Park. Hawkins confirmed that was correct. Vetsch asked if it was near the entrance off CSAH 8. Hawkins thought that was correct for one of the projects, but that there were two different roads, and he would have to confirm this to be sure. Vetsch wanted to know what the tonnage would be built up to. Hawkins said it would involve paving the gravel roads that were there but was unsure of the exact tonnage.

Daleiden moved to approve the Contract No. 22-08 for Maple Lake Township. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 5-0.

**MARC MATTICE, PARKS AND RECREATION**Introduction Of Ross Demant - Director Of Parks And Recreation.

Assistant County Administrator Marc Mattice introduced the new Parks and Recreation Director Ross Demant. Demant had been with the City of Otsego as Parks and Recreation Director for the past 10 years and additionally had worked in the cities of Elk River and Duluth. Demant expressed his excitement to be working for the Wright County Parks Department as he had had experience working with the County and the Parks Department in the past while at Otsego.

Presentation And Consideration Of Adoption Of The Wright County Parks And Recreation Comprehensive System Plan.

Mattice presented the Wright County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan for the parks, trails and programs of the County had been in the works for the previous 12 months. The project schedule started in March 2021 when the Parks Department did a review of past plans and an inventory of existing conditions. In May and June of that year, they did a gap analysis report and an assessment of needs. The Parks Department then received priority recommendations and identified staffing and funding needs. During this process the Parks Department had multiple public engagements which started at the Wright County Fair in July 2021. Public engagements included press releases, interactive mapping and conducted an online survey. The Parks Department then took that information and started developing a Master Plan. Phase 2 included an email blast, press release, release of a map, and recommendations that the Parks Department had received.

The purpose of the plan was to help guide the Parks Department in decision-making processes for the next 25 years to include public input and stakeholder input. The department's goal was to supplement the local and state parks. Mattice talked about the different Parks System Plans and which governmental agencies were involved. Wright County currently had four regionally designed parks and two regional trails. When the needs assessment was done, it took into consideration existing parks inventory and park facilities inventory, parks conditions, access to parks, demographics, National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) metrics, peer comparison, and public engagement. The department looked at counties of similar size for the peer comparison to include Washington, Anoka, Olmsted, Carver, Scott, and Stearns counties. This peer comparison showed that Wright County was ahead of the other counties in some acres, having had 111 acres more per staff, 42 more miles of in park trails, and 80 more campsites than peer comparisons. The area that was lacking was the regional corridors. The public engagement piece produced four pillars that included connecting people to the outdoors, acquiring land and the creation of opportunities, taking care of what the County has, and coordinating with partners optimizing civic engagement.

The planned recommendations were created for parks and facilities, regional corridor trails, acquisition, programming, staffing, and funding. Mattice wanted to exclude staffing and funding goals for the time being because of the need to be more specific in regard to goals for those items. The summary of recommendations included taking care of what the County has, creating opportunities, connecting people to the outdoors, and coordinating partners. This recommendation was a combination of staff, the Parks Commission and the civic engagement suggestions taken into consideration. The recommendation was broken down into seven different categories. Mattice explained that the recommendations for parks and facilities had a big concentration on replacement of comfort amenities. The highest priority items included getting more expertise for the County's Natural Resource environment, wayfinding improvements, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility. The Regional Corridor Trails were a hot topic from the community and those should continue to be on the forefront of the Parks Department improvements. Acquisition goals called for a gap analysis to be done. The gap analysis showed a need in the Southeast part of the County to include Franklin and Rockford Townships where they were parks deficient. The existing program comparison data showed the one program staff member ran about 60 programs per year. The staff member's big recommendation was to work with the cities and schools to share resources and programs. The group that had been working on this project within the department had met twice before the County Board Meeting and were working towards that partnership. Grant opportunities were identified in the existing program and comparison data portion.

Mattice explained that the plan for implementation of the items included clarification of roles and responsibilities, creation of a project implementation checklist, the need for maintenance, project phasing, and the need for plan recommendations to be organized by phasing a project type. The appendix broke down the general capital operations and maintenance costs, parks conditions analysis, a City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT) Feasibility study and cost estimate for Segment B, Phase One and Phase Two of Community Engagement, identification of the Wayfinding Plan Document,

and creation of a Long-Range Budget Tool on an Excel spreadsheet that will include a 20-year outlook. Mattice emphasized that the current wayfinding could be improved.

Husom appreciated the comprehensiveness of the presentation. Kaczmarek read in the surveys that the approval rating for the parks in the County was 85 percent and thought it important to note such a high approval rating. Kaczmarek asked what the Parks Department's plan for 2022 was regarding the Comprehensive System Plan that was presented. Mattice explained that the previous 5-year plan expired in December 2021 and that the plan was to move forward with the next 5-year plan. Mattice added that the department would look back at benchmarks and take into consideration what was accomplished since 2016. Kaczmarek asked if the Parks Department planned to meet with townships that lacked park funding as found in the gap analysis. Daleiden clarified that the Parks Department has met with Franklin Township and looked at some property in Rockford Township at one point as well. He did note that land was not cheap at the current time, but that the department was working with the townships to make it work for everyone involved and the public. Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Bradley Harrington explained that those conversations were ongoing, but that they had not specifically reached out with specific parkland dedication requests. The Parks Department had a decision-making process that takes into consideration needs of the department. Mattice talked about the importance of timing and patience of the process because of the current state of the housing market and current exaggerated price of land as well as the time it would take to go through the approval process, that timeframe being about six months. Daleiden informed the board that there was one new playground being built in Otsego. Mattice talked about doing a trailhead project at Stanley Eddy Memorial Park Reserve North, a paving project at the turnaround at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park, a natural resource restoration at Stanley Eddy Memorial Park Reserve and improvements at Beebe Lake Regional Park with the deck and ADA improvements, and ADA improvements and lighting at Robert Ney Memorial Park for cross-country skiing. Mattice offered to share the project details with the board. Harrington explained that with the 2022 projects plan, all of these would work seamlessly together moving forward. Kaczmarek thought it would be good for the public and the board if the Parks Department would note what projects were coming out of which suggestions. Mattice asked for adoption of the long-range plan.

Daleiden moved to approve the adoption of the Wright County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive System Plan. The motion was seconded by Wetter and carried 5-0.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### Topics For Discussion At The County Board Workshop On Tuesday, May 10:

- A. Schedule Meetings As Needed
- B. Medical Examiner Annual Report
- C. Meeting Room Guidelines

Kelly talked about the annual report from the county's medical examiner and asked if the Board had anything it would like to add to the agenda. Daleiden requested to add preliminary discussion about gravel pits. He had been approached by some residents about gravel pit ordinances and permitting. Husom would like to add an opioid discussion. She wanted to look ahead to the settlement funds that would be coming in and take a look at percentages of Public Health, the Sheriff's Office and Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regions. Daleiden asked if she planned to have a Public Health person at the meeting and Husom confirmed that this was her intention. Husom introduced some of the details of the upcoming conversation but emphasized that adding this topic to the agenda would just be a preliminary discussion. Wetter requested to add a follow-up discussion regarding the roofs at the Fairgrounds. Wetter expressed a want to know what had been decided on this matter. Vetsch requested to have the Central Minnesota Council on Aging and Health and Human Services (HHS) to come in to talk about senior citizens services at the June of July workshop. He had several people contact him asking what services were available in the County. Husom noted that there used to be a list of services and Daleiden thought it might still have been on the HHS website.

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

#### Broadband Committee Minutes (4/25/2022)

Daleiden talked about the grant application updates. The application deadline was Friday, April 22 and there were 13 applications received, two from townships, two from cities and nine from the Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The requests were for more than what was initially allocated, and Information Technology Director Matthew Fomby will be presenting what he thought would be the projects the Committee should fund. Daleiden informed the Board that the next

meeting was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Monday, May 9. Fiber and wireless were discussed as was the use of towers for these purposes. He let the Board know that his concern was whether the conduit would even be used if the County installed it. Hawkins had a preconstruction meeting the previous week, and the bids came in too high to recommend putting the conduit in the ground at that time. Daleiden does not want to spend the County's money if it would not be utilized.

Vetsch added that there was a lot to take into consideration when looking at these applications including funding from the municipalities and townships, contributions from the ISPs, the number of households being served, the unit cost per household, and if there is other funding that would be better sourced. He said the Committee would take all these items into consideration and have a suggestion to present to the Board in a few weeks. Vetsch added that the Committee was looking for clarification to see if it would be able to give funding to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) areas.

Vetsch asked if he could move the meeting back to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 9. Husom added that Captain Todd Hoffman of the Sheriff's Office might be able to provide some information on the use of the towers at the old Government Center and whether they both still work.

Daleiden moved to approve the minutes and recommendations with the change to move the time of the next Broadband Committee Meeting to 11:30 a.m. Monday, May 9. The motion was seconded by Vetsch and carried 5-0.

### ***I. Grant Application Update***

*County Administrator Lee Kelly started by discussing grant application details. The application deadline was Friday, April 22. The Committee received thirteen applications, two from townships, two from cities, and nine from ISPs. Monetary requests came out to be double the initial allocation, making the requests \$2.5 million. Information Technology Director Matthew Fomby presented a spreadsheet presentation to break down the statistics and who would benefit. About 2,000 residents and businesses would benefit from this program.*

*Commissioner Darek Vetsch asked if any of the townships put local funds in their own project applications. Fomby explained that it was not consistent across the board. The spreadsheet showed underserved or unserved communities, there were eight businesses included. The spreadsheet showed the cost households and businesses were asking for. There was no consideration for matching funds from counties however cost per person and ranking was included in spreadsheet. Vetsch pointed out that the Committee wanted to give more points to those who had ISP and local municipality contributions. He argued that these cities and townships should not be penalized for finding other forms of funding as this is the most effective use for the County funds. The more funding a community could get from an ISP the better. Vetsch pointed out there was a different number of points given based on the funding percentage provided by an ISP. If an ISP were providing the majority and the county paying the remainder, the applicant would receive more points from the ISP perspective.*

*Communications Specialist John Holler asked if it was expected to see such a wide range in the cost per household. Fomby explained the cost-per-person range from \$400-\$7,000 was surprising, but that the funding requests had come in far under what was expected. The numbers were promising when considering the recoupment on the investment. Vetsch wondered if the cost per unit would be diluted down when considering the ISP contributions. He additionally asked whether the Rockford Township applications met the underserved criteria they had established. Holler explained that the region this township was in made it questionable. Kelly confirmed they would verify this township's qualification with Project Administrator Elizabeth Karels.*

*Assistant County Administrator Clay Wilfahrt asked if there was an analysis to see if the private sector would help resolve these issues. The communities the Committee wanted to help were the ones that were less likely to be solved by a private provider. He asked if the points system was backwards on the spreadsheet regarding who should have been approved.*

*Vetsch said Karels was going to take these metrics and compare them against the Border-to-Border grants. He reiterated the fact that applicants would receive more points if they had more funding sources. There were factors on the*

*spreadsheet that had not been taken into consideration. Everyone expressed the desire to wait for the next meeting to consider the overall ranking. Wilfahrt added that Karels informed them of a scoring teams meeting taking place on Thursday, April 28. It was decided by the Committee to wait for these scoring metrics to be established before moving forward with ranking applications.*

*Holler said he would provide the results from a Design Nine study conducted in the Summer of 2021 that mapped exactly where the coverage was the worst. Information Technology Technical Services Manager Mark Kellogg wanted to know more about the City of Buffalo's application, as they have their own internet and serve themselves as an ISP. This had the potential to be very expensive if the City is asking for the majority of the funds to be provided by the County. Vetsch explained he did not know the scope of the project but just the funding applicants were asking for. The spreadsheet did not give all the information. Commissioner Mark Daleiden was curious if the businesses on the spreadsheet had provided the number of individuals they employed. If providing this service helped expand businesses, this was something the Committee should have been helping with. Vetsch agreed, especially since a lot of the area was rural. It could have been taken into consideration if it was included on the applications. Kelly also agreed that there should be follow up to find out the number of employees.*

*Fomby broke down the spreadsheet to show that the number of underserved and unserved businesses was between eight and twenty-five however the nature of the project was not included. Vetsch explained the points system regarding projected project date. 2023 projects received three points, 2024 projects received two points, 2025 projects received one point, and any projects after 2025 received no points. The main issue with this process was running into availability of funds. Holler asked for clarification on the Windstream Lakeside application and Vetsch explained it was a conglomeration of Annandale, Maple Lake and Albion Townships. Holler asked if the intention was to abandon doing grid coverage. Vetsch explained they were looking into costs and were exploring requests for information for fixed wireless and traditional fiber. All the requests they had at that time were fiber because the request for information had not gone out at that point.*

*Vetsch suggested that there be another broadband meeting in a few weeks. Kelly agreed and added that it was important to see how the scoring meeting went. Fomby said he would update the spreadsheet to include businesses, projected project year, municipal funds percentage of cost, and ISP funds percentage. He was worried that too much information had the potential to overburden the progress and put off the decision-making stage. It was agreed that once a scoring metric is completed. The Committee should meet again. With a scoring metric, it would become simple data entry and decision-making. It was noted that there may need to be some consolidation of the list. Wilfahrt asked if the goal of the scoring metric meeting was to make the metric and present the decisions to the Broadband Committee and it was confirmed by Vetsch that this was the goal. Fomby pointed out that as they reached out for ISPs, the cost consideration needed to be considered on a case-by-case basis as there could be a wide cost range. Vetsch's understanding was that the applicants already have ISP and community funds to decrease the cost request in these applications.*

*Fomby added that Karels was confirming that their data does not conflict with the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) areas, which might weed out some applicants. He reiterated the items he would be adding to the spreadsheet data. Vetsch agreed this is enough information. Daleiden wanted to see the number of employees per business as well. Vetsch suggested breaking this down based on a range. The range being businesses with 25 employees or more receive three points, businesses with ten to twenty-five employees receive two points, businesses with more than two employees receive one point, and a home business receives no points.*

*Holler asked whether the Rockford Township projects were the same project. Fomby had the same question in addition to the Middleville and Middleville Township/Cokato projects and the Stockholm and Stockholm/Victor Township projects. He confirmed that they need to find out who each applicant is and what their area is. Vetsch assumed they were the same but were asking for different dollar amounts based on contributions. Wilfahrt added that Karels had noted that there were two different funding areas for the same township, but he was unsure of which township she referred to. Fomby pulled up the project cost information from the applications and confirmed that the different amounts were due to ISP provisions being taken into consideration. There was a consensus regarding the need to clarify fund requests from*

townships and cities. Holler added that there were some projects on the spreadsheet that seemed to make more sense to pay for based on the low cost to the County. Vetsch agreed with this, referencing the considerations with scoring and funds provided from ISPs. The Committee agreed that these were good considerations to consider making the most impact with funds available to disperse.

**RECOMMENDATION: Set the next Broadband Committee meeting for 11:30 a.m. on Monday May 9, 2022.**

## **II. Fixed Wireless RFI Review & Next Steps**

Kelly explained that Karels drafted up Requests for Information (RFI) for fixed wireless and fiber and asked if there were any changes to be made. Vetsch confirmed it was ready to be sent out noting that he was open to hearing perspectives as there are follow up questions on the request.

Holler wanted to know if the towers at the old Government Center were of any value to the Committee. Vetsch said they needed to confirm with the Sheriff that they were no longer using them. The only thing the tower was still being used for was the bailiff's internal radio. Kelly added that the plan was that towers would not be owned by the County once the move to the new Government Center was complete. There had been a lot of shifting around of fixed wireless options as there was a need for a tower to provide coverage. Water towers had been utilized for fixed wireless because of the difficulty in rural areas to find a structure tall enough. Often water towers are not tall enough even though there was a want to utilize them. This sparked the need to send the RFI to find out the cost of putting towers in these rural areas and to additionally see what the service area would be. Holler explained that it has been tried in the past but there was a moratorium put on the construction of towers. The reason was because farmers would sell small parcels to build these towers, but the resulting aesthetic of the landscape was very unpopular. Vetsch wanted to check with the Planning and Zoning Department to see what the structure ordinances were. Wilfahrt added that typically there would be a study done prior to construction to mitigate these issues. Vetsch noted the need to consider the fearmongering regarding fixed wireless radio waves and how to address the public reaction to this if it was decided they would go this route.

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve sending out the Request for Information Forms.**

## **III. Fiber Infrastructure RFI Review & Next Steps**

Daleiden wanted to reach out to other counties who had a fiber infrastructure and see if people were using it. Vetsch clarified that the plan was just to put conduit in and not the fiber. Daleiden understood and asked who would be responsible for the maintenance and if only one ISP would be able to utilize it. Wilfahrt shared that he had done this type of project in Big Lake and there was some success with it. He explained that when the city had a construction project it would reach out to ISPs. The ISPs would work with the construction deadline, and put fiber in. The success was working with an ISP so there is not an overlap or doubling up of work, time, or cost. These projects were still young in their institution so there was the potential that there was not a lot of utilization at that point. Scott, Carver, and Stearns counties were working on this as well at that point. Fomby pointed out that this is a long-term strategic effort which made it hard to overtly quantify.

Kellogg pointed out that this project was being set up with the long-term in mind. With these systems in place, this would allow the County to utilize the established systems to barter with companies for use, ultimately growing the county. Since the County was already opening the road, it should be put in to have for future use. Wilfahrt understood the desire to pull data from other counties but warned that if there had not been a ton of utilization at that point, that should not be a deterrent. Daleiden agreed and thought the County should reach out to the ISPs so it can consider putting fiber in. Holler asked County Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins if he knew of other highway departments using a similar plan. Hawkins did know of other counties who were using this process to some degree, but echoed Formby's point about the availability of being there for future use. Daleiden asked if the County should allow the ISPs to do it on their own. Hawkins said there was a preconstruction meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 that Karels would be attending. Dig First Policies would be discussed at that meeting. Vetsch asked about the cost and the next phases for this project in

2026. Hawkins pointed out that these providers were the type of companies the County would want putting empty conduits in while construction is going on. This would be a good cost consideration because there would just be the cost of the empty conduit and the labor to do so. It was confirmed that the ISPs would be at the meeting on Wednesday, April 27. Kellogg added that there could be more than one ISP using one conduit. He discussed Hennepin County's website that was created to allow different departments within the county to see what active projects were going on. This gave departments the potential to piggyback on another project to save on cost, labor, and time. This website allowed departments to work together to cost share and minimize the impact on the public. The goal was project transparency to increase overall efficiency and it seemed successful.

Holler brought the group's attention to the updated spreadsheet. He pointed out that South Haven specifically is asking for such a small portion of the total project cost. Vetsch added that South Haven had put together a lot of the local shares. He wanted to stay consistent with what was told to the applicants, specifically that the more funding these communities put into their projects, the more likely they would be to receive funding from the county. Holler wanted to know if the bottom line would be affected and if they were able to help more communities considering the lower cost to the County. Vetsch explained that these communities were the ones who were able to apply for the Border-to-Border grants. The others were not likely to receive funding from those grants and that was where they should be spending county funds. He stressed the need to compare programs after the Border-to-Border grant comes out. The first round of funding should go to those communities the Committee knows would not receive the Border-to-Border grants and move forward with the ones that have the potential to receive this grant in the second round.

Daleiden pointed out that Rockford Township was applying for the Border-to-Border grant. Vetsch added that they may want to put this project on hold to see how the Border-to-Border grant goes. That strategy would allow them to make those communities whole who could not get this Border-to-Border grant. The Committee expected to have the grant results by the next meeting on Monday, May 9.

Fomby added project costs and the percentage that the ISP is carrying to the spreadsheet. He noted that some communities may be using multiple ISPs to minimize the impact on the county. However, it was showing very little municipal aid. There was further discussion about needing to clear up some unknowns on the spreadsheet and gather more data for the next meeting. Daleiden asked Hawkins to see what the ISPs thought about this project during the pre-construction meeting. If there was no interest, Daleiden thought it would be a waste of County funds to move forward. Hawkins reiterated that these empty conduits could be for future vendors, not just the current ones. Kellogg added that this could make the County more attractive to companies who would help facilitate County growth. Daleiden was hesitant to spend the money without the guarantee of use. Vetsch asked what technology is used to put electrical underground. Kelly offered that it may be direct bury cable, but no one was able to confirm this.

## **COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

Kelly informed the Board that Wright County City Administrator meetings have been restarted and it was a good opportunity to build those connections. Kelly, Mattice and Assistant County Administrator Clay Wilfahrt were in attendance. There was a lot of internal work around centralization and strategic planning from the staff.

Kaczmarek met with the Cokato Safe Schools last week and had several different conversations about custody disputes that have made their way to school properties. Law enforcement agencies, schools, judges, and attorneys were working together to mitigate this as it affected so many other people. He also met with the Wright County Fair Board regarding updates for this summer. The Bluegrass Festival lost its performers, but the Fair Board still moved about 200 more bleachers to the Fairgrounds for the Demo Derby and Tractor Pull events. Additionally, there was a lot of indoor space available for the summer events to mitigate any inclement weather so the events could still take place. The old log building at the Fairgrounds had an infestation of wasps that could pose a risk to the employees trying to take the building down.

Daleiden went to St. Michael and Otsego's Boards of Adjustment meetings. He heard the concern regarding the increase in the valuation of homes and many people did not understand that their property taxes would not go up at that same rate. He hoped that the individuals who attended the meetings were able to better understand the process and reduce the public

concern on that matter. He noted that this would be an issue to keep in mind when budget season comes around and when negotiations with the unions begin.

Husom was at the Central Minnesota EMS meeting on Friday, April 29. The main project for the EMS was the reimbursement program it had available. This program was available to the County to train EMS, medical responders, and technicians. EMS gave out 397 doses of Naloxone and two of the recipients were Rockford Township and Wright County Sheriff's Office. The Central Minnesota EMS group was working to get the overdose maps (OD Maps) to help specify where the concentration of overdoses was happening. Some of those concentrated locations fell within the County. The Central EMS was also working on peer support for the Minnesota Recovery Connection to increase the support in the region. The EMS distributed an RFP for a training organization to start an initial EMT course which started Monday, February 7 and would be completed Monday, June 6, Albertville Fire Department would be having a class in May. Husom stated she will be going to Southside Township and South Haven as well as Buffalo and Annandale Safe Schools the upcoming week.

Vetsch worked with staff to put together a presentation for the public regarding tax valuations and tax payment. He planned to get a presentation out to the public within the following week or two. Thursday, April 28, The Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership (CMRP) met and had a good conversation about setting boundaries regarding what the Organization should and should not do. It was discovered that the interest of the group and the interest of the public did not align, and they wanted to hone in on the message and plan, instead of having such a broad scope. A lot of the focus will be on land use sharing, transportation and infrastructure based. Vetsch had the first Energy Transit Advisory Meeting, electing Red Wing Administrative Business Director Marshall Hallock as the Committee Chair. The group was divided into five sub-committees, and he was placed on the Tax Base and Community Engagement sub-committees. The Committee will meet monthly as a whole and monthly for sub-committee. The Committee planned to tour large part of the state because the meeting will move to different locations. The CMRP met in Monticello in April and planned to meet in Becker in May. Friday, April 29, he met with the Senior Vice President of Red Wing/Monticello Nuclear Power Plants and discussed their current plans. He informed Vetsch that the power plant was still working on the permitting process through the state to put 14 more storage casks in Monticello with the potential to add more if it would be possible to transport storage casks from Red Wing to Monticello. This additional storage idea was still in the conceptual phase at that time.

Wetter met with the Water Management Task Force on Thursday, April 28. The task force talked about the County Water Plan that has not been updated since 2005. The Task Force was able to piggy-back on South Crow River's One Watershed One Plan. The plan was needed to continue to receive funding. The 12-mile, 319 Grant, given to them by the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), was also discussed. The Task Force would have four years to spend \$327,000 from this grant and need to match with about \$200,000. This funding will be used mainly for the monitoring and education. The Task Force also discussed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding and its excitement in being able to address the carp infestation. The plan was to start this project in the summer of 2022, as someone had already been hired to deal with this issue. Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is putting out quarterly newsletters to get the public more engaged. Wetter was in Albertville on Monday, May 2, to talk about a trail that the city wanted built between Albertville and Otsego. She informed the Albertville City Council that she was going to be in Hanover that night to talk about its downtown parking issues.

The County Board Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

County Board Minutes submitted by Laine Stephan, Office Manager – Administration.