

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet

9A
Agenda Item #

To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Date: 6/4/13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: LAND DEPARTMENT

Title of Item:

GEOCKCHE CHALLENGE UPDATE

Requested Meeting Date: 6/11 Estimated Presentation Time: 20 minutes

Presenter: RICH COUNTERMUNICH

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- ☒ For info only, no action requested ☐ Approve under Consent Agenda
☐ For discussion only with possible future action ☐ Adopt Ordinance Revision
☐ Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
☐ Approve/adopt proposal by motion ☐ Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
☐ Authorize filling vacant staff position
☐ Request to schedule public hearing or sale ☐ Other (please list) _____
☐ Request by member of the public to be heard
☐ Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____

Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)

Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes _____ No _____ (attach explanation)

What type of expenditure is this? ☐ Operating ☐ Capital ☐ Other (attach explanation)

Revenue line account # that funds this item is: _____

Expenditure line account # for this item is: _____

Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Applicable job description(s) may require revision. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Item may change the department's authorized staffing level. ☐ Yes ☐ No



Supporting Attachment(s)

- ☒ Memorandum Summary of Item
☐ Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
☐ Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
☐ Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
☐ Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
☐ Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
☐ Bid/quote comparison worksheet
☐ Draft County Board resolution
☐ Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
☐ Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
☐ Other supporting document(s) (please list) _____

Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.

MEMO - Aitkin County Land Department

To: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
From: Rich Courtemanche
CC: County Administrator
County Land Commissioner
Date: 6/4/2013
Re: Geocaching Challenge Update



As you are aware, Geocaching is an outdoor oriented game, similar to a treasure hunt. Participants use a GPS to find hidden caches of trinkets. In 2012, Aitkin County Land Department unveiled a countywide geocaching challenge, timed with the grand opening of the Northwoods ATV trail. Twenty caches (20) were placed in trail towns and county recreational facilities. The participation in 2013 was higher than expected with over 440 individual caches/treasure boxes found; 13 individuals even completed the challenge. The overall response was very positive prompting ACLD to consider a second challenge.

The Aitkin County Board, Economic Development, and Aitkin County Trail Towns were supportive of this effort. In order to expand this challenge in 2013, ACLD has enlisted additional groups to participate. These groups include Aitkin County 4H clubs, Girl Scout Troop 52, and Sentence to Serve. Four new caches will be placed this year along with re-hiding the existing previous twenty for a total of twenty four (24) caches. Materials are being recycled and remaining monies from 2012 are being used to fund the majority of the project. An additional \$200 infusion has been obtained from the tourism fund.

Last year's caches featured playing cards with historical photos as provided by the Aitkin County Historical Society. This year's challenge will feature wooden nickels each with a different tree stamp on the back (see image examples below). Participants in the challenge will collect wooden nickels from each cache. The geocaching team will be awarded a wooden frame to display the entire collection.

Additional ideas that are in the planning stage include using the wooden nickels as an incentive to visit area towns; possibly entitling the bearer to additional rewards. Aitkin County Trail towns are considering their options at this time.

The 2013 Geocaching Challenge is planned to go live on the first day of summer, which is June 21, 2013.



Image: Examples of coins and stamped images used in the 2013 geocaching challenge.