



# ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

## FINAL

### REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Venema called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

| Attendee Name | Title       | Status  | Arrived |
|---------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Cory Smith    | District #1 | Present | 2:30 PM |
| Terry Snyder  | District #2 | Present | 2:30 PM |
| John Johnson  | District #3 | Present | 2:30 PM |
|               | District #4 | Vacant  |         |
| Casey Venema  | District #5 | Present | 2:30 PM |

#### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion To:** Add Item #6.13 (Old Central School Letter of Support), Item #6.14 (2024 AIS Program Report/2026 SFY2026 Budget), Item #6.15 (Legion Park land acquisition Letter of Support), pull Item #10.1 (Performance Evaluation Summary), and approve the agenda, as amended. All aye, except District #4 vacant.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (4 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Cory Smith  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Terry Snyder  
**AYES:** Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema  
**VACANT:** District #4

#### IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion To:** Approve the minutes as delineated below.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (4 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner John Johnson  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Cory Smith  
**AYES:** Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema  
**VACANT:** District #4

1. Approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025, County Board Regular Session.

#### V. CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion To:** Approve the Consent Agenda, as delineated below.

**RESULT:** APPROVED (4 TO 0)  
**MOVER:** Commissioner Terry Snyder  
**SECONDER:** Commissioner Cory Smith  
**AYES:** Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema  
**VACANT:** District #4

1. Authorize Director of Environmental Services to enter into a new service agreement with IWORQ for permitting software.
2. Authorize entering into Mn/DOT Agreement No.1055875 for Bridge Funding and adopt the Resolution Re: For Agreement to State Transportation Fund (Local Bridge Replacement Program) Grant Terms and Conditions for SP 031-670-009.
3. Authorize entering into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 1056219 for Bridge Funding and adopt the Resolution Re: For Agreement to State Transportation Fund (Local Bridge Replacement Program) Grant Terms and Conditions for SAP 031-670-010.
4. Award contract 60730 for C.S.A.H. 7 Grading & Bituminous Surfacing to the lowest responsible bidder, Kern and Tabery, Inc., in the amount of \$6,428,624.39 and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.
5. Adopt the Resolution Re: Lawron Trail Riders Snowmobile Club Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant Application and authorize necessary signatures.

## VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Citizen Input  
No citizen input provided.

2. Legislative Conference Call  
A Legislative Conference call was provided by Senator Farnsworth.

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

3. Commissioner Warrants

**Motion To:** Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of February 5, 2025, in the amount of \$558,021.75.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

4. Employee Expense Report Approval

**Motion To:** Approve Employee Expense reimbursement for expenses submitted over 60 days from when they were incurred.

|                  |                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (3 TO 0)</b>               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>ABSTAIN:</b>  | Terry Snyder                           |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                            |

5. County Assessor Business Model

Item was discussed and will be brought back to the County Board at a future date with further information.

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

6. Balsam Garage

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

## 7. MN Nuclear Alliance Coalition

**Motion To:** Authorize the addition of Itasca County to the list of official supporters of the MN Nuclear Alliance Coalition.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 8. Proposed handicap parking changes

Facilities Manager, Ryan Eichorn presented information regarding handicap parking changes to NE 2nd Avenue parking lot.

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

## 9. Family &amp; Child Services 2024 Report

Family Services Division Manager, Becky Lauer provided the 2024 Report on Family & Child Services.

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

## 10. CARMA letter to the Governor

**Motion To:** Authorize the County Board Chair to sign the CARMA letter to the Governors Office.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 11. Schedule a Public Hearing

**Motion To:** Schedule a Public Hearing Re: to consider the creation of a Subordinate Service district for Nashwauk Ambulance Primary Service Area (PSA) to be held at the Tuesday, February 25, 2025, County Board Regular Session which begins at 2:30 p.m.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 12. Compensation - Chief Deputy Sheriff

**Motion To:** Approve the Employee Agreement and 2% increase in compensation for Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Peterson.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 13. Old Central School

**Motion To:** Approve the Letter of Support for SF0575, Old Central School Renovation and authorize Board Chair signature.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 14. 2024 AIS Program Report/SFY2026 Budget

Itasca county Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator Bill Grant gets provided an Itasca county AIS Program Update for 2024, as well as recommendations for the State Fiscal Year 2026 Itasca County AIS Program Budget in the amount of \$634,178.00.

**Motion To:** Approve the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Itasca Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Budget Proposal in the amount of \$634,178.00.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## 15. Legion Park Letter of Support

**Motion To:** Approve Letter of Support for the acquisition of lands within Legion Park in the City of Grand Rapids.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

## VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Johnson reported on attendance at the AMC Solid Washing Working Group and IMCare Subcommittee Meeting.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attendance at an Intergovernmental Meeting, Mesabi Metals, a meeting with Governors' staff, and a Pollution Control meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported on attendance of an AMC meeting via Zoom with Commissioner Venema and Administrator Skyles.

## IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding upcoming meetings with Representatives in St. Paul and also meeting with a Representative from DemCon. Also shared that the SWCD is selling plants/seeds native to MN and invited the public to consider checking them out.

**RECESS**

Chair Venema recessed the meeting at 3:51 PM.



**RECONVENE**

Chair Venema reconvened the meeting at 4:00 PM, with all members present except District #4 vacant.

**X. CLOSED SESSIONS**

2. Hold a Closed Session per MN Statutes 13D.05, subd. 3, to conduct County Administrator Brett Skyles' Performance Review.

**Motion To:** Go into a Closed Session per MN Statutes 13D.05, subd. 3, to conduct a Performance Review on Administrator Brett Skyles

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

Others Present: Administrator Brett Skyles and Administrative Services Assistant Shelley Kebart.

**Motion To:** Go into Open Session.

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|

**XI. ADJOURN**

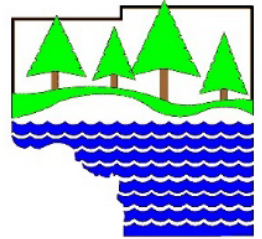
Chair Venema adjourned the meeting at 4:28 PM.

**ATTEST**

Casey Venema  
Chair of the County Board



Brett Skyles  
Clerk of the County Board



February 4, 2025

Chair:

**PULL:** Item 10.1 Re: Performance Evaluation Summary

**ADDITIONS:**

1. Item #6.13 Re: Old Central School Letter of Support
2. Item #6.14 Re: 2024 AIS Program Report/SFY 2026 Budget
3. Item #6.15 Re: Letter of Support
4. Item #10.2 Re: County Administrator Performance Review

**CHANGES:** None

**INFORMATIONAL:** None



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123 NE 4th Street  
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Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-237**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Auditor / Treasurer

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Gail Guck

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Employee Expense Report Approval

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve employee expense reimbursement for expenses submitted over 60 days from when they were incurred.

**BACKGROUND:**

Based on County policy, these expenses must be approved by the County Board.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. 10. October 2024
2. 9. September 2024
3. 8. August 2024
4. 7. July 2024
5. 6. June 2024

|                  |                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (3 TO 0)</b>               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>ABSTAIN:</b>  | Terry Snyder                           |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                            |



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Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-222**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 15 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Chair Venema

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

County Assessor Business Model

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Discuss County Assessor office organizational options and adopt any changes to the structure.

**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. County Assessor Office Organizational Options

02/04/2025

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|



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Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-238**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 10 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Board Chair

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Balsam Garage

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None

02/04/2025

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|



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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-239**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Commissioner Smith

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

MN Nuclear Alliance Coalition

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the addition of Itasca County to the list of official supporters to the MN Nuclear Alliance Coalition.

**BACKGROUND:**

Itasca County's adopted Legislative Priorities include lifting the moratorium on the exploration of nuclear energy in Minnesota. A coalition is being formed under the banner of MN Nuclear Alliance and is leading this same effort. Being part of MN Nuclear Alliance will strengthen Itasca County's legislative position.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. MN Nuclear Alliance Letter for Senate Energy Committee
2. MN Nuclear Energy Alliance Fact Sheet

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |



Dear Co-Chair Mathews and Co-Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy Committee,

Minnesota's energy landscape is undergoing a significant transformation. To ensure the State addresses the known challenges and reaps the potential benefits; the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA), is calling on legislators to lift Minnesota's 30-year-old moratorium on nuclear energy. This Alliance of utilities, labor unions, business, agriculture, energy non-profits and environmental organizations have a mutual commitment towards reliable, affordable, carbon-free energy, including nuclear.

#### Nuclear Energy in Minnesota Now & in the Future:

- Minnesota's existing nuclear plants generate roughly half of the State's carbon-free electricity. Lifting the nuclear moratorium will provide options for additional affordable, reliable, carbon-free energy that meets the 2040 carbon free standard.
- For over 70 years, U.S. nuclear reactors have safely stored all spent fuel with significant federal and state oversight.
- New nuclear plants in Minnesota would create thousands of safe, good-paying, reliable union jobs for generations of Minnesota.
- Needed to ensure the lights turn on. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has identified the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) region, which includes Minnesota, as being at high risk of capacity shortfalls within the next decade. [NERC's 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#) highlights the urgent need for firm, reliable power sources like nuclear energy to maintain grid stability and meet increasing demand.
- While state and regional electrical demand has been historically stable or declining, recent trends in electrification and technology demands have resulted in projected increase in electrical power needs in the coming decades.
- While other states have lifted their moratorium in acknowledgement of the changes needs in the energy sector, Minnesota maintains the strictest nuclear ban on all new nuclear reactor construction. Lifting the moratorium would allow stakeholders to have productive conversations about how advanced nuclear technology could contribute to the state's clean energy future.

The Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA) looks forward to working with legislators and Governor Walz to craft responsible bipartisan energy policy that ensures every Minnesotan has reliable, affordable and safe electricity as we move towards a carbon-free Minnesota.



## **MN Nuclear Energy Alliance Members**

ALLETE/ MN Power

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Citizens' Climate Lobby Minnesota

Dairyland Power Cooperative

East River Electric

Generation Atomic/Coalition to Lift Nuclear Moratorium

Great River Energy

Heat & Frost Insulators – Local 34

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49

Iron Workers #512

LIUNA

MN Building & Construction Trades Council

MN Conservative Energy Forum

MN Contractors of NECA

MN Chamber of Commerce

MN Farm Bureau

MN Grocers Association

MN Land & Liberty Coalition

MN Municipal Utility Association

MN Mechanical Contractors Association

MN Pipe Trades Association

MN Private Business Council

MN Rural Electric Association

MN Utility Investors

Missouri River Energy Services

Otter Tail Power Co.

Southern MN Municipal Power Agency

# Nuclear Energy

## A carbon-free solution

In 2023, Minnesota passed the 100% carbon free by 2040 legislation without a real plan on how we are going to achieve it. The reality is, there is no carbon free resource that can provide baseload power, available 24-7, other than nuclear power.

A typical home uses about 11 megawatt hours of energy in a year. Here is the amount of each resource it takes to produce 11 MWH.

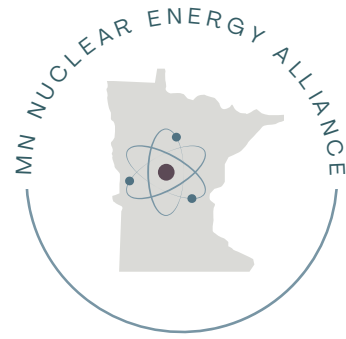


**3.5 ounces** of Uranium

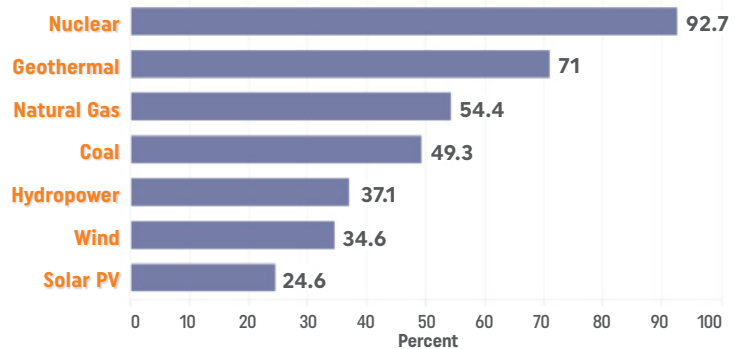


**1.5 tons** of coal

(Carbon Credits) <https://carboncredits.com/more-power-per-punch-nuclear-energy-outshines-fossil-fuels/>

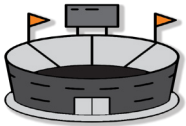


### U.S. Capacity Factor\* by Energy Source - 2021



(Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

All the spent fuel from U.S. nuclear reactors since the 1950s would fit into a single football field at a depth of less than 10 yards.



This spent fuel has been safely stored and caused harm to exactly 0 people throughout the life of the industry.

(Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

The used nuclear fuel from one person's entire lifetime of energy use would fit in one pop can.



(Source: Canadian Nuclear Association)

Nuclear provides more permanent jobs and higher hourly pay than all other generation sources.

- SMRs to large reactors provide 237-500 permanent jobs
- Hourly pay averages around \$56/hour (50-65% more than wind and solar)

(Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

Land use needed to produce 1 million megawatt hours of power:



**17,800 acres** wind



**3,200 acres** solar



**103 acres** nuclear

(Wind area includes the spacing required between turbines.) (Source: Nuclear Energy Institute) <https://www.nei.org/news/2022/nuclear-brings-more-electricity-with-less-land>

Studies show that nuclear energy worker safety ranks among the top of all forms of electric generation.

(Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy>)

### Small modular reactors

Benefits of small modular reactors

- Smaller size
- Siting flexibility
- Enhanced safety features
- Modular build
- Scalability
- Reduced costs

- ▶ We are the only state in the nation that has an outright ban on new reactor construction.
- ▶ We are advocating for the ability to have conversations about nuclear energy.

\* Capacity factor is a measure of the actual energy produced divided by the theoretical maximum energy produced if operated on a 24-7 basis.

The Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance is a coalition of diverse organizations committed to advancing nuclear power as a reliable solution to meet Minnesota's energy needs and achieve carbon-free goals. Alliance members represent utilities, labor unions, environmental advocates, businesses, and more. Learn more about the alliance at [mnnuclearenergyalliance.org](https://mnnuclearenergyalliance.org).



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Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-227**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 10 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Ryan Eichorn

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Proposed handicap parking changes

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Discuss proposed handicap parking changes: NE 2nd Avenue parking lot.

**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Handicap parking plan
2. Handicapped Sign Pictures
3. Handicap parking add'l information

02/04/2025

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|





VAN Accessible





Choose Pay by Invoice as your payment method at checkout.

## Shopping Cart

Price



"Reserved Parking" Federal Handicap Parking Sign with Right Arrow By SmartSign | 12" x 18" 3M High Intensity Grade Reflective Aluminum

In Stock

✓prime Two-Day

FREE delivery **Thu, Jan 23**

FREE Returns▼

Color: 12" x 18" HI Reflective Aluminum - Reserved Parking Sign with Right Arrow

Qty: 1

Request quote for 497+

Delete

Save for later

Share

\$20.13



"Reserved Parking" Federal Handicap Parking Sign with Left Arrow By SmartSign | 12" x 18" 3M Engineer Grade Reflective Aluminum

In Stock

FREE delivery **Thu, Jan 30** for Prime members

FREE Returns▼

Color: 12" x 18" EG Reflective Aluminum - Reserved Parking Sign with Left Arrow

Qty: 1

Request quote for 550+

Delete

Save for later

Share

\$21.36



SmartSign "Reserved Parking" Handicap Parking Sign With Bi-Directional Arrow | 12" x 18" 3M Engineer Grade Reflective Aluminum

In Stock

✓prime Two-Day

FREE delivery **Thu, Jan 23**

FREE Returns▼

Color: 12" x 18" 3M EG Reflective Aluminum

Qty: 1

Request quote for 418+

Delete

Save for later

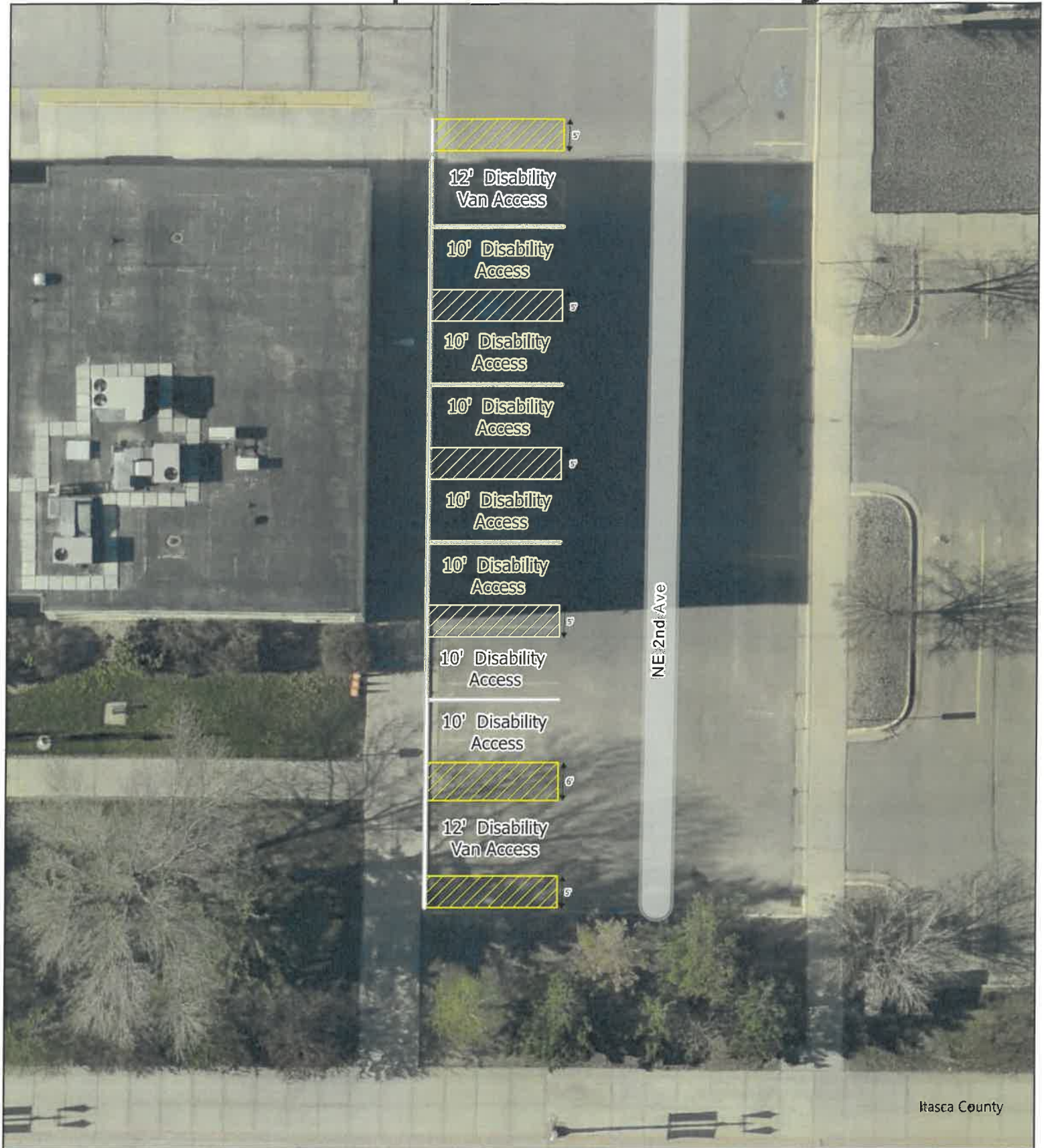
Share

\$23.94

Business Price ▼

Subtotal (3 items): \$65.43

# Handicap Accessible Parking



This information is a compilation of data from different sources with varying degrees of accuracy and requires a qualified field survey to verify.

The Data is provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness for use rests solely on the requester. The County makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the use of the Data. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the Data, including the fact that the Data is dynamic and is in a constant state of maintenance, correction and update.



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"decision support through automation"  
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0 20 40 80 Feet

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Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-218**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health & Human Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Becky Lauer

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Family & Child Services 2024 Report

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Informational

**BACKGROUND:**

Family & Child Services 2024 Summary report

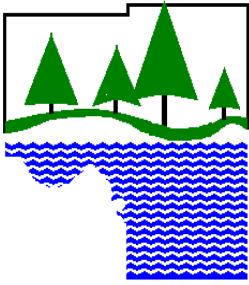
**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:**

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. 2024 Year end Report to Board

02/04/2025

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|



# ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

1209 SE 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744-3983

Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549

**(218) 327-2941**

Visit us at: [www.co.itasca.mn.us](http://www.co.itasca.mn.us)

**February 2025**

**2024 Year End Summary**

## CHILD PROTECTION

### TYPES OF CPS CASES OPENED

| Jan-Dec | Family Assessment | Investigation | Facility Investigation | PSOP/CW | Total | Average/month |
|---------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------|---------------|
| 2018    | 254               | 158           | 31                     | 91      | 534   | 44.5          |
| 2019    | 209               | 155           | 23                     | 110     | 497   | 41.3          |
| 2020    | 196               | 96            | 14                     | 73      | 379   | 31.6          |
| 2021    | 212               | 127           | 14                     | 99      | 452   | 37.7          |
| 2022    | 144               | 131           | 21                     | 66      | 362   | 30.2          |
| 2023    | 153               | 121           | 25                     | 75      | 377   | 31.4          |
| 2024    | 128               | 96            | 5                      | 84      | 319   | 26.6          |

### 2024 summary

- 2024: 319 new cases were opened and included 680 children  
2023: 377 new cases were opened and included 992 children.  
2022: 362 new cases were opened and included 774 children.  
2021: 452 new cases were opened and included 863 children.
- 2024: Out of home placement occurred in 47 of the 319 cases (15% of total cases)  
ICHHS placed 59 children  
Probation placed 19 children  
2023: Out of home placement occurred in 38 of the 377 cases (10% of total cases)  
ICHHS placed 54 children  
Probation placed 27 children.  
2022: Out of home placement occurred in 50 of the 362 cases (14% of total cases)  
ICHHS placed 81 children  
Probation placed 20 children  
2021: Out of home placement occurred in 44 of the 452 cases (9% of total cases)  
ICHHS placed 76 children  
Probation placed 15 children

### 2024 Reasons for placement;

- 44% of the children were placed due to their own behaviors/delinquency
- 20% of the children were placed due to parental drug use
- 14% of the children were placed due to their own mental health concerns



- 10% of the children were placed due to physical abuse
- 12% of the children were placed due to neglect, environmental hazards, parental mental health, extended foster care or homelessness.

## AFTER HOURS ON CALL

State statute mandates CPS calls are responded to 24/7. Prior to 2024, certain social workers within the unit were expected to take 3-4 weekends per year of on call with weekdays being covered by Supervisory staff. Beginning on 1/1/24, all social workers in the unit cover on call for an entire week twice per year. This process has worked well in 2024 and will continue moving forward.

## ICWA: (Indian Child Welfare Act)

***In 2017 DHS began an audit process of cases involving Native American children. These cases are referred to as ICWA cases and have stringent requirements per the Federal law. Our agency has worked diligently to be in compliance with ICWA requirements, which are tied to funding from DHS. Our 2024 audit (case from 2023) was completed in June and the results are listed in the chart below.***

| Year | Itasca Ranking   | Compliance Expected | Itasca County % | State Average |
|------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2017 | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Baseline year       | 72%             | 49%           |
| 2018 | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 80%                 | 77%             | 62%           |
| 2019 | 33 <sup>rd</sup> | 90%                 | 71%             | 79%           |
| 2020 | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 100%                | 93%             | 84%           |
| 2021 | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 100%                | 100%            | 85%           |
| 2022 | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 100%                | 97%             | 88%           |
| 2023 | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 100%                | 78%             | 89%           |

**\*\*We are currently being audited on 2 ICWA cases (from 2024) for 2025 audit cycle with results being released later this year.**

## ADULT PROTECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

|      | Adult Protection Cases opened | Commitment Cases opened |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2018 | 64                            | 63                      |
| 2019 | 71                            | 56                      |
| 2020 | 69                            | 50                      |

|      |     |    |
|------|-----|----|
| 2021 | 66  | 77 |
| 2022 | 85  | 52 |
| 2023 | 125 | 40 |
| 2024 | 135 | 53 |

Prior to July 2022, our agency had one Adult Protection social worker who was responsible for all the cases. Due to the volume of cases, we reassigned a social worker to adult protection to assist with the caseload. We hired a third APS worker in January 2025 to bring the total to 3 Adult Protection staff.

The unit had another major turnover in 2024. A total of 5 social work positions turned over due to resignations, one retirement and 2 staff moving to another unit. The job of a child protection social worker involves tremendous amounts of stress and secondary trauma which results in high burnout.

We will be adding an additional social worker to do Adoption work in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

*Becky Lauer*

Family & Child Services Division Manager



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-229**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health & Human Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Sarah Anderson

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

CARMA letter to Governor

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Authorize the County Board Chair to sign the CARMA letter to the Governors Office

**BACKGROUND:**

Last session, there was bipartisan legislation directing DHS, AMC and our county-based plans to develop CARMA, and bring it back for ratification by the legislature in 2025. This letter urges Governor Walz to include an important additional health care proposal for Greater Minnesota communities in the March supplemental budget.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Letter to Gov Office re CARMA\_FINAL DRAFT\_1-27-25

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |



1753 Cottonwood Circle • Saint Cloud, MN 56303 • [www.machp.org](http://www.machp.org)

January XX, 2025

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan,

We write to urge you to include an important additional health care proposal for Greater Minnesota communities in your March supplemental budget, establishing the **County Administered Rural Medical Assistance (CARMA)** program. Your administration developed this initiative over the last two years, through historic, close collaboration among the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and our county owned and operated county-based purchasing (CBP) plans.

We are the board chairs of Minnesota's three CBP plans, representing 32 counties across Greater Minnesota that have demonstrated the effectiveness of local, county-based public programs delivery for more than 40 years. Counties bring local responsiveness and accountability, along with integration of county public health, health care and social services, that add value and strengthen outcomes in our rural communities. Although counties have at times disagreed with DHS over application of current CBP laws, CARMA represents a new path forward.

As DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead observed, **CARMA is an important opportunity to “do better together.”** It builds upon the success and local innovation of county-based care delivery for people enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). It represents genuine, collaborative, bipartisan rural health innovation that can serve as a model to our nation.

Last session, you signed bipartisan legislation directing DHS, AMC and our county-based plans to develop CARMA, and bring it back for ratification by the legislature in 2025. **We have followed through on that directive**, working closely over the last year to jointly prepare CARMA model legislation for this session. Our 32 counties and their commissioners now respectfully ask you to **help us finish this work by including it with your supplemental budget proposals**. With strong, bipartisan legislative support, and inclusion in your budget, we can realize this rural health innovation for the sake of Minnesotans in need. Timing is important because of the cycle of public programs procurements.

**Thank you for your leadership** and dedication to working closely with counties to better serve people in need across Greater Minnesota. We thank you for your continued support of CARMA and our extensive efforts to “do better together.” Please let us know any questions or concerns you or your staff might have. With your help, we look forward to delivering on the promise of CARMA.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Hendrickx  
Swift County Commissioner  
Board Chair, PrimeWest Health

Doug Christopherson  
Waseca County Commissioner  
Board Chair, South Country Health Alliance

Casey Venema  
Itasca County Commissioner  
Board Chair, Itasca Medical Care

Cc: John Connolly - DHS Assistant Commissioner and State Medicaid Director  
Eamonn Schmitz - Health and Commerce Policy Advisor, Office of Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan

**Contact:** Steve Gottwalt, MACHP executive director, 952.923.5265

Itasca Medical Care  
PrimeWest Health  
South Country Health Alliance



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-233**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health & Human Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Eric Villeneuve

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Schedule Public Hearing

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Schedule a Public Hearing Re: to consider the creation of a Subordinate Service District for Nashwauk Ambulance Primary Service Area (PSA) to be held at the Tuesday, February 25, 2025 County Board Regular Session which beings at 2:30 pm.

**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** Yes and/or Pending

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. HOUSE RESEARCH Short Subjects
2. MN Statutes Chapter 375B County Subordinate Service Districts

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |



## Subordinate Service Districts

Beginning in 1969, a few metropolitan area counties were authorized to establish "subordinate service districts" by special law. Since 1982, counties, other than the seven metropolitan counties and St. Louis County, have been able to establish subordinate service districts under general law (Minn. Stat. ch. 375B). Towns were authorized to establish subordinate service districts in 1989 (Minn. Stat. ch. 365A). Subordinate service districts are very similar to city special service districts.

### *What is a subordinate service district?*

A subordinate service district is a geographic area within a county or town, smaller than the entire county or town, in which the county or town provides services at a higher level than are provided generally throughout the jurisdiction or provides services that are not provided at all in the jurisdiction. A county subordinate service district (but not a town's) must be a compact, contiguous area.

### *What services can be provided in a subordinate service district?*

Any service that the county or the town is otherwise authorized by law to provide may be provided in a district. Op. Atty Gen. 125a (March 26, 1984). County and town subordinate service districts cannot overlap to provide the same service. Minn. Stat. § 365A.10. Anecdotally, the law has been used to pave a portion of town road, provide community sewage treatment systems in new developments and near lakes, and provide ambulance services. There is no comprehensive information on the number, location, purpose, or financing of subordinate service districts; counties and towns do not report on them to any state agency.

### *How are the services paid for?*

The services are paid for by revenues from within the district. For both counties and towns, a service may be paid for through a property tax or service charge, or a combination of the two, against the users of the service. Counties and towns may issue general obligation bonds without an election for capital projects in subordinate service districts, payable primarily from the taxes or charges from the district but also ultimately backed by the general taxing power of the county or town. The taxes or fees supporting the bonds must continue to be imposed until the bonds are repaid, even if the district is dissolved. Minn. Stat. §§ 375B.09; 365A.08; 365A.095.

### *How is the way services are paid for different from other ways of paying for improvements or services?*

If the county or town used general property tax levy revenues, the entire jurisdiction would pay for the improvement or service. A subordinate service district requires those benefitting from or using the improvements or services to pay for them. Assuming the county or town had authority to use special assessments for the particular purpose, special assessments typically are not for ongoing costs, and the amount charged must be substantially equal to the property's market value increase due to the improvement. In contrast, a subordinate service district can be used to pay for ongoing costs and does not require the charges to match the benefit.

***How is a subordinate service district formed?***

**By board resolution.** A county board may establish a district by resolution after a public hearing. The resolution must specify the service or services to be provided within the subordinate service district and the territorial boundaries of the district. Minn. Stat. § 375B.04.

**By petition.** In a county and in a town, a subordinate service district may be established by petition. In a county, the petition submitted to the county board must be signed by at least 10 percent of *voters* within the area proposed for the subordinate service district. In a town, it must be signed by at least 50 percent of the *property owners* in the area to be served. In both cases, the petition must describe the proposed district boundaries and services. Within 30 days, the county or town board must hold a public hearing and then approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the request.

Whether created by board resolution or petition, creation of a subordinate service district is subject to reverse referendum. If 5 percent of voters in the district (for counties) or 25 percent of property owners in the district (for towns) petition for a referendum, a special election must be held. When this occurs, the district is not established unless approved by a majority of those voting on the question. Minn. Stat. §§ 365A.06; 375B.05.

***Can a district be enlarged?***

A county subordinate service district may be enlarged in the same manner for establishing a new district. Minn. Stat. § 375B.08. The statute specifies who can vote.

***How is a district discontinued?***

Both county and town subordinate service districts may be discontinued if a petition requesting it is approved. For counties, the petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the voters in the area. Counties are not required to hold public hearings. A county board also may initiate discontinuing a district by adopting a resolution after publishing notice for between three and six months before the resolution is adopted. In a county, whether initiated by petition or board resolution, the county must hold a special election within the boundaries of the district not less than 30 nor more than 90 days after the resolution or receipt of the petition. The district is discontinued if a majority of those voting on the question favor discontinuance. For towns, the petition must be signed by at least 75 percent of the property owners in the area. Town boards must hold a public hearing before deciding whether to discontinue a subordinate service district, but no election is held. Minn. Stat. §§ 365A.095; 375B.10; 375B.11.

If revenues remain after a town subordinate service district is discontinued and all outstanding obligations have been paid, the town board may deposit the surplus revenues in the town general fund or refund them to the owners of property charged during the last year a tax or fee was imposed in the district. Minn. Stat. § 365A.095. The county subordinate service district law does not address this situation.

**For more information:** Contact legislative analyst Christopher Kleman at christopher.kleman@house.mn or Deborah Dyson at deborah.dyson@house.mn. Also see the House Research publication *City Special Service Districts*.

The Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives is a nonpartisan office providing legislative, legal, and information services to the entire House.

House Research Department | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155 | 651-296-6753 | [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/)

## CHAPTER 375B

### COUNTY SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICTS

|         |                                                        |         |                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| 375B.01 | PURPOSE OF SUBORDINATE GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE DISTRICTS. | 375B.07 | REFERENDUM.                                |
| 375B.02 | DEFINITION.                                            | 375B.08 | ENLARGING A SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT.  |
| 375B.03 | ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE DISTRICTS.                    | 375B.09 | FINANCING.                                 |
| 375B.04 | CREATION BY COUNTY BOARD.                              | 375B.10 | WITHDRAWAL; ELECTION.                      |
| 375B.05 | CREATION BY PETITION.                                  | 375B.11 | WITHDRAWAL; BY RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD. |
| 375B.06 | PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.                        | 375B.12 | LOCAL LAWS SUPERSEDED.                     |

#### 375B.01 PURPOSE OF SUBORDINATE GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE DISTRICTS.

It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a means by which a county as a unit of general local government can effectively provide and finance various governmental services for its residents.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 8; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 63

#### 375B.02 DEFINITION.

"Subordinate service district" means a compact and contiguous district within the county in which one or more governmental services or additions to countywide services are provided by the county and financed from revenues secured from within that district. The boundaries of a single subordinate service district may not embrace an entire county.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 9

#### 375B.03 ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE DISTRICTS.

Notwithstanding any provision of law requiring uniform property tax rates on real or personal property within the county, any county in this state, except a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 4, and any other county containing a city of the first class, may establish subordinate service districts to provide and finance any governmental service or function which it is otherwise authorized to undertake. A function or service to be provided shall not include a function or service which the county generally provides throughout the county unless an increase in the level of the service is to be supplied in the service district.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 10

#### 375B.04 CREATION BY COUNTY BOARD.

The county board of commissioners of any county, except a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 4, and any other county containing a city of the first class, may establish a subordinate service district in a portion of the county by adoption of an appropriate resolution. Before the adoption of the resolution, the county board shall hold a public hearing on the question of whether or not a subordinate service district shall be established. The resolution shall specify the service or services to be provided within the subordinate service district and shall specify the territorial boundaries of the district.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 11

**375B.05 CREATION BY PETITION.**

Subdivision 1. **Petition.** A petition signed by ten percent of the qualified voters within the portion of the county proposed for the subordinate service district may be submitted to the county board requesting the establishment of a subordinate county service district to provide any service or services which the county is otherwise authorized by law to provide. The petition shall include the territorial boundaries of the proposed district and shall specify the types of services to be provided within the district.

Subd. 2. **Public hearing.** Upon receipt of the petition, and verification of the signatures by the county auditor, the county board shall, within 30 days following verification, hold a public hearing on the question of whether or not the requested district shall be established.

Subd. 3. **Approval; disapproval.** Within 30 days following the holding of a public hearing, the county board, by resolution, shall approve or disapprove the establishment of the requested district. A resolution approving the creation of the district may contain amendments or modifications of the district's boundaries or functions as set forth in the petition.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 12

**375B.06 PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Upon passage of a resolution authorizing the creation of a subordinate service district, the county board shall cause the resolution to be published once in the official newspaper. The resolution shall include a general description of the territory to be included within the district, the type of service or services to be undertaken in the district, a statement of the means by which the service or services will be financed, and a designation of the county agency or officer who will be responsible for supervising the provision of the service or services. The district shall be deemed established 30 days after publication or at a later date as may be specified in the resolution.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 13

**375B.07 REFERENDUM.**

Subdivision 1. **Petition.** Upon receipt of a petition signed by five percent of the qualified voters within the territory of the proposed district prior to the effective date of its creation as specified in section 375B.06, the creation shall be held in abeyance pending referendum vote of all qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the proposed district.

Subd. 2. **Election.** The county board shall make arrangements for the holding of a special election on a date authorized by section 205.10, subdivision 3a, within the boundaries of the proposed district. The question to be submitted and voted upon by the qualified voters within the territory of the proposed district shall be phrased substantially as follows:

"Shall a subordinate service district be established in order to provide (service or services to be provided) financed by (revenue sources)?"

If a majority of those voting on the question favor creation of the proposed district, the district shall be deemed created upon certification of the vote by the county auditor. The county auditor shall administer the election.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 14; 2017 c 92 art 2 s 19

**375B.08 ENLARGING A SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT.**

The county board, on its own motion or pursuant to petition, may enlarge any existing subordinate service district pursuant to the procedures specified in sections 375B.04 to 375B.07. Only qualified voters residing in the district to be added shall be eligible to participate in the election, but if five percent of the qualified voters residing in the existing service district petition to participate in the election, all qualified voters residing in the proposed service district shall be eligible.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 15

**375B.09 FINANCING.**

Subdivision 1. **Budget.** (a) Upon adoption of the next annual budget following the creation of a subordinate service district the county board shall include in the budget appropriate provisions for the operation of the district including, as appropriate, either a property tax levied only on property within the boundaries of the district or a levy of a service charge against the users of the service within the district, or any combination of a property tax and a service charge.

(b) A tax or service charge or a combination thereof shall not be imposed to finance a function or service in the subordinate service district which the county generally provides throughout the county unless an increase in the level of the service is to be supplied in the subordinate service district in which case, in addition to the countywide tax levy, only an amount necessary to pay for the increased level of service may be imposed.

Subd. 2. **Bonds.** At any time after the requirements of section 375B.07 have been met and the subordinate service district created, the county board may issue obligations in an amount it deems necessary to defray in whole or in part the expense incurred and estimated to be incurred in making capital improvements necessary to operate the subordinate service district and provide the special services in the district, including every item of cost from inception to completion and all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the capital improvements or the financing. The obligations shall be payable primarily out of the proceeds of the taxes and service charges imposed pursuant to subdivision 1, net revenues as described in section 444.075, and special assessments under chapter 429. The county board may by resolution pledge the full faith credit and taxing power of the county to ensure payment of the principal and interest on the obligations if the proceeds of the taxes and service charges are insufficient to pay the principal and interest. Obligations must be issued in accordance with chapter 475, except that an election is not required, and the amount of the obligations is not included in determining the net indebtedness of the county under the provisions of any law limiting indebtedness.

Subd. 3. **Covenants to secure obligations.** In resolutions authorizing the issuance of general or special obligations and pledging taxes and service charges imposed under subdivision 1, net revenues, or special assessments to their payment, the county board may make covenants for the protection of holders of the obligations and taxpayers of the county as it deems necessary, including a covenant that the county will impose and collect charges of the nature authorized by this chapter at the time and in the amounts required to produce, together with any taxes or special assessments designated as a primary source of payment of the obligations, funds adequate to pay all principal and interest when due on the obligations and to create and maintain reserves securing the payments as may be provided in the resolutions.

Subd. 4. **Continuance in event of withdrawal.** If obligations have been issued for the benefit of the subordinate service district, and the district is withdrawn or removed pursuant to either section 375B.10 or



375B.11, the rates, charges, and tax levies, if any, in the withdrawn or removed district must continue until the obligations and any obligations issued to refund them have been paid in full.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 16; 2008 c 154 art 10 s 11

### **375B.10 WITHDRAWAL; ELECTION.**

Upon receipt of a petition signed by ten percent of the qualified voters within the territory of the subordinate service district requesting the removal of the district, or pursuant to its own resolution, the county board shall make arrangements for the holding of a special election within the boundaries of the service district on a date authorized by section 205.10, subdivision 3a. The question to be submitted and voted upon by the qualified voters within the territory of the district shall be phrased substantially as follows:

"Shall the subordinate service district presently established be removed and the service or services of the county as provided for the service district be discontinued?"

If a majority of those voting on the question favor the removal and discontinuance of the services, the service district shall be removed and the services shall be discontinued upon certification of the vote by the county auditor. The county auditor shall administer the election.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 17; 2017 c 92 art 2 s 20

### **375B.11 WITHDRAWAL; BY RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD.**

The county board may by resolution withdraw a subordinate service district from the provisions of this chapter and discontinue the service provided within the service district. The county board shall cause notice of its intention to withdraw the service district to be published at least once in the official newspaper not more than six months or less than three months before the resolution is adopted. If a joint powers agreement is a part of the subordinate service district arrangement no withdrawal shall be effective under this section unless all parties to the joint powers agreement agree to the withdrawal.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 18

### **375B.12 LOCAL LAWS SUPERSEDED.**

A special law for a single county, except a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 4, and any other county containing a city of the first class, which authorizes the county to establish subordinate service districts or areas is hereby superseded. Any service being provided pursuant to the special law on or before the effective date of Laws 1982, chapter 507, sections 1 to 12 may continue to be provided pursuant to the special law.

**History:** 1982 c 507 s 19



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-236**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Sheriff  
**PRESENTER:** Joe Dasovich

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

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**AGENDA ITEM:**  
Compensation - Chief Deputy Sheriff

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**  
Approve the Employee Agreement and increase in compensation for Chief Deputy Sheriff Christopher Peterson.

**BACKGROUND:**  
Request that Chief Deputy Chris Peterson's wages increase from \$118,722.24 to \$121,099.68 which would be a 2% pay increase, keeping the Chief Deputy at approximately 90% of the Sheriff's wage. Additionally, the Employment Agreement has been updated to reflect a change in the average number of hours worked from 42 to 40.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**  
1. Itasca County Employment Agreement- Chief Deputy Sheriff 2025

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between **ITASCA COUNTY** (hereinafter called the "Employer") and Christopher Peterson, Chief Deputy Sheriff (hereinafter called the "Employee").

**WHEREAS**, the Itasca County Sheriff is authorized to appoint a chief deputy with the approval of the County Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 387.145; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the training, experience, and administrative qualifications of **Christopher Peterson**, he has previously been appointed the Chief Deputy Sheriff and continues to serve in that capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Deputy Sheriff classification was removed from the bargaining unit represented by the Itasca County Managers Association and is not in a bargaining unit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Employer and Employee wish to document the terms and conditions of employment and the terms of severance in the event the Employer unilaterally exercises its right to terminate the employment relationship;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the covenants and agreements set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

**1. APPOINTMENT.**

Employee has been appointed pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 387.145 and Rules of the Itasca County Sheriff's Civil Service Commission.

Upon removal from the Chief Deputy Position, the Sheriff may, with the approval of the County Board, return the Employee to any vacant position previously held by Employee with the Itasca County Sheriff's Office. Said return will be subject to and governed by any provisions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

**2. DUTIES OF THE CHIEF DEPUTY.**

The duties and responsibilities of the Employee will be as outlined in the Rules of the Itasca County Sheriff's Civil Service Commission applicable to the Chief Deputy Sheriff.

**3. OTHER CONDITIONS.**

Chief Deputy Sheriff is a full-time position, and the position shall require full-time efforts.

Employee is exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the FLSA executive employee definition which does not provide for the earning of

**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

compensatory time. Under the FLSA, exempt employees receive full salary for any work week in which they perform work, without regard to the number of days or hours worked. However, accountability to the public is a core value of Itasca County and the County Board requests that appointed employees account for hours worked and hours not worked utilizing their sick, vacation, and other earned eligible leave benefits and follow the Employee Timekeeping Policy.

It is further understood that the Employee shall not undertake activities outside of Itasca County employment for which compensation is paid without the approval of the Sheriff and the County Board. Employee shall not engage in outside activities, whether or not for compensation, which would unreasonably interfere with required attendance at work or the required performance of duties or give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

**4. SALARY AND BENEFITS.**

**Salary:** Employee will be compensated at Grade 14 of the County's classification and compensation system at Step 9. Because this is the top step of the salary range, Employee will not be eligible for further movement except through a general adjustment adopted by the County Board for the position.

**Benefits:** Employee is, in all respects, an employee of Itasca County, and shall be entitled to all benefits derived therefrom to the extent that such benefits are consistent with the provisions of this Agreement and the Itasca County Personnel rules in existence and as they may be amended from time to time. Specifically, employee will be subject to the following:

**HOURS OF WORK:** The schedule of hours of work shall be established by the Sheriff. (The compensation level is based on an average of 40 hours per week.)

**VACATION:** Employee shall be subject to all provisions of Section 8.3 of the ICMA contract except for vacation and bonus vacation. Vacation shall be earned as follows:

| Effective 1/1/17:<br>Completed Years<br>Of Service | Rate of Accumulation<br>of Vacation Hours per pay period |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-59 months                                        | 3.231 hours per pay period                               |
| 60-119 months                                      | 4.847 hours per pay period                               |
| 120-179 months                                     | 6.462 hours per pay period                               |
| 180+ months                                        | 8.078 hours per pay period                               |

**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

Bonus vacation shall be earned as follows:

\*3.877 hours of sick leave shall be earned per pay period if the beginning balance is less than 1050 hours.

\*1.939 hours of bonus vacation shall be earned for each pay period the beginning balance is 630 hours or greater, except in any pay period in which sick leave is taken.

SICK LEAVE: Employee shall be subject to all provisions of Section 8.4 of the ICMA contract regarding sick leave, except that 3.877 hours of sick leave shall be earned per pay period if the beginning balance is less than 1050 hours and the employee has worked or used earned leave at least 50% of the pay period.

GROUP HOSPITAL – MEDICAL INSURANCE – RETIRED EMPLOYEES:  
The maximum County payment for retirement group insurance premiums shall not exceed \$10,000.

**5. SEVERANCE BENEFIT**

The employment relationship between the Employee and Employer is terminable at will and nothing in this Agreement, other than the appointment provisions noted above and the severance payments described below, shall prevent, limit, or otherwise interfere with the right and authority of the Employer to terminate the services of the Employee at any time.

Employee is eligible to convert up to 70% of accumulated sick leave to severance, or such other rate of conversion as may from time to time be set forth in section 8.5 of the ICMA contract. As an Employee hired after August 23, 1994, the maximum County payment for the 70%-dollar value of an employee's accumulated unused sick leave (severance pay) shall be \$10,000. (That is, 70% of the employee's accumulated unused sick leave shall have a maximum value of \$10,000 at retirement permitted by the contract.) This limit does not apply to other County payments for retirement group insurance premiums, nor does it affect the other 30%-dollar value of an employee's accumulated unused sick leave which shall be deposited into the Employee's Post Health Care Savings Plan.

In addition to the severance benefit noted above, in the event the Employer unilaterally terminates the Employee from any and all County employment while the Employee is ready and willing to perform his duties and has not been terminated for the reasons noted below, the Employee shall receive a severance allowance of six months base salary. Vacation and sick leave shall continue to accrue and insurance benefits continued for this six month period, if the Itasca County Board directs the Employee to work during the six month period. The

**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

Employer may require the Employee to work during this notice period at its discretion. If the Chief Deputy Sheriff position is eliminated by action of State or Federal Government beyond the control of the Itasca County Board, then the severance allowance referred to in this paragraph shall not be payable.

This severance payment will be in addition to any severance payment that the Employee would otherwise be entitled to receive including, but not limited to, sick leave fund or accrued vacation leave.

No severance payment will be made in the event that the Employee is elected or appointed to any other position for or at the County.

No severance payment will be made pursuant to this Agreement (whether as outlined in this Agreement or as provided in the ICMA collective bargaining agreement) in the event the Employee resigns from his position with the Employer or is terminated by the Employer after having been found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of a felony, bribery, perjury, or any act declared unlawful involving personal gain to him or any crime involving moral turpitude.

**6. ARBITRATION.**

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the breach thereof shall be settled by arbitration in the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon the award rendered may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

**7. NOTICES.**

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be sufficient if in writing, and if sent by certified mail to the Employee's residence in the case of the Employee, or to its principal office in the case of the Employer.

The Employee shall give sixty (60) days' advance notice of voluntary resignation or retirement. The period of advance notice may be modified or waived upon mutual agreement between the employee and the Itasca County Board.

**8. WAIVER OF BREACH.**

The waiver of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by either party shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach by that party.



**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

**9. TERMINOLOGY.**

Unless the context hereof clearly requires otherwise, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, and the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa.

**10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; MODIFICATION; WAIVER.**

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, negotiations, and discussions, whether oral or written, of the parties; there are no warranties, representations or agreements among the parties in connection with the subject matter hereof, except as set forth or referred to herein. No supplement, modification, waiver, or termination of this Agreement or any of its provisions shall be binding unless executed in writing by the parties to be bound. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any other provision, and no such waiver shall constitute a continuing waiver unless otherwise expressly provided.

**11. GOVERNING LAW.**

This Agreement shall be construed and enforced pursuant to the laws of the State of Minnesota.

**12. COUNTERPARTS.**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, any one of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

**13. HEADINGS.**

Section headings used in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this agreement shall become effective on the date of final execution

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITASCA COUNTY  
EMPLOYMENT/SEVERANCE AGREEMENT  
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
BOARD CHAIRPERSON  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
BRETT SKYLES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

4246897.1



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-245**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Brett Skyles

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Old Central School Letter of Support

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve Letter of Support for SF 0575, Old Central School Renovation and authorize Board Chair Signature.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Grand Rapids has requested \$3.8 million in funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage to assist in \$7.6 million in necessary remodeling expenses at Old Central School

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Old Central School Letter of Support FULLY EXECUTED

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |

# ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse  
Administrative Services  
123 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600  
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



February 3, 2025

Senator Foug Hawj  
Chair of Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
95 University Avenue West  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 0575, Old Central School Renovation

Dear Senator Hawj;

It is my understanding that the City of Grand Rapids has requested \$3.8 million in funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage to assist in \$7.6 million in necessary remodeling expenses at Old Central School.

Old Central School is located at the intersection of TH 2/169 in downtown Grand Rapids which is the county seat of Itasca County. When we talk to visitors and ask them what they remember about Itasca County they almost always say that big, beautiful, historic building at the main intersection in Grand Rapids.

As a County we are not blessed with many historic buildings. Old Central School is one of the few remaining in our county. It is critical that we preserve and improve the building for all county residents. Itasca County fully supports the City of Grand Rapids request for funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casey Venema', is written over the printed name.

Casey Venema

Board Chair  
Itasca County

CC: Senator Justin Eichorn  
Representative Ben Davis  
Representative Spencer Igo



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-246**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Environmental Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 15 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Bill Grantges

---

**AGENDA ITEM:**

2024 AIS Program Report/SFY 2026 Budget

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**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Itasca county Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Budget Proposal.

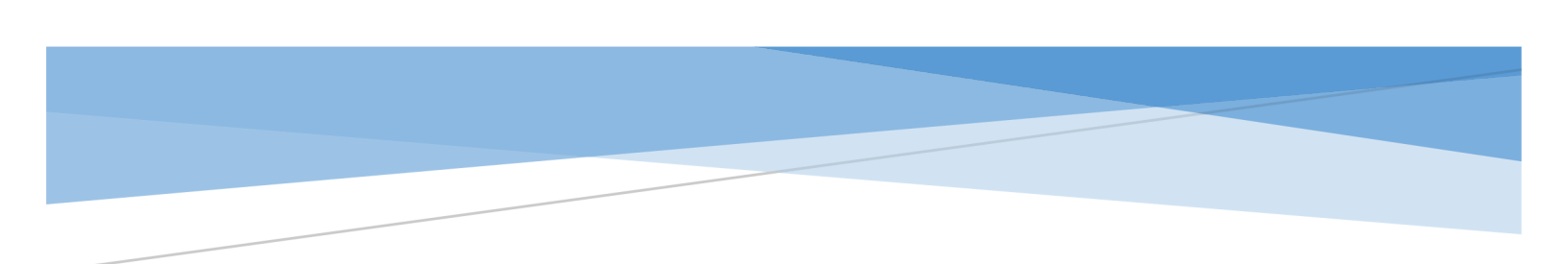
**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Itasca SWCD AIS Program - Report for 2024
2. Itasca SWCD SFY2026 Budget

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Cory Smith                              |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   | District #4                                          |



# Itasca County SWCD Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2024 Annual Report

## [Abstract](#)

The issue of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is indeed a significant challenge for ecosystems and economies. Itasca County's initiative-taking measures, through the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program, highlight the seriousness with which this issue is being addressed. The program's accomplishments, as detailed in the 2024 report, underscore the continuous efforts made to preserve local waterways and protect the thriving tourism industry.



## 2024 Itasca SWCD AIS Program Report

The issue of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is indeed a significant challenge for ecosystems and economies. Itasca County's initiative-taking measures, through the Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program, highlight the seriousness with which this issue is being addressed. The program's accomplishments, as detailed in the 2024 report, underscore the continuous efforts made to preserve local waterways and protect the thriving tourism industry.

The Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program was created in 2014 to combat the introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species in Itasca County. Under MN Statute 477A.19, Itasca County receives its share of \$10 million distributed to MN counties annually to fight AIS. It is up to individual counties to make decisions on how the funds are to be used while still abiding by all current laws and regulations. Itasca County, through a cooperative agreement, allocates these funds received to the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District.

In a January 25, 2023, article, the Herald Review reported that "in Itasca County tourism is a \$75 million industry that employs more than 1,200 people. The spin-off economic impact of tourism is another \$25 million." Aquatic invasive species can cause tremendous harm to our environment, our economy, and our health. Tourism, property values and recreational use of our waters in Itasca County are threatened by AIS.

This document, "Itasca County's SWCD AIS Prevention AID Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2024", is the report of what the Itasca SWCD AIS Program accomplished in 2024 in its fight against the introduction and spread of AIS in Itasca County. This report was submitted to the Minnesota DNR on 12/31/2024 as required by Minnesota Statute 477A.19.

Bill Grantges, Itasca SWCD AIS Program Manager  
PO Box 990, 1895 W U.S. Hwy. 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
[Bill.Grantges@ItascaSWCD.org](mailto:Bill.Grantges@ItascaSWCD.org)



# Itasca SWCD AIS Program

## 2024 Annual Report Summary

### Short Version

#### **Control & Monitoring** - **62** total lakes and **2** rivers surveyed for AIS.

- **67** early detection searches on **62** water bodies
- **26** zebra mussel settling plates deployed on **25** water bodies.
  - **15** veliger tows taken on **1** water body.
- **67** meander surveys on **62** water bodies
- **3** new detections in the county
  - Starry Stonewort, Sherry's Arm Landing, Pokegama Lake
  - Curly Leaf Pondweed, Little Turtle Lake
  - Zebra mussel, Split Hand Lake Public Access dock. No infestation, only one was found on the public access dock.
  - **3** seasonal staff worked **1,350** hours.

#### **Prevention** – **30,031** inspections at **33** accesses on **19** lakes

- **99.03** % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out.
- **98%** of watercraft recorded as arriving free of aquatic plants.
- **403** decontaminations completed.
- **30** seasonal staff worked **19,167** hours.
- **15** level 1 inspectors and **15** level 2 (decon) inspectors.

#### **CAP Grants** –

- **9** grants
- **\$52,123** contributed by Grantee.
- **\$46,123** matched by AIS Program

#### **Awareness & Training**

- **17** events we presented at
  - **Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference** – largest invasive species conference in the world. Presented with DNR, Lake & Otter Tail AIS programs.
- **45** days at events
- **8,500** (approximate) residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events

## Itasca County's SWCD AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2024

### Program Summary

Our year round and seasonal aquatic invasive species (AIS) staff implement a five-part program designed to fight the spread of AIS on multiple fronts. Our Prevention program focuses on Watercraft inspections, decontaminations, and access site improvements. Our Control & Monitoring program specializes in the early detection and control of invasive species populations in the lakes and rivers of Itasca County. Another method we use to fight AIS is the Community Action Projects (CAP) grant program. This grant program provides matching funds for Itasca residents that have a good idea on how to fight the spread of AIS. The Awareness & Training program provides public outreach. Perhaps the least visible but equally important program we have is with Itasca County. The support we receive from our County Commissioners and the Environmental Services department make it possible for us to offer one of the best AIS programs in the State.

| Category                                                                                                                       | Metrics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>AIS Prevention Aid Used</b>              | <p><u>\$ 721,124</u> AIS Prevention Aid <b>used</b> this calendar year</p> <p><u>\$ 632,790</u> AIS Prevention Aid <b>received</b> this calendar year</p> <p><u>\$ 100,000</u> AIS Prevention Aid <b>saved</b> for contingency reserves.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  <b>People Dedicated to AIS Work</b>        | <p><u>2</u> full-time staff with <b>100</b> % of their time dedicated to AIS work</p> <p><u>33</u> part-time and seasonal staff with <b>100</b> % of their time dedicated to AIS</p> <p><u>30</u> total authorized watercraft inspectors, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>15</b> trained as <b>Level 1</b> and <b>15</b> trained as <b>Level 2</b></p> <p><u>\$665,712</u> total spent on staff wages, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>\$595,701</u> in AIS Prevention Aid</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>\$70,011</u> in other funds leveraged from US Forest Service, Deer Lake Association, Swan Lake Association, Turtle Lake Association, Wabana Chain of Lakes, Wabana Township.</p> <p><u>98</u> volunteers conducted AIS work supporting aid-funded activities</p> <p><u>1,200</u> volunteer hours served supporting aid-funded</p> |
|  <b>Partnerships Created and Maintained</b> | <p>Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded activities:</p> <p><u>15</u> lake associations</p> <p><u>2</u> conservation nonprofits and/or outdoor groups (e.g., angling, hunting, paddling, sailing, etc.)</p> <p><u>3</u> schools and/or youth organizations</p> <p><u>17</u> businesses</p> <p><u>3</u> local governments</p> <p><u>1</u> tribal government</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Category                                                                                                                              | Metrics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       | <u>Itasca County has an AIS Technical Advisory Committee that was established in 2014.</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  <b>Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged</b> | <p><u>\$32,500</u> of AIS Prevention Aid awarded as grants to other organizations</p> <p><u>9</u> organizations awarded grants</p> <p><u>\$84,988</u> in funds contributed by other organizations that directly supported <u>all</u> aid-funded activities in the county (aka leveraged funds)</p> <p><u>10</u> organizations contributing additional funds</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  <b>Communities Engaged</b>                          | <p><u>63</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics</p> <p><u>8,500</u> residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events</p> <p><u>1,100</u> children/students taught about AIS</p> <p><u>\$5,000</u> aid spent on social media by exclusively supporting Mississippi Headwaters Minnesota Traditions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|  <b>Watercraft Inspected</b>                       | <p><u>\$527,659</u> spent on watercraft inspection and decontamination including:</p> <p><u>\$489,159</u> in AIS Prevention Aid</p> <p><u>\$38,500</u> in other funds leveraged from <u>Deer Lake Association, Swan Lake Association, Turtle Lake Association, Wabana Chain of Lakes, Wabana Township.</u></p> <p><u>30,031</u> inspections performed</p> <p><u>18,041</u> hours of inspections performed</p> <p><u>33</u> accesses covered by inspectors</p> <p><u>19</u> water bodies covered by inspectors</p> <p><u>99.03</u> % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out</p> <p><u>98%</u> of watercraft recorded as arriving free of aquatic plants</p> <p><u>403</u> decontaminations (hot water, high pressure) operated by Level 2 inspectors were performed in 2024.</p> <p><u>100</u> boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers/Ambassadors at water accesses</p> <p><u>6</u> water bodies decon stations maintained at <u>8</u> water accesses</p> |
|  <b>Monitoring Conducted</b>                       | <p><u>62</u> total lakes and <u>2</u> rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included:</p> <p><u>67</u> early detection searches on <u>62</u> water bodies</p> <p><u>26</u> zebra mussel settling plates deployed on <u>25</u> water bodies</p> <p><u>15</u> veliger tows taken on <u>1</u> water body</p> <p><u>67</u> meander surveys <u>62</u> water bodies</p> <p><u>3</u> new detections in the county</p> <p><u>11</u> volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors</p> <p><u>13</u> people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center's "Starry Trek" event</p> <p>List of species targeted for monitoring or surveys: <u>Starry stonewort, zebra mussels, flowering rush, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife.</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                |

| Category                                                                                                                  | Metrics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>New Infestation Response Planned</b> | <u>2</u> coordinated response(s) to a new AIS population(s)<br><u>0 new</u> sites controlled/managed<br>Our county has a response plan developed in <b><u>2014 that is updated yearly</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  <b>AIS Controlled</b>                   | <p><b><u>\$61,719</u></b> spent on in-lake/river control of AIS, including:</p> <p><b><u>\$17,578</u></b> in AIS Prevention Aid</p> <p><b><u>\$44,141</u></b> in other funds leveraged from <u>2</u> organizations.</p> <p><u>2</u> groups involved or conducting aid-funded control activities</p> <p><u>45</u> total water bodies/sites with aid-funded control activities, including:</p> <p><u>3</u> water bodies with invasive <b>submergent</b> aquatic plant management</p> <p><u>27</u> sites with purple loosestrife management where <b><u>54,615</u></b> biocontrol beetles were released</p> <p><u>29</u> sites herbicide applications were made to purple loosestrife</p> <p><u>2</u> waterbodies where purple loosestrife was removed mechanically/hand pulled</p> <p><u>1</u> water bodies/sites with <b><u>rusty crayfish</u></b> management</p> <p>List of species controlled: <b><u>Flowering rush, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, rusty crayfish</u></b></p> |

## Program Spending Summary

| Budget Category                                   | AIS Prevention Aid Spent by the County in 2024 | AIS Prevention Spent by Local Grantees in 2024 | In-Kind Funds Contributed in 2024 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Outreach and Education                     | \$10,401                                       | \$693                                          | 0                                 | Awareness & Training Program                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Watercraft Inspection                             | \$523,811                                      | \$32,500                                       | \$0                               | Inspections and decontaminations                                                                                                                                                               |
| Enforcement                                       | \$0                                            | \$0                                            | \$0                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Monitoring, New Infestation Response, AIS Control | \$19,328                                       | \$14,380                                       | \$ 0                              | Siseebakwet Lake Assoc. rusty crayfish \$1,750. City of Grand Rapids, Eurasian watermilfoil ProcellaCOR treatment \$25,260 (12,630 split), \$4,948 Control & Monitoring not covered by grants. |
| CAP Grants                                        | \$50,243                                       | \$39,450                                       |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Totals                                            | \$603,783                                      | \$87,023                                       | \$                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Plans for 2025

### Prevention Program

- Two new CD3 stations will be installed on Pokegama lake. The Sherry's Arm access will receive a CD3 Wayside Solar unit, and the Mishawaka access will receive a trailer mounted CD3 Wayside Solar unit. The trailered CD3 will be used for training and demonstrations as well as use by the public at Mishawaka landing. We will be installing one new CD3 Wayside Solar unit at the Third River Flowage access site on Winnibigoshish. Our CD3 unit will be moved from Mosomo landing on Cut Foot Sioux Lake to Deer Lake access (on Winni). A CD3 unit will be moved from the Cass side of the Winnibigoshish dam to the Itasca side at Plug Hat landing. In 2025 we will increase the number of CD3 units in Itasca County from two to six, all on access sites where Starry stonewort is found.
- Starry stonewort will be hand pulled at the Sherry's Arm access on Pokegama lake.
- Watercraft decontamination operators will receive additional training on proper techniques for all thermal decontaminations.
- Increase the size and diversity of our "Secret Boater Program."
- Thanks to funding from a USFS BIL grant, the information kiosks at Plug Hat landing on Winnibigoshish, and Mosomo landing on Cut Foot Sioux will be redesigned and replaced. We will be partnering with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the USFS and the MN DNR to finalize the design, layout, and placement of the new kiosks.
- We will have 17 high priority lakes with a total of 27 landings where we will station watercraft inspectors. Many of those lakes will have coverage for 10 hours a day, seven days a week. Two of the 6 thermal decontamination stations we will have in operation for 2025 will have a minimum of 9 fixed hours per day, 7 days a week. A 3rd thermal decontamination station will be manned 10 hours a day, Friday-Sunday. Our 6th decon station is located at our SWCD office and is available 7 days a week by appointment. This station is used primarily to decontaminate daily all Itasca SWCD watercraft and equipment that was used in any of our county's waters.
- Simple, low cost AIS cleaning stations will be installed on infested lake access points that include public landings, resorts, campgrounds, and private accesses. The station is made up of a metal sign with instructions on how to use the provided long handled brush, 3' reach picker/grabber, universal drain plug wrench and an Aqua Stick scraping tool. We received orders for 87 stations in 2024, all will be installed in early 2025.
- All AIS Leads and managers will receive First Aid training.

### Control & Monitoring Program

- SCUBA will be added as another tool for the Control & Monitoring program to use in 2025. This will improve the accuracy and efficiency of early detection surveys, as well as provide the means to implement control measures on submergent invasive plants.
- The Itasca AIS Program will join the AIS Detectors Spiny Surveillance and Early Detection Project in 2025.
- We will be conducting intensive searches on Docks/Lifts in the Fall once they are removed from the water.

### Awareness & Training Program

- In 2025 we plan to have staffed booths with AIS activity stations at many public events including:
  - Northern Minnesota Home Builders Show (3 days)

- Children's 1st Children Fair- Grand Rapids H.S.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Water Summit, County Fair Grounds
- Nashwauk 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Tall Timber Days- Grand Rapids, 2 days, education tent on Saturday, Parade on Sunday.
- County Fair- County Fair Grounds Commercial Building, (5 days)
- Starry Trek
- The Itasca AIS Program will continue to partner with Minnesota Sea Grant, Itasca Waters, and the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) to produce monthly Practical Water Wisdom webinars. Our monthly lunch series lets people learn from experts in their fields. These online sessions are held at noon, the first Thursday of each month, February through December. Presenters will identify and explain the science behind some of our Minnesota water issues. They will also share strategies and practical actions that you can use to maintain and protect the water quality we all value. Each session will also include an interactive question and answer segment.

## 2024 Highlights

### Success Stories

- 2024 was our first year integrating SCUBA diving into our AIS Control & Monitoring program. This allowed us to increase efficiency and efficacy in our aquatic plant management projects and early detection surveys.
- Our Purple Loosestrife Biological Control efforts from past seasons have now shown great results in 2024. Many sites where we typically integrate biological and chemical control, had little need for herbicide applications this year as the Galerucella beetle populations are flourishing and providing adequate plant control.

### Multi-County Collaborations

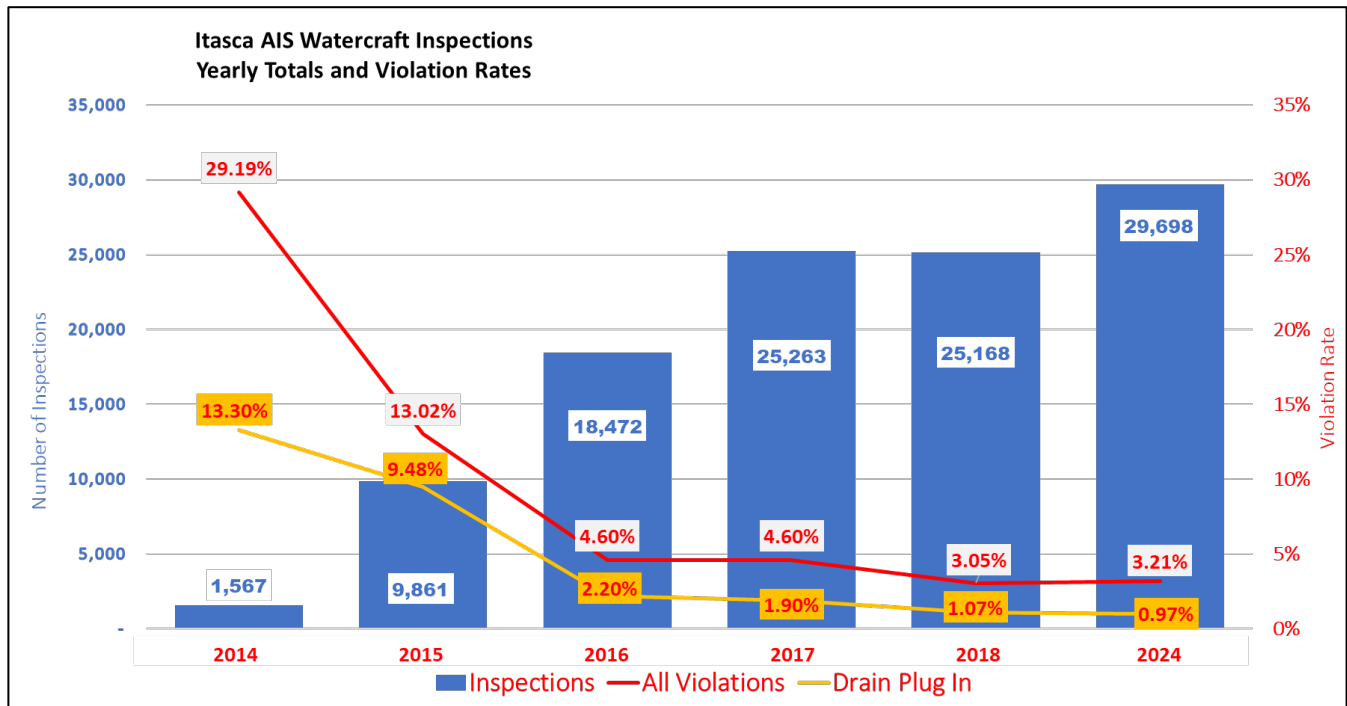
We have worked with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, The MN DNR, and Cook County to expand our Purple Loosestrife biological control efforts beyond the Itasca County border. There were a total of around 9800 defoliating beetles donated the 3 agencies in 2024.

- Donated around 9,800 Galerucella Beetles total to Cook County, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the MN DNR to be released at sites outside of Itasca County.
- Released 10,818 Galerucella Beetles within the Leech Lake Reservation portion of Itasca County to increase the effort of the biological control of Purple Loosestrife in collaboration with the LLBO.
- Assisted MN DNR in a Starry Stonewort control pilot project. The idea was to layer decomposable burlap on top of the growing SSW and weigh it down with sandbags to smother it and hinder its growth. This was a great use for our SCUBA capabilities.
- Accompanied the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe during their Deer Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed Control event using their Diver Assisted suction Harvesting (D.A.S.H.) unit.

## Reports and Products

| Itasca County SWCD AIS Program                                               |        |                           |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| 2024 Season Total Inspections per Landing                                    |        |                           |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |
| May 5, 2024 - October 20, 2024                                               |        |                           |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |
|                                                                              |        | Inspections               |          | Decons | Coverage Hours |           | Overlap  | Inspections/Hour * |         |
| Landing                                                                      | Total  | Incoming                  | Outgoing |        | w/o OL         | with OL   | Hours    | w/o OL             | with OL |
| Bowstring (all)                                                              | 1,727  | 936                       | 791      | 23     | 1,212          | 1,229     |          |                    |         |
| Bowstring NE 31081201                                                        | 817    | 445                       | 372      | 10     | 633.00         | 633.00    | -        | 1.17               | 1.17    |
| Bowstring NW 31081303                                                        | 17     | 7                         | 10       | 4      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| Bowstring S 31081302                                                         | 893    | 484                       | 409      | 9      | 578.50         | 595.50    | 17.00    | 1.39               | 1.35    |
| Cut Foot Souix Mosomo 31085703                                               | 3,381  | 1,747                     | 1,634    | 96     | 1,297.00       | 2,209.25  | 912.25   | 2.58               | 1.52    |
| Deer 31071901                                                                | 2,886  | 1,620                     | 1,266    | 78     | 1,473.50       | 1,506.50  | 33.00    | 1.96               | 1.92    |
| Island 31091301                                                              | 826    | 571                       | 255      | -      | 721.50         | 721.50    | -        | 1.14               | 1.14    |
| Jay Gould Boswell 31010200                                                   | 19     | 11                        | 8        | -      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| Jessie 31078600                                                              | 539    | 303                       | 236      | -      | 447.00         | 447.00    | -        | 1.21               | 1.21    |
| Little Winnie 31085000                                                       | 2      | 2                         | -        | -      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| Maple 31077300                                                               | 70     | 43                        | 27       | -      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| North Star 31065301                                                          | 572    | 315                       | 257      | 3      | 524.50         | 524.50    | -        | 1.04               | 1.04    |
| North Twin 31019000                                                          | 2      | -                         | 2        | -      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| Pokegama (all)                                                               | 7,151  | 4,083                     | 3,068    | 158    | 3,708          | 4,461     |          |                    |         |
| Pokegama Kings 31053202                                                      | 1,360  | 789                       | 571      | -      | 714.00         | 714.00    | -        | 1.76               | 1.76    |
| Pokegama LaPlant 31053204                                                    | 40     | 26                        | 14       | -      | 10.00          | 10.00     | -        | 3.90               | 3.90    |
| Pokegama Mishawaka 31053203                                                  | 1,730  | 993                       | 737      | -      | 697.00         | 697.00    | -        | 2.43               | 2.43    |
| Pokegama Sherry's Arm 31053207                                               | 1,308  | 741                       | 567      | 43     | 793.50         | 805.50    | 12.00    | 1.36               | 1.34    |
| Pokegama Tioga 31053201                                                      | 2,702  | 1,524                     | 1,178    | 115    | 1,493.75       | 2,234.25  | 740.50   | 1.79               | 1.20    |
| Pokegama Trooptown 31053205                                                  | 11     | 10                        | 1        | -      | -              | -         | -        | -                  | -       |
| Round (all)                                                                  | 1,240  | 732                       | 508      | -      | 787            | 793       |          |                    |         |
| Round E 31089601                                                             | 12     | 8                         | 4        | -      | 5.00           | 5.00      | -        | 2.40               | 2.40    |
| Round N 31089602                                                             | 1,228  | 724                       | 504      | -      | 782.00         | 787.50    | 5.50     | 1.57               | 1.56    |
| Sand 31082601                                                                | 260    | 154                       | 106      | 4      | 201.00         | 211.00    | 10.00    | 1.19               | 1.13    |
| Spider 31053801                                                              | 192    | 122                       | 70       | -      | 176.50         | 176.50    | -        | 1.09               | 1.09    |
| Splithand 31035301                                                           | 1,074  | 514                       | 560      | -      | 428.50         | 432.50    | 4.00     | 2.51               | 2.48    |
| Swan 31006701                                                                | 2,346  | 1,287                     | 1,059    | -      | 854.00         | 892.00    | 38.00    | 2.75               | 2.63    |
| Trout (all)                                                                  | 1,987  | 1,169                     | 818      | 2      | 1,157          | 1,167     |          |                    |         |
| Trout Kom On In 31021603                                                     | 72     | 42                        | 30       | -      | 70.00          | 70.00     | -        | 1.03               | 1.03    |
| Trout Longyear Park 31021602                                                 | 558    | 326                       | 232      | -      | 423.00         | 433.00    | 10.00    | 1.31               | 1.28    |
| Trout N 31021601                                                             | 1,357  | 801                       | 556      | 2      | 664.00         | 664.00    | -        | 2.00               | 2.00    |
| Turtle 31072501                                                              | 722    | 422                       | 300      | -      | 751.00         | 751.00    | -        | 0.96               | 0.96    |
| Wabana (all)                                                                 | 2,423  | 1,381                     | 1,042    | 40     | 1,383          | 1,436     |          |                    |         |
| Wabana NW 31039202                                                           | 1,392  | 808                       | 584      | 40     | 723.00         | 766.00    | 43.00    | 1.92               | 1.82    |
| Wabana SE 31039201                                                           | 1,031  | 573                       | 458      | -      | 660.25         | 670.25    | 10.00    | 1.56               | 1.54    |
| Winnibigoshish Plughat 11014701                                              | 2,279  | 1,244                     | 1,035    | -      | 902.50         | 1,125.50  | 223.00   | 2.37               | 1.90    |
| Totals                                                                       | 29,698 | 16,656                    | 13,042   | 404    | 16,024.00      | 18,082.25 | 2,058.25 |                    |         |
| Total Inspections and Decons                                                 | 30,102 | (85 of 404 decons by DNR) |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |
| * Inspections/Hour calculation does not include DNR inspections or DNR hours |        |                           |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |
| ** OL = overlap hours                                                        |        |                           |          |        |                |           |          |                    |         |





**Waterproof Business Card with Decon station locations.** Every watercraft owner that is inspected is offered this card.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

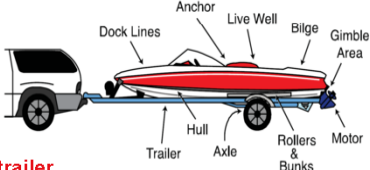
### Call to report suspected AIS or for courtesy decontamination

## 218-256-4243

Itasca SWCD AIS Program, PO Box 990, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Scan for  
Decon  
Locations





- Clean all weeds from boat & trailer.
- Drain water from bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before leaving water accesses or shoreline property.
- Keep drain plug out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft
- Change all bait water when leaving the lake.

Itasca SWCD AIS Program, PO Box 990, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**2024 Itasca SWCD AIS Decontamination Survey**

*Level 2 Decontamination operators use this survey prior to starting the decon process and immediately after completing the decon. The Itasca AIS Program has had no damage claims in its ten years of operation.*

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ License Plate State \_\_\_\_\_

Conduct a walk-around inspection of the watercraft with the owner. Is there any preexisting damage?  
Ex: peeling decals or bunk carpet tears. If yes, please document it in the space below.

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Owners Signature- \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the type of decontamination being conducted:**

☐ Full Decontamination    ☐ Partial Decontamination    ☐ Courtesy Decontamination    ☐ User  
Refused Decontamination

**IF PARTIAL OR COURTESY selected, please check ALL steps below that you will be completing:**

☐ Hot water soak (hull)    ☐ Drain and flush (verifiable water)    ☐ Fill and flush (unverifiable water)  
☐ Motor Flush

Conduct a walk-around inspection of the watercraft with the owner after the decontamination is complete. Is there any damage? If so, record below.

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Please record any additional comments below (please document how the decontamination went, were there any parts of the process that you could not complete? If so, please explain why. Be as specific as possible. Use back of form if needed.

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Owners Signature- \_\_\_\_\_

Itasca County SWCD AIS Program  
 Itasca County, MN Infested Waters List  
 As of 12/31/2024

| Lake                          | Zebra<br>Mussels | Faucet<br>Snails | Eurasian<br>Milfoil | Curly Leaf<br>Pondweed | Purple<br>Loosestrife | Flowering<br>Rush | Starry<br>Stonewort |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Ball Club - 31081200          | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Balsam - 31025900             |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Bass - 31057600 (Cohasset/DR) |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Biauswah - 31086200           |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Bird's Eye - 31083400         | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Blackwater - 31056100         | X                | X                |                     | X                      |                       |                   |                     |
| Blandin Reservoir - 31053300  | X                |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Blind - 31041800              |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Bower - 31005200              |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Bowstring - 31081300          | X                | X                |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Bray - 31014700               |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Canisteo Mine Pit - 31128200  | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Clubhouse - 31054000          |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Coon/Sandwich - 31052400      |                  |                  | X                   |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Connors - 31071000            |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Crooked - 31019300            |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Crystal/Ice - 31037200        |                  |                  | X                   |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Cut Foot Sioux - 31085700     | X                | X                |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Deer - 31071900               |                  |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Deer River                    |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Dora - 31088200               | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   | X                   |
| Dunbar - 31090400             |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Eagle - 31045400              |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| East Smith - 31061600         |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Egg - 31081700                | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| First River Lake - 31081800   | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Forest - 31037400             |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Hale - 31037300               |                  |                  | X                   |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Hart - 31002000               |                  |                  |                     |                        |                       | X                 |                     |
| Hartley - 31015400            |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Highland - 31048100           |                  |                  |                     |                        |                       | X                 |                     |
| Holman - 31022700             |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     | X                 |                     |
| Jay Gould - 31056500          | X                |                  |                     | X                      |                       |                   |                     |
| Jessie - 31078600             | X                |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Johnson - 31058600            |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| King - 31025800               |                  |                  |                     | X                      |                       |                   |                     |
| Leighton - 31073900           |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Lily - 31037500               |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Little Cutfoot - 31085200     | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Little Drum - 31074100        |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Little Jay Gould - 31056600   | X                |                  |                     | X                      |                       |                   |                     |
| Little Jessie - 31078400      | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Little Long - 31061300        |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |

Itasca County SWCD AIS Program  
 Itasca County, MN Infested Waters List  
 As of 12/31/2024

| Lake                               | Zebra<br>Mussels | Faucet<br>Snails | Eurasian<br>Milfoil | Curly Leaf<br>Pondweed | Purple<br>Loosestrife | Flowering<br>Rush | Starry<br>Stonewort |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Little Sand - 31085300             | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Little Sturgeon - 69129000         |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Little Turtle - 31077900           |                  |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Little White Oak - 31074000        |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Little Winnibigoshish -31085000    | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Long - 31057000 (Cohasset)         |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Loon - 31057100                    |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Lower Balsam - 31024700            |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Lower Lawrence - 31023800          |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Maple - 31077300                   |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| McKinney - 31037000                |                  |                  | X                   |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Mike's - 31096600                  |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Mississippi River                  | X                | X                |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Moose - 31072200 (Deer River Area) |                  |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Moose - 31089800                   |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Napoleon - 31029000                |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Northstar - 31065300               | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| O'brien - 31003200                 |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Pokegama - 31053200                | X                |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   | X                   |
| Portage - 31082400                 | X                |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Prairie - 31038400                 |                  |                  |                     | X                      |                       |                   |                     |
| Prairie River                      |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Rabbit's - 31092300                | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Raven - 31092500                   | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Rice - 31071700                    |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Rice - 31087600 (Sand Lake Chain)  | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Round - 31089600 (Squaw Lake)      |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Sand - 31082600 (Big Sand)         | X                |                  |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Sand - 31043800                    |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Smith - 31065000                   |                  |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Snaptail - 31025500                |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| South Sturgeon - 31000300          |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| South Sugar - 31055500             |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Spider - 31053800                  |                  |                  |                     |                        |                       | X                 |                     |
| Sugar - 31092600 (Winnie)          | X                | X                |                     |                        |                       |                   |                     |
| Swan - 31006700                    |                  |                  |                     | X                      | X                     |                   |                     |
| Trout - 31021600 (Coleraine)       | X                |                  |                     |                        | X                     | X                 |                     |
| Trout - 31041000 (Wabana)          |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Turtle - 31072500                  | X                |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Twin - 31002600 (Pengilly)         |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Twin - 31019000/31019100           |                  |                  | X                   |                        | X                     | X                 |                     |
| Wasson - 31028100                  |                  |                  |                     |                        | X                     |                   |                     |
| Winnibigoshish - 11014700          | X                | X                |                     |                        | X                     |                   | X                   |

## Itasca SWCD AIS Program

### AIS Control & Monitoring Program

### 2024 Season Summary

Approximately 1,950 staff hours were spent in the field conducting early detection surveys and implementing AIS management plans in 2024.

#### Early Detection Efforts in 2024

- Zebra Mussel Veliger Settlement Samplers  
Deployed 26 veliger settlement samplers on 25 lakes in Itasca County, MN that are highest risk for a Zebra Mussel infestation. One Zebra Mussel was found attached to the sampler in a location previously unknown to have a population of invasive mussels. (Split Hand Lake)
- Veliger Sampling  
Collected 15 plankton samples from Split Hand Lake to be analyzed for Zebra Mussel veligers. No Zebra Mussel veligers were found in the samples.
- Early Detection Surveys
  - 62 lakes totaling about 554 miles of lakeshore.
  - 4 miles of river (Mississippi & Bigfork Rivers).

#### New AIS Discoveries in 2024

- One Zebra Mussel was discovered on our veliger settlement sampler on Split Hand Lake in early October. Later surveys of the lake did not produce any more evidence of a reproducing Zebra Mussel population. We will continue to survey and check Split Hand in future seasons in search of Zebra Mussels, as well as all other invasive plants and animals.
- An approximate 740 sq ft patch of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) was discovered near the access ramp of Little Turtle Lake in the channel leading from the boat ramp out to open water. The CLP was beginning to die back for the season, so no immediate management action was taken. We will discuss the possibility of a management permit with MN DNR Staff for 2025.
- Starry Stonewort was Located on Cut Foot Sioux Lake (31085700) on October 1<sup>st</sup> throughout the harbor at the Deer Lake Campground. Although Starry Stonewort (SSW) has been known to be in Lake Winnibigoshish since 2017, it had not been found in Cut Foot until this season. There were no other SSW sites found in Cut Foot Sioux Lake during subsequent surveys.
- Starry Stonewort was discovered on Pokegama lake (31053200) early in the summer of 2024, and found to be vigorously spreading from the Sherry's Arm public water access site through the channel toward the main basin of Sherry's Arm. Many days were spent on Pokegama Lake by Itasca SWCD and MN DNR staff searching for other SSW sites on Pokegama. None were found.

#### Control Efforts

Currently 65 lakes and 3 rivers with ongoing invasive aquatic plant management projects that include mechanical, biological, and chemical control of Purple Loosestrife, Flowering Rush and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

##### Mechanical Control

- 2024 was the 1<sup>st</sup> season that we've had SCUBA capabilities to allow us to hand pull plants in deeper water. We now expect to be able to fully eradicate flowering Rush from Spider Lake in the near future.

- Hand-pulled 10 individual emergent stems of Flowering Rush near the boat ramp of Spider Lake and 6 small clumps that were growing in deeper water a few yards out from the access. The original infested area discovered in 2015 was around 140 sq ft. The Flowering Rush on Spider can now only be described as a few individual plants, rather than an infested area. There have been two other locations on the lake in past years where single plants of Flowering Rush have been discovered and removed. Flowering Rush has not re-emerged at those sites.
- Purple Loosestrife is removed annually by hand from Biauxwah and Blind Lakes. These lakes are both within the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Indian Reservation where the use of herbicides is prohibited. Due to the very small population of Loosestrife on these lakes, we decided hand removal was a better option than releasing biological control agents. (Galerucella Beetles)
- We have been collaborating with the Deer Lake association on a Curly Leaf Pondweed hand-removal project since 2017. With an expanding invasive plant population over the last 3 years, there has been 2 separate commercial businesses contracted by the Deer Lake Association to mechanically remove the Curly Leaf by hand and with the use of a diver assisted suction harvesting unit but, there has been very little success in controlling the invasive species. Our project will consider other options we may have in 2025 to try and get a handle on the invasive population.

#### Chemical Control

There were 31 lakes in 2024 where herbicide was used to control Purple Loosestrife (PL). Historically, we have around 50-70 lakes where some herbicide control is needed but this year we saw the benefits of our integrated management approach from recent years. Many Loosestrife sites visited in 2024 either had no PL plants to be found or our biological control beetle populations were reproducing very well and there was no need to use herbicides.

#### Biological Control

A total of 54,615 Purple Loosestrife Defoliating Beetles were collected from known populations and released at 27 sites with dense Loosestrife infestations.

#### **Collaboration with Other Agencies**

In 2024, we donated around 9,800 Galerucella Beetles total to Cook County, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO), and MN DNR to be released at sites outside of Itasca County.

- Released 10,818 Galerucella Beetles within the Leech Lake Reservation part of Itasca County to increase the effort of the biological control of Purple Loosestrife in collaboration with the LLBO.
- Assisted MN DNR in a Starry Stonewort (SSW) control pilot project. The idea was to layer decomposable burlap on top of the growing SSW and weigh it down with sandbags to smother it and hinder its growth. Utilizing our SCUBA capabilities proved to be highly effective in this operation.
- Accompanied the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe during their Deer Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed Control event using their Diver Assisted suction Harvesting (D.A.S.H.) unit.



## The Itasca FiveStar Initiative

The Itasca AIS Program and the Deer Lake Association have partnered to create and implement the FiveStar Initiative. FiveStar enrolls and promotes public area businesses who are savvy about AIS and implement prescribed AIS safeguards. FiveStar Lake Service Providers (LSP) are DNR-certified, sign a contract agreeing to apply additional specified AIS best-practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices and safeguards throughout Itasca County. In return, the Itasca AIS Program and participating lake associations agree to market FiveStar providers to lake and river property owners.

To implement FiveStar successfully, we need service providers to agree to participate, AND we need the public, particularly lake and river property owners, to patronize FiveStar providers. The Itasca AIS Program is marketing directly to providers via direct mail, personal outreach, free media, social media, and paid advertising. We're marketing separately and directly to lake and river property owners through those same avenues.

**Itasca FiveStar LSP Invitation Letter and Contract:** <https://bit.ly/FiveStarLSPInvitation>

**FiveStar Lake Service Providers** agree to implement the following AIS safeguards *in addition* to earning and maintaining Minnesota DNR Permitted status:

- My firm monitors closely the official DNR list of infested waters, so we are always up to date on which waters are infested. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>
- My firm agrees that *any* equipment I use in AIS infested lakes or rivers will before its use in *any other waters* **always** undergo a thorough inspection performed by myself, by a DNR-certified AIS technician on my staff, or by the Itasca AIS program (218-256-4243). Following inspection, some watercraft and gear may require decontamination.

Decontamination for recreational gear like waders, inner-tubes, and other similar gear that can't hold standing water, many times can be accomplished by visual inspection, removal of weeds and mud, along with a thorough warm or cold fresh-water rinse.

Watercraft, barges, trailers, and gear that can hold standing water AND are coming from infested waters into any other lake or river **always** require thermal decontamination to DNR-spec, performed by a DNR-certified AIS technician on my staff or by the Itasca AIS Program.

- Decontamination always includes a non-contact infrared thermometer to verify water temperature.
- My firm agrees to certify that any used dock, lift, swim-raft, anchor, ladder, buoy, or any similar water-related equipment we sell or are asked to move from one water body to another has been out of the water and dried out for at least 21 days **AND** undergone a thorough thermal decontamination performed by the Itasca County AIS program (218-256-4243) or other DNR-certified AIS technician.
- My firm agrees that the Itasca AIS program may from time-to-time visit and review my operations to determine that my firm is abiding by this Agreement and offer recommendations for improvement.





## Itasca FiveStar Service Providers

**Please move your business to an Itasca FiveStar service provider.** FiveStar providers are DNR-certified, sign a contract agreeing to apply additional specified AIS best-practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices and safeguards throughout Itasca County. See description of services below. Rev04012022

### **FiveStar Firms Who Install/Remove Docks/Lifts Seasonally in Itasca County:**

*See brief description below for service area restrictions and services offered*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grand Rapids Marine</a> 218-326-0351</li> <li>• <a href="#">Thousand Lakes Dock &amp; Lift</a> 218-398-7553</li> <li>• <a href="#">JJ's Barge Service</a> 218-244-5194</li> <li>• <a href="#">38 Outpost</a> 218-259-9997</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grooms Property Service</a> 218-259-2157</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fish Lake Dock and Lift</a> 651-674-8581</li> <li>• <a href="#">Lake Home Helpers</a> 218-969-5028</li> <li>• <a href="#">Domanick David</a> 218-929-7119</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **FiveStar Marine Dealers**

- |                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grand Rapids Marine</a> 218-326-0351</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ray's Marine</a> 218-326-0353</li> </ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **FiveStar Landscaping Firms**

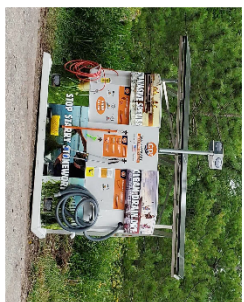
- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lange Nursery &amp; Landscape</a> 218-380-6939</li> <li>• <a href="#">McNeil Excavating</a> 218-259-6364</li> <li>• <a href="#">J.V. Tree and Landscaping</a> 866-232-5183 or 612-987-9992</li> </ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **FiveStar Firms Offering Other Services and Products in Itasca County**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">R&amp;R Rental</a> 218-999-7368</li> <li>• <a href="#">Paddle Hoppers</a> 218-326-5853</li> <li>• <a href="#">Cross Country Boat Transport</a> 651-437-2454</li> <li>• <a href="#">RMB Labs</a> 218-322-2304</li> <li>• <a href="#">PLM Lake and Land Management</a> 866-687-5253</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Itasca County SWCD AIS Program 2024 CD3 Use Data and Graphs

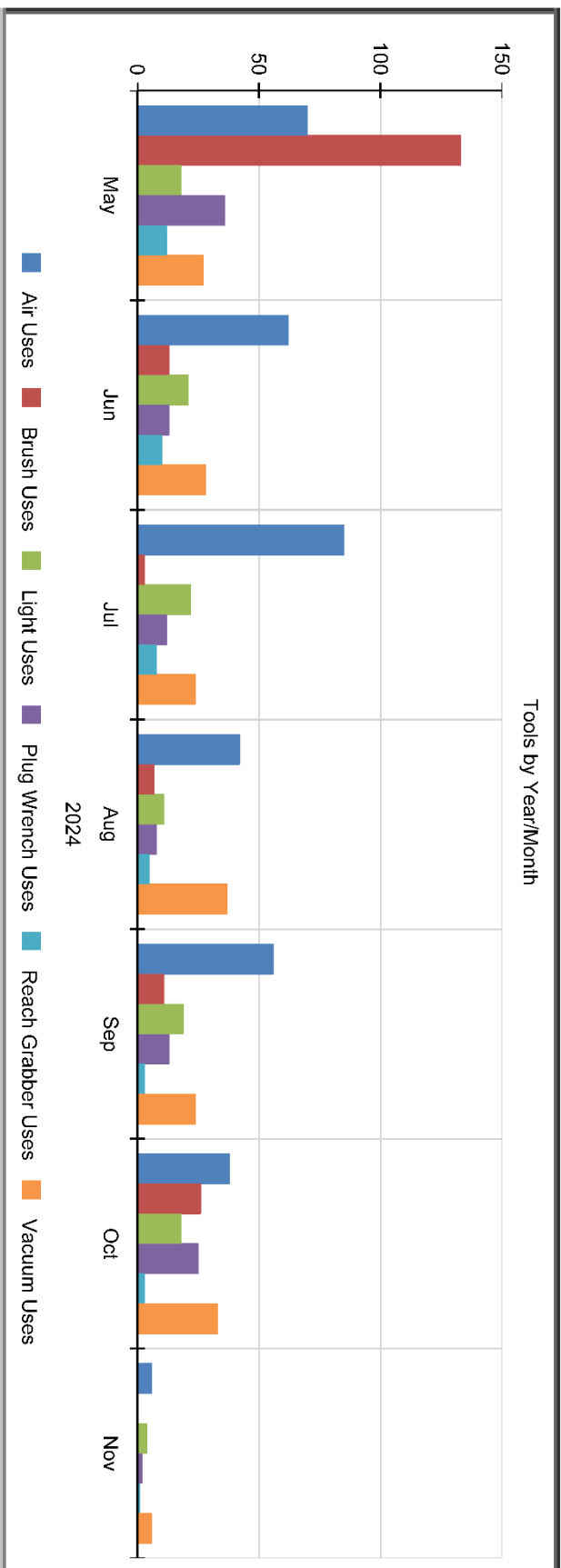
| Location                           | 2024 |      |      |      |      |      | Total | Percentage |      |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------------|------|
|                                    | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  |       |            |      |
| Chippewa Campground                | 59   | 39   | 49   | 31   | 38   | 20   | 5     | 241        | 58 % |
| Winnibgoshish                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |      |
| Mosomo Access- Cut Foot Sioux Lake | 22   | 24   | 28   | 20   | 28   | 50   |       | 172        | 42 % |
| Total                              | 81   | 63   | 77   | 51   | 66   | 70   | 5     | 413        |      |
| Percentage                         | 20 % | 15 % | 19 % | 12 % | 16 % | 17 % | 1 %   |            |      |



Chippewa Campground



Mosomo





Itasca County SWCD AIS Program  
2024 CD3 Use Data and Graphs

Tools

| Location                           | Year | Month      | Air Uses | Brush Uses | Light Uses | Plug Wrench Uses | Reach Grabber Uses | Vacuum Uses | Total | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------|------------|----------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Chippewa Campground - Winibgosish  | 2024 | May        | 52       | 5          | 10         | 17               | 12                 | 17          | 113   | 22 %       |
|                                    |      | Jun        | 46       | 0          | 18         | 7                | 9                  | 19          | 99    | 19 %       |
|                                    |      | Jul        | 54       | 0          | 13         | 4                | 8                  | 19          | 98    | 19 %       |
|                                    |      | Aug        | 25       | 1          | 7          | 1                | 5                  | 32          | 71    | 14 %       |
|                                    |      | Sep        | 43       | 0          | 10         | 9                | 3                  | 13          | 78    | 15 %       |
|                                    |      | Oct        | 12       | 0          | 7          | 7                | 3                  | 16          | 45    | 9 %        |
|                                    |      | Nov        | 6        | 0          | 4          | 2                | 1                  | 6           | 19    | 4 %        |
|                                    |      | Total      | 238      | 6          | 69         | 47               | 41                 | 122         | 523   |            |
|                                    |      | Percentage | 46 %     | 1 %        | 13 %       | 9 %              | 8 %                | 23 %        | 523   |            |
|                                    |      | Total      | 238      | 6          | 69         | 47               | 41                 | 122         | 523   |            |
| Mosomo Access- Cut Foot Sioux Lake | 2024 | May        | 18       | 128        | 8          | 19               | 0                  | 10          | 183   | 39 %       |
|                                    |      | Jun        | 16       | 13         | 3          | 6                | 1                  | 9           | 48    | 10 %       |
|                                    |      | Jul        | 31       | 3          | 9          | 8                | 0                  | 5           | 56    | 12 %       |
|                                    |      | Aug        | 17       | 6          | 4          | 7                | 0                  | 5           | 39    | 8 %        |
|                                    |      | Sep        | 13       | 11         | 9          | 4                | 0                  | 11          | 48    | 10 %       |
|                                    |      | Oct        | 26       | 26         | 11         | 18               | 0                  | 17          | 98    | 21 %       |
|                                    |      | Nov        | 0        | 0          | 0          | 0                | 0                  | 0           | 0     | 0 %        |
|                                    |      | Total      | 121      | 187        | 44         | 62               | 1                  | 57          | 472   |            |
|                                    |      | Percentage | 26 %     | 40 %       | 9 %        | 13 %             | 0 %                | 12 %        | 472   |            |
|                                    |      | Total      | 121      | 187        | 44         | 62               | 1                  | 57          | 472   |            |
| Total                              |      | Percentage | 26 %     | 40 %       | 9 %        | 13 %             | 0 %                | 12 %        |       |            |
|                                    |      |            | 359      | 193        | 113        | 109              | 42                 | 179         | 995   |            |



Chippewa Campground Winterized



Mosomo Winterized

## Photos of AIS Activities



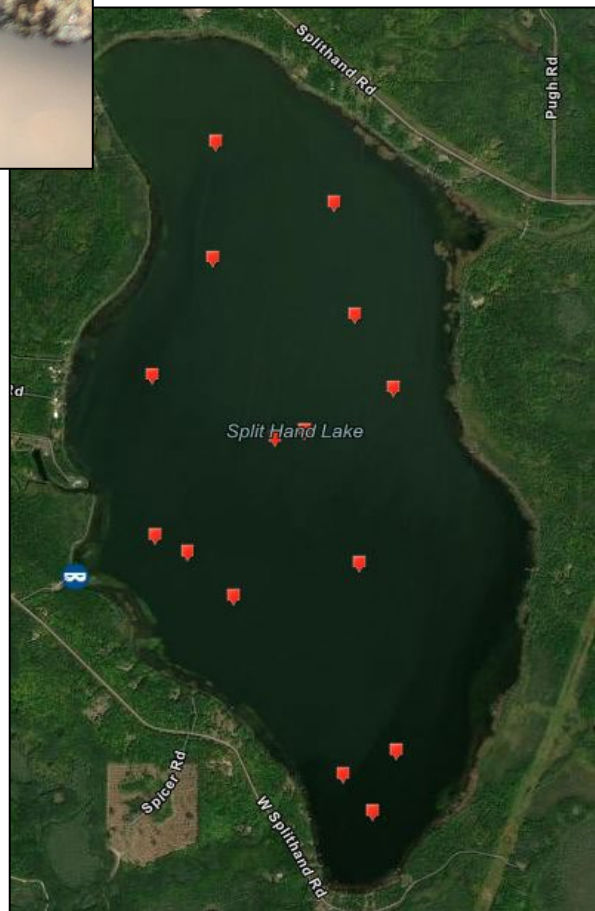
### **Pictured Left:**

A Zebra Mussel found attached to our early detection sampler that was placed under the access dock at Split Hand Lake.

There have been no other Zebra Mussels physically documented in Split Hand Lake as of the fall of 2024.

### **Pictured Right:**

A map showing the locations of plankton tows taken on Split Hand Lake in 2024 in search of Zebra Mussel Veligers. No Zebra Mussel Veligers were identified in the samples taken.

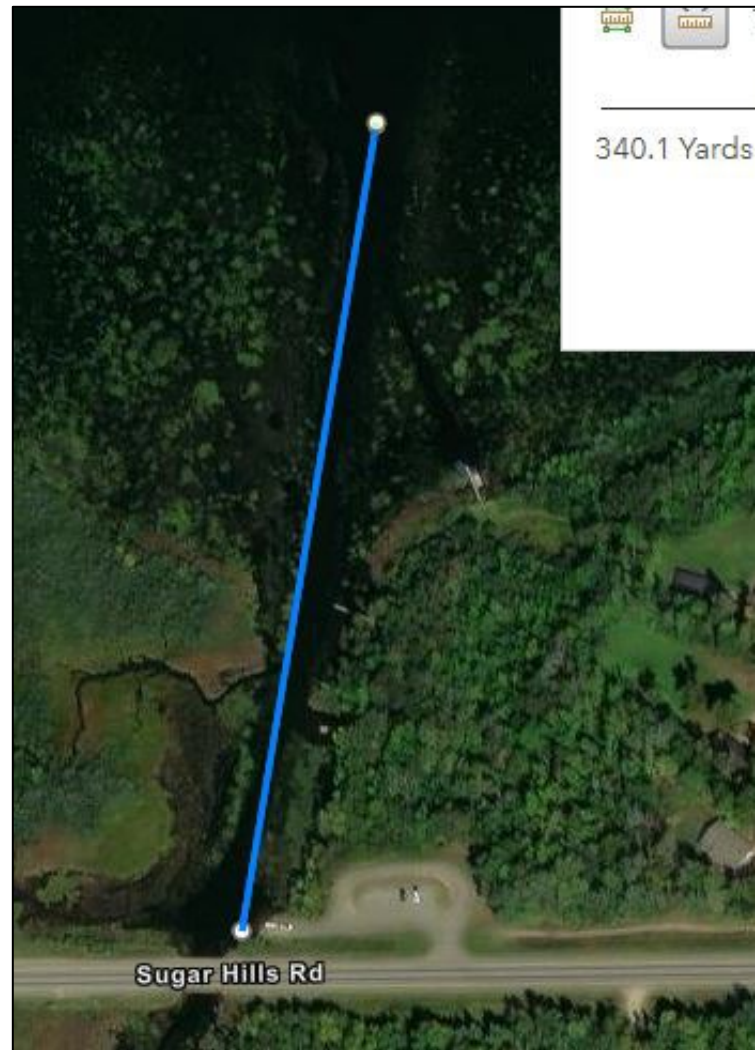




**Pictured Right:**

A map displaying the Pokegama Lake Starry Stonewort infestation discovered in 2024 in the channel leading from the Sherry's Arm Access out to open water.

The last found Starry Stonewort growth was found approximately 340 yards away from the boat ramp. The invasive macro-algae was not located anywhere else in the lake as of the fall of 2024.



**Pictured Left:**

North Star Lake: 2024

Almost every bulrush in the lake is encrusted with Zebra Mussels from the sediment all the way up to the water line.

Their population is the most abundant that we've seen since their discovery in 2017.





**Pictured Left:**

The expanse of Eurasian Water Milfoil matting at the surface of McKinney Lake prior to the ProcellaCOR herbicide application in 2024.



**Pictured Right:**

A close-up photo displaying the density of Eurasian Water Milfoil growth on McKinney Lake.





**Pictured Left:**

LaRue Mine Pit in Nashwauk: 2024

Purple Loosestrife growing on the shore that shows how the Galerucella Beetles, AKA Purple Loosestrife Defoliating Beetles, prevent the plants from producing flowers.



**Pictured Right:**

A Zebra Mussel encrusted wheel of a dock removed from Pokegama Lake in the fall of 2024.





**Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program SFY 2026 Budget**

In 2014, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 was enacted to provide \$10 million to counties each year to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The funds are allocated based on each county's share of watercraft trailer launches (50%) and each county's share of watercraft trailer parking spaces (50%). It is up to individual counties to make decisions on how the funds are to be used while still abiding by all current laws and regulations. Itasca County through a cooperative agreement, allocates these funds received to the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District. This budget shows how those AIS funds received from the county will be allocated. This draft of the SFY 2026 AIS Budget was drafted by Bill Grantges, Itasca SWCD AIS Program Manager, and Chris Evans, Itasca SWCD AIS Specialist, and assistant AIS Coordinator. On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD District Manager, and the Itasca SWCD AIS Technical Advisory Committee reviewed this draft budget and recommended that it be forwarded to the SWCD Board of Supervisors for their review. The Itasca SWCD Board of Supervisors approved this budget on January 14, 2025.

The Itasca SWCD AIS Program has four "priority areas". The four Priority Areas, are:

**Prevention:** priorities include AIS watercraft inspection and decontamination program, enforcement, education, public landing infrastructure improvements, partnerships (anglers, fishing guides, bait shops, hunters, marine businesses, float plane operators and all other businesses)

**Monitoring and Control:** priorities include coordinating trained SWCD AIS field crew(s) for early detection, control, and monitoring of AIS in Itasca County lakes and rivers. Supplemental training and education will be provided for AIS professionals of Itasca County.

**Community Action Projects:** priorities include managing a small grants program that enables organizations, associations, or individuals to further AIS prevention locally by means of enhancing other AISP programs or innovative projects, matching funds required to leverage AIS prevention efforts.

**Awareness and Training:** priorities include managing public communications, mass media programs, AIS awareness at public events, printed materials, outreach to new partners or external AIS partners, AIS programs for youth, contributing website content and collateral support for other priority areas' communication needs. Public training on AIS as well as Citizen science training for the early detection of AIS and AIS identification will be offered to citizens of Itasca County.

This budget allocates funds to Itasca County, the four Priority Areas, Itasca SWCD AIS Administration, and SWCD AIS Personnel accounts.

Submitted by Bill Grantges, AIS Program Manager January 30, 2025



Po Box 990, 1895 W U.S. Hwy. 2 ~ Grand Rapids, MN 55744 ~ 218-326-5573 ~  
[www.itascaswcd.org](http://www.itascaswcd.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



**Itasca Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Aquatic Invasive Species Program**  
**State Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**  
**Proposal to Itasca County Board of Commissioners**

| State Fiscal Year 2026               |                |                |                                            |                                              |                             |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                      | SFY 2025 Total | SFY 2026 Total | SFY 2026<br>1st half 7/1/25<br>to 12/31/25 | SFY 2026<br>2nd Half<br>1/1/26 to<br>6/30/26 | Change from<br>previous SFY |
| <b>Income</b>                        |                |                |                                            |                                              |                             |
| <b>AIS State Aid To County</b>       | 634,521        | 634,178        | 317,089                                    | 317,089                                      | (343)                       |
| <b>Itasca County Allocations</b>     |                |                |                                            |                                              |                             |
| County Admin                         | 3,000          | 3,000          | 1,500                                      | 1,500                                        | -                           |
| Itasca SWCD                          | 631,521        | 631,178        | 315,589                                    | 315,589                                      | (343)                       |
| <b>Itasca SWCD Allocations</b>       |                |                |                                            |                                              |                             |
| Admin                                | -              | 10,000         | 3,000                                      | 7,000                                        | 10,000                      |
| Personnel                            | 194,000        | 212,000        | 102,000                                    | 110,000                                      | 18,000                      |
| Priority Areas                       |                |                |                                            |                                              |                             |
| Prevention                           | 399,022        | 340,160        | 188,580                                    | 151,580                                      | (58,862)                    |
| Monitoring & Control                 | 34,000         | 20,000         | -                                          | 20,000                                       | (14,000)                    |
| Community Action Projects            | 4,000          | 40,000         | 20,000                                     | 20,000                                       | 36,000                      |
| Awareness & Training                 | 500            | 9,000          | 2,000                                      | 7,000                                        | 8,500                       |
| <b>Total Itasca SWCD Allocations</b> | 631,522        | 631,160        | 315,580                                    | 315,580                                      | (362)                       |

**What is different in the SFY 2026 Budget?**

**State Aid to County** is down \$343.

**County Admin** is unchanged.

**SWCD Admin-** receives \$10,000 more State Aid as a result of less rollover, and Union contract pay increases.

**Personnel-** receives \$17,000 more State Aid as a result of Union contract pay increases.

**Prevention-** receives \$47,000 less State Aid, \$15,000 more CAP (-\$31,761 net). \$11,000 more on inspectors and has approximately 1.75 less inspectors (all staff returning +\$0.25/hour). Oct. hours down by 444.

**Monitoring & Control-** receives \$24,000 less State Aid. \$43K grant in 2024-5. No change in staffing(same pay rate & hours). We can not predict USFS grants so they are Zero for 2026.

**CAP** receives \$36,000 more State Aid and is back up to 40K a year. Unallocated funds down by \$16,000

**Awareness & training** receives \$8,500 more State Aid. Increased goes to public outreach and education.



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

---

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-250**

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Land Department

**TIME REQUESTED:** < 5 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Brett Skyles

---

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Letter of Support

---

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve Letter of Support to the City of Grand Rapids to pursue grant funds for the purchase of land within Legion Park.

**BACKGROUND:**

The county has expressed a desire to divest of lands within Legion Park in the City of Grand Rapids. In order for the city to pursue funding sources for the acquisition, they need Itasca County to formally express their support for the project.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

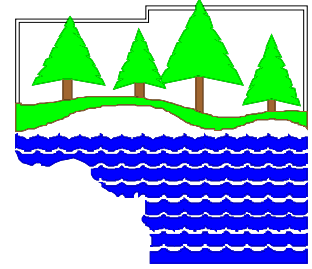
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Letter of Support\_Legion Park\_Itasca Co Bd
2. Letter of Support\_Legion Park FULLY EXECUTED

|                  |                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED (4 TO 0)</b>                             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Commissioner John Johnson                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Commissioner Terry Snyder                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | District #4                                          |
| <b>VACANT:</b>   |                                                      |

# ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse  
Administrative Services  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600  
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



February 4, 2025

City of Grand Rapids  
420 North Pokegama Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

RE: Legion Park Land Acquisition Project

Dear City Council Members,

This letter of support is to confirm that the Itasca County Board of Commissioners supports the City of Grand Rapids' efforts to pursue grant funds to acquire 92 acres currently owned by Itasca County and 20.7 acres owned by the State of Minnesota in trust of the taxing districts, all located within Legion Park in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The acquisition will meet both Itasca County's and Grand Rapids' strategic land management goals of consolidating ownership for habitat and to provide for more efficient management and of these lands.

Itasca County understands that they may request a formal County Board Resolution if it is required by law.

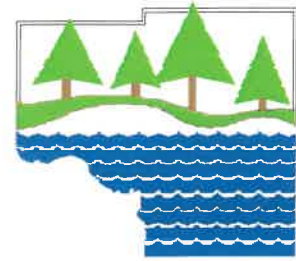
Sincerely,

Casey Venema  
Chair, Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Equal Opportunity Employer

# ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse  
Administrative Services  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600  
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



February 4, 2025

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Itasca County understands that they may request a formal County Board Resolution if it is required by law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Casey Venema", is written over a horizontal line.

Casey Venema  
Chair, Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Equal Opportunity Employer



**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

---

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-228**

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 20 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Chair

---

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Performance Evaluation Summary

---

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Provide summary of the Performance Evaluation of County Administrator Brett Skyles.

**BACKGROUND:**

Performance evaluation occurred at the 1/28/2025 County Board Regular Session.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None

2/4/2025

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>PULLED FROM AGENDA</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------|





**ITASCA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse  
123 NE 4th Street  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

---

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-247**

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services

**TIME REQUESTED:** 20 Minutes

**PRESENTER:** Chair

---

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Closed Session Re: County Administrator Performance Review

---

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Hold a Closed Session per MN Statutes 13D.05, subd. 3, to conduct County Administrator Brett Skyles' Performance Review.

**BACKGROUND:**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None

02/04/2025

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN</b> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|