



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5B

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: July 9, 2024**Title of Item:** Approve Petition to Dissolve Snake River Watershed Management Board

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator		Estimated Time Needed: 5 Min.
Summary of Issue: Please see attached letter.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve attached letter petitioning dissolution of the Snake River Watershed Management Board		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.



AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Aitkin County Government Center
307 2nd Street NW, Room 310
Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 218-927-3093
Fax: 218-927-7374

July 9, 2024

Honorable Roger Tellinghuisen, Chair
Snake River Watershed Management Board
Kanabec County
317 Maple Avenue East
Mora, MN 55051

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Chair Tellinghuisen:

In early 2020, the counties of Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of those four counties adopted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to develop and adopt a coordinated watershed management plan for the Snake River Watershed.

The plan has been adopted by all members of the MOA. A majority of the partners have since adopted a Joint Powers Agreement to form the Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP). The purpose of the SRWPP is to implement the adopted plan. The SRWPP has been meeting regularly since its initial meeting in September, 2023.

With the formation of the SRWPP, there are now two joint powers exercising the same general powers in the Snake River Watershed for the same general purposes. This situation seems redundant, unnecessary, and wasteful of time and money.

On September 12, 2023 the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners voted to petition the Snake River Watershed Management Board to dissolve SRWMB under section X(B) of the Snake River Management Board Joint Powers Agreement and return prorated appropriations back to Aitkin County. The petition to dissolve failed in November, 2023 on a 2-2 vote.

On July 9, 2024, after 9 months of inactivity on the SRWMB board, Aitkin County Commissioners once again voted to petition the SRWMB board for dissolution and a prorated return of appropriations back to Aitkin County. This letter serves as Aitkin County's petition to dissolve the Snake River Watershed Management Board under Section X of the Joint Powers Agreement, initiating the public hearing described under section X(B)

Please contact County Administrator, Jessica Seibert, at jessica.seibert@co.aitkin.mn.us or 218-927-7282 with any questions or request for information.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair
Aitkin County

CC: Snake River Watershed Management Board Members