MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Anderson, Isanti County
Richard Androli, Waseca County
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County
Steve Bauer, Rice County
Mike Beard, Scott County
Anton Berg, Brown County
Myron Bursheim, Cook County
Drew Campbell, Blue Earth County
Gary Crowley, Lyon County
Jim Dahlvang, Chippewa County
James Eigenberg, Jackson County
Lisa Fobbe, Sherburne County
Joe Fox, Swift County
Tim Gabrielson, Mower County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
John Glynn, Steele County
Richard Hall, Wabasha County
Chuck Horsager, Wadena County
James Ische, Carver County
Steve Jacob, Winona County
Frank Jewell, St. Louis County
Gary Johnson, Yellow Medicine County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Todd Johnson, Traverse County
David Kenworthy, Dodge County
Gary Kiesow, Marshall County
Glenn Kluis, Murray County
Jim Kordiak, Anoka County
Randy Kramer, Renville County
Doug Krueger, McLeod County
Bryan Larson, Meeker County
Dennis Larson, Wilkin County
John Lindquist, Otter Tail County
Tom Loveall, Faribault County
Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
Vern Massie, Hubbard County
Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County
Joshua Mohr, Pine County
Jenny Moneau, Clay County
Barry Nelson, Becker County (Chair)
Steve Notch, Stearns County
Gary Overgaard, Rock County
Wade Pavleck, Koochiching County
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Neil Peterson, Pennington County
Edward Popp, Benton County
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Steve Rohlfing, Le Sueur County
Kathy Smith, Martin County
Ron Staples, Stevens County
James Stratton, Douglas County
Rich Sve, Lake County
Paul Thiede, Crow Wing County
Russell Walker, Roseau County

GUESTS/OTHERS

John Luepke, Nicollet County
Chris Balfany, Yellow Medicine County
Annalee Garletz, DNR

Terry Neff, Aitkin County Environmental Services
Tim Nelson, Cook County Land Services
I. Call to Order
Committee Chair and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14-15, 2017 policy committee meeting. Commissioner Neil Peterson seconded the motion and the minutes were adopted.

II. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair
Chair Nelson asked for nominations to serve as Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. Commissioner Harlan Madsen nominated Commissioner and current Vice Chair Randy Kramer. Commissioner Neil Peterson seconded the motion. Chair Nelson asked for other nominations. There were no other nominations and Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot in support of Commissioner Randy Kramer. Commissioner Jenny Mongeau seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Kramer was elected to the Chair position with his term beginning after the AMC Business Meeting on December 5, 2017.

Chair Nelson asked for nominations to serve as Vice Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. Commissioner Jim Stratton nominated Commissioner Luke Johnson. Commissioner Jim Kordiak nominated Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt. Chair Nelson asked for other nominations. There were no other nominations. Paper ballots were distributed, members voted by writing one name on the paper, and the ballots were collected. Commissioners Ron Staples and Harlan Madsen served as tellers and counted the votes for each candidate. When all the votes were counted, Chair Nelson announced that Commissioner Luke Johnson received the most votes and was elected Vice Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee with his term beginning after the AMC Business Meeting on December 5, 2017.

III. Stearns County Recognition –SolSmart Community Designation
Jack Morgan of the National Association of Counties (NACo) presented commissioners and staff from Stearns County with a plaque recognizing them as the first county in Minnesota to be designated as a SolSmart Community. He also explained what the SolSmart program is and how other counties can be involved.

IV. Update on Groundwater Recharge
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt provided further information to committee members on the groundwater recharge issue as follow-up to the discussion that took place during the September policy committee meeting.

V. Updates from Work Groups
Chair Nelson provided committee members with an update on the outcomes of the SWCD/AMC Joint Work Group.

Vice Chair Kramer provided committee members with an update on the outcomes of the AMC Public Lands Management Work Group. A discussion took place on land acquisitions that currently require county board approval.
VI. Assessing Public Lands and Lands with Permanent Easements
Mark Peterson, Cass County Assessor and President of the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO), provided information to committee members on how public lands are/should be assessed, including lands with permanent easements and required buffers.

VII. Final Platform Review and Approval
A. Commissioner Randy Kramer made a motion to add the following language to the AMC platform under LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Comprehensive Planning and Zoning: Private lands acquired outside of a city should not be in conflict with the county’s comprehensive plan. Commissioner Mike Beard seconded the motion. Commissioner Paul Thiede offered a friendly amendment to include the words “designated for use” between “be” and “in”. Commissioner Kramer accepted the friendly amendment and renewed his motion, as amended. Motion adopted.

B. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to strike the following language from the AMC platform under LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Comprehensive Planning and Zoning: Current Minnesota Statute prohibits, in cities and townships, the recording of land transfers where the parcels/lots do not comply with adopted subdivision regulations. AMC supports amending Statute with similar language that would provide Counties the same authority of subdivision review and approval prior to the recording of land transfers to ensure that resulting lots are in compliance with County standards. Commissioner Jenny Mongeau seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

C. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to add the following language to the AMC platform under LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Public Land Management: AMC supports fully funding the beaver damage control grant program under Minnesota Statute 103F.950 to provide grants to local units of government. Commissioner Todd Johnson seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

D. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt made a motion to add the following language to the AMC platform under LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Public Land Management: AMC supports funding to counties to reimburse costs associated with the cleanup of blighted, tax-forfeited properties. Commissioner Tom Loveall seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

E. Commissioner Tom Loveall made a motion to add the four policies to the AMC platform under LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Public Land Management, that were recommended by the AMC Public Land Management Work Group. These policies are as follows:

1. AMC supports state and federal funding to effectively manage and maintain all state and federally owned lands.
2. AMC supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Strategic Land Asset Management Concept (SLAM) and the involvement of counties in the development of land management goals and strategies.
3. AMC supports requiring that county boards be notified of, and allowed to comment on, applications for state-funded acquisition projects that are proposed in the county.
4. AMC supports maximizing the greatest level of public value and benefit when private lands are acquired with state funds. These lands shall provide multiple uses and are best identified with local government participation throughout the acquisition process.

Commissioner Mike Beard seconded the motion. The committee discussed the third policy statement listed above and debated whether AMC should seek county board approval or county board notification of land acquisition projects. Commissioner Thiede moved to divide the question and vote on policies 1, 2 and 4 separately from policy 3. Commissioner Pavleck seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

The committee voted to add policies 1, 2 and 4 to the platform first. Motion adopted.

The committee voted to add policy 3 to the platform second. Motion adopted.

F. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt made a motion to strike the following two policies from the existing AMC platform to address consistency issues caused by new platform items that were just added by the committee:

1. LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Comprehensive Planning and Zoning: In order to help maintain the tax base, AMC supports a policy that any acquisition or exchange of land by the state or federal government must gain approval of the county board. This includes lands acquired through purchase, environmental land trust, gifting or other means.

2. LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION – Public Land Management: AMC supports requiring federal and state agencies to formally notify and solicit county input prior to all proposed land acquisitions.

Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

G. Commissioner Harlan Madsen made a motion to add the following language to the AMC platform under WATER – Wetlands: AMC supports generating additional state-owned wetland banking credits through applicable state programs to be available for use by counties for local road projects. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt seconded the motion.

Motion adopted.

VIII. Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Advisory Committee
A motion was made and seconded to reappoint Commissioners Jim Stratton and Paul Thiede to the Minnesota AIS Advisory Committee. Motion adopted.

IX. Adjourn
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.