Lake County Administrator Matt Huddleston Receives 2019 Outstanding Service Award from Association of Minnesota Counties

(St. Paul, MN)— Lake County Administrator Matt Huddleston received the Association of Minnesota Counties’ (AMC) 2019 ‘Outstanding Service Award’ for exhibiting excellence, innovation and dedication to his work in county government.

Huddleston began his public service career in Mille Lacs County in 2001 before joining Lake County in 2005 as the Planning & Zoning Administrator. In July 2008, he was appointed Lake County’s first County Coordinator. In January 2012, he was further promoted to County Administrator. He also continued as Planning & Zoning Administrator until 2015. He is the county’s spokesperson for public relations.

Huddleston brings a voice of reason when involved with emotional and contentious subjects. Under his leadership the county established a Labor Management Committee, completed a Classification & Compensation Study, transformed the Personnel Committee, and reconfigured the Department Head meetings.

Huddleston facilitated a cooperative arrangement for a Shared Highway Engineer Service Agreement with neighboring Cook County. He also steered the financing and construction of a new Highway Facility after a fire consumed the previous structure in December 2016. Huddleston has been a champion of maintaining state and federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes, as well as Thye-Blatnik payments. He is involved with the development and funding of Split Rock Wilds, Lake County’s mountain bike trail project.

In addition to these many roles, he was the main point of contact for the Lake County Fiber to the Home Project. This $66 million project demanded an extraordinary amount of his time. His diligence, involvement, and oversight guided this project from its inception in 2010 through its sale in 2019. The project had three management companies, many contractors, numerous contracts, and continual contact with Rural Utilities Services in Washington, DC.

Throughout the additional projects and substantial increases in workload, Matt has never lost sight of his responsibilities to the County Board, Department Heads, staff and the residents of Lake County.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state’s 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. It is the mission of the Association to assist in the provision of effective county governance for the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.