MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Brian Napstad, Aitkin County
Kathy Tingelstad, Anoka County
Barry Nelson, Becker County
Timothy Sumner, Beltrami County
Joe Wollak, Benton County
Drew Campbell, Blue Earth County
James Berg, Brown County
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Jon Evert, Clay County
Garry Gamble, Cook County
Paul Thiede, Crow Wing County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
James Stratton, Douglas County
Tom Loveall, Faribault County
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County
Ronald Woltjer, Grant County
Matt Dotta, Hubbard County
David Henkels, Jackson County
Rich Sve, Lake County
Roger Berggren, McLeod County
Kevin Maurer, Morrison County
Tim Gabrielson, Mower County
Neil Peterson, Pennington County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Al Kokesch, Redwood County
Todd Miller, Roseau County
John Riebel, Sherburne County
Steve Notch, Stearns County
Ron Staples, Stevens County
Todd Johnson, Traverse County
Rodney Bounds, Wadena County
Pat Sawatzke, Wright County

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Sve called the meeting to order at 2:53 PM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Todd Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Drew Campbell to approve the February 26 minutes. The motion was approved on a unanimous vote. Chair Sve introduced Anne Kilzer, AMC policy coordinator and Julie Ring, AMC Executive Director. Chair Sve noted that AMC is in the process of hiring an Environment and Natural Resources Policy Analyst.

Julie Ring, AMC Executive Director, welcomed the committee and gave an overview of the hiring process.

II. AGENCY UPDATES
- Environmental Quality Board -- Will Seuffort, Executive Director
  Will Seuffort, Environmental Quality Board. Mr. Seuffort gave an update regarding silica sand rule proposals; climate change; emissions; future EQB projects.

- Pollution Control Agency Update -- Kirk Koudelka, Assistant Commissioner
  Assistant Commissioner Kirk outlined progress regarding ewaste, recycling efforts; internal database consolidation/increased online services; burn barrels/no burn resolutions.

- Board of Water and Soil Resources -- Al Kean, Chief Engineer
  Mr. Kean updated the group on the One Watershed One Plan initiative and the comment
period that will be open this fall. Questions regarding US Waters arose; Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt updated the committee on NACo and AMC involvement in the rulemaking process. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kean also gave an update on drainage law and programs available for local improvement projects. Handouts provided. Finally, the group talked about the wetland conservation act.

- Department of Natural Resources -- Bob Meier, Policy & Government Relations Director Anne Pierce, Ecological and Water Resources Manager
  Mr. Meier updated the group on aquatic invasive species aid legislation passed in 2014. Ms. Pierce provided information regarding the DNR website relative to AIS. Committee exchanged questions and answers with the presenters. Mr. Meier provided his perspective on AMC platform items. Question and answer regarding: long eared bats and role for agency/AMC; potential federal initiatives; and other directives which are currently open for comment.

III. ADJOURN DAY 1
Chair Sve adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Thursday, September 4

IV. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Sve called the committee to order at 8:33 am.

V. UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES AND AFFILIATE GROUPS
- NACo - Bob Fox, Victoria Reinhardt
  Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt provided an update from NACo. Commissioner Reinhardt reviewed two federal legislative proposals regarding PILT and impaired waters. A conference call will be held on these issues today. Commissioner Reinhardt outlined NACo leadership including involvement from Minnesota.

- Clean Water Council - Victoria Reinhardt, Frank Jewell
  Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt provided an update from the Clean Water Council. She described the work of this committee and current issues being discussed.

  Commissioner Rich Sve and Commissioner Duane Bakke provided an update. Recent work includes One Watershed One Plan and pilot project implementation.

- DNR AIS Workgroup - Matt Dotta
  Commissioner Matt Dotta provided an update on the AIS Advisory Committee; County representation; funding; and steering committee activities. The AIS Advisory Committee is focusing on specific areas such as communication, research, legislative and on the ground strategies. Commissioner Dotta asked if another Commissioner would be interested/willing to be the county representative for this group as he is unable to fulfill the commitment. Anne Kilzer will bring names of those who volunteered forward to AMC.

- Department of Agriculture Pollinator Workgroup - Duane Bakke
  Commissioner Duane Bakke gave an overview of the issues being discussed by the workgroup.
• BWSR Wetland Task Force- Rich Sve, Brian Napstad, Wade Pavleck, Josh Stromland
  Commissioner Brian Napstad gave an update on the task force initiatives. Legislation has been put forth in
  previous sessions; the process is ongoing to introduce legislation in the 2015 session regarding priority
  wetland restoration and wetland mitigation. Commissioner Napstad outlined the
  process/opportunity/challenges in moving forward. Discussion ensued.

• EQB Silica Sand Working Group - Kristi Gross
  No update.

• Drainage Work Group - Tom Loveall, Todd Patzer, and Harlan Madsen
  Commissioner Tom Loveall gave an update regarding DNR activities, potential initiatives, and watershed
  issues.

• Ag and Rural Development Task Force
  No update.

• SWAA
  No update.

• MACPZA
  No update.

VI. PLATFORM REVIEW
The policy committee entertained new policy items that fall under the jurisdiction of the committee.

Commissioner Sve asked for new platform items to be brought forward. Commissioner David Henkels brought
forward an item regarding water drainage and provided a handout outlining the issue. Discussion ensued.
Commissioner Duane Bakke suggested language be put together and reviewed in December. Committee suggested
this issue be brought to the drainage workgroup and others to vet the issue further prior to December.

Commissioner Jack Swanson brought forward an item regarding county board approval for federal or state
government of public lands. Discussion ensued; committee suggested the following language for consideration:

In order to help maintain the tax base, AMC supports a policy that any acquisition or exchange of land by the federal
or state government must gain approval of the county board. This includes lands acquired through purchase,
environmental land trust, gifting, or other means.

Commissioner Gary Gamble moved the language for inclusion in the platform; Commissioner Todd Miller seconded.
Motion passed.

Chair Sve suspended the agenda to allow Commissioner Reinhardt to give an update on her call with Senator Wyden
and proposed federal legislation.

Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County MACPZA representative, brought forward language recommended by
MACPZA. Discussion ensued; committee suggested the following language for consideration:

AMC supports providing counties the authority to require subdivisions of land to be in compliance with county zoning
ordinances prior to being recorded.
Commissioner Bakke moved the recommended language; motion seconded by Commissioner Paul Thiede. Motion passed.

Discussion commenced regarding the inclusion of the long eared bat on the endangered species list. Committee suggested the following language for consideration:

*AMC opposes the inclusion of the long eared bat on the endangered species list.*

Committee asked that the statement include more background information; AMC staff will follow up prior to December policy committee meetings. Commissioner Matt Dotta made a motion to include this platform plank, Commissioner Gary Gamble seconded. Motion passed.

VII. PRIORITIES
The committee discussed which platform planks should be identified as priorities to move forward to the AMC membership for consideration. Commissioner Reinhardt suggested eliminating Shoreland Rulemaking previous year’s list as it may not be an immediate threat.

The committee identified the following three priority issues:
- Changes to the WCA related to northeast Minnesota Wetland mitigation.
- AIS
- Electronic waste.

Committee asked Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt to provide language regarding e-waste; she agreed to do so.

Commissioner Bakke moved the three platform items as priorities; Barry Nelson seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURN
Commissioner Brian Napstad moved the committee adjourn, Commissioner Paul Gerde seconded. Motion passed.