



# Saint Louis County

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**Kevin Z. Gray**  
County Administrator

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Mark Weber chosen as new Land and Minerals Director**

Mark Weber has been chosen to lead the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department. Following a comprehensive search and interview process, Weber is being recommended for the department's top spot. The appointment requires County Board approval. Commissioners gave Weber unanimous approval at today's Committee of the Whole meeting. Final approval is expected to take place at the June 25 Board meeting.

Weber is a 27-year veteran of the Land and Minerals Department and is currently serving as the department's interim director, overseeing day-to-day operations. His predecessor, Bob Krepps, retired in April.

"St. Louis County has a unique mix and significant amount of natural resources," said Kevin Gray, County Administrator. "Mark has both broad experience and strong vision in all the vast areas we need, such as coordination of resource management programs including surface minerals, reforestation, forest recreation, timber and stand improvement, land use and resource development projects."

In his new role, Weber will continue to focus on key initiatives on the areas of forest and minerals management, as well as work more closely with the Planning and Community Development Department to integrate a community development perspective in dealing with tax-forfeited properties, integrate and expand the use of technology and geographical information systems (GIS) in business operations, maximize the County's property tax base, and to further explore county and other state and federal funding sources available to rehabilitate or remove blighted properties and further develop community partnerships.

The Land and Minerals Department plays a crucial role in the management of the County's timber and minerals resources. During the last seven years, the Land and Minerals Department earned more than \$16.4 million for the County and area cities, towns and school districts through the sales of timber and land. Additionally, Land and Minerals employees planted more than 9.2 million tree seedlings.

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