



CROW WING COUNTY

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To: Local Elected Officials
From: Mark B. Liedl, Land Services Director
Date: July 6, 2012
Re: **Land Services Department – 2nd Quarterly Update for 2012**

Office of Property Valuation and Classification
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Below please find our quarterly report to keep you up-to-date on the activities of the Land Services Department. Any questions or suggestions, please let us know. Thank you for your partnership!

Environmental Services

Chris Pence, Land Services Supervisor

National Association of Counties (NACo) Awards

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has selected Crow Wing County for two National Achievement Awards. In its 43rd year of recognizing innovation achievements among counties across the nation, NACo feted the County for its consolidation of five departments into a single Land Services Department and for its major revision of the county's land use ordinance. In a letter to the county announcing the national awards, NACo Executive Director Larry Naake wrote that the awards "recognize your county's hard work to promote quality, efficient and responsive management and administration."

Water Plan Update

Crow Wing County is seeking input from citizens on the County's local comprehensive water plan, which will be updated in 2013. Water planning is identifying what works best to protect and enhance the water resources we all use and enjoy. The water plan document is a reflection of local priorities and helps the County establish goals to preserve and protect local water resources.

Because of the local nature of the water plan, Crow Wing County is offering citizens a unique opportunity to provide input as part of the process. A letter and a 12 question online survey was sent to all lakeshore property owners on lakes with County land use jurisdiction. The County is also asking for feedback from citizens who may not live on a lake but would like to provide input regarding management of water resources. The link to the survey can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/water-plan-survey1>. A paper copy of the survey will also be available at the Environmental Services Office.

Land Use and Property Tax Assessment Information Sessions

Land Services will be holding eight information sessions for citizens to gain a better understanding of land use permit requirements and the property tax assessment process. The sessions will include information on both the planning and zoning process as well as the property tax assessment process, with staff from both units on hand to present information and answer questions.

- Land use information sessions will be held on July 9, 2012 at the Ideal Town Hall from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and at the Lake Edward Town Hall from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and on July 13, 2012 at the Deerwood Town Hall from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and at the Long Lake Town Hall from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- Information sessions on property tax assessment process will be held on July 9, 2012 at the Lake Edward Town Hall from 9:00 – 11:00 am and at the Ideal Town Hall from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm and on July 13, 2012 at the Long Lake Town Hall from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and at the Deerwood Town Hall from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Satellite Office – Jenkins

We've opened a satellite office at the Jenkins City Hall. Starting May 1 and running through October 30, the office will be open every Tuesday from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Staff from the Land Services Department will be available to discuss land use issues, provide all necessary forms and will also be able to accept permit applications. The Jenkins City Hall is located at 33861 Cottage Avenue St, Jenkins, MN 56474.

Medication Disposal Program

Crow Wing County is now providing free medication disposal boxes located at three sites. The drop off box at each site will accept over-the-counter, prescription and narcotic medications. Drop off sites are open Monday through Friday at the following locations:

- Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office 304 Laurel Street Brainerd – 8 am to 5 pm. Contact: Denny Lasher: (218) 829-4749
- City of Breezy Point Police Department, 8361 County Road 11 Breezy Point – 8 am to 3:30 pm. Contact Chief Kevin Merschman (218) 562-4488
- City of Crosby Police Department, 22nd St SW Crosby – Contact Chief Kim Coughlin (218) 546-5137

Permit Data by Townships													
* Permits as of 6-20-2012													
Township	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Township	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Bay Lake	2	1	4	9	7	9	Rabbit Lake	0	0	1	1	2	1
Center	0	1	2	1	0	2	Roosevelt	0	0	1	5	3	1
Daggett Brook	1	0	2	0	3	1	Ross Lake	1	0	2	4	3	1
Deerwood	4	2	1	5	6	3	St. Mathias	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fairfield	0	0	1	1	3	0	Timothy	0	0	2	0	1	1
Fort Ripley	0	0	2	4	6	3	Wolford	0	0	2	1	1	1
Gail Lake	0	0	0	0	1	0	1st Assessment	1	6	9	14	16	9
Garrison	3	0	3	1	7	2	2nd Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ideal	1	4	8	7	9	11	City of Jenkins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	0	1	2	2	4	4	Breezy Pt. Septic	0	0	0	2	1	2
Lake Edward	0	3	4	9	6	6							
Little Pine	0	0	0	1	1	0	TOTAL	15	23	61	96	100	74
Long Lake	0	1	1	5	3	2							
Maple Grove	0	0	1	3	1	1							
Mission	0	1	3	7	4	6							
Nokay Lake	1	0	3	5	4	0							
Oak Lawn	1	2	2	3	4	1							
Pelican	0	0	4	4	4	5							
Perry Lake	0	1	0	1	0	1							
Platte Lake	0	0	1	0	0	1							

Property Valuation and Classification

Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor

2012 Assessment Completed

The 2012 assessment ended with a total reduction of \$620 million in estimated market value vs. the 2011 assessment. We are committed to accurate and uniform valuations and we believe with this assessment we continued to move forward in both of those areas.

Overall, regarding valuation, the last three years combined resulted in the total market value of the county reduced by 2.3 billion. This represents a total reduction in estimated market value of 18.8% from the 2009 assessment to the 2012 assessment. Below are the market values broken down by classification:

Crow Wing County Market Value

	2009 Assessment Year (2010 payable year)	2010 Assessment Year (2011 payable year)	2011 Assessment Year (2012 payable year)	2012 Assessment Year (2013 payable year)	% Change (2011-2012)
Residential	5,259,754,400	4,881,215,100	4,562,751,100	4,302,815,000	- 6.0%
Seasonal Recreational	4,792,393,400	4,281,203,200	3,942,810,800	3,692,025,700	- 6.8%
Agricultural, RVL, Etc.	730,289,400	874,625,500	802,351,500	725,481,300	- 10.6%
Commercial	1,299,765,500	1,213,055,500	1,122,218,800	1,088,891,400	-3.1%
	12,082,202,400	11,250,098,800	10,430,133,400	9,809,213,900	- 6.3%

18.8% Decline in Total Estimated Market Value from 2009-2012 (2,272,988,500)

% of Total Market Value

	2009 Assessment Year	2010 Assessment Year	2011 Assessment Year	2012 Assessment Year
Residential	43.5%	43.4%	43.7%	43.9%
Seasonal Recreational	39.7%	38.1%	37.8%	37.6%
Agricultural, RVL, Etc.	6.0%	7.8%	7.7%	7.4%
Commercial	10.8%	10.8%	10.8%	11.1%

2012 Appeals Process

Thank you for your partnership with us on local boards this year. Fortunately with the proactive communication we continue to provide (press releases, quarterly updates and yearly op-ed) our total numbers of appeals were virtually the same this year - 883 in 2011, 885 this year. I believe the process worked very smoothly and it appears decision makers are becoming more and more familiar and comfortable with the process. Please let me know if you have any suggested improvements for next year.

The County Board of Appeal and Equalization was held on June 11th with a total of 3 appeals being heard. Last year there were 5 and in 2010 a total of 11. Hopefully this is a sign we are on the right track with uniformity and transparency to property owners. To help ensure this is the case we sent out a random survey to customers who appealed their valuations. Last year, 88% of those surveyed gave us positive remarks. We are currently waiting for this year's responses.

Follow up – the 2013 Assessment

We currently are doing our quintile work – state statute requires us to physically examine all improved property parcels in the County, approximately 41,000 total, during a five year period, so each year we examine 20% of the parcels, or approximately 8,200 parcels to be inspected this year. So, you may see or hear about our assessors out in the field visiting properties in the next few months.

Our objectives include: identifying inaccuracies on the property record, checking measurements and conditions of buildings, and educating the public about the assessment process. Our goal is to have this completed by the end of September. We also will be surveying customers as to the level of service provided during these inspections. We will then start reviewing all permits issued in the County, which last year totaled 1,330 permits. This will be completed near the end of the year.

Public Land Management
Kirk Titus, Land Services Supervisor

Tree Planting

The county's tree planting program for 2012 totaled nearly 70,000 pine and spruce seedlings. The planting sites are located on approximately 124 acres in Mission, Timothy and Ideal Townships and the City of Crosslake. Survival rates are expected to be excellent because of the timely rains the county has received this spring and early summer. More than 3.6 million seedlings have been planted on county tax forfeited timber lands in the last 30 years.

Forest Certification Surveillance Audit

Crow Wing County along with the four other counties in the Minnesota Counties Sustainable Forestry Cooperative (MCSFC) very successfully completed the annual forestry certification surveillance audit.

The 2012 week long audit concluded with no major corrective action requests (CAR), no minor CARs and 2 observations. The auditors will make a recommendation to SGS, the certifying body, to continue to dual certify the MCSFC to both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council standards.

The table below shows the number of corrective actions and observations for the past three years. No minors or majors this year shows signs of a maturing certification program and continuous improvement over time. Most important though, this certification validates to our customers that the CWC managed public lands are sustainably managed.

	2012	2011	2010
Major CARs	0	0	1
Minor CARs	0	4	3
Observations	2	2	7

Crow Wing County, along with Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater and Koochiching counties are members in the cooperative. This unique partnership has resulted in lower costs, increased efficiencies and the sharing of best practices.

Recreation Trail Planning

We are working to implement the trails identified in the Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan adopted by the County Board earlier this year. The plan sets forth a process we follow in moving forward with trail projects, including public comment periods. Both the Edgewild and Crosslake non motorized trail proposals have been out for public comment. Currently Land Services staff is responding to comments and will modify the project plans if needed. The project plans will be presented to the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting on July 26, followed by a presentation to the County Board and a request for approval shortly thereafter.

Project planning continues on both the Miller Hills OHM expansion and Black Bear motorized applications while the Perry Lake project has been put on hold at this time.

A recreation trail planning webpage has been developed on the county website at <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=291>. Scroll to the bottom of the page to view all the project applications and project plans.

Tax Forfeited Land Sale

The first of two land sales held this year will be Friday, July 27 at 10:00 AM in the basement of the Land Services Building. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the land sale brochure, please send an email request to: landservices@crowwing.us, call 218-824-1115 or visit the county website at <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=269>

We look forward to providing the customer service you expect from us.

Please contact our office with any questions you have.

Have a great summer!

Please don't hesitate to email any feedback you may have to Vickie, vickie.sullivan@crowwing.us, and she will make sure we hear it.