



2B

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 13, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Government Center Board Room

Regular Session Minutes

1.A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wedel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
J. Mark Wedel	District #1	Present
Laurie Westerlund	District #2	Present
Travis Leiviska	District #3	Present
Bret Sample	District #4	Present
Michael Kearney	District #5	Present
	County Administrator	
April Kellerman	Administrative Assistant	Present

1.B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to: Approve the agenda, as amended.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER:	Commissioner Bret Sample
	Removing items 2AB, 2AC and 2AF from Consent Agenda. Items 2AB and 2AC moved to item 2.5

1.D Citizens Public Comment - None

2 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Michael Kearney
SECONDER:	Commissioner Travis Leiviska

A) Correspondence File-

April 22, 2025 - May 12, 2025

B) Approve County Board Minutes-

April 22, 2025

C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers

Total	\$1,863,187.56
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D) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - R&B 04.18.25

R&B	\$1,796.84						Total	\$1,796.84
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E) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - HHS 04.18.25

HHS	\$48,108.59						Total	\$48,108.59
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F) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Kimberly Township

G) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Idun Township

H) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Beaver Township

I) Approve-

Consumption & Display Permits - Hidden Meadows Campground Bar and Grill

J) Adopt Resolution-

Application for Temp OnSale Liquor License - Aitkin Fire Dept. Relief Assoc.

K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

ELAN 04.10.25

General	\$6,863.90	Reserves	\$170.41	LLCC	\$403.56	R&B	\$803.36
HHS	\$2,594.24					Total	\$10,835.47

L) Adopt Resolution-

Sheriff's Office Donation - Private Citizen

M) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Williams Township

N) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Workman Township

O) Adopt Resolution-

Search & Rescue Donation - Haugen Township

P) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants 04.25.25

General	\$1,802.48	Reserves	\$1,337.27	R&B	\$56,094.84	Total	\$59,234.59
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Q) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - HHS 04.25.25

HHS	\$50,824.11					Total	\$50,824.11
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R) Adopt Resolution-

LG220 Application for Exempt Permit - Lawler Area Community Club

S) Adopt Resolution-

Combining Parcels for Land Sales

T) Approve-

Letter Acknowledging Spongy Moth Treatment in Aitkin County

U) Approve-

Brat Sale - American Legion

V) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

Manual Warrants 04.30.25

General	\$2,425.61	State	\$21.00	Taxes	\$234.00	LLCC	\$110.00
						Total	\$2,790.61

W) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants 05.02.25

R&B	\$3,609.58	Forest	\$2,268.50			Total	\$5,878.08
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X) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrants - HHS 05.01.25

General	\$30.10	HHS	\$18,730.07			Total	\$18,760.17
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Y) Approve-

HOPE Opioid Funding Request

Z) Approve-

Aitkin Public Schools Opioid Funding Request

AA) Approve-

Aitkin County Public Health Opioid Funding Request

AB) Adopt Resolution-

DNR Acquisition of Land through Heritage Forest Initiative

AC) Information Only

MN DNR Acquisition of land in Savanna State Forest

AD) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections-

ELAN 04.24.25

General	\$6,575.34	Reserves	\$83.99	Trust	\$136.00	Forest	\$341.63
LLCC	\$90.00					Total	\$7,226.96

AE) Approve Commissioner's Vouchers

Commissioner Warrants 05.09.25

General	\$95,219.95	Reserves	\$11,734.85	R&B	\$45,210.52	State	\$622.76
Trust	\$29,111.28	Forest	\$303.37	Taxes	\$364,285.36	LLCC	\$7,787.46
Parks	\$5,217.59	COVID	\$37,378.25			Total	\$596,871.39

AF) Approve-

Affidavit of Failure to Receive Warrant

AG) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Sales/Use & Deisel Tax 05.09.25

General	\$209.85	R&B	\$721.53	Trust	\$48.51	LLCC	\$175.13
Parks	\$226.45					Total	\$1,381.47

AH) Approve-

Request for Out-of-State Travel Authorization

AI) Approve Auditor Vouchers-

Auditor Warrant - R&B 05.09.25

R&B	\$5,000.00					Total	\$5,000.00
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Regular Agenda

2.5 Motion made to move 2.5 (items 2AB and 2AC) to 4B and 4C**MOVER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska**3A Mark Jeffers****Informational Only**

Northland Reliability Project Presentation

RESULT: **INFORMATIONAL ONLY****MOVER:****SECONDER:****4A Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner****Direction Requested**

LED Retrofit at Long Lake Conservation - Direction Requested

RESULT: **DIRECTION REQUESTED****MOVER:****SECONDER:**

Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

4B Motion to:

Adopt Resolution - DNR Acquisition of Land through Heritage Forest Initiative

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)****MOVER:** Commissioner Michael Kearney**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner

4C Informational Only

MN DNR Acquisition of land in Savanna State Forest - Information Only

RESULT: **INFORMATIONAL ONLY****MOVER:****SECONDER:****5A Sarah Pratt – Health & Human Services Director and Kelli Crowther - Public Health Nurse****Motion to:**

Approve Scheduling Public Meeting

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)****MOVER:** Commissioner Laurie Westerlund**SECONDER:** Commissioner Travis Leiviska

Aitkin County Government Center Board Room on May 27, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

6A Kathleen Ryan – County Auditor**Discussion Item**

2026 Budget Process and Schedule Review - Discussion Item

RESULT: **DISCUSSION ITEM****MOVER:****SECONDER:**

- 7A Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director
Public Hearing for Proposed Feedlot

PUBLIC HEARING:

Open: 10:00 A.M.

Public Comment: Lynn Mizner, Aitkin County Resident
Christopher Gainer, Aitkin County Resident
Reg Ghuke, Aitkin County Resident
Michelle Pieterse, Aitkin County Resident
John Chute, Aitkin County Resident

Closed: 10:17 A.M.

- 7B Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Motion to:

Adopt Resolution - Proposed Feedlot

MOVER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska
SECONDER: Commissioner Bret Sample
RESULT: **APPROVE (4 TO 1) VIA ROLL CALL VOTE**
Wedel - Aye
Westerlund - Aye
Leiviska - Aye
Sample - Aye
Kearney - No

- 7C Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Motion to:

Approve Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Phase 1A & 1B EAW

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER: Commissioner Bret Sample

- 7D Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Motion to:

Adopt Resolution - Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Phase 1A & 1B

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Bret Sample
SECONDER: Commissioner Michael Kearney

- 7E Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director

Motion to:

Request Public Hearing Date for Septic Ordinance Amendments

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Bret Sample
SECONDER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska
Aitkin County Government Center Board Room on May 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

- 8A Chris Sutch – IT Manager

Motion to:

Approve M365 G3 License Expansion

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER: Commissioner Michael Kearney

- 8B Chris Sutch – IT Manager

Motion to:

Approve Teams Calling

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
SECONDER: Commissioner Bret Sample

- 9A Mark Jeffers – Economic Development Coordinator

Motion to:

Approve Award Business Development & Recreation Grants

RESULT: **APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER: Commissioner Bret Sample
SECONDER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska

10A Mark Jeffers
County/Administration related Updates

Consensus on Legislative session letter & editorial in the paper to Aitkin County Residents to include EMS, Employee Appreciation Lunch, Shamrock Township meeting

11A Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Committee Reports

Extension, Aquatic Invasive Species, Natural Resources Advisory Committee, ATV Committee, AMC Negotiation Training for County Leaders, East Central Regional Library Board, Aitkin County CARE Board, MN Rural Counties, Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board, Economic Development, Budget Committee, Brainerd 1W1P, Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, H&HS Advisory, Towards Zero Deaths

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 11:25 a.m.

MOVER: Commissioner Travis Leiviska
SECONDER: Commissioner Laurie Westerlund
Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair
Aitkin County Board of Commissioner

John Welle
County Engineer