

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-11 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole June 14, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: John Allen District #1  
Tim Tjosaas District #2  
Rodney Peterson District #3  
David Erickson District #4  
Steven Gray District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk  
Lisa Kramer Finance Director  
Dennis Frederickson Regional Director for  
Region 4 DNR  
Cathi Fouchi DNR Regional Planner

Regional Director for Region 4 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Dennis Frederickson shared with the Board the Conservation Agenda – DNR 10 Year Strategic Plan and land asset management.

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed

The DNR's mission was listed as follows:

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 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.

The Minnesota DNR's 2015-2025 Strategic Conservation Agenda presents four broad goals. The first three focus on conserving the state's natural resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities and supporting commercial uses of natural resources. The fourth, operational excellence, seeks to ensure that the DNR efficiently and effectively provides high-quality services to citizens. The 10 Year Strategic Plan does not describe all details of DNR's efforts, but highlights key strategies and actions to move them forward in the face of pressing conservation challenges.

The DNR's four goals and their associated challenges, strategies and actions drive their conservation work.

Challenges are critical trends and impending issues that affect the DNR's progress toward achieving their goals.

Strategies are broad approaches that frame how the DNR will address these challenges.

Actions are examples of the day-to-day project and program work needed to implement these core strategies.

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed -  
Continued

Goals were listed as follows:

Goal 1 – Minnesota’s waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced.

The Challenge

- The cumulative effects of land use change, invasive species spread, pollution and a changing climate are combining in new ways to threaten the health of Minnesota’s natural lands and waters.

Trends

- Groundwater supplies are threatened
- Invasive species are spreading
- Prairies, grasslands, and wetlands are declining
- Grassland bird populations are decreasing

Strategies

- The following core strategies provide the fundamental steps needed to respond to these pressing conservation trends and guide targeted management actions:
  - Identify
  - Manage
  - Conserve
  - Restore
  - Monitor

Actions

- The following actions are examples of how DNR will carry out these strategies:
  - Improve groundwater management
  - Conserve prairies, grasslands, and wetlands
  - Prevent and curb the spread of invasive species
  - Monitor natural lands, waters, and species

Commissioner Peterson expressed concern with several entities in southeast Minnesota who are all monitoring ground water issues and using public funds to do their own independent ground water studies. It was Mr. Peterson’s opinion these entities should all be working together to ensure that they aren’t duplicating efforts and depleting public funds for the same studies.

Mr. Frederickson stated these entities are all working together and noted that the DNR permits water usage and is more concerned with monitoring water usage.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen arrived to the meeting.

County Attorney  
Arrived

DNR Regional Planner Cathi Fouchi reported there are a lot of entities such as local cities, farmers and others who are involved in monitoring the usage of water and making sure it's available for years to come.

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed -  
Continued

Goal 2 – Minnesota's outdoor recreations opportunities meet the needs of new and existing participants so all benefit from nature.

#### The Challenge

- Outdoor recreation is a key ingredient of natural resource conservation and healthy living, but participation is declining. Declines are linked to changing demographics, increasing urbanization, competing priorities for leisure time and deteriorating infrastructure.

#### Trends

- Participation in traditional outdoor recreation is changing
- Minnesota's population is urbanizing, diversifying and aging
- Competition for leisure time is intensifying
- Outdoor recreation infrastructure is outdated and deteriorating

#### Strategies

- The following core strategies provide the fundamental steps needed to respond to these pressing recreation trends and guide targeted management actions.
  - Learn
  - Develop
  - Leverage
  - Implement
  - Maintain

#### Actions

- The following actions are examples of how DNR will carry out these strategies:
  - Expand and promote "I Can!" Programs
  - Expand hunter recruitment and retention
  - Increase user-friendly access to information
  - Implement a new parks and trails system plan

Goal 3 – Minnesota's natural resources contribute to strong and sustainable job markets, economies and communities.

#### The Challenge

- A rapidly changing global economy is altering competition, demand and opportunity for environmentally sound and economically beneficial natural resource development.

### Trends

- Four key trends illustrate this challenge:
  - The forest products industry is changing
  - Demand for mineral development is increasing
  - Revenue from school trust lands is increasing
  - Fish and wildlife recreation spending continues to grow the state's economy

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed -  
Continued

### Strategies

- The following strategies guide targeted management actions aimed at cultivating strong and sustainable job markets, economies and communities.
  - Forests
  - Minerals
  - Water
  - Nature-Based Tourism
  - School Trust Fund

### Actions

- The following actions are examples of how the DNR will carry out these strategies:
  - Encourage emerging forest industries
  - Advance mining technologies and strategies that protect the environment
  - Enhance and expand nature-based tourism
  - Improve groundwater and surface water systems

Goal 4 – The DNR demonstrates operational excellence and continuous improvement in service to citizens.

### The Challenge

- DNR operations must adapt to an increasingly changing and diverse world. Rapid developments in technology, more complex conservation challenges, increasing pressures on state spending, and growing and diversifying public expectations accelerate the need for change in their organization and how they work with partners.

### Trends

- Four key trends illustrate this challenge:
  - Citizen demand for information and service is growing
  - Costs of doing business are increasing
  - Funding capacity and flexibility are decreasing
  - Demands on staff time and resources are growing

### Strategies

- The following strategies define DNR's identity as an excellent workplace and guide targeted management actions in response to changing trends.
  - Invest
  - Streamline
  - Enhance
  - Develop
  - Practice

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed -  
Continued

### Actions

- The following actions are examples of how DNR will carry out these strategies:
  - Put safety first
  - Provide better service
  - Upgrade Minnesota's public land portfolio
  - Grow a diverse, highly skilled and responsive workforce
  - Increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use

The following DNR By The Numbers (2014) information was shared:

### **Natural Resources Conservation**

- 5,586,000 acres of DNR-administered land, about 10% of Minnesota's land area
- 3,415,000 acres of lakes administered by the DNR
- 10,620,000 acres of wetlands
- 69,200 miles of rivers and streams administered by the DNR

### **Outdoor Recreation**

- System -
  - 66 state parks and nine state recreation areas second oldest state park system in the United States, after New York
  - 1,300,000 wildlife management area acres
  - 185,000 scientific and natural area acres
  - 45,000 aquatic management area acres
  - 4,100 miles of hiking/biking/motorized trails and 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails
  - 1,495 public water access sites
  - 58 state forests covering 3,800,000 acres
- People –
  - 1,500,000 licensed anglers
  - 580,000 license hunters and trappers
  - 810,000 registered recreational boats
  - 8,700,000 estimated state park visitors

### **Natural Resources Economy**

- 12 million acres of state mineral interests
- 4,200,000 acres of state forestry-administered land
- Minnesota nature-based tourism contributes to the \$12.5 billion annual sales from overall travel and tourism

The DNR operates out of four regional offices that oversee many area offices.

DNR Conservation  
Agenda – 10 Year  
Strategic Plan  
Reviewed -  
Continued

DNR carries out its integrated mission through seven divisions and four regions.

- Ecological and Water Resources
- Enforcement
- Fish and Wildlife
- Forestry
- Operations Services
- Parks and Trails
- Lands and Minerals

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know where DNR's funds come from.

Ms. Fouchi reported their funds come from various license fees for hunting, fishing, atv, boating, snowmobiling, etc. as well as federal funding.

Mr. Frederickson informed the Board funding for DNR has changed over the years due to budget shortfalls. The Regional Director noted funding also comes from license fees, permit fees, fish and wildlife, and dedicated funds. Mr. Frederickson stated there is specific funding for specific purposes.

Commissioner Gray commented he would like Mr. Frederickson and Ms. Fouchi to take the concerns relayed by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners back to the state/legislature regarding Dodge County's desire to be informed about who is involved in water monitoring in our area, how they are working together to achieve the same goal, and ensuring that each of the water agencies involved is using public funds in a manner that is beneficial to the county.

Mr. Frederickson discussed DNR's efforts to improve efficiencies and make water usage information readily available.

Commissioner Allen left the meeting at 9:29 a.m. CST.

Commissioner Allen  
Left Meeting

The DNR Regional Director provided the Board with a Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) handout and briefly discussed SLAM.

Strategic Land Asset  
Management  
Discussed

The Board thanked Mr. Frederickson and Ms. Fouchi for the report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**