DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Justin Ahlers, Nobles County
Greg Anderson, Isanti County
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County
Drew Campbell, Blue Earth County
Jim Dahlvang, Chippewa County
Paul Drotos, Goodhue County
Lisa Fobbe, Sherburne County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
Jerry Jacobson, Polk County
Frank Jewell, St. Louis County
Gary Johnson, Yellow Medicine County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Gary Kiesow, Marshall County
Randy Kramer, Renville County
Doug Krueger, McLeod County
Tom Loveall, Faribault County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County
Jenny Mongeau, Clay County
Barry Nelson, Becker County (Chair)
Steve Notch, Stearns County
Gary Overgaard, Rock County
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Neil Peterson, Pennington County
Edward Popp, Benton County
Ron Staples, Stevens County
James Stratton, Douglas County
Rich Sve, Lake County
Paul Thiede, Crow Wing County

GUESTS/OTHERS

Dennis Groebner, Redwood County
Chris Balfany, Yellow Medicine County
Rick Greene, Chisago County
Wayne Skoe, Koochiching County
Brian McBride, Koochiching County
Jerry Rapp, Douglas County
Tom Landwehr, DNR Commissioner
Bob Meier, DNR
Former Senator Bob Lessard
Dan Larson, MRC
John Tuma, PUC
Jennifer Berquam, AMC

I. Call to Order
Committee Chair and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from December 5, 2016. Commissioner Ed Popp seconded the motion and it was approved. AMC staff, Jennifer Berquam, discussed the “Policy Committee Round Robin” and Chair Nelson welcomed new commissioners to the committee.

II. Legislative Updates from AMC Policy Analysts
AMC policy staff visited each policy committee (Environment and Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Transportation and Infrastructure, and General
Government) to give a brief update on current legislation, topics and issues of interest for each policy area. Environment and natural resources topics discussed were: buffer aid for drainage authorities opting to enforce the law, Local Road Wetland Replacement Program/wetland banking, planning and zoning review of lot splits, solid waste/demo landfill permitting, noxious weeds and state lands.

III. DNR Update
DNR Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier gave an update on issues the DNR is working on this legislative session. Commissioner Tom Landwehr also spoke to the committee and answered multiple questions from members.

IV. Environment and Natural Resources Legislative Update/Discussion
John Tuma, Public Utilities Commissioner, spoke to the committee about three initiatives going on at the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Commerce: working group on wind and solar decommissioning, repowering of wind facilities, and certificate of need and siting rules. Commissioner Tuma asked for volunteers to serve on these work groups and is seeking input on the initiatives.

Ron Harnack, consultant, and Linda Loomis, Executive Director of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed, presented their new proposal this session to reduce sediment and flow in the Minnesota River Basin.

Jennifer Berquam reviewed bills with the committee on the following topics: large solar facilities permitting, buffer law (particularly proposals for buffer aid for drainage authorities), wetlands, planning and zoning (lot split bill), solid waste (demo landfill), county feedlot program, noxious weeds, soil and water conservation districts and state lands.

Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to oppose bill language that would require counties to add a line to the property tax statement for the amount they levy on behalf of soil and water conservation districts. Commissioner Doug Krueger seconded the motion and it passed.

Dan Larson, Executive Director for Minnesota Rural Counties, presented a bill proposal on land use issues and land acquisitions.

Former Senator Bob Lessard was a guest of the committee and spoke to the original intent of the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

V. Adjourn
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.