



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA
Board of Commissioners, St. Louis County, Minnesota

August 14, 2012
Immediately following the Board Meeting, which begins at 9:30 A.M.
Mesabi Station, 111 Station 44 Road, Eveleth, MN

Directions from South: Highway 53 North to MN-37 exit (Gilbert/Biwabik exit). Turn right onto MN-37, take second left onto Station 44 Road / County Road 594 (portions unpaved). Mesabi Station is straight ahead.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be enacted by one unanimous motion. If a commissioner requests, or a citizen wishes to speak on an item on the consent agenda, it will be removed and handled separately.

Minutes of August 7, 2012

Environment & Natural Resources Committee – Commissioner Dahlberg, Chair

1. Replacing Weigh Scale at Regional Landfill [12-323]
2. Household Hazardous Waste Facility Expansion [12-324]

Finance & Budget Committee – Commissioner Raukar, Chair

3. 2012 Second Quarter Budget Changes [12-325]

Public Safety & Corrections Committee – Commissioner Sweeney, Chair

4. Contract with Dakota County and CourtView Justice Solutions, Inc. [12-326]

REGULAR AGENDA:

For items on the Regular Agenda, citizens will be allowed to address the Board at the time a motion is on the floor.

Public Works & Transportation Committee – Commissioner Forsman, Chair

1. Award of Bids – Culvert Replacement (CSAH 91) and Reclaim/Overlay Project (CSAH 89) in Duluth, MN [12-327]

A call for bids is scheduled for August 13, 2012. The bid results and resolutions for consideration will be presented to the Board for consideration at the August 14, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Finance & Budget Committee – Commissioner Raukar, Chair

1. Construction Services Agreement for Cornice Repairs and Roof Replacement – Duluth Courthouse [12-328]

Resolution authorizing an agreement with Restoration Systems Inc., Chaska, MN, for cornice repairs and roof replacement at the Duluth Courthouse.

Central Management & Inter-Governmental Committee – Commissioner Jewell, Chair

1. Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition Funding Request [12-329]

Resolution supporting increased funding for the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trails, at the request of the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS:

At this time, Commissioners may introduce items for discussion or report on past and future activities.

ADJOURNED:

Because there are no Board meetings scheduled for the remainder of August, the County Board may reconvene to address these agenda items. The next County Board/Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on September 4, 2012, Courthouse, Duluth.

NEXT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING DATES:

September 4, 2012 Commissioners' Conference Room, Courthouse, Duluth, MN

September 11, 2012 Commissioners' Conference Room, Courthouse, Duluth, MN

September 25, 2012 Historic Miner's Dry, 105 Miners Lake Landing Road, Ely, MN

BARRIER FREE: *All St. Louis County Board meetings are accessible to the handicapped. Attempts will be made to accommodate any other individual needs for special services. Please contact St. Louis County Property Management (218-725-5085) early so necessary arrangements can be made.*

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Location: County Board Conference Room, Duluth Courthouse

Present: Commissioners Jewell, Dahlberg, Sweeney, Forsman, O’Neil, Raukar and Chair Nelson

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Forsman/O’Neil moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Dahlberg pulled item 4 regarding adjoining owner sales for further discussion. (7-0)

- Minutes of July 24, 2012
- Day Training and Habilitation and Semi-Independent Living Services Contract Amendments for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013
- Amended Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board (CHB) Joint Powers Agreement
- Award of Bid: Budcapping Application
- Request for 2012 State Aid Advance
- Abatement List for Board Approval
- Sale of Non-Conforming Fee Land to Adjoining Property Owner – Gnesen Township
- Exchange of Non-Conforming Fee Land for Highway Right of Way – McDavitt Township
- Contract for Medical Services at the St. Louis County Jail

Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Dahlberg/Sweeney moved to suspend the rules to allow for an individual from the public to address the Board. The motion passed (7-0). Commissioner Dahlberg then moved item 4 forward without recommendation, supported by Commissioner Nelson. Mr. John Miltakis then addressed the Board as an adjacent land owner to a piece of property identified as parcel #2 in Board Letter No. 12-315. Mr. Miltakis indicated that he had tried to purchase the property in the past from the County Land Department but the property was listed as conservation. A portion of Mr. Miltakis’s garage is located within the boundaries of the tax forfeited property and is concerned he would have to move the garage if the property were sold to another individual. Mr. Miltakis would like this issue resolved before the land goes up for sale. Commissioner Dahlberg indicated that these lands were pulled from conservation and that the Land Department had already appraised the property at a value of \$12,600. Commissioner Dahlberg also indicated that the cost to pull this property from the listing, issue a new survey, and re-assess the property would cost thousands of dollars. Commissioner Nelson then made a friendly to divide the question and have parcel #2 removed from the board letter and have the parcel sent back to the Land Department for further review and move the other seven parcels forward. Commissioner

Dahlberg accepted the friendly from Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Sweeney raised concerns over other parcel images shown in the Board Letter possibly having boundary issues. Commissioner Forsman stated that the issue before the Board was to allow the Land Department to put these properties up for sale and that boundary issues would have to be handled by the Land Department prior to the completion of any sale. Commissioner Nelson said that the yellow lines shown on the images in the packet are merely a tool and are not an accurate depiction of actual property boundaries. Commissioner Nelson then stated that it was important to move the other seven parcels in the letter forward so that money can enter into the County coffers sooner and so the Board does not slow down any development that may occur on the other vacant properties. Dahlberg/O'Neil moved with recommendation to approve the board letter 12-315 without item #2 in the letter (7-0). Under the advisement of County Attorney Mark Rubin, Commissioner Dahlberg then removed parcel #2 from Board Letter 12-315 from the agenda.

Public Works & Transportation Committee

Sweeney/Nelson moved to approve the resolution authorizing an agreement with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for emergency federal funding for road repairs within the reservation damaged during the June 19-20, 2012 flood event. The motion passed. (7-0)

Finance & Budget Committee

Raukar/Jewell moved to approve the resolution authorizing the acceptance of federal government funds for storm event damage repair and authorizing resulting budget changes. The motion passed. (7-0)

Commissioner Discussion Items and Reports

Commissioner O'Neil addressed the customer concerns brought forward about delays in financial assistance from Public Health and Human Services. The department is managing a large case load and they have new technology in place to assist in speeding up processing. Commissioner O'Neil was hopeful that improvements will be made and assured the public that the issue is being addressed. Commissioner O'Neil also stated that he had visited the '211' staff at United Way and gave commendation to all of their hard work. He then urged the public to contact '211' for information and stated that individuals can volunteer their time or give donations to support the program. Commissioner O'Neil brought up that August 7 was National Night Out and that it was a good event to get to know your community.

Commissioner Jewell said that National Night Out was originally brought to the City of Duluth in 1994 while he was serving as a violence prevention coordinator. Commissioner Jewell was able to work collaboratively with the Duluth police department in order to put in the time needed to coordinate the event. Commissioner Jewell said that the event is a great example of collaborative efforts between St. Louis County and the City of Duluth and that it is amazing how quickly the event spread throughout the entire County once it was established in the City of Duluth.

Commissioner Nelson asked that the County Board make a commitment to shut off all electronic devices while they are in session from now on. Commissioner Nelson gave praise to the County Communications manager and stated that she was doing an impressive job. Commissioner

Nelson said that the All Veteran's Parade would be held on August 25, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Nelson then stated that the exposure of the County personal trainer issue was troubling and that it is important to understand that every dollar in St. Louis County's coffers is public money.

Commissioner O'Neil agreed that the personal trainer program confusion was troubling, but indicated that the program was well intentioned and that it had been funded through a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Commissioner O'Neil said that the private sector has had success from similar programs and that improving the health of employees would result in overall cost savings for the County.

Commissioner Dahlberg raised concerns over spending thresholds for individual departments and asked if contracting purchases flow through the County Administrator. Administrator Gray indicated that there are specific policies in place regarding budgeting and spending and that his department is extremely conscious of policy direction that is brought before the Board. Auditor Dicklich clarified that large contract purchases must be part of a department's County Board approved budget.

At 12:46 p.m., Raukar/Dahlberg moved to adjourn. (7-0)

Keith Nelson, Chair of the County Board

Brandon Larson, Clerk of County Board

Recognizing the need to replace the scale, Environmental Services worked with the Purchasing Division and issued a request for quotes. Two (2) quotes were received:

Fairbanks Scales, St. Paul, MN
Weigh Rite Scales, Somerset, WI

\$72,396.75
\$77,296.00

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize the appropriate county officials to enter into a contract for a truck weigh scale with Fairbanks Scales, St. Paul, MN, in the amount of \$72,396.75, subject to approval of the County Attorney. Funding for this contract is available in Fund 600 Agency 607001 (Landfill).

Replacing Weigh Scale at Regional Landfill

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Environmental Services requires the services of a competent contractor to install a new weigh scale at the Regional Landfill Facility; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Services operates a comprehensive management program including the accurate accounting of tonnages received at this facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into a contract with Fairbanks Scales Incorporated, St. Paul, MN, in the amount of \$72,396.75, for the installation of a new weigh scale at the Regional Landfill Facility, subject to contract approval by the County Attorney. Funding for this contract is available in Fund 600 Agency 607001(Landfill).

officials to enter into a contract for an addition to the household hazardous waste facility with Lenci Enterprises, Inc., Virginia, MN, in the lump sum amount of \$187,800 minus \$3,400 (deduct #2) for a total of \$184,400 subject to the approval of the contract by the County Attorney. Funds for this contract are available in Fund 600, Agency 606001 (Household Hazardous Waste).

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Expansion

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, St. Louis County operates two permanent household hazardous waste facilities; and

WHEREAS, virtually all of the materials collected are processed through the facility at the Virginia Regional Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the current facility does not provide adequate working space for storage or processing and presents challenges to the department's ability to meet the requirements of its Minnesota Pollution Control Agency operating permit; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a 30 foot by 30 foot addition onto the existing household hazardous waste facility at the Regional Landfill was competitively bid in July of 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement with Lenci Enterprises, Inc., Virginia, MN, in the amount of \$184,400 for the construction of an addition to the Regional Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility, subject to contract approval by the County Attorney. Funding for this contract is available in Fund 600, Agency 606001 (Household Hazardous Waste).

BOARD LETTER NO. 12 - 325

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSENT NO. 3

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: August 14, 2012 **RE:** 2012 Second Quarter Budget Changes

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Donald Dicklich
County Auditor

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Provide professional finance and accounting services in keeping with best practices, ensuring that public dollars are used exclusively for authorized public purposes.

ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the St. Louis County Board authorize the budgetary revenue and expenditure changes incurred in the second quarter of 2012.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the County Board adopts a resolution which allows for transfers and appropriations within funds for the current budget year. In addition, the 2012 Budget Resolution (No. 636, dated Dec. 13, 2011) requires that increases to the original governmental funds revenue and expenditure budgets cannot be made without County Board approval. The following represents the transfers and budgetary changes requested during the second quarter of 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board approve the 2012 second quarter budget changes.

2012 Second Quarter Budget Changes

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, all increases in original governmental funds revenue and expenditure budgets require County Board approval; and

WHEREAS, departments anticipate being notified of additional revenues throughout the year and need approval to increase revenue and expenditure budgets; and

WHEREAS, proposed budget adjustments are levy neutral.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the following budget changes:

1. Authorize an increase in revenue and expense budgets for State Courts to account for its portion of courier charges payable to St. Louis County (\$500.00).
2. Use of Attorney Forfeitures fund balance for donation to Men as Peacemakers for restorative program to increase outreach, volunteer recruitment, and opportunities to connect with youth (\$5,000) and to pay for County Attorney's annual report publishing cost (\$1,907.72).
3. Use of depreciation reserve/leasehold improvement fund for the final bill associated with the Duluth Courthouse Auditor's Office accounting carpet replacement/rearrangement project (\$3,799.96).
4. Use of depreciation reserve/leasehold improvement fund for Jail energy upgrades, including roof replacement and installation of solar hot water (\$4,987.00).
5. Use of fund balance in Fund 169 (Attorney's Trust Accounts-Victim Witness) to purchase newspaper subscriptions for the victim witness lounge (\$305.00).
6. Reallocate Information Specialist II position to Information Specialist III position in the Recorder's Office – no budget changes as the \$3,960 can be absorbed within existing personnel budget.
7. Use of child support modification fund balance to purchase tablet devices for the child support division of Public Health & Human Services for court purposes (\$4,507.99).
8. Use of fund balance for interest on tax court award (\$3,532.91).
9. Use of depreciation reserve/leasehold improvement fund for the Duluth cornice project (\$8,474.00).
10. Increase revenue and expense budget for Greenwood Township's share of MP 929-151188 (\$30,000.00).

						Expense Budget	Transfer	Out	Accumulation of Fund Balance	Revenue Budget	Transfers In	Use of Fund Balance	Total
2ND QUARTER													
1	100	111001	620500			500.00							
	100	111001	552506							(500.00)			
2	167	999999	311030									(6,907.72)	
	167	167001	637900			5,000.00							
	167	167001	623200			1,907.72							
3	402	402001	630900			(3,799.96)							
	402	402003	626600			3,799.96							
4	402	402001	630900			(4,987.00)							
	402	402005	663100			4,987.00							
5	169	169001	624500			305.00							
	169	999999	311030									(305.00)	
6	100	121001	610100			3,960.00							<i>(this is the annual increase amount - no entry was made as they are able to absorb in their personnel budget)</i>
7	159	159001	640400			4,507.99							
	159	999999	311030									(4,507.99)	
8	100	115009	637900			3,532.91							
	100	999999	311200									(3,532.91)	
9	402	402001	630900			(8,474.00)							
	402	402003	626600			8,474.00							
10	200	203262	652800			30,000.00							
	200	203262	551581							(30,000.00)			

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize contracts with Dakota County and CourtView Justice Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, to be accounted for in Fund 100, Agency 129999, Grant 12938, Year 2012; and a local match of \$31,250, to be accounted for in Fund 179, Enhanced 911.

Contract with Dakota County and CourtView Justice Solutions Inc.

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has made funding available to the Port of Duluth/Superior under the FY 2009 Port Security Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County hosts the Criminal Justice Information Integration Network (CJIIN) that provides software products to integrate current public safety applications and interfaces with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and 49 other agencies; and

WHEREAS, CourtView Justice Solutions, Inc. will link the county's current public safety applications and interfaces with Dakota County's CJIIN.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes contracts with Dakota County and CourtView Justice Solutions not to exceed \$100,000, to be accounted for in Fund 100, Agency 129999, Grant 12938, Year 2012; and a local match of \$31,250 to be accounted for in Fund 179, Enhanced 911.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to sign any associated contract documents.

BOARD LETTER NO. 12 - 327

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NO. 1

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: August 14, 2012 **RE:** Award of Bids – Culvert Replacement (CSAH 91) and Reclaim/Overlay Project (CSAH 89) in Duluth, MN

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

James T. Foldesi
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

Provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize an award of bids for a culvert replacement on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 91 (Haines Road) and a reclaim/overlay project on CSAH 89 (Highland Street) related to the June 2012 storm event.

BACKGROUND:

Bids were requested for a culvert project and an associated reclaim and overlay project in Duluth funded with State Aid Disaster funds. The overlay project on CSAH 89 (Highland Street) is related to the June 2012 storm event and it is to be used as a detour for CSAH 91, Haines Road. A call for bids is to be received by the Public Works Department at 10:00 A.M on August 13, 2012, for these projects in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the County Highway Engineer:

- 1. Project:** SAP 69-030-023(low)/SAP 69-691-025, CP 165106
Location: CSAH 91 (Haines Road) near Skyline Parkway, length 500'
Traffic: 5100
PQI: 3.3
Construction: Install Box Culvert
Funding: Fund 225, Agency 165106, Object 652706
Anticipated Start Date: August 20, 2012
Anticipated Completion Date: October 21, 2012
Engineer's Estimate: To be provided after bid opened
- 2. Project:** SAP 69-030-023(low)/SAP 69-691-026, CP 165094
Location: Skyline Parkway from CSAH 91 (Haines Road) to CSAH 89

(Highland Street) length 2.02, and CSAH 89 (Highland Street) from north of RR Bridge to 2304' north

Traffic: CSAH 91, 5100; CSAH 89, 4607

PQI: CSAH 91, 3.3; CSAH 89, 2.6

Construction: Bituminous Pavement Reclamation, Bituminous Milling, Bituminous Surface, and Aggregate Shoulders

Funding: Fund 225, Agency 165094, Object 652706

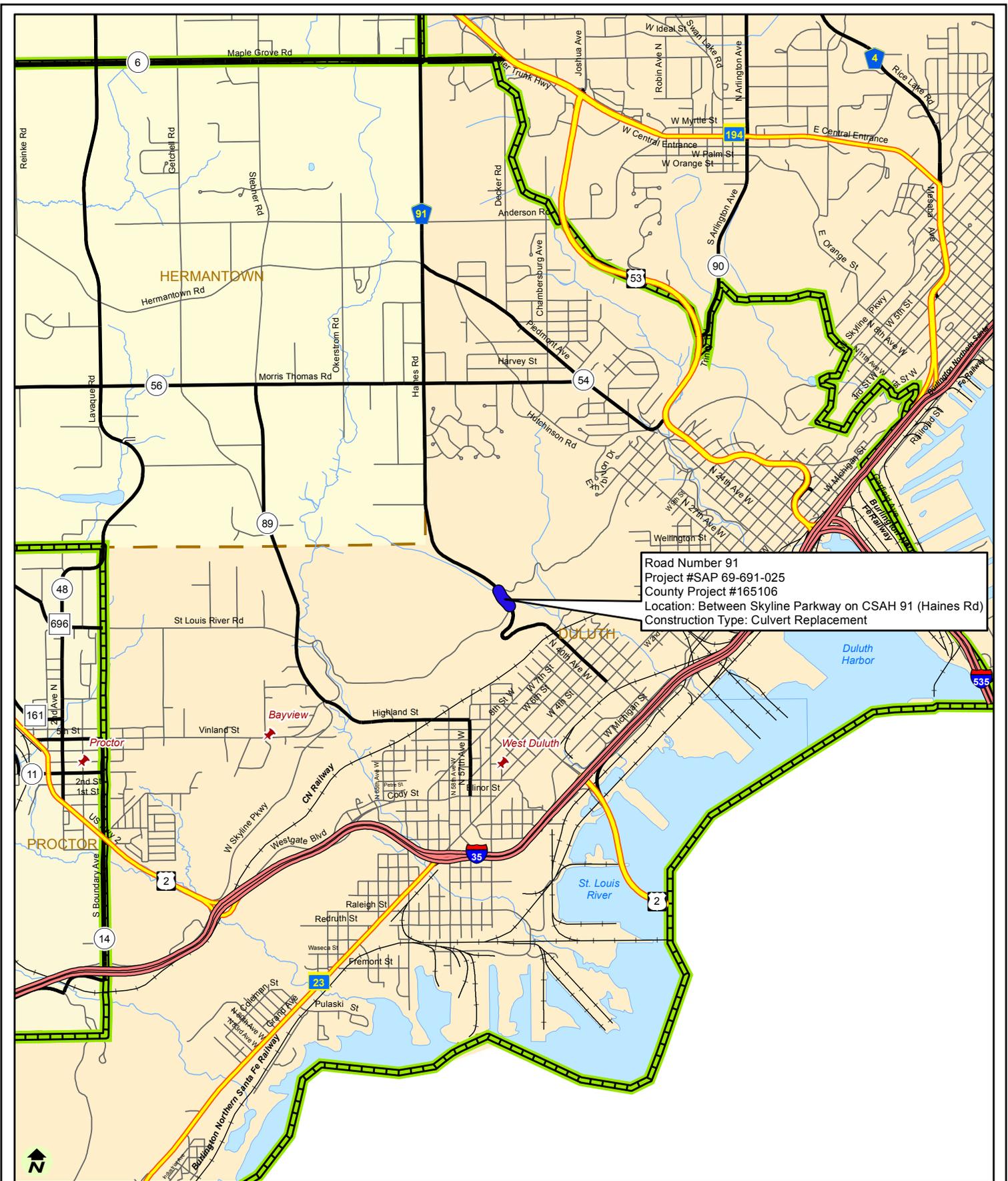
Anticipated Start Date: September 15, 2012

Anticipated Completion Date: October 15, 2012

Engineer's Estimate: To be provided after bid opened

RECOMMENDATION:

The call for bids is scheduled for August 13, 2012. The bid results and resolutions will be presented to the Board for consideration at the August 14, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting.

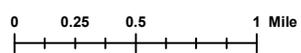


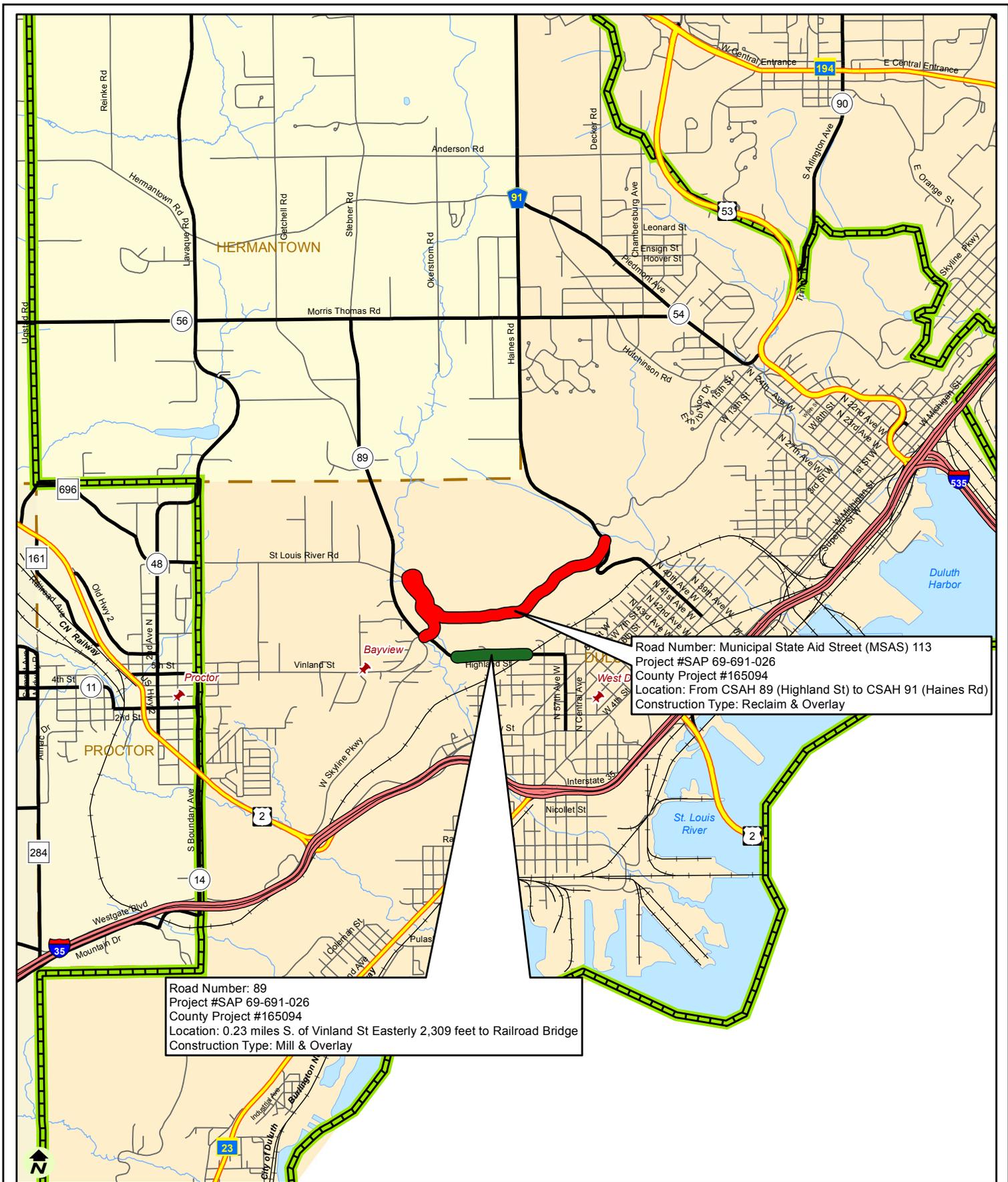
Road Number 91
 Project #SAP 69-691-025
 County Project #165106
 Location: Between Skyline Parkway on CSAH 91 (Haines Rd)
 Construction Type: Culvert Replacement

St. Louis County 2012 Road & Bridge Construction

Map Components

2012 Road & Bridge Construction	County Road - Paved	Township Boundary
Culvert Replacement	County Road - Gravel	City/Town
Interstate Highway	Local Road/City Street	Lake
U.S./State Highway	Railroad	River/Stream
Commissioner District		

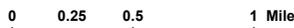




Road Number: Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) 113
 Project #SAP 69-691-026
 County Project #165094
 Location: From CSAH 89 (Highland St) to CSAH 91 (Haines Rd)
 Construction Type: Reclaim & Overlay

Road Number: 89
 Project #SAP 69-691-026
 County Project #165094
 Location: 0.23 miles S. of Vinland St Easterly 2,309 feet to Railroad Bridge
 Construction Type: Mill & Overlay

St. Louis County 2012 Road & Bridge Construction



Map Components		
2012 Road & Bridge Construction	— County Road - Paved	— Township Boundary
— Mill & Overlay	— County Road - Gravel	★ City/Town
— Reclaim & Overlay	— Local Road/City Street	— Lake
— Interstate Highway	— Railroad	— River/Stream
— U.S./State Highway	— Commissioner District	

BOARD LETTER NO. 12 - 328

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE NO. 1

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: August 14, 2012

RE: Construction Services Agreement
for Cornice Repairs and Roof
Replacement – Duluth Courthouse

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

Tony Mancuso, Director
Property Management

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

To perform deferred building maintenance, to bring facilities up to current building and life safety codes, to extend life cycle of facilities, and to increase building operational efficiency.

ACTION REQUESTED;

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize an agreement with Restoration Systems, Inc., Chaska, Minnesota for cornice and roof repairs for the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth, Minnesota.

BACKGROUND:

The Duluth Courthouse cornice and sloped roof areas were repaired in 1994. The cornice consists of a terra cotta overhang of approximately five feet with the top serving as a rain gutter with drains (presently rubber membrane in the upper valley). The terra cotta is ornate glazed clay (ceramic) blocks held in place with structural steel members with an internal void that is ventilated. The terra cotta glazing is compromised in many areas, the grout joints need to be replaced, and the rubber membrane gutter is also in need of replacement. These repairs are estimated to last fifteen years. The asphalt shingles on the sloped portion of the roof are in poor condition. The new roof will be made of metal to match the original historical slate, will be a light slate color, have internal ventilation, and carry a fifty (50) year warranty.

St. Louis County Purchasing solicited bids for project construction services for the Duluth Courthouse cornice and roof repairs, which were opened on July 24, 2012 with the following results:

Restoration Systems, Inc. - Chaska, MN	\$570,000
Stretar Masonry Inc. - Duluth, MN	\$665,792
Building Restoration - Roseville, MN	\$761,912

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize an agreement with Restoration Systems Incorporated of Chaska, Minnesota in an amount of \$570,000 for the Duluth Courthouse cornice repair and sloped roof replacement project, payable from Fund 400, Agency 402003, Object 630900, with the funds to be transferred from Fund 402 fund balance.

**Construction Services Agreement for Cornice Repairs and
Roof Replacement – Duluth Courthouse**

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the Duluth Courthouse cornice consists of a terra cotta overhang which is in need of repair; and

WHEREAS, the asphalt shingles on the sloped portion of the Duluth Courthouse roof have decayed causing major failure on the south and west sections, and the north and east sections of the roof are in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Purchasing solicited for project construction services for the Duluth Courthouse cornice and roof repair and Restoration Systems Incorporated of Chaska, Minnesota supplied the low qualified bid in an amount of \$570,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to enter into an agreement with Restoration Systems Incorporated of Chaska, Minnesota in an amount of \$570,000 for the Duluth Courthouse cornice and roof repair project, payable from Fund 400, Agency 402003, Object 630900, with the funds to be transferred from Fund 402 fund balance.

BOARD LETTER NO. 12 - 329

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT & INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE NO. 1

BOARD AGENDA NO.

DATE: August 14, 2012 **RE:** Greater MN Regional Park and
Trail Coalition Funding
Request

FROM: Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:

To provide effective and efficient government.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The St. Louis County Board is requested to approve a resolution supporting increased funding for the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trails, at the request of the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus (MRCC).

BACKGROUND:

Commissioner Steve Raukar has requested that the St. Louis County Board consider a request from Dan Larson of the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus and the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trails Coalition (MRCC/GRMRPTC) in support of increased funding for the development of parks and trails in Greater Minnesota. There has been a good response to the request for resolutions supporting equitable Legacy funding for Greater MN Parks and Trails. The MRCC would like St. Louis County to consider and pass a resolution by August 31.

In an e-mail requesting support, Mr. Larson noted that recent funding through the state's Legacy fund has been disproportionately distributed to favor metro area parks and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A background document and the proposed resolution of support accompany this Board Letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

Should commissioners wish to support the efforts of the MRCC/GRMRPTC in obtaining equitable Legacy funding for parks and trails in Greater Minnesota, a resolution is provided for consideration.

Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition Funding Request

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Parks and Trails Legacy plan calls for a statewide system of parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails have been underfunded for decades when compared to investments in the metro park system over that same time period; and

WHEREAS, the public expressed overwhelming support at 17 state-sponsored public meetings for the highest quality statewide regional projects possible as a preferred outcome of the 25 year plan; and

WHEREAS, the first round of park and trail legacy funding in 2009 was unfair to Greater Minnesota, with 43% of the funding dedicated to metro park needs, 43% dedicated to MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) park and trail needs and projects, while leaving only 14% funding for a statewide grants program which included Metro Parks. Of that 14%, 20% of those funds were given to the Metro Park Area; and

WHEREAS, the second round of park and trail legacy funding in 2011, produced better but still lopsided results, with Greater Minnesota receiving 20% in dedicated legacy funding, while metro parks received 43% and DNR received 37%; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 inventory of Greater Minnesota park and trail needs resulted in \$76 million in projects, and over \$33 million in grant requests - or more than four times the amount of the 2011 legacy grants awarded to Greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, rural Minnesotans are significant contributors to the sales taxes collected in the metro area and this calculation is not included in any of the current parks and trails funding formula factors, and should be added; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is the third largest landowner in the U.S., and over 95% of state owned lands exist in Greater Minnesota, resulting in significant lost and permanently sacrificed tax base. Furthermore, this lost tax base also includes lost sales taxes-additional sales tax revenues which Greater MN counties could be contributing to the Legacy Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Louis County Board believes Greater Minnesota should receive adequate funding to carry out the State Parks and Trails Legacy Plan and the public sentiment for high quality projects.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that St. Louis County believes the current Park and Trail Legacy splits of 43% metro, 37% DNR and 20% to Greater Minnesota are inherently unfair to Greater Minnesota and not enough to carry out the state plan or meet public expectations.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that St. Louis County believes the legacy funding splits at 43% metro, 37% DNR and 20% for the remaining 80 non-metro counties is not fair and will not provide the funding to allow Greater Minnesota to succeed in carrying out expectations of either the public or the state plan.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that St. Louis County believes the Greater Minnesota percentage of Legacy funding should increase to a level more equal to those of the metro area and DNR.

>>> Dan Larson <dan27@frontiernet.net> 7/16/2012 1:39 PM >>>

Members and Friends of:

Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition
MN Rural Counties Caucus

We've had a good response to the request for resolutions supporting equitable Legacy funding Greater MN Parks and Trails. We asked you to consider and pass the sample resolution by July 20th to help counterbalance metro resolutions claiming they do not receive a fair percentage of Legacy Park and Trail funds. **We've had a good response so far, but will extend our self-imposed deadline because we think we can do even better.**

The following is a list of entities that have already passed the resolution. Please review and make sure your are on the list. If you are not on the list please either let me know there is a mistake, or get the resolution on the agenda and pass the adopted resolution along to me.

Baldwin Twp., Clay Co., Clearwater Co., Cuyuna Lakes Trail Assn., City of Elk River, City of Fergus Falls, Grant Co., Itasca Co., Isanti Co., Kittson Co., Kooch Co., Lake Co., Lyon Co., City of Monticello, City of North Mankato, Pennington Co., Polk Co., Pope Co., City of Princeton, Red Lake Co., Redwood Co., City of Rochester, City of Sandstone, Traverse Co., City of St. Cloud.

If you have not already done so, please take action on this by August 31st, 2012. We're building our case for the upcoming funding session at the legislature so we have plenty of time.

This is an obvious circumstance where the funding split between metro and rural is not equitable. Please help us work to provide relief. Background document and sample resolution below.

Dan Larson
MRCC / GMRPTC
5077 144th St. W.
St. Paul, MN 55124
612-210-2493

June 3, 2012

MRCC Members and Friends:

The MRCC has fought over the last two legislative sessions to bring equity to Park and Trail Legacy funding. The first funding round (2009) resulted in 86% of all funds being split between DNR and metro parks - with the remaining 80 counties allowed to compete with metro counties for the remaining 14%.

In 2011, MRCC and the Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition took an aggressive approach to bringing equity to park and trail legacy funding, and was able to secure about as much as Greater Minnesota received in the previous decade in both 2012 and 2013. Last year we eliminated the 25% local match requirement and a \$500,000 per project limit. Each of these advances overcame strong and sustained opposition from metro parks, before succeeding.

Metro counties are signaling they are coming after the gains we made in 2011. Late in the just-concluded session, they delivered packets to legislators with a cover saying they are *not getting their fair share* of the park and trail funding. It was accompanied by a Star Tribune news story on the metro / rural battle for funds, and a sample resolution metro cities and counties are passing supporting the claim they are not getting their fair share.

We are responding by submitting our own resolution to members and friends. We ask that you adopt it at an upcoming board meeting and send us notification of your positive action on the resolution so we can add your county to our list. Please make sure to do this by July 20th.

Thank you for your attention to this. We feel we can build a state of the art park and trail system in Greater Minnesota that is second to no other provincial, state or regional system in the world if we can sustain the current funding level. Please help us by letting us know you passed the resolution.

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