



To: Local Elected Officials
From: Mark B. Liedl, Land Services Director
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Date: July 9, 2013
Re: Land Services Department – 2nd Quarter
Update for 2013

Office of Property Valuation and Classification
Land Services Building
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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 Achievement Award

The National Association of Counties (NACo) selected Crow Wing County for a National Achievement Award. In NACo's 44th year of recognizing innovative achievements among counties across the nation, Crow Wing received the award for its Lakeshore Impervious Surface Coverage Research Study conducted in 2012.

Impervious surface data was calculated on 32 lakes over 500 acres in size using high-resolution aerial photography and property sketches from the Property Valuation and Classification Office. The amount of impervious surface was calculated for the entire riparian lot as well as within 250 feet and 500 feet of the shoreline to determine how much impervious surface was located close to the shoreline. Impervious surface coverage is hard surfaces on a lot such as rooftops, sidewalks, patios and driveways that don't allow water to soak into the ground. Studies have shown that water quality begins to decline when impervious surface coverage reaches 12-15 percent. This local data will help guide land use decisions designed to keep our lakes and rivers clean.

On-Line Permitting

Citizens can now apply for land use permits on-line. The new permitting software was designed by RtVision from Little Falls, MN and provides a convenient way to apply for permits without having to come to the Land Services Office in Brainerd.

Access to the on-line permit system is as easy as following this link: <https://enviopermits.co.crow-wing.mn.us/>. All that is required is an email address to log in to the system. The permitting system will also allow customers to pay permit fees either with a check or credit card. The county will still accept paper permit applications but is encouraging the public to use the permitting system. Customers will be notified via email as the permit moves through the approval process so the customer knows where the permit is during the approval process. Townships will still be notified via email of approved permits or go to <http://gisweb2/link/Reports/DocViewer/search.aspx> to search for approved permits.

2012 Recycling Report

The Land Services Department Annual Recycling Report shows that recycling was up in Crow Wing County in 2012 by 2,896 tons or 9.9% compared to 2011. Overall, the County exceeded the state recycling goal of 35% - a total of 46%. The commercial area increased from 22,720 tons in 2011 to 25,552 tons in 2012 – an increase of 2,832 tons or a 12.5% increase. The residential area dropped from 5,150 tons in 2011 to 4,962 tons in 2012 – a reduction of 180 tons or a 3.7% reduction. Overall, the commercial sector accounted for 80% of the total recycling tonnage in 2012.

Jenkins Satellite Office

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department is pleased to announce it will be opening a satellite office at the Jenkins City Hall. Starting June 3rd, the office will be open every Monday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am through October 31st. 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.

Permit Data by Townships													
* Permits through 6-28-2013													
Township	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Township	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Bay Lake	2	2	1	3	8	13	Rabbit Lake	0	1	0	0	2	0
Center	3	0	1	2	10	7	Roosevelt	1	1	3	2	5	5
Daggett Brook	0	0	0	0	0	3	Ross Lake	0	0	0	0	2	0
Deerwood	0	2	1	1	12	3	St. Mathias	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fairfield	0	2	2	2	3	1	Timothy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Ripley	0	0	1	0	2	3	Wolford	0	1	1	0	0	2
Gail Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	1st Assessment	2	0	5	4	13	17
Garrison	0	1	1	1	4	6	2nd Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ideal	2	3	1	3	10	21	City of Jenkins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	0	0	0	1	3	2	Breezy Pt. Septic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Edward	2	1	2	2	10	9							
Little Pine	0	0	0	0	2	0	TOTAL	16	20	23	34	110	119
Long Lake	0	1	0	2	3	5							
Maple Grove	0	0	1	0	2	6							
Mission	1	0	2	4	3	6							
Nokay Lake	0	1	0	2	3	1							
Oak Lawn	0	1	1	0	2	2							
Pelican	1	0	0	3	6	2							
Perry Lake	1	1	0	2	2	2							
Platte Lake	1	2	0	0	2	1							

Public Land Management

Kirk Titus, Land Services Supervisor

Tree Planting

The County's tree planting program for 2013 totaled nearly 30,000 pine and spruce seedlings. The planting sites were located on approximately 36 acres in Mission, Crow Wing and Ideal townships. Survival rates are expected to be excellent again this year, because of the timely rains the county 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, including four other counties in the Minnesota Counties Sustainable Forestry Cooperative, is planning for a week long forest certification audit in July.

The independent third party audit will focus on the strict environmental principles established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council certification standards.

This important certification validates that these county forest lands are sustainably managed and will continue to provide multiple benefits for future generations. The certification is based on principles that promote sustainable forest management, including objective standards and measures to provide wood fiber for local economies while protecting water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and species at risk.

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

Recreation Trail Planning

Project Plans for the Miller Hills Off-Highway Motorcycle Trail and the Portage Lake Trail were approved by the County Board on May 14 2014.

The Cuyuna Pump Track Trail proposal has been out for public comment. Currently, Land Services staff is responding to comments. The project plan will be presented to the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee in August, followed by a presentation to the County Board and a request for approval shortly thereafter.

Proposed by the City of Cuyuna, the Pump Track Trail connects the Yawkey Unit of the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, mountain bike trail system to the Cuyuna Pump Track located within Cuyuna City Park. The proposed trail location is located of Cuyuna, still within the city limits.

For more information on County recreation trail planning, please visit the following webpage. <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 in 2013 was held on Friday June 21. Eleven parcels, valued at nearly \$30,000 were sold and returned to the tax rolls. If you are interested in receiving a copy of future land sale brochures, 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>

Property Valuation and Classification

Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor

2013 Assessment Completed

The 2013 assessment ended with a total reduction of \$290 million in estimated market value vs. the 2012 assessment. We are committed to having accurate and uniform valuations and believe with this assessment we continued to move forward in both of those areas.

Overall, the last four years valuation combined, resulted in the total market value of the county being reduced 2.6 billion. This represents a total reduction in estimated market value of 21.2% from the 2009 assessment to the 2013 assessment.

2013 Appeals Process

Taxpayers who disagree with their assessment may appeal the value or classification to the Local or County Boards of Appeal and Equalization. Fortunately, with the proactive communication we continue to provide (press releases, quarterly updates and yearly op-ed) our total numbers of appeals were reduced this year from 902 in 2012 to 454 - a 51% reduction. The process appeared to work very smoothly this year, and it appears decision makers are becoming more and more familiar and comfortable with the process. Please let us know if you have any suggested improvements for next year. 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 again surveyed all customers who appealed their valuations, to received feedback from them.

We surveyed 376 customers with 137 responding, for a 36% response. 96% agreed that the assessor who answered their question was prompt, professional and respectful.

The County Board of Appeal and Equalization was held on June 17th with a total of 3 appeals being heard. Last year there also were 3 appeals and in 2011 there were 5.

Thank you for your partnership with us on local boards this year!

Follow up – the 2014 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 improved parcels, during a five year period. 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 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 will be surveying customers as to the level of service provided during these inspections. Then we will start reviewing all land use/zoning permits issued in the County which last year a total of 1,330 permits needed review. This will be completed near the end of the year.

We look forward to providing excellent customer service.
Please contact our office with any questions you have.
Thanks and have a great summer!

Please do not hesitate to email any feedback you may have to Darleen at: darleen.wood@crowwing.us, and she will make sure we hear it.

Crow Wing County Market Value

	2009 Assmt Year (2010 payable year)	2010 Assmt Year (2011 payable year)	2011 Assmt Year (2012 payable year)	2012 Assmt Year (2013 payable year)	2013 Assmt Year (2014 payable year)	% Change (2012-2013)
Res	5,259,754,400	4,881,215,100	4,562,751,100	4,302,815,000	4,168,759,300	- 3.1%
Seasonal	4,792,393,400	4,281,203,200	3,942,810,800	3,692,025,700	3,603,012,700	- 2.4%
Ag, RVL, Etc.	730,289,400	874,625,500	802,351,500	725,481,300	686,478,700	- 5.4%
Comm	1,299,765,500	1,213,055,500	1,122,218,800	1,088,891,400	1,060,284,800	- 2.6%
	12,082,202,400	11,250,098,800	10,430,133,400	9,809,213,900	9,518,536,100	- 3.0%

21.2% Decline in Total Estimated Market Value from 2009-2013

% of Total Market Value

	2009 Assmt Year	2010 Assmt Year	2011 Assmt Year	2012 Assmt Year	2013 Assmt Year
Res	43.5%	43.4%	43.7%	43.9%	43.8%
Seasonal	39.7%	38.1%	37.8%	37.6%	37.9%
Ag, RVL, Etc.	6.0%	7.8%	7.7%	7.4%	7.2%
Comm	10.8%	10.8%	10.8%	11.1%	11.1%