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# **Le Sueur County, MN**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

**Board Meeting**

## **Item 3**

**9:10 a.m. Dan Larson, MN Rural Counties (20 min)**

***RE: Background and Activities Update***

**Staff Contact:**



### **Le Sueur County MRC-Derived Benefits:**

The MRC quantified benefits to Greater Minnesota counties resulting from successful efforts to modify the Vulnerable Children and Adults Act (VCAA), and create a brand new, state-of-the-art, regional park and trail system in Greater MN.

Here are the results we found for the benefits for your county from these two MRC-initiated programs:

**MRC projects a VCAA revenue savings to your county of \$194,454 annually.**

*\*Le Sueur is a top 5% gainer on the VCAA formula.*

### **Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Grant Applications**

Le Sueur Co., Lake Washington

*\*GMRPT Funding is Available Until 2034*



## MRC Calendar 2017

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
Mon., Jan. 9	Noon – 3 p.m.	Board of Directors	Douglas Co Public Works. Bldg.
<b>Wed., Feb. 15</b>	<b>7-9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>InterContinental Hotel, St. Paul</b>
Wed., March 15	10 a.m. – Noon	Board of Directors	ITV
Mon., April 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Board of Directors	ITV
Mon., May 8	Noon – 2 p.m.	Board of Directors	ITV
Mon. June 5	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Board of Directors	McLeod Co.
<b>Wed., Sept. 13</b>	<b>7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors Pre- AMC Policy</b>	<b>Breezy Point</b>
Mon., Oct. 2	8 a.m. – Noon	MRC Annual Mtg.	TBD
<b>Sun. Dec. 3</b> <b>*AMC dates in bold</b>	<b>7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>St. Cloud</b>



## MRC Interim Programs and Membership Action Items 2017

**Enbridge Valuation Appeal:** MRC is working with AMC, and under the leadership of Polk Co. Administrator Chuck Whiting, to coordinate the 13 counties affected by the Enbridge challenge to MN Dept. of Revenue property tax valuations for 2012 - 2016. The case will be heard in October and implications of a positive ruling for Enbridge could set a precedent that would open the door for other utilities across the state to file similar complaints.

**MRC Rural Foundations Program:** MRC is moving forward with a program to identify and coordinate organizations that represent key factions of our rural culture and economy, and we'd like your help. Thus far we have reached out to a small group of core organizations to gauge interest and have received positive response from each of the groups contacted. They include MN Rural Health Assn., MN Farmers Union, MN Assn. of Townships, and Cooperative Network. We will be holding an initial meeting within the next couple of weeks to discuss how the group should form and operate, and who needs to be involved.

**MRC Greater MN Workforce Opportunity Grants Program:** This program is an MRC initiated economic development program designed to provide training and financial support to Greater MN programs that market the natural, cultural and economic assets of their region over social media on a digital platform to attract new workers and residents. It encapsulates the widely supported concepts advocated by U of M Extension Sr. Fellow Ben Winchester in his "Brain Gain," presentations.

**MRC Land Use Program:** We heard from a number of members over the years that the purchase of private lands with public funding - through programs like Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council or LCCMR - was a growing concern among members. More than 75% of those responding to the 2017 MRC County Survey said their county was negatively affected by the acquisition of private lands with public revenues. We've developed a program to address concerns, but we need your help.

**MRC Broadband Program:** MRC continues to advocate for funding the Border-to-Border Grant Program at a level that will allow the state to meet its goals for deploying broadband across the state.

**MRC Transportation Funding Program:** MRC will continue to advocate for adequate funding that is generated primarily from dedicated funding to address the growing backlog of local road and bridge needs.

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# Minnesota Rural Counties Leadership List 2017

## MRC Officers 2017

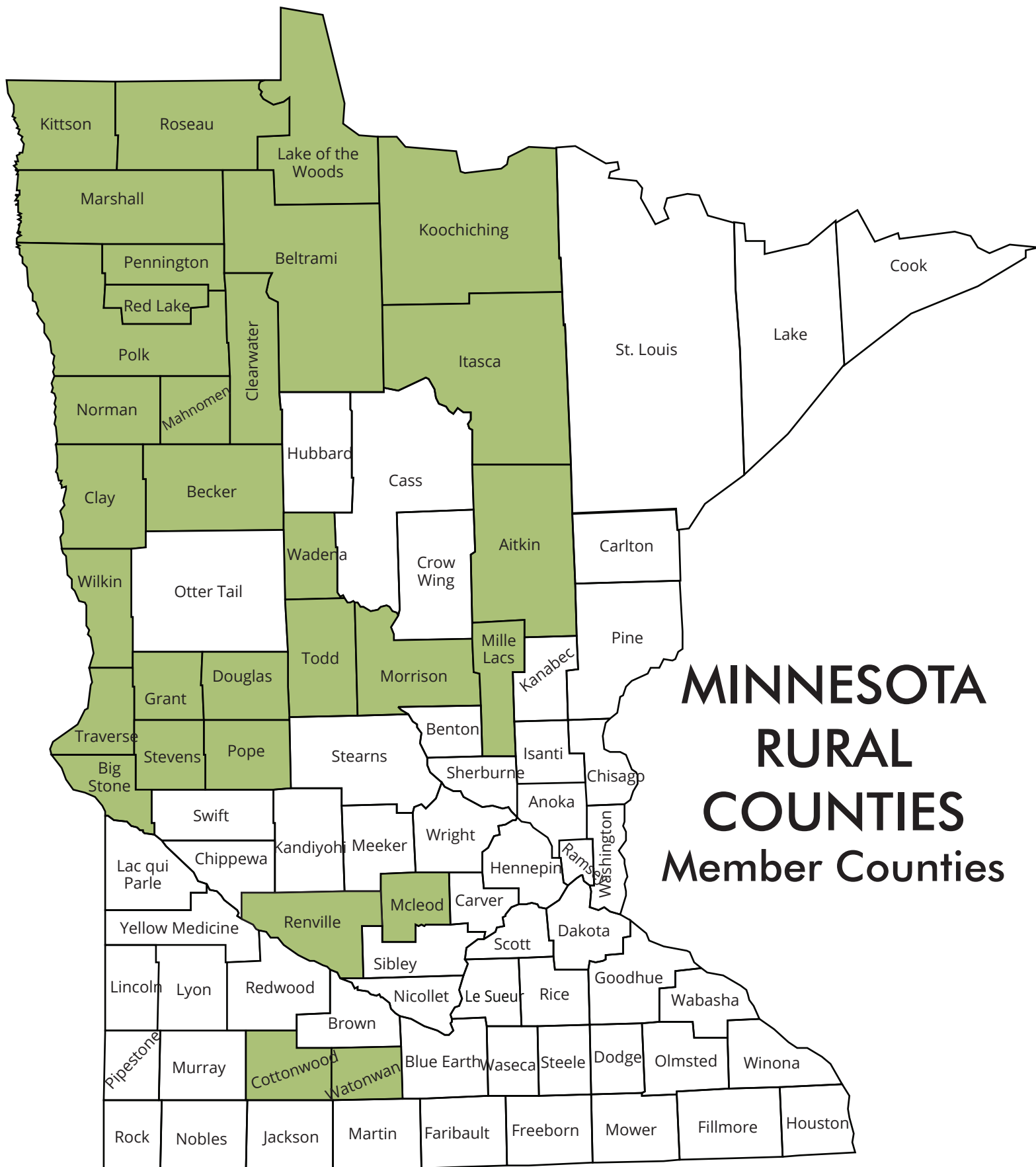
Chairman  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Stratton  
Bob Kopizke  
Sharon Bring

## Delegates / Alternates to MRC Board of Directors

	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Alternate(s)</b>
Aitkin	Don Niemi	Bill Pratt
Becker	Barry Nelson	Jack Okeson
Beltrami	Reed Olson	Jim Lucachick
Big Stone	Wade Athey	All Other Members
Clay	Grant Weyland	Frank Gross
Clearwater	Neal Illies	All Other Members
Cottonwood	Kevin Stevens	Jim Schmidt
Douglas	Jim Stratton	Any of the Other Members
Grant	Troy Johnson	Doyle Sperr
Itasca	Terry Snyder	Davin Tinquist
Kittson	Leon Olson	All Other Members
Koochiching	Wayne Skoe	Brian McBride
LOW	Cody Hasbargen	All Other Members
Mahnomen	David Geray	Brad Athmann
Marshall	Sharon Bring	Gary Kiesow
McLeod	Doug Krueger	Ron Shimanski
Mille Lacs	Roger Tellinghuisen	Dave Oslin
Morrison	Mike LaMieur	All Other Members
Norman	Steve Jacobson	Nathan Redland
Pennington	Don Jensen	Neil Peterson
Polk	Jerry Jacobson	All Other Members
Pope	Paul Gerde	Larry Lindor
Red Lake	Dave Sorenson	Chuck Simpson
Renville	Randy Kramer	All Other Members
Roseau	Russ Walker	Glenda Phillipe
Stevens	Bob Kopitski	Phil Gausman
Todd	Dave Kircher	Gary Kneisl
Traverse	Dave Salberg	Todd Johnson
Wadena	Bill Stearns	All Other Members
Wilkin	Dennis Larson	Lyle Hovland
Watsonwan		

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## Here's what your colleagues are saying about MRC:

*"Recreation is a key part of the economy in our area. Before MRC went to work on it, metro and DNR interests were taking 86% of Legacy Parks and Trails funding, while the remaining 80 non-metro counties were forced to compete with metro counties for what remained. MRC changed all that and we are now building a first-class regional parks and trails system in Greater MN."*

**Jim Stratton – Douglas County Commissioner and MRC Chairman**

*"Metro area legislators and lobbyists participate in every meeting affecting rural areas at the legislature. Greater MN needs a group like MRC that watches our interests and fights for its priorities."*

**Bob Kopitzke - Stevens County and MRC Vice-Chair**

*"As a charter MRC member, our county was there from the beginning when we formed to push-back on a state-sponsored one-size-fits-all wetland plan. It had support from outdoor, environmental, and metro advocates, but would have been terrible for many rural regions of the state. The MRC stopped the plan and helped create the three-tiered system that has worked as a model ever since."*

**Don Jensen – Pennington County**

*"Greater Minnesota is building a brand-new, world-class regional parks and trails system because MRC stepped up and fought for the funding. Groups like this deserve support."* **David Kircher - Todd County Commissioner**

*"Our county joined the MRC last year on a one-year trial basis. I was asked to participate in a land use work group that is addressing important concerns for rural counties, and I told my board recently that MRC is doing a good job representing rural concerns. I will be recommending continuing our membership in the MRC and encourage other counties to consider joining."*

**Randy Kramer - Renville County Commissioner**

*"As the lead staff person for a rural county, my greatest challenge is keeping up with developments on critical issues at the legislature. This is especially true late in the session when final decisions are being made. MRC sends updates as they occur – often multiple times per day when things are happening quickly – along with suggested messages and contacts. MRC's communication is invaluable and outstanding."* **Rebecca Young – Stevens County Coordinator**

*"The MRCC is making a difference for us – but it needs to grow. It doesn't cost much to join in either time or effort, and the returns have been significant."*

**Kevin Stevens – Cottonwood County Commissioner**

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