



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

2:00 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ives called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Present	2:01 PM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	2:01 PM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:01 PM
Burl Ives	District #4	Present	2:01 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:01 PM

II. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mowing & Brushing Discussion

Highway Maintenance Director Kory Johnson and Highway Maintenance Supervisors Jeff Heinrich, Bill Lessard, Don Warwas, and Mike Wagner provided information regarding mowing and brushing.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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III. ADJOURN

Chair Ives adjourned the meeting at 2:34 PM.

ATTEST

Burl Ives
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



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Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2023-3084

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

TIME REQUESTED: 15 Minutes

PRESENTER: Kory Johnson

AGENDA ITEM:

Mowing & Brushing Discussion

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Informational

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

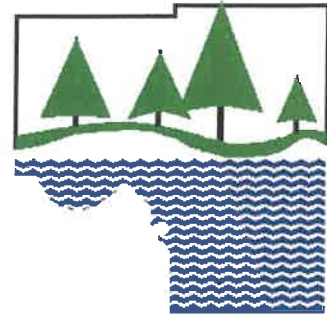
1. Review Itasca County Roadside Mowing for 2023 handout

RESULT:

INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN

ITASCA COUNTY

Transportation Department
123 NE 4th Street, Courthouse
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-2853 Fax (218) 327-0688



Review Itasca County Roadside Mowing for 2023

Statutes: 160.232 MOWING DITCHES OUTSIDE CITIES.

(a) To provide enhanced roadside habitat for nesting birds and other small wildlife, road authorities may not mow or till the right-of-way of a highway located outside of a home rule charter or statutory city except as allowed in this section and section 160.23.

(b) On any highway, the first eight feet away from the road surface, or shoulder if one exists, may be mowed at any time.

(c) An entire right-of-way may be mowed after July 31. From August 31 to the following July 31, the entire right-of-way may only be mowed if necessary for safety reasons, but may not be mowed to a height of less than 12 inches.

(d) A right-of-way may be mowed as necessary to maintain sight distance for safety and may be mowed at other times under rules of the commissioner, or by ordinance of a local road authority not conflicting with the rules of the commissioner.

(e) A right-of-way may be mowed, burned, or tilled to prepare the right-of-way for the establishment of permanent vegetative cover or for prairie vegetation management.

(f) When feasible, road authorities are encouraged to utilize low maintenance, native vegetation that reduces the need to mow, provides wildlife habitat, and maintains public safety.

(g) The commissioner of natural resources shall cooperate with the commissioner of transportation to provide enhanced roadside habitat for nesting birds and other small wildlife.

- We reached out to MnDOT and their policy is to only mow the first 8ft, for aesthetics in urban areas, sight triangles at intersections for visibility, or for noxious weeds.

160.23 DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Road authorities, including road authorities of cities shall cause all noxious weeds on their respective highways and streets to be cut down or otherwise destroyed or eradicated as often as may be necessary to prevent the ripening or scattering of seed and other propagating parts of such weeds.

- We are working with the Land Department to target mow noxious weeds on road 33, 29 & 31.

Technology: GPS devices will be installed in mowing tractors this year to track the progress of mowing across the County. We were unsuccessful with mapping the GPS units from Verizon in 2022 and have partnered with Precise (who does our tandem and grader tracking). They have allowed us access to the GPS data and Jeff Braaten with GIS was able to successfully incorporate the data into a snowplow tracking map last winter and will do the same for mowing tracking for summer 2023.

Equipment: Three tractors were purchased in 2022 with money from the Swan River Garage bond, 2 new and 1 used. Due to production delays and some electrical issues only one of those tractors was in use in 2022. We have made the decision to keep the extra tractors to use as spares in case of equipment breakdowns to help avoid production delays due to the low returns expected at auction. Below is the current tractor equipment listing.

TRACTORS							
	UNIT	SHOP	HRS	YEAR-MAKE	HRS 2022	HRS 2021	Model
1	1240	ARBO	219	2022 JOHN DEERE	219	N/A	5125M
2	1235	BALSAM	3872	2014 JOHN DEERE	5 (Broke Down)	N/A	6125M
3	992	BIGFORK	5052	2001 JOHN DEERE	187	159	7210
4	1219	COHASSET	3373	2005 JOHN DEERE	342	342	6415
5	1241	DEER RIVER	0	2022 JOHN DEERE	NEW	N/A	5125M
6	950	DEER RIVER	5976	1998 JOHN DEERE	113	204	6400
7	1195	MAX	4970	2006 JOHN DEERE	313	233	5525
8	1025	NASHWAUK	4715	2003 JOHN DEERE	276	314	6420
9	1051	SWAN RIVER	4300	2004 JOHN DEERE	185	320	6420
10	951	TOGO	5343	1998 JOHN DEERE	203	216	6400
11	929	County Wide	5293	1997 JOHN DEERE	234	193	6400
12	898	County Wide	6810	1994 JOHN DEERE	98	283	6400
13	869	County Wide	4667	1991 FORD	90	100	BC89788
14	1144	County Wide	1966	2013 NEW HOLLAND	104	381	T4.115