I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Rich Sve called the meeting to order at 8:07 am. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance. Corrections were made to the September 2014 minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Kevin Maurer and seconded by Commissioner Luke Johnson to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was approved on unanimous vote. Commissioner Sve introduced AMC Policy Analyst Jennifer Berquam. Policy Committee members introduced themselves.
II. ELECTIONS
Commissioner Todd Miller nominated Commissioner Rich Sve as the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Chair; Brian Napstad seconded. A motion to cease nominations was made and seconded. The motion was approved on a unanimous vote. The motion to elect Commissioner Sve was approved on unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dwayne Bakke nominated Commissioner Barry Nelson as the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Vice Chair; Commissioner Steve Rohlfing seconded. A motion to cease nominations was made and seconded; the motion was approved on a unanimous vote. The motion to elect Commissioner Nelson was approved on unanimous vote.

III. REVIEW PRIORITIES CHOSEN BY AMC BOARD
AMC Staff Anne Kilzer reviewed the eight legislative priority items adopted by the AMC Board on December 7.

IV. DISCUSSION OF NEW PLATFORM ITEMS
Anne Kilzer reviewed platform items adopted by the Committee in September, including items relating to e-waste; northern long-eared bat/endangered species; planning and zoning lot splits; and land acquisition/exchange.

Commissioner Sve brought forward for discussion new platform items recommended to the committee.

Al Forsberg gave an overview of the Section 404 handout that was provided.

The following platform items were considered by the committee:

• AMC supports a legislatively authorized feasibility study of State assumption of the Federal Section 404 permit program. Commissioner Kevin Mauer moved this platform item; Commissioner Randy Kramer seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

• AMC supports a thoughtful and balanced approach to issues that impact environmental protection and economic development efforts. AMC shall work to ensure that county perspectives are included in the state’s response to the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa’s application to the Environmental Protection Agency for Class 1 Air Quality designation. Commissioner Jon Evert moved this platform item; Commissioner Todd Miller seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Steve Rohlfing moved acceptance of the Environment and Natural Resources 2015 Platform; Commissioner Drew Campbell seconded. The motion was approved on unanimous vote.

V. WCA BANKING UPDATE
Commissioner Brian Napstad gave an update on water conservation. He provided background on the Wetland Conservation Act Legislative Language Committee, which was created by the legislature and tasked with the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act banking program. Anticipated language for 2015 Session; the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has been facilitating discussions to come up with solutions that can be moved forward. Discussion ensued.
VI. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
AIS workgroup representatives Commissioner Paul Thiede and Commissioner Jim Stratton gave an update on the AIS task force discussions to date. A suggestion was made that AMC create a work group to discuss how counties can provide information to the workgroup.

Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, gave an overview of AIS efforts and programs to date at the federal and state level and the need for resources at the local level. He provided information about the AIS Summit; program is intended to share best practices, how to leverage resources. Groups will have the opportunity to create a local action plan. Discussion ensued.

VII. DITCH VIEWER CERTIFICATION
Commissioner John Schueller discussed the need to upgrade ditch redetermination and benefit activities; need resources and need to be done more often. Only four lead viewers in the state. He gave an overview of the training program developed at Ridgewater Community College. Commissioner Schueller asked the group to consider whether language changes would be necessary in the future, regarding how viewers are appointed, to help streamline the process.

VIII. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Sve invited retiring commissioners to address the group.

IX. ADJOURN
Commissioner Todd Miller moved adjournment; seconded by Commissioner Luke Johnson. Motion was approved unanimously. Committee adjourned at 10:01 am.