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COUNTY &	
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

	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
Clearwater	Bruce Cox	□ Pine	Greg Beck
☐ Cook	Vacant	St. Louis	Mark Weber
Crow Wing	Ryan Simonson		

## **Meeting Minutes**

Date: Meeting held remotely via Zoom, December 16, 2020 at 10:00 am

**Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion and second (Moore/Weber) to approve the agenda. All in favor.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**: There was a motion and second (Courtemanche/Cease) to approve the September 30, 2020 minutes as submitted. All in favor.

**Treasurer and Website Manager:** Treasurer Rich Courtemanche reported the account balance is \$13,888.64. There were charges of 218.95 for website and domain name. 2021 dues are starting to come in.

MACLC Representative to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council: Kory Cease reported the Council is working on a strategic plan to set goals for the next five years. The Sustainable Forest Resources Act is scheduled to expire next year. Cease will chair the site level guideline committee. This committee is currently reviewing the results of this summer's guideline survey. The Visual Quality Guidelines were completed in 1992 with traffic road counts determining road levels. At the time, it was determined that lakes would use a riparian management zone width. The committee will determine next steps on the review of the visual quality guidelines. Staffing replacements are underway.

**MFRP Representative to the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership:** Kirk Titus reported the partnership will meet virtually on December 17. The theme of the meeting is climate change. The annual dues will not increase for 2021. Kory Cease will be nominated for Vice Chair.

**Noxious Weed Advisory Committee:** Dick Moore reported this committee considered seven new species for listing and approved four. There are now 48 species on the noxious weed lists.



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**Tim Terrell Executive Director, Mississippi Headwaters Board:** The MHB is considering writing an Outdoor Heritage Grant to aid MHB member counties in acquiring strategic forest lands previously owned by Potlatch. MACLC requested Terrill ask the MHB to consider including non-MHB Counties in this project if the land is within the Upper Mississippi watershed. The MHB has worked successfully with the Trust for Public Land on several conservation easement projects along the river corridor.

**Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative:** Greg Bernu said SFEC is looking for new ideas for training and programming for practitioners. Some ideas include a video in the field where a forest practice is being implemented. .

## **Legislative Items**

Lohmeier expressed interest in legislation where land sale generated funds could be used to acquire strategic parcels like the Potlatch lands. The law would include a sunset date after 10 years.

Tax forfeit cleanup is on the agenda for Association of MN Counties. AMC said it will be a tough sell this year at the Capitol to ask for money. The Petro Fund may be pursed but it will be hard to get an appropriation.

Bernu mentioned modifying Rule 6100.1350 to include tax forfeit lands so the unauthorized camping issue could be addressed.

Weber said St Louis is considering legislation to allow carbon and wetland credits, a lease fee increase and dollars for the TF cleanup of blighted property.

Heibel stated that sealed bid land sales could be included in some form of legislation. Rep Eckland may take it on the house side.

Titus mentioned that Senator Justin Eichorn was appointed to Chair the Senate Forestry and Mining Committee and thought it would be a good idea to write a letter to the Senator stating the MACLC would be a resource for questions on forest policy. Titus volunteered to help draft a letter.

## **Other Items**

Aitkin: County will give extension for timber sales impacted by protesters.

Hubbard: Going sealed bid on next timber auction. Expect to hire a forester in 2021.

Carlton: Timber auction was sealed. Land sales are strong

Crow Wing: Update on Fire Tower park project. Land sales strong.

Pine: Creating an ordinance.

Becker: Busy with recreation and easements

St. Louis. Land sales are very strong.



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**Next Meeting:** To be determined by the Chair. **Adjourn:** There was a motion and second (Courtemanche/Moore to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.