



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith 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
Larry Hopkins	District #4	Present	2:30 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Add Item #6.10 (Forest Service Payment Methodology) and approve the agenda, as amended.

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER: Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 21, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER: Commissioner John Johnson
AYES: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 21, 2026, Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent agenda, as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve Lease Amendment with the State of MN Department of Public Safety: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and authorize necessary signatures.

2. Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Itasca County and Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 598 and authorize necessary signatures.
3. Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Itasca County and AFSCME Local 1452 Re: changes to the Post Health Care Savings Plan and authorize necessary signatures.
4. Approve LG214 Premises Permit Application, as requested by American Legion Post 122, for gambling at Richies Repete located at 48644 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657.
5. Schedule a land classification meeting for Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at the regularly scheduled County Board meeting at 2:30 pm in the County Boardroom.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Employee Recognition

Farewell to David Schmit, who has retired from his position as Assistant County Attorney in The Attorneys Department after 24 years of service, effective July 16, 2026.

Farewell to Wayne Pifher, who has retired from his position as Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation department after 25 years of service, effective July 24, 2026.

Congratulations to Gwen Hill who has been promoted from Eligibility Specialist to Lead Eligibility Specialist in the Health and Human Services Department, effective July 6, 2026.

Congratulations to Tim Lasecki who has transferred from his position as Survey Technician in the Surveying & Mapping department to Engineering Tech in the Transportation Department, effective July 19th, 2026.

Welcome to Stephanie Troumbly who has joined Itasca County as a Social Worker in the Health and Human Services Department, effective July 20, 2026

2. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of July 29, 2026, in the amount of \$584,371.70.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

3. ICHHS Warrants

Motion To: Approve the Itasca County Health & Human Services Warrants for July 2026 in the amount of \$1,099,875.21.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

4. Job Postings

Motion To: Approve Job Postings :1 Assistant County Attorney, 3 Road Deputies, 1 Emergency Communications Specialist, 1 Eligibility Specialist, 1 Child Support Officer, 1 Highway Maintenance Worker.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

5. County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation.
Sarah Anderson, Health Plan Division Manager, provided County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation Re: Quarter 1, 2026 Compliance Program Report for informational purposes only; no action taken.
6. Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) 2026
Motion To: Approve allocating the 2024 (\$129,700) and 2025 (\$55,312) SAHA dollars to the Itasca County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ICHRA) Community Land Trust (CLT) homes program project and committed the 2026 (\$67,765) SAHA dollars to future ICHRA CLT projects.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

7. Youth Development Work
Keri Cavitt, Regional Director Northeast Region, provided an update on Youth Development Work from County Extension, for informational purposes only; no action taken.
8. Addition to the Swan River Deer Yard WMA
No action was taken on request to purchase 474-acre contiguous tract of land to add to the Swan River Wildlife Management Area.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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9. License Agreement with United States Steel Corporation
Motion To: Approve License Agreement between Itasca County and United States Steel Corporation for the public water access on Blue Lake and authorize necessary signatures.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

10. Forest Service Payment Methodology
Motion To: Approve the Forest Service Payment methodology and authorized necessary signatures.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

No update provided.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a Budget Session and Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending the compacting program (10 ton loads going out), attending a Probation Advisory Committee meeting, met with the Deputy Commissioner for DEED, and attended the Northern MN Car Show and Swap meet.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a Budget Session and Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending a Nashwauk Library Board meeting.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith provided comment on Coffee with Commissioners on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 6 p.m. at Carpenter Town Hall.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

No input provided.

1. Receive citizen input.

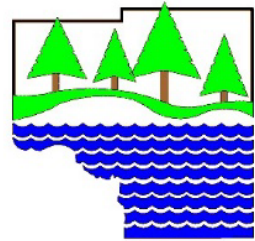
XI. CLOSED SESSIONS**XII. ADJOURN**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:48 PM.

ATTEST

Terry Snyder
~~Cory Smith~~ *Terry Snyder*
Acting Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



MEETING INFORMATION SHEET
JULY 28, 2026

PULL: None

ADDITIONS:

1. Item # 6.10 Forest Service Payment Methodology

CHANGES: None

INFORMATIONAL: None



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-449

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 15 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:

Citizen Input

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive citizen input.

BACKGROUND:

The Itasca County Board of Commissioners encourages citizen input. Each citizen will be allowed to address the County Board one time for up to three (3) minutes in length. Comments should be directed to the Board as a body. When addressing the Board, please state your name and address for the record. The Board will take all information under advisement. As part of County Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a County Board meeting. In addition, no political grandstanding, candidate endorsement, or other attempts to influence the outcome of an election shall be permitted. Any violation of the above statement shall result in the loss of your remaining time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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123 NE 4th Street
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Tuesday, July 21, 2026

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

DRAFT

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith 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	Absent	
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:30 PM
Larry Hopkins	District #4	Present	2:30 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the agenda, as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER: Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES: Cory Smith, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Terry Snyder

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 14, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Larry Hopkins
SECONDER: Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES: Cory Smith, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Terry Snyder

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 14, 2026, Regular agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent agenda, as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER: Commissioner John Johnson
AYES: Cory Smith, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Terry Snyder

1. Accept resignation of Jan Noles from the Bowstring Airport Commission effective 8/11/2026.
2. Approve and authorize the necessary signatures for the 2025-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Itasca County and Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 644 Sheriffs Office Sergeants.
3. Approve tobacco license for EverPine, LLC dba Rocket's Liquor Store location at 45 E Highway 2, Cohasset, MN 55721. License will be valid from August 14th, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
4. Contingent upon approval from the Office of Civil Rights, award SP 031-070-011 HSIP Intersection Lighting to the lowest responsible bidder, PEC Solutions LLC dba Parsons Electric in the amount of \$513,695.00 and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.
5. Adopt the Resolution Re: Agency Agreement No.1063834 and authorize the Board Chairman and the County Auditor to execute the agreement.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of July 22, 2026, in the amount of \$1,798,060.60.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	Terry Snyder

2. Employee Expense Reimbursement

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

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	Terry Snyder

3. National Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week

Kevin Glass, Court Services Director and Mark Smith, District Supervisor DOC recognized "National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Week" as July 19-25, 2026.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including First Call For Help and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe teaming up to honor Veterans lost to Suicide. Also noted that they have a "Crisis Response Team" for Veterans and that there are very few in the nation.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a Townhall meeting and a Risk Assessment meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending a Business & Economic Development Workshop, an Economic Development Assn of MN Seminar, CEDA meeting, a 2nd Economic Development meeting, the Blackberry Car Show, and a Grand Rapids Chamber meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending a Carpenter Township meeting and a Nashwauk Informational meeting Re: Trails.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending a meeting with Veterans Re: moving the VSO into the office space formerly housing Administrative Services and Commissioners.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No comments provided.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

No input provided.

1. Receive citizen input.

XI. CLOSED SESSIONS

XII. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:44 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-507

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
PRESENTER:

TIME REQUESTED:

AGENDA ITEM:

Approve Lease Amendment with the State of MN Department of Public Safety: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Lease Amendment with the State of MN Department of Public Safety: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. 12475 Amend 1

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-508

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
PRESENTER:

TIME REQUESTED:

AGENDA ITEM:

Approve MOU between Itasca County and Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 598.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Itasca County and Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 598 and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or PendingN/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Itasca County Licensed Sup LELS 598 MOU Compensatory

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
ITASCA COUNTY
AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERVICES, INC. LOCAL NO. 598**

(Revised 8.3.4 Overtime)

Itasca County (the County) and Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. Local No. 598 (the Union), are the parties to a collective bargaining agreement. The County and Union will collectively be referred to as the parties.

WHEREAS, the parties negotiated a 2025-2027 collective bargaining agreement which represented a first agreement for this bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, the parties utilized language from other collective bargaining agreements between the County and in negotiating the language for this bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, the agreement contains Article 8, Section 8.3.4 that states:

All employees who work overtime shall have the option to be paid at the rate of 1.575 times their regular hourly rate of pay for all overtime hours worked or compensatory time at the rate of 1.575 hours off for each hour of overtime worked. All overtime and compensatory time must be pre-approved by the immediate supervisor. Employees may accrue not more than 80 hours of compensatory time off.

; and

WHEREAS, the agreement was executed and, in the course of implementing the agreement, the parties discovered that there was an error in the language in that it referenced both 1.575 times and 1-1/2 times for both pay and compensatory time off; and

WHEREAS, the intent was to provide 1.575 times for the paid option and 1.5 hours for the compensatory time option; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the parties to revise the language in order to reflect the agreement:

NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT:

Section 8.3.4 of the collective bargaining agreement is hereby amended to read as follows:

All employees who work overtime shall have the option to be paid at the rate of 1.575 times their regular hourly rate of pay for all overtime hours worked or compensatory time at the rate of 1.5 hours off for each hour of overtime worked. All overtime and compensatory time must be pre-approved by the immediate supervisor. Employees may accrue not more than 80 hours of compensatory time off.

For Itasca County:

For Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc.
Local No. 598:

County Board Chair

Dan Wilson
Business Agent

Dated:

Dated:

5040145.2



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-509

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
PRESENTER:

TIME REQUESTED:

AGENDA ITEM:

Approve MOU between Itasca County and AFSCME Local 1452 Re: Post Health Care Savings Plan

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Itasca County and AFSCME Local 1452 Re: changes to the Post Health Care Savings Plan and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. 1452 Post HCSP MOU

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Post Health Care Savings Plan

This MOU is agreed to between Itasca County and Local 1452 to update the 2025-2027 Local 1452 collective bargaining agreement relative to Post Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) contribution.

The following shall replace the 2025-2027 Local 1452 collective bargaining agreement language under Article 17 Group Insurance Program, Section 9 Post Health Care Savings Plan.

All employees shall be enrolled in the Post Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP), after 1 year of employment on their anniversary date of hire, or the very next pay period. Said employee shall contribute 4% of their regular wages* earned during the biweekly pay period into the HCSP via payroll deduction each pay period.

*Regular wages are defined as the hourly wage stated in the Union pay plan (regular wages exclude callout pay, on-call, shift differential, meals, severance pay, and overtime).

The County shall not be responsible for any costs associated with the Post Health Care Savings Plan mentioned above.

All other Articles of the Local 1452 collective bargaining agreement remain the same.

Itasca County

AFSCME Local 1452

By: _____
Cory Smith
County Board Chair

By: _____
Rick Hipsag
Local 1452 Union President

By: _____
Brett Skyles
County Administrator

By: _____
Leann Stoll
Labor Representative-AFSCME 65

Dated: _____

Dated: _____



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-511

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer

TIME REQUESTED:

PRESENTER: Austin Rohling

AGENDA ITEM:

Gambling Permit

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve LG214 Premises Permit Application, as requested by American Legion Post 122, for gambling at Richies Repete located at 48644 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657.

BACKGROUND:

Gambling permit would not be active until Richies Repete is open for business.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-513

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Kory Cease

AGENDA ITEM:

Land Classification Meeting

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Schedule a land classification meeting for Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at the regularly scheduled County Board meeting at 2:30 pm in the County Boardroom.

BACKGROUND:

Land classification meetings review new forfeitures, land sale, or land exchange requests for tax-forfeited lands. There has been a request for tax-forfeited parcels by Mesabi Metallica for the purpose of supporting mining activities in the area.

Parcels:

- 1) PID# 95-135-4301; UND 1/4 INT in SWSE, Section 35, Township 57 North, Range 23 West.
- 2) PID# 95-135-4302; UND. 3/4 INT in SWSE, Section 35, Township 57 North, Range 23 West.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-184

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Administrator Skyles

AGENDA ITEM:

Employee Recognition

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Farewell to David Schmit, who has retired from his position as Assistant County Attorney in The Attorneys Department after 24 years of service, effective July 16, 2026.

Farewell to Wayne Pifher, who has retired from his position as Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation department after 25 years of service, effective July 24, 2026.

Congratulations to Gwen Hill who has been promoted from Eligibility Specialist to Lead Eligibility Specialist in the Health and Human Services Department, effective July 6, 2026.

Congratulations to Tim Lasecki who has transferred from his position as Survey Technician in the Surveying & Mapping department to Engineering Tech in the Transportation Department, effective July 19th, 2026.

Welcome to Stephanie Troumbly who has joined Itasca County as a Social Worker in the Health and Human Services Department, effective July 20, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-178

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Gail Guck

AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the Commissioner Warrants with a check date of July 29, 2026, in the amount of \$584,371.70.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-147

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Christine Krebs

AGENDA ITEM:

ICCHS Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the Itasca County Health & Human Services Warrants for July 2026 in the amount of \$1,099,875.21.

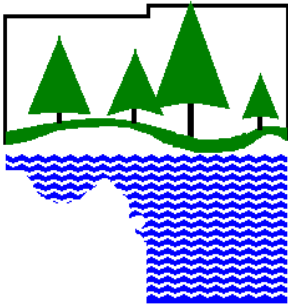
BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. July 2026 Board Report

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

1209 SE 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549

218-327-2941

Visit us at : www.co.itasca.mn.us

July 2026

Income Maint/Admin Payments	\$ 155,780.82
Social Services - Waivers	\$ 13,849.58
Social Services - Non-Waivers	\$ 511,603.22
Foster Care/Out of Home/FamilySupport	\$ 375,265.37
Relative Custody/Preventive Placement Costs/Incidentals	\$ 8,795.97
Public Health	\$ 32,647.64
Community Health Board	\$ 1,932.61
Total	\$ 1,099,875.21

Note : The above is a general description of payments made during the month indicated and is not intended to be a detailed itemization. The Community Health Board does not affect the Health & Human Services budget or levy.

July 2026
Out of Home Placement Breakdown

Foster Care/Out-of-Home/Family Support Comparison					
	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
January	423,172.82	407,984.28	358,655.03	481,711.66	433,150.76
February	337,301.90	419,438.58	392,553.96	553,117.21	348,631.48
March	375,543.81	360,646.28	406,513.25	549,963.91	390,198.68
April	320,256.11	503,076.21	490,023.47	519,051.04	552,814.60
May	403,451.86	486,088.00	499,374.53	438,535.58	487,698.28
June	340,659.54	419,736.48	358,348.53	563,762.89	585,853.92
July	375,265.37	380,255.92	424,373.46	429,881.33	400,212.87
August		611,190.11	381,991.86	482,732.73	484,467.08
September		434,323.05	471,425.74	397,517.32	499,454.00
October		346,547.13	465,927.89	445,148.34	596,946.77
November		436,612.53	384,937.51	510,070.44	361,433.79
December		294,053.94	422,698.84	383,715.02	510,726.16
Total	2,575,651.41	5,099,952.51	5,056,824.07	5,755,207.47	5,651,588.39

Child Protection Statistics					
	Maltreatment Reports	Opened for Assessment	% Opened	Children Placed	% Placed of Open
January	57	22	39%	1	5%
February	79	30	38%	7	23%
March	95	27	28%	5	19%
April	92	31	34%	10	32%
May	110	33	30%	8	24%
June	121	21	17%	2	10%
July	108	21	19%	6	29%
August			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
September			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
October			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
November			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
December			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
	662	185	28%	39	21%
	average				average
2025	968	323	33%	71	22%
2024	472	191	40%	80	42%
2023	510	275	56%	84	32%
2022	605	300	50%	96	33%

July 2026
Out of Home Placement Payments by Vendor

		Rate	Invoices Paid
North Homes	-	\$175 - \$573/day	\$ 66,809
Northwestern MN Juvenile	-	\$275-\$421/day	\$ 63,070
The Bridge Residential Facility	-	\$255/day	\$ 45,900
Northwood	-	\$294-\$441/day	\$ 34,974
Kadiri House	-	\$593/day	\$ 21,795
Snyders/Foundation for Life	-	\$200/day	\$ 16,600
Little Sand Group Home	-	\$394/day	\$ 11,998
Village Ranch	-	\$249 - \$318/day	\$ 7,493
Anoka County Juvenile Center	-	\$395/day	\$ 6,504
Nexus	-	\$296 - \$556/day	\$ 6,274
Lighthouse	-	\$200/day	\$ 6,000
Lutheran Social Services	-	\$148-\$366/day	\$ 2,384
Dungarvin	-	\$35/day	\$ 2,219
Residential Services	-		\$ 1,176
180 Degrees Inc	-	\$500 - \$566/day	\$ -
Arrowhead Juvenile Center	-	\$286/day	\$ -
Bar None	-	\$559/day	\$ -
Crow Wing Community Serv	-	\$295/day	\$ -
Dakota County Juvenile Serv	-	\$325 - \$340/day	\$ -
East Central Regional Juvenile	-	\$375/day	\$ -
Fond Du Lac Foster Care	-	\$40 - \$90/day	\$ -
Heartland Girls Ranch	-	\$249 - \$359/day	\$ -
MCF - Redwing	-	\$260/day	\$ -
MN Dept of Corrections	-	\$269/day	\$ -
New Trails Group Home	-	\$331/day	\$ -
Northstar	-	\$200/day	\$ -
Peace House	-	\$115/day	\$ -
Port Group Homes	-	\$381/day	\$ -
Volunteers of America	-	\$330 - \$590/day	\$ -
West Central Juvenile Center	-	\$300 - \$595/day	\$ -
Woodland Hills	-	\$290 - \$331/day	\$ -
Individuals*	-	\$21 - \$121/day	\$ 82,070
Total			\$ 375,266

*Individuals : Includes Foster Care & Family Support Programs

July 2026
North Homes & Northwestern Placement Breakdown

North Homes							
	Assessment Evaluation	Shelter	Hawkins Home	Boys & Girls Programs	Cottage	Foster	Total
Jan	27,318.77	-	23,397.16	42,693.84	6,945.45	-	100,355.22
Feb	-	-	11,890.36	-	-	16,343.82	28,234.18
Mar	7,735.31	-	22,630.04	15,247.80	-	-	45,613.15
Apr	-	-	-	-	-	5,990.32	5,990.32
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jun	21,110.27	-	23,397.16	677.68	-	4,368.44	49,553.55
Jul	25,263.11	17,132.11	23,397.16	1,016.52	-	-	66,808.90
Aug							-
Sep							-
Oct							-
Nov							-
Dec							-
	81,427.46	17,132.11	104,711.88	59,635.84	6,945.45	26,702.58	296,555.32

Northwestern							
		Residential	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Satellite Homes	Evaluation	Total
Jan		29,295.00	7,150.00	15,777.55	8,277.00	5,985.00	66,484.55
Feb		26,000.00	2,345.00	14,157.99	8,525.00	12,741.00	63,768.99
Mar		37,837.50	7,705.00	12,740.00	7,700.00	9,864.00	75,846.50
Apr		43,276.00	20,100.00	5,520.00	8,525.00	-	77,421.00
May		49,163.00	10,050.00	2,415.00	8,250.00	-	69,878.00
Jun		49,725.00	5,025.00	3,450.00	16,225.00	-	74,425.00
Jul		39,000.00	670.00	6,900.00	16,500.00		63,070.00
Aug							-
Sep							-
Oct							-
Nov							-
Dec							-
	-	274,296.50	53,045.00	60,960.54	74,002.00	28,590.00	490,894.04



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-510

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Commissioner John Johnson

AGENDA ITEM:

Job Posting Approvals

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Job Postings — 1 Assistant County Attorney (Attorney's office), 3 Road Deputies (Sheriff Dept), 1 Emergency Communications Specialist (Sheriff Dept), 1 Eligibility Specialist (Family Services, HHS), 1 Child Support Officer (Child Support, HHS), 1 Highway Maintenance Worker (Road and Bridge, Transportation)

BACKGROUND:

In alignment with the County's updated job posting process, the department head and supervisors met with the Classification / Job Posting Committee to present the operational need for filling these positions. The Committee reviewed current workload, service impacts, and staffing levels and agreed to bring this recommendation forward to the County Board for consideration.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Road Deputy Budget Study

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

[illegible]

Remaining 4 Months of the Year/ Hire date 8/1
\$39,808.59
\$45,630.81
\$50,069.28
\$135,508.68
Savings from End Date
\$139,595.57
\$75,103.92
\$68,845.26
\$62,586.60
\$346,131.34
\$210,622.66
\$210,622.66
\$71,864
\$21,715.20
\$304,201.86
\$304,201.86 in savings exceeds the initial request to remove 2 deputies' salaries (\$238,851.52) from the budget while also adding 3 deputies.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-329

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Sarah Anderson

AGENDA ITEM:

County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Q1 2026 Compliance Program Report

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-512

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Eric Villeneuve

AGENDA ITEM:

Statewide Affordable Housing Aid (SAHA) 2026

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Allocate the 2024 (\$129,700) and 2025 (\$55,312) SAHA dollars to the Itasca County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ICHRA) Community Land Trust (CLT) homes program project, and commit the 2026 (\$67,765) SAHA dollars to future ICHRA CLT projects.

BACKGROUND: Statewide Affordable Housing Aid helps counties develop and preserve affordable housing within their jurisdictions. Aid was first paid in 2023. Funds from this aid program must be spent on a qualifying project by December 31st of the fourth year after the aid was received.

Qualifying projects include:

- Emergency rental assistance for households earning less than 80% of area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Financial support to nonprofit affordable housing providers in their mission to provide safe, dignified, affordable, and supportive housing.
- Construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition or removal of structures, construction financing, permanent financing, interest rate reduction, refinancing, and gap financing of housing to provide affordable housing for households that have incomes not exceeding:
 - **For homeownership projects**, 115% of the greater of state or area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. CLT - SAHA Project Brief 08-2026

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson

SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Project Brief

From: Isaac Meyer, Special Projects Program Director, ICHRA

Date: July 21, 2026

Project: For-Sale New-Construction Homes in Bovey, Nashwauk, and Keewatin

Executive Summary: The Itasca County Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (ICHRA) Community Land Trust (CLT) homeownership program proposes to construct 6 two and three bedroom single-family homes on infill lots in 3 Eastern Itasca communities: 2 in Nashwauk, 2 in Keewatin, and 2 in Bovey. The homes must be owner-occupied and would be sold to Itasca County families earning under \$95,200/year (\$45.77/hour for a full-time worker).

If our proposal to MN Housing is funded in the current grant cycle, we plan for 4 homes to begin construction in April of 2028 and 4 in September of 2028. All would be single-level Energy Star certified homes with attached garages using previously built designs (see photos below). Mortgage costs and escrow for this program's buyers range from \$1,150 - \$1,650/month and this must cost *at least* 25% of their monthly income at the time of sale.

The Need: Loss of entry-level homeownership and new construction spec starter homes

Homeownership has been the primary and most significant method of wealth creation for American working families, since the mid-20th century. Challengingly, none of DEED's top 10 most in-demand jobs in the county have median incomes that can afford the median sale price of existing homes (\$302,450 in 2025). In 2025 a conventional mortgage payment for a median-priced (\$534,950 in 2025) new construction home in Itasca County was \$4,050 per month.

The ICHRA program makes new-construction homeownership financially attainable for local working families through funding support provided by Minnesota Housing and private community donors under a Community Land Trust shared equity model. In this shared equity model, the home's sale price is reduced, through public and private contributions, and in recognition, as enforced by the land trust, the buyer agrees to limit their resale price to 25% of the home's future appreciation.ⁱ This permanently preserves the public investment from enriching the first buyer, while still providing equity and wealth building to the buyer, and a much needed new owner-occupied homes for a community.

For these Iron Range Communities, new single-family construction is a basic signal of a community's economic health, and in towns that have gone years without it these first new construction homes expand the local tax base, add much needed owner-occupied housing stock, and are a visible sign to lenders, employers, and residents of local community investment.

Eligibility Criteria for Buyers of ICHRA For-Sale Single-Family New Construction Homes

- Income Eligibility: A household must have an annual income which does not exceed 80% of Statewide non-metro median income at the time of closing (\$95,200/year). There are no further income restrictions after a household purchases their home.
 - Whether a land trust home is 'affordable' to a buyer is determined wholly by their private lender's determination of mortgage qualification based on their income and creditworthiness.
- Mortgage Capacity: Household must have both income and creditworthiness to obtain a conventional mortgage from a lender for the cost of the home.

- Residency: Where more than 1 household has interest in a particular home, preference must always be given to those residing or working in Itasca County.
- Asset Limitation: Excluding retirement assets, prospective homebuyer(s) may not have liquid assets exceeding \$50,000 after closing on the purchase of their home.
- Minimum Monthly Housing Cost: Buyers must have a front-end ratio (housing cost/ monthly income) of at least 25%.
- Owner Occupancy: Buyers must occupy the home and cannot rent it.

Site Locations

ICHRA working closely with local Cities, has secured site control for 6 sites with options for an additional 2 sites: 2 in Nashwauk, 2 in Keewatin (with purchase options for 2 more), and 2 in Bovey. The Nashwauk sites are in the City's Bozich Addition. The Keewatin sites are part of the southern portion of their school site redevelopment project and are developable without infrastructure improvements (excepting 1 optioned lot for which utility extension is needed) and form a cornerstone of the Keewatin's redevelopment plan. The Bovey sites are within existing neighborhoods, and of the 2 Bovey sites, 1 would require utility extension for development. Should utilities not be extended to that parcel, an alternate vacant site would be sought within Bovey.

SAHA Funding Eligibility

SAHA funds are explicitly authorized under the statute §477A.36 for (1) construction, (2) acquisition, (3) construction financing, and (4) gap financing of housing for the purposes of serving residents below 80% of AMI. The ICHRA program fundamentally conducts those activities in its home building- acquiring land and constructing for-sale homes.

Timeline and Funding

Pending a Minnesota Housing Impact Fund award, anticipated in December 2026, ICHRA would acquire sites and finalize construction documents through 2027, bidding the project and awarding a construction contract in early 2028. Construction proceeds in two sets, with the half the homes breaking ground in April 2028 and completing that October, and the second half beginning in September 2028 for completion by spring 2029.

ICHRA has submitted a funding request to Minnesota Housing for \$1,750,800 in Impact Fund Affordability and Value gap funding for this project, and 2 homes in the Grand Rapids, La Prairie, and Cohasset market area, and have raised \$120,000 from Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, \$330,000 in Local Housing Trust Funds, and seek to raise a further \$190,000. Requested SAHA funds would exclusively support activities for the Eastern Itasca communities.

If we are not awarded funding in the current round, we are committed to reapplying and continuing to work with the Cities of Bovey, Nashwauk, and Keewatin on the continued development of much requested single family owner-occupied housing. During the construction of these homes, does intend to plan to build additional homes in Eastern Itasca County as a next step in achieving the local housing goals of these communities and their neighboring cities.

Two Bedroom One Bath - Home Example



Three Bedroom Two Bath - Home Example



ⁱ Note: Improvements made by the owner appreciate 100% to the owner.

Example Scenario: A Mobile Equipment Maintenance Technician at Mesabi Metallics earning \$79,040/year purchases a 2-bedroom home for the price of \$250,000 with a conventional mortgage through a local Bank for \$1,400/month. In 6 years, the homeowner decides to purchase a larger home for their growing family and to capture more wealth through their homeownership. Their home has appreciated \$100,000 since their purchase and they capture 25% of this appreciation (\$25,000). They've also built a 2-stall detached garage worth \$25,000. They are able to sell their home for \$300,000. This sale, as with the Owner's purchase, would be restricted to households making 80% or less than the statewide non-metro median income.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-436

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Keri Cavitt Regional Director Northeast Region

AGENDA ITEM:

Youth Development Work

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive update on Youth Development Work from County Extension.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-514

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Will Cooksey, Jim Hansen

AGENDA ITEM:

Addition to the Swan River Deer Yard WMA

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval for the Trust for Public Land and the Mississippi River Headwaters Board to purchase a 474 acre contiguous tract of land described as the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 22, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 15, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 23, all located in Township 53 North Range 23 West, for transfer to the State of Minnesota to be managed as an addition to the Swan River Wildlife Management Area.

BACKGROUND:

The land contains a mixture of forest and wetland (60% upland, 40% lowland/open water, approximately), with a well-maintained 3.75-mile network of trail which is proposed to be maintained by the DNR as Hunter Walking Trails, open to the public for activities including hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The conservation of this land would protect excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife and enhance the existing Wildlife Management Area. The DNR also plans to make available and locate accessible hunting blinds on the property for public use. The Trust for Public Land would purchase the land from the existing landowner using Outdoor Heritage Fund (Legacy) dollars and then donate the land to the State of Minnesota.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Swan River WMA Addition_Supporting Info

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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Proposed DNR land acquisition to add to the Swan River Deer Yard Wildlife Management Area (WMA)



The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) request county board approval to add 474 acres to the existing Swan River Deer Yard WMA. This contiguous tract of land is in sections 15, 22 and 23 of Sago Township, 20 miles southeast of Grand Rapids. The 12 tax parcel numbers are 4.015.4400 34.015.4300 34.022.1100 34.022.1200 34.022.2100 34.022.2400 34.022.1300 34.022.1400 34.023.2300 34.023.3200 34.022.4100 34.022.4200. See attached maps. TPL would purchase the land from the existing landowner using Outdoor Heritage Fund (Legacy) dollars and then donate the land to the DNR.

The land is a beautiful mixture of woods and wetland (60% upland, 40% lowland/open water, approximately), with a well-maintained 3.75-mile network of trail which is proposed to be maintained by the DNR as Hunter Walking Trails, open to the public for activities including hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The conservation of this land would protect excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife and enhance the existing WMA. The DNR also plans to make available and locate accessible hunting blinds on the property for public use.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of the state Outdoor Recreation System created by the Minnesota Legislature. To date there are 1,506 WMAs statewide. The Swan River Deer Yard WM is a deeryard extending east and west along Hwy 65. The lowlands provide cedar and balsam fir winter cover for deer while the upland aspen and balsam fir stands provide additional cover and browse plus habitat for grouse and other upland game.

WMAs are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. They are the backbone to DNR's wildlife management efforts in Minnesota and are key to:

- protecting wildlife habitat for future generations,
- providing citizens with opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching, and
- promoting important wildlife-based tourism in the state.

Who uses WMAs? Ranging from prairies and wetlands to forests and brushlands, WMAs provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife watching activities. Hundreds of thousands of hunters use these public wildlife lands. Pheasants, waterfowl, deer, and ruffed grouse are the major game species hunted, but WMAs also provide wild turkey, sharp-tailed grouse, rabbit, and squirrel hunting. Wildlife resources are very important to Minnesota; 15 percent of Minnesotans hunt and 52 percent of Minnesota residents watch wildlife, the highest participation rate in the country. Hunting and wildlife watching are a \$1 billion dollar industry in Minnesota.

PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) is calculated from the sale price of the property and is re-calculated every 5 years based on county land appraisals. The estimated PILT payment for this 473-acre addition to the WMA is \$5,160/year. The 2026 property tax and assessments are \$3,694. The PILT payment is thus \$1,466 higher than the current real estate taxes.

The statutes governing PILT are MS 477A.11 to 477A.14. More information on PILT can be found on the [PILT page](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo/pilt/index.html) of the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo/pilt/index.html> or by contacting Kate Giel, Realty Program Coordinator, 651-259-5377.

About the Mississippi River Habitat Corridor Project: The Mississippi River is known as "America's River." It is the largest river in North America, and provides drinking water, industry, and recreation for millions of people, and is the embodiment of Minnesota's outdoor traditions. Strategic and well placed public ownership is essential to maintaining the hunting, fishing, and game habitat along the Mississippi River. Public lands adjacent to private property are in danger of losing habitat connectivity because of the continued development pressures on private lands which result in further fragmentation. Land accessibility to these lands is essential to ensuring high quality, memorable experiences while hunting and fishing within the Mississippi River Corridor. Riparian corridors and tributaries are of particular value to resident and migrating wildlife populations, providing connectivity to multiple habitat types.

As loss of habitat in western Minnesota and the Dakotas occurs, and climate change causes the drying up of existing wetlands, the Mississippi flyway will take on a more important role. The Mississippi flyway is the longest migration route of any in the western hemisphere and is well timbered and watered to afford ideal conditions to support migrating birds. The Mississippi Headwaters supports more than 350 species of animals, mammals, and birds and is an important national treasure which must be preserved.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board will use targeted land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements to accomplish the goals of this proposal. All fee title acquisitions will be approved by the local governmental unit and the Mississippi Headwaters Board where the property exists. The Mississippi River and its connecting tributaries and headwaters lakes are essential to wildlife, bird, and waterfowl transportation and sustainability. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will work with The Trust for Public Land to protect the priority lands using fee title acquisitions; and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the counties of Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison to implement the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program through the Board of Water and Soil Resources to gain permanent conservation easements. These actions will protect against fragmentation of forest land and provide access to existing public land.

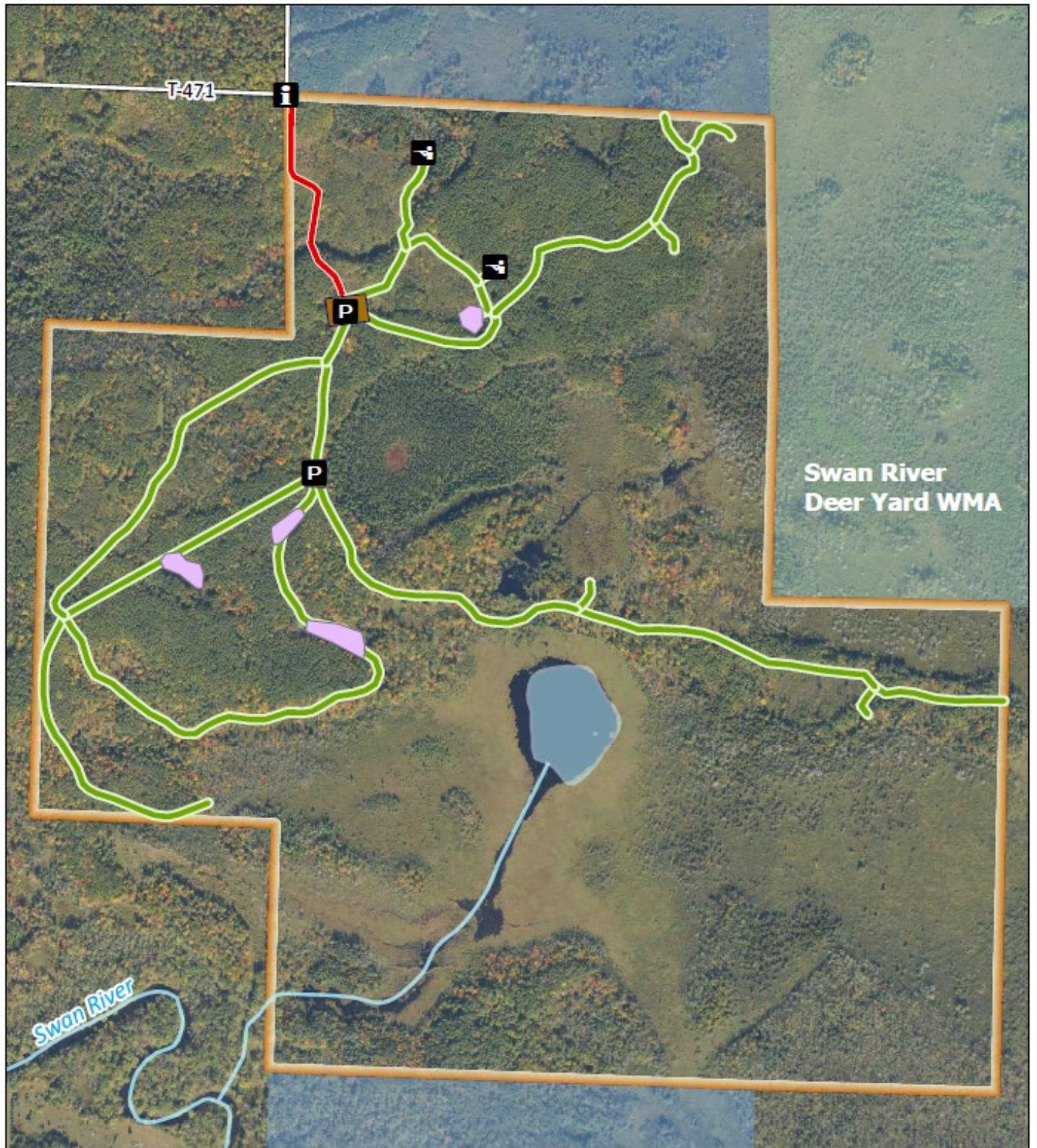
About The Trust for Public Land: Our mission is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Every park, playground, and public space we create is an open invitation to explore, wonder, discover, and play. We're proud to say that we've been connecting communities to the outdoors—and to each other—since 1972. Today, millions of Americans live within a 10-minute walk of a park or natural area we helped create, and countless more visit every year.

About the Mississippi Headwaters Board: Formed in 1980 as an alternative to designation of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) works to protect and preserve the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota.

A joint powers board of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties, the MHB is mandated by Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-377 to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific and recreational values of the headwaters region. MHB achieves its goal of river protection through cooperative land use planning in the eight counties, in conjunction with the Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. MHB promotes water quality monitoring, education and stewardship activities for shoreland property owners, and embraces the efforts of local citizens, students and government groups who work together to protect the river in their community and preserve the splendor of this national treasure.

About the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Our mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.





Swan River
Deer Yard WMA

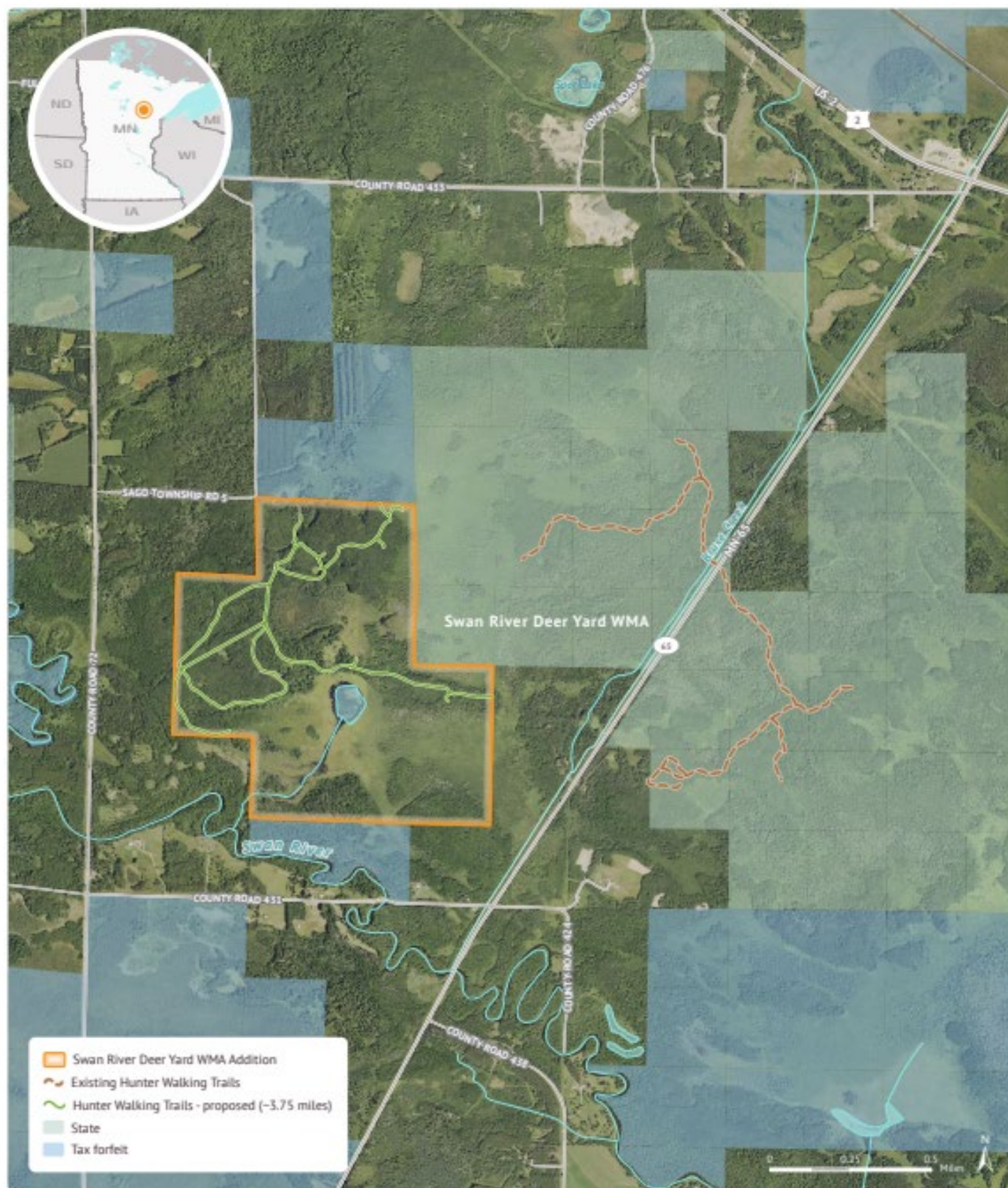
Swan River

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | Swan River Deer Yard WMA Addition |  | WMA Entrance |
|  | Parking Area |  | Entrance Road |
|  | Wildlife Opening |  | Hunter Walking Trail |
|  | Accessible Hunting Blind |  | State |
|  | Parking Area |  | Tax Forfeit |

Swan River Deer Yard WMA Addition Proposed Development Map

Feet
0 250 500 1,000





Swan River Deer Yard WMA Addition

ITASCA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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Unnamed pond on proposed addition to the WMA.



Trail cam photo of black bear on proposed addition to the WMA.



Entrance to Hunter Walking Trails at existing WMA.



Accessible Hunting Blind



Parking Lot Example



February 18, 2025

Cory Smith
County Board Chair
Itasca County Board of Commissioners
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Support for Addition to Swan River Deer Yard Wildlife Management Area

Dear Commissioner Smith:

Established in 1961, The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to creating healthy forests, abundant wildlife and promoting a conservation ethic. Together with The American Woodcock Society (AWS)(established in 2014), RGS works with government agencies, private land owners, and partners to develop critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices and principles. As such, I am writing this letter on behalf of the RGS & AWS in support of the effort by The Trust for Public Land in partnership with the Mississippi Headwaters Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to acquire this 473-acre property to be managed as an addition to the Swan River Deer Yard Wildlife Management Area.

This project offers a great opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of management of the existing Swan River Deer Yard WMA, and will enable complimentary sustainable, multiple objective forest management across adjoining publicly managed ownerships. It will ensure the conservation of critical wildlife habitat, while allowing coordinated access for forest habitat management and great public recreational opportunities. This landscape provides important winter cover for deer, some of the best ruffed grouse and American woodcock habitat and hunting in the nation- and this project will allow that to continue. RGS/AWS look forward to partnering on the management of this area and wholeheartedly support this project.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson
Forest Conservation Coordinator- Minnesota
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society



MINNESOTA DEER HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

460 PETERSON ROAD, GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744

Phone: 1-800-450-DEER / Fax: 218-327-1349

www.mndeerhunters.com

Protecting the future of deer and deer hunting through Habitat, Education, Advocacy and Legislation

Cory Smith
County Board Chair
Itasca County Board of Commissioners
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Support for Addition to Swan River Deer Yard Wildlife Management Area

Dear Commissioner Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) to express our strong support for the effort by The Trust for Public Land in partnership with the Mississippi Headwaters Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to acquire this 473-acre property to be managed as an addition to the Swan River Deer Yard Wildlife Management Area.

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of wild deer populations, hunter recruitment and education, and advocacy on behalf of deer and deer hunters throughout Minnesota.

MDHA wholeheartedly supports this acquisition, as it directly advances our core mission of protecting Minnesota's deer herd, habitat, and hunting heritage for future generations.

First and foremost, expanding wintering complexes such as the Swan River Deer Yard WMA, is essential in promoting thermal cover, reducing overcrowding stress, and strengthening herd survival. With a goal of sustainable deer numbers and long-term herd health, protecting and enlarging winter habitat is one of the most direct investments available.

Secondly, deer yards function most effectively when they are large and contiguous. Acquiring adjoining acreage prevents fragmentation and ensures that the entire complex remains biologically functional for years to come. It is far easier, and more cost-effective, to protect this land now than to try to restore fragmented habitat later.

Lastly, acquiring this acreage provides ample opportunity for the Minnesota public to engage in recreational opportunities including hunting, hiking, birdwatching, and more. This increase in recreation has a direct economic benefit for our local communities and businesses.

This 473-acre acquisition has the full support of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and the nearly 20,000 Minnesota hunters and conservationists that we represent. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Jared J. Mazurek
Executive Director
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-515

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Kory Cease

AGENDA ITEM:

License Agreement with United States Steel Corporation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve License Agreement between Itasca County and United States Steel Corporation for the public water access on Blue Lake, and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

This agreement is for the purpose of maintaining and using the road for ingress and egress, using the parking area for the parking of motor vehicles, and using the public water access on Blue Lake for its intended recreational purposes. The previous agreement has expired for the public water access and this represents an updated agreement developed with US Steel.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Itasca County (MN) - Real Estate License Agreement- Boat Launch (2025)(1075225.4)

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

REAL ESTATE LICENSE AGREEMENT

This REAL ESTATE LICENSE AGREEMENT (this “**License**”), effective as of July 15, 2026 (“**Effective Date**”), by and between UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation (“**Licensor**”), and ITASCA COUNTY, a Minnesota municipal corporation (“**Licensee**”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Licensor owns real property located in Itasca County, Minnesota specifically described as NW1/4 of SE1/4, of Section 33, Township 57 North, Range 22 West (PIN 95-033-4201) (the “**Licensor’s Property**”); and

WHEREAS, Licensee desires to obtain from Licensor, and upon and subject to the terms hereof, and relying in part upon the benefits and protections available to Licensor as an owner of land permitting a use thereon for recreational purposes without charge, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes Sections 604A.20 to 604A.27, Licensor has agreed to grant to Licensee, a license to use the portion of Licensor’s Property within the red lines depicted on “**Exhibit A**” attached hereto and made a part hereof (the “**Premises**”).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of all the covenants, terms, and conditions herein contained, and intending to be legally bound, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant of License.

(A) On and subject to the terms hereof, including the “Rules and Regulations” on “**Exhibit B**” attached hereto and made a part hereof (which Licensor may change from time to time upon notice to Licensee), Licensor grants to Licensee the right to use the surface of the Premises during the term hereof for the limited purpose of maintaining and using the road for ingress and egress, using the parking area for the parking of motor vehicles, and using the boat landing on Blue Lake for its intended recreational purposes.

(B) This License and the rights granted hereunder are: (i) “in gross”, non-assignable, and personal to Licensee and do not create any real property interest in the Premises or Licensor’s Property; (ii) revocable; (iii) non-exclusive; and (iv) subject to all third parties’ rights in the Premises. Licensor reserves all right, title, and interest in and to the Premises and all appurtenances thereto not specifically granted herein. Licensor may relocate the location of the Premises to other of Licensor’s property.

2. Term and Termination. Licensee’s right to use the Premises shall begin at 12:01 AM on the Effective Date, and shall terminate at 11:59 PM on December 31, 2026, unless sooner terminated in accordance with the terms hereof, provided, that such right to use the Premises and this License shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods unless Licensor or Licensee provides the other party with prior written notice of non-renewal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Licensor reserves the right to immediately terminate this License and Licensee’s right to use the Premises at any time and for any reason.

3. Taxes. Licensee shall directly pay or reimburse Licensor for any ad valorem or other taxes levied against Licensor resulting from Licensee’s use of the Premises.

4. Licensee’s Covenants. Licensee covenants to Licensor and agrees as follows: (a) Licensee’s use of the Premises shall comply with all applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and permits; (b) Licensee shall obtain, at its sole expense and provide Licensor with copies

of, all required permits for its activities on the Premises; (c) Licensee shall not grant, create, or suffer any lien, claim, encumbrance, restriction, or other charge to be placed on the Premises or any other property of Licensors; (d) any equipment Licensee may place on the Premises and any portion of the Premises altered by Licensee shall be maintained in a safe, neat, and orderly condition so as to protect life and property and so as not to create any public or private nuisance or damage or injury to any persons or property; and (e) upon the expiration hereof, Licensee shall (i) remove any improvements Licensee placed on the Premises during the term hereof, if any; and (ii) restore the Premises to substantially the same condition as they existed prior to the date hereof.

5. Disclaimers of Warranties; Limitations of Liability.

(A) **Disclaimers of Warranties.** Licensee acknowledges and agrees that: (i) LICENSOR MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES REGARDING THE PREMISES OR ANY OTHER MATTER WHATSOEVER; AND (ii) EXCEPT FOR LICENSOR'S EXPRESS WARRANTIES HEREIN, WHICH ARE LICENSOR'S EXCLUSIVE WARRANTIES: (a) THE PREMISES ARE PROVIDED "AS-IS", "WHERE-IS", AND "WITH ALL FAULTS"; (b) TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, LICENSOR DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WHETHER BY STATUTE, COMMON LAW, COURSE OF DEALING OR PERFORMANCE, TRADE USAGE, OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

(B) **Limitation of Liabilities.** Notwithstanding any term herein to the contrary, (i) Licensor's liability hereunder is strictly limited to the amount paid by Licensee hereunder, if any; and (ii) IN NO EVENT SHALL LICENSOR BE LIABLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, OR OTHER INDIRECT DAMAGES, HOWEVER CAUSED, INCLUDING BUSINESS INTERRUPTION OR LOST PROFITS.

6. Insurance. Throughout the term hereof, Licensee shall, at its cost and expense, maintain (and prior to using the Premises, Licensee shall provide Licensor proof of) insurance coverage as outlined in "**Attachment I**" hereto, which is incorporated herein. The obligations in this Section shall survive the expiration or termination hereof as to all matters occurring during the term hereof.

7. Indemnification; Defense.

(A) Licensee agrees to and does indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Licensor and its affiliates and each of their equity owners, and each of their officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives, and each of their heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns (each, an "**Indemnified Party**") from and against any and all losses, damages, liabilities, deficiencies, costs, penalties, fees, fines, and expenses of any nature whatsoever (including attorney's fees and defense, investigation, discovery, court, and other costs) suffered by any Indemnified Party (each, a "**Loss**"), including those resulting from any claims, demands, actions, causes of action, or other legal or administrative proceedings at law or in equity against any Indemnified Party (each, a "**Claim**"), arising from or relating to any of the following (i) personal injury (including illness, disease, or death, including workers' compensation Claims), property damage, or loss of use, maintenance, cure, profit, or wages arising from or relating to the use of the Premises by Licensee or any person or entity Licensee brings or permits upon the Premises (or who wrongfully enters onto any of Licensor's Property) (each, a "**Licensee Party**"), including any Claim by a Licensee Party, in all cases irrespective of whether any Loss or Claim is caused or alleged to be caused by the sole, contributory, or concurrent negligence of an Indemnified Party; (ii) Licensee's breach of any representation, warranty, or covenant herein or any terms or conditions hereof; (iii) violation of any applicable law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or permit relating to the Premises or any of Licensee Party's activities thereon; and (iv) any Licensee Party's acts or omissions

with respect to the Premises or any of Licensor's Property (all of the foregoing, the "**Indemnified Matters**").

(B) In defending any Claim, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to approve or disapprove of (i) Licensee's counsel for any such matter, and in the event Licensee's counsel chosen is unacceptable to the Indemnified Party, the Indemnified Party may engage its own counsel at Licensee's sole cost and expense to represent the Indemnified Party in such matter, (ii) defenses, counterclaims, or cross claims by or on behalf of the Indemnified Party, and (iii) whether or not to settle any such matter.

(C) The terms of this Section shall survive the expiration or termination hereof.

8. Environmental Laws; Hazardous Substances.

(A) **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Section, (i) "**Environmental Laws**" means all federal, state, and local environmental health or safety laws, rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, orders, and rules of common law now or any time hereafter in effect, including requirements of governmental authorities regulating, relating to, or imposing liability for, or standards of conduct for, any Hazardous Material, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and any so-called "Superfund" or "Superlien" law; and (ii) "**Hazardous Material**" means any hazardous, toxic, or dangerous substance, waste, or material, whether in solid, liquid, or gaseous form, including asbestos, petroleum products, and any substances and materials defined as hazardous, toxic, or dangerous in (or for purposes of) any Environmental Law.

(B) **Covenant.** Licensee covenants that, except in compliance with Environmental Laws, (i) no Hazardous Substances or flammable or explosive substances shall be used or kept on or about the Premises or any other property of Licensor, (ii) Licensee shall not, without Licensor's prior written consent, bring, introduce, install, store, maintain, use, spill, remove, release, or dispose of any Hazardous Material on or about the Premises or any other property of Licensor, (iii) Licensee shall, and its use of the Premises shall, comply with all Environmental Laws, and (iv) Licensee shall immediately notify Licensor of (a) any violation of any Environmental Law, (b) receipt of any notice or warning from, and/or any visit by, any environmental governmental agency for any reason whatsoever.

(C) **Survival.** This Section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination hereof.

9. Miscellaneous.

(A) **Entire Agreement; Binding Effect.** This License, including any terms and conditions incorporated herein or attached hereto, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and there are no representations, oral or written, that have not been incorporated herein. This License shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the parties hereto. No representation, inducement, promise, understanding, condition, or warranty not set forth herein has been made or relied upon by either party.

(B) **Amendment.** This License may be amended, renewed, extended, or canceled only by a written instrument executed on behalf of each of the parties hereto by an authorized representative of each party, and neither party shall, at any time or in any way, assert or contend that any amendment, extension or cancellation hereof (or any part or parts, including this Subsection) has been made other than by a written instrument so executed.

(C) **Assignment.** Licensee may not transfer or assign any of its rights and obligations hereunder, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Licensor.

(D) Notices. Notices hereunder shall be given by hand delivery or by overnight mail, postage prepaid, as addressed below and shall be effective when received. Either party may change its notice address by written notice to the other party of such change. Notice made via email may satisfy the requirements in this Section only if the receiving party waives in reply email the personal, overnight, or certified mail delivery requirements of this Section. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, a notice is effective only **(i)** on receipt by the receiving party, and **(ii)** if the party giving the notice has complied with the requirements of this Section.

If to Licensor:

Minnesota Ore Operations
PO Box 417
Mt. Iron, MN 55768
Attn: Land & Minerals

With a copy to:

United States Steel Corporation
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2800
Attn: Counsel - Real Estate
Email: contract.legal.notices@uss.com

If to Licensee:

Itasca County

(E) References. Except as otherwise specifically indicated: all references to Section and Subsection numbers refer to Sections and Subsections hereof; all references to Exhibits refer to the Exhibits hereto, irrespective of whether the same are actually attached hereto, all of which are made a part hereof and incorporated herein by reference; the words “herein,” “hereof,” “hereto,” “hereunder,” etc. refer to this License as a whole and not to a particular Section or Subsection hereof; and the word “including” shall mean “including, without limitation”. Headings used herein are for convenience only and shall not be used to construe the meaning of any part hereof.

(F) Construction; Venue. This License shall be governed by and performed in accordance with the laws of the state in which the Premises are located, without giving effect to its conflicts of law provisions. Each party irrevocably consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal and state courts sitting in or for the county in which the Premises are located for the resolution of any conflicts arising hereunder, agrees that such courts are the proper and convenient venue, and waives any claim that such venue is inconvenient.

(G) Counterpart. This License may be signed in one or more counterparts, and by electronic transmission, all of which shall be treated as one and the same original agreement.

(H) Severability. If any provision hereof is found to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable in any court of competent jurisdiction, the allegedly invalid or unenforceable provision shall be deemed valid and enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law and shall be deemed to be amended to the minimum extent necessary to make it valid and enforceable in such jurisdiction, and the alleged invalidity and/or unenforceability in such jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision hereof in such jurisdiction or the validity or enforceability of the allegedly invalid and/or unenforceable provision, or of any other provision hereof, in any other jurisdiction.

(I) Survival. The following provisions hereof shall survive the expiration or earlier termination hereof: **(i)** all provisions hereof that specifically state that they shall survive the expiration or earlier termination hereof, and **(ii)** all provisions that, by their nature, should be reasonably anticipated by the parties to survive the expiration or earlier termination hereof.

(J) Recordation. Neither party shall be permitted to record this License in the official records of any jurisdiction, including the jurisdiction in which the Premises are located.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Blank]

Signature Page to Real Estate License Agreement:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this License as of the date above.

LICENSEE:

Itasca County,
a Minnesota municipal corporation

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

LICENSOR:

United States Steel Corporation,
a Delaware corporation

By: _____
Name: Lukas L. Klemke
Title: General Manager Minnesota Ore
Operations

Exhibit A
Depiction of the Premises



Exhibit B
Rules and Regulations

Licensee shall not, and shall not permit any party acting by, through, or for Licensee to, take any of the following actions on the Premises without Licensors' prior written consent:

- (a) conduct or engage in any activity that could be alleged to constitute a trespass, nuisance, or other tort, or any violation of federal, state, county, or municipal law, rule, or regulation;
- (b) interfere with Licensors' or any other licensee's, tenant's, or other occupant's use of the Premises or any other lands owned by Licensors;
- (c) sell or distribute alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substances on or from the Premises;
- (d) disturb the peace in any manner;
- (e) except in the normal course of Licensee's operations authorized hereunder, invite or allow the general public to enter upon or use the Premises;
- (f) discharge any firearms or explosives;
- (g) store inoperable machinery, including vehicles, appliances, or equipment;
- (h) store construction materials of any nature, unless the same is to be used by Licensee within thirty (30) days after Licensors has approved such construction activity as provided herein;
- (i) burn any trash, garbage, brush, trees, or other debris; provided, however, that the use of a fireplace with a proper chimney or screen is permitted for recreational use only, but not for the disposal of trash, garbage, brush, trees, or other debris. Licensee shall immediately report any open fires to the appropriate fire department and to Licensors;
- (j) keep any livestock without Licensors' prior written consent. In the event such consent is granted, livestock shall be contained within the boundaries of the Premises by appropriate fencing; or
- (k) cut or otherwise cause any damage to any timber or any improvements on the Premises without Licensors' prior written consent. Any such consent shall not release Licensee from its obligations to repair or compensate Licensors for such damages. Upon demand, Licensee shall promptly pay Licensors, its successors and assigns, for the appraised value of all pre-merchantable and/or merchantable timber cut, trimmed, or damaged by Licensee in the exercise of its rights granted hereunder, which appraisal may be governed by one or more timber purchase and cutting Licenses entered into by Licensors and a third party. Licensee shall be solely responsible for removing, at its expense, any trees on the Premises that pose a reasonable risk of harm to Licensee or to any other persons or property on or near the Premises. Licensors agrees that Licensee shall not be liable to Licensors for any damages or compensation for the removal of such trees by Licensee done in good faith.

ATTACHMENT "I" INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Licensee shall procure and maintain, at its own expense, and shall require its subcontractor(s), if any, to procure and maintain for the duration hereunder the insurance coverage meeting or exceeding the requirements set forth below:

1. **Minimum Scope of Insurance** -- Coverage shall be at least as broad as the following:

A. **Commercial General Liability Insurance:** Shall be written on ISO occurrence form CG 00 01 or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage and shall cover liability arising from premises, operations, independent contractors, products-completed operations, personal injury and liability assumed under an insured contract (including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract). The policy of insurance shall contain or be endorsed to include the following:

- (i) Premises/Operations;
- (ii) Products/Completed Operations;
- (iii) Contractual liability;
- (iv) Independent Contractors;
- (v) Broad Form Property Damage;
- (vi) Personal and Advertising Injury;
- (vii) Separation of Insureds (Severability of Interest);
- (viii) The policy shall be endorsed using ISO form CG 20 10 11 85 (or a substitute form providing equivalent coverage) so as to include United States Steel Corporation (hereinafter "USS") and its affiliates, including all units, divisions and subsidiaries as Additional Insureds on a primary and non-contributory basis. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to said Additional Insured.
- (ix) Waiver of subrogation shall be provided to the benefit of all additional Insureds, as aforesaid.
- (x) Marine liabilities coverage, including Landing Owner's Legal Liability covering, without limitation, liabilities arising out of premises and operations.
- (xi) For any claims related herein, Licensee's and its subcontractor's insurance shall be primary and non-contributory respecting the aforesaid Additional Insureds. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by USS shall be in excess of Licensee's and its subcontractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.
- (xii) The policy shall not contain any provision, definition, or endorsement which would serve to eliminate third-party action over claims.
- (xiii) The policy shall not be endorsed to include ISO endorsement form CG 24 26 or any similar provision.

B. **Automobile Liability Insurance:** As specified by ISO form number CA 0001, Symbol I (any auto),. This policy shall be endorsed to include USS and its affiliates, including all units, divisions and subsidiaries as Additional Insureds on a primary and non-contributory basis, and to include waiver of subrogation to the benefit of all Additional Insureds, as aforesaid. The policy of insurance shall contain or be endorsed to include the following:

C. **Workers' Compensation Insurance:** As required by the State or Commonwealth in which work is being done, and in accordance with any applicable Federal laws,

including Employer's Liability Insurance and/or Stop Gap Liability coverage as per below limits. Where not otherwise prohibited by law, this policy shall be endorsed to include waiver of subrogation to the benefit of USS and its affiliates, including all units, divisions and subsidiaries.

D. Employer's Liability and/or Stop Gap Liability Coverage: Coverages per accident, disease-policy limit, and disease each employee.

Note Relating to Items C. and D. Above - Operations on or near water require the following: Statutory Workers' Compensation/USL&H coverage, Employer's Liability including Maritime Employer's Liability coverage.

E. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED .

F. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

G. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

2. Minimum Limits of Insurance – Licensee and its subcontractor(s) shall maintain limits *no less than*:

A. Commercial General Liability: Including Umbrella Liability Insurance, if necessary, limits shall be not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence and \$4,000,000 general aggregate for personal injury and property damage; \$2,000,000 each occurrence and \$4,000,000 aggregate for products and completed operations; . The limits and coverage requirements may be revised at the option of USS.

B. Automobile Liability Insurance: Including Umbrella Liability Insurance, if necessary, limits shall be not less than \$1,500,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage.

C. Workers' Compensation: As required by the State or Commonwealth in which the work will be performed, and as required by any applicable Federal laws.

D. Employer's Liability and/or Stop Gap Liability Coverage and/or Employer's Liability including Maritime Employer's Liability: \$1,500,000 per accident, \$1,000,000 disease-policy limit, and \$500,000 disease each employee. (May include Umbrella coverage.)

E. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

F. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

G. INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

3. Self-funded or Other Non-Risk Transfer Insurance Programs – Licensee and its subcontractor(s) shall not use self-insurance or other non-risk transfer insurance programs unless they are fully disclosed to, and permission has been given by, USS to use such programs to meet these insurance requirements stated herein.

4. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions -- All insurance coverage carried by Licensee and its subcontractor(s) shall extend to and protect USS, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates to the full amount of such coverage, and all deductibles and/or self-insured retentions (if any), including those relating to defense costs, are the sole responsibility of Licensee and its subcontractor(s).

5. **Rating of Insurer** -- Licensee and its subcontractor(s) will only use insurance companies acceptable to USS and authorized to do business in the state or area in which the work hereunder is to be performed. Insurers must have a minimum rating of A-, Class VII, as evaluated by the most current A.M. Best rating guide. If the insurer has a rating less than an A-, Class VII, Licensee must receive specific written approval from USS prior to proceeding. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust is an approved insurer.

6. **Other Insurance Provisions**

A. Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, reduced in coverage or in limits, or certificate holder deleted as additional insured except after thirty (30) days prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to USS.

B. These insurance provisions are intended to be a separate and distinct obligation on the part of Licensee. Therefore, these provisions shall be enforceable against Licensee and Licensee will require such provisions to be bound by its subcontractor(s) regardless of whether or not indemnity provisions are determined to be enforceable in the jurisdiction in which the work covered hereunder is performed.

C. The above-described insurance coverage to be provided by Licensee and its subcontractor(s) hereunder will extend coverage to all work or services performed hereunder.

D. The obligation of Licensee and its subcontractor(s) to provide the insurance herein above specified shall not limit in any way the liabilities or obligations of Licensee and its subcontractor(s).

E. In the event Licensee and its subcontractor(s), or its insurance carrier defaults on any obligations hereunder, Licensee and its subcontractor(s) agree that they will be liable for all reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by USS to enforce the provisions hereunder.

7. **Evidence of Coverage**

A. ***At the beginning of the contract period and prior to the commencement of any work or services,*** Licensee shall furnish to USS Certificates of Insurance and additional insured endorsements evidencing full compliance with the requirements herein. The Certificates of Insurance must show that the required insurance is in force, the amount of the carrier's liability thereunder, and must further provide that Licensee will notify USS with thirty (30) days advance written notice of any cancellation or reduction in coverage or in limits, or deletion of the certificate holder herein as an Additional Insured under the policies. In the event that Licensee provides a materially different type of product or services hereunder, Licensee shall carry such additional insurance as USS may reasonably request in connection with such new products or services. If Licensee is required by USS to be registered with ISNetwork, Licensee shall upload Certificates of Insurance and additional insured endorsements prior to commencement of the work or services and thereafter annually with each policy renewal.

B. All Certificates of Insurance shall be in form and content acceptable to USS and shall be submitted to USS in a timely manner so as to confirm Licensee's full compliance with the insurance requirements stated hereunder.

C. Any failure on the part of USS to pursue or obtain the Certificates of Insurance required hereunder from Licensee and/or the failure of USS to point out any non-compliance of such Certificates of Insurance shall not constitute a waiver of any of the insurance requirements hereunder, nor relieve Licensee of any of its obligations or liabilities hereunder. Moreover, acceptance by USS of insurance submitted by Licensee does not relieve or decrease in any manner the liability of Licensee for performance hereunder. Licensee is responsible for any losses, claims, and/or costs of any kind which their insurance does not cover.

D. In addition to its other remedies, USS may, at its sole option and without liability to Licensee, suspend the work and/or exclude Licensee from USS's premises until Licensee furnishes satisfactory evidence of its full compliance with the provisions hereunder.

8. **Subcontractors** -- *Prior to the commencement of any work or services on USS's Premises*, Licensee shall be responsible to obtain separate Certificates of Insurance from each subcontractor. All coverages for subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-519

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Kory Cease

AGENDA ITEM:

Forest Service Payment Methodology

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Forest Service Payment methodology and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Federal Secure Rural Schools Act Funding

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Federal Secure Rural Schools Act Funding

Title I - Roads & Schools

Counties generally receive the majority of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title I, which is designated for the benefit of public schools and public roads. In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title I payments are made from the USDA Forest Service to states which then distribute the payment to all eligible counties. The funds must be passed through to local governmental entities for use at the county level. Each state must spend the funds on road and school programs, and state law sets forth how the payments are to be allocated between road and school projects. Title I funds are restricted strictly to school and road infrastructure purposes mirroring traditional forest-receipt sharing frameworks. In MN, one-half for public schools and the remainder for public roads in the counties in which the land producing such money is situated.

Title II - Special Projects on Federal Lands

Counties typically receive 20% or less of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title II, which are used by willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit these resources on Federal land.

Rather than being distributed to the State, Title II funds are retained by the Forest Service and are allocated to specific projects that have been reviewed and recommended by a local Resource Advisory Committee.

[Resource Advisory Committees](#) must initiate (recommend) Title II projects by September 30, 2028. Project funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2029. To apply to a Resource Advisory Committee, please complete an AD-755 Background Check form and submit it, along with a current resume (optional), to SM.FS.SRSInbox@usda.gov.

Title III - County Projects

Funds received under Title III are used to:

- carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program
- reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
- cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service
- develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans
- provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services

In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title III payments are made from the Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties.

MINNESOTA STATUTES

94.52 EXPENDITURE OF STATE'S PERCENTAGE OF PROCEEDS OF SALE OF LAND TO UNITED STATES.

Subdivision 1.**Expenditures.** All sums heretofore or that may hereafter be received from the United States government, on account of an Act of Congress approved May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260), or any amendments thereof hereafter enacted shall be expended as follows:

One-half for public schools and the remainder for public roads in the counties in which the national forests are situated; provided, that any county coming within the provisions of said act of Congress is hereby authorized to borrow money from the federal government or any of its agencies and to use moneys received pursuant to the provisions of said act of Congress or amendments thereto for the purpose of repaying any loan or loans made to such county by the federal government or any of its agencies. In the case of the Superior National Forest, the counties of Cook, Lake, Koochiching, and St. Louis shall share in the distribution of the sum received from that source in the same proportion that the federally owned lands in each county which are within the boundaries of said forest bear to the total number of acres of federally owned lands in said forest area. In the case of the Chippewa National Forest, the counties of Cass, Itasca, and Beltrami shall share in the distribution of the sum received from that source in the same proportion that the federally owned lands in each county, which are within the boundaries of said forest bear to the total number of acres of federally owned lands in said forest area.

Subd. 2.**Distributions validated; appropriation.** (a) Any distribution made by the state of moneys received from the United States government on account of said act of Congress is hereby legalized and made valid and effective to the same extent as though the method of distribution used was provided for by the legislative enactment prior to the distribution thereof.

(b) There is hereby appropriated from such moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated to the public schools or the counties as provided by this section, an amount sufficient to make the necessary payments as are provided herein.

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(a) Any distribution made by the state of moneys received from the United States government on account of said act of Congress is hereby legalized and made valid and effective to the same extent as though the method of distribution used was provided for by the legislative enactment prior to the distribution thereof.

(b) There is hereby appropriated from such moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated to the public schools or the counties as provided by this section, an amount sufficient to make the necessary payments as are provided herein.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-449

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 15 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:

Citizen Input

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive citizen input.

BACKGROUND:

The Itasca County Board of Commissioners encourages citizen input. Each citizen will be allowed to address the County Board one time for up to three (3) minutes in length. Comments should be directed to the Board as a body. When addressing the Board, please state your name and address for the record. The Board will take all information under advisement. As part of County Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a County Board meeting. In addition, no political grandstanding, candidate endorsement, or other attempts to influence the outcome of an election shall be permitted. Any violation of the above statement shall result in the loss of your remaining time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

07/28/2026

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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