



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: August 13, 2024

Title of Item: Wetland Banks and the Wetland Conservation Act

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Dennis (DJ) Thompson		Department: Land
Presenter (Name and Title): Dennis (DJ) Thompson, Land Commissioner		Estimated Time Needed: 15 minutes
Summary of Issue: <p>Enacted in 1991, the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulates the filling, excavation, and drainage of wetlands. It is administered by a local government unit (LGU). The WCA requires project proponents complete a sequencing analysis before proposing to drain, fill, or excavate wetlands. If wetland impacts are unavoidable, they need to be "replaced". This involves purchasing wetland "credits" from a wetland bank - an area where someone has created wetlands for that purpose.</p> <p>Aitkin County's history of ditching and installing drain tile on agricultural lands resulted in land that was relatively inexpensive and easy to convert into wetland banks. Once established, tax on land in a wetland bank goes from ag non-tillable to swamp, which is about a 75% reduction. In some cases, wetland banks have gone tax-forfeit once all the credits have been sold.</p> <p>Discussion on what changes could be made to the WCA and the wetland banking program so that it does not disproportionately and negatively affect Aitkin County and the potential tax base.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion:		
Financial Impact: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><p><i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i></p><p><i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i></p><p><i>Is this budgeted?</i></p></div><div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"><div style="margin-right: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</div><div><i>Please Explain:</i></div></div></div>		