	SOTA ASSOCI	
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	COMMISSION	
	MACLC	

Aitkin	Carlton	Cook	Itasca	Lake of the Woods
Becker	Cass	Crow Wing	Koochiching	Pine
Beltrami	Clearwater	Hubbard	Lake	St. Louis

Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners

Aitkin	Rich Courtemanche		Mark Lohmeier
Becker	Dan McLaughlin		Kory Cease
☐ Beltrami	Dick Moore		Nathan Heibel
	Greg Bernu	∠ Lake	Nate Eide
⊠ Cass	Kirk Titus	Lk. of the Woods	Josh Stromlund
	Bruce Cox	□ Pine	Greg Beck
⊠ Cook	Lisa Kerr	St. Louis	Mark Weber
Crow Wing	Ryan Simonson		

Meeting Minutes

Date: Meeting held at Itasca County Land Dept, January 29, 2020 10:00 am

Approval of Agenda: There was a motion and second to approve the agenda (Eide /Lohmeier). The motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: There was a motion and second to approve the December 4, 2019 minutes as submitted (Cease/Webber). The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kerr reported a balance of \$6712.62 as of January 29, 2020. Since the last meeting there were deposit transactions of \$500 to from Cook, Pine and St Louis for membership dues. Going forward dues notices will be emailed on or about December 1 so individual counties can decide what year dues will be paid.

Standing Committee Reports

MFRC: Bernu reported interviews for MFRC Executive Director position will be starting soon. The guideline committee has asked staff to poll membership on areas of the guidelines that may need revision. Topics discussed include RMZ width, spill kit, biomass and visual quality.

MFRP: Titus reported that Craig Halla is the new chair. James McFarland from Superior National Forest is the Vice Chair. The next partnership meeting is March 19, 2020 at the Arboretum in Brainerd. The agenda includes a presentation on the Fisher Den Box study.

Forest Inventory Needs: Cease provided a summary of the attribute fields. The consensus was we need to figure out what is needed for data and go from there. The primary use for the data will be for timber management and harvest planning. Individual counties who want to collect additional data can certainly do so on their own. After a show of hands, all counties present were interested in moving forward with a request for proposals for county inventory design with an emphasis on timber management and harvest planning. Cease and Titus have volunteered to lead



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this effort. Other discussion points included Ek's whole stand model and the DNR's application for inventory.

Mike Magner MN DNR Archeologist- Unique historical and cultural resources. Magner discussed the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (MS138.40) and the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act (MS307.08). While the laws were written with highway engineers in mind, it is important for resource managers to show a good faith effort to protect these resources.

Historical and cultural resources are usually found within the top 4-6" of soil. The Office of the State Archaeologist has an interactive map that indicates which sections have documented sites. This tool is expected to be refined in the future with more precise information.

Members indicated a need for staff training on this topic. Magner stated the Sustainable Forest Education Cooperative has offered cultural resource training in the past.

Mike Birkeland Executive Vice President MFI/TPA Accompanied by Rick Horton. Meet and Greet, including a discussion of issues relating to County forestry, including the road maintenance dollars, legislative priorities and other concerns like NLEB, inventory and markets.

Kevin Bergstrand MN DNR- reported the DNR is considering contract extensions based off winter ground conditions for permits expiring in 2020. Extension will require a payment of 5% of the remaining timber sale value. No final decision has been made.

Legislative Priorities 2020 Session:

MS 282.01 Sub 3 (b & c) **Non-conservation Lands; Appraisal and Sale** In an appraisal the value of the land and any standing timber on it <u>shall</u> be separately determined. The proposed language would be to change from "shall" to "may".

MS 282.04 Sub 1 (d) **Timber Sales: Land Use, Lease, Partition, Easement** Current lease language limits leases to \$12,000 per year. Proposed language change to include the lease value and lease term to be determined by the county board as well as reverter language for non-use. Webber said he would discuss with their legislative affairs person to move this forward.

Qualify tax forfeited lands for the petrol fund. Members have completed survey requests on the issue. Discussions continue with some area legislators.

Next Meeting: The 2020 St Paul meeting is scheduled for Feb 19-20, 2020 at the Hampton Inn and Suites.

Adjourn: There was a motion (Courtemanche/Eide) to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.