

POLK COUNTY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



Resource recovery equipment being installed in Fosston Resource Recovery building addition

Work on County solid waste facility upgrade continues

A major upgrade to the Polk County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Fosston is well underway.

Polk County obtained state cost-share assistance for many of the modifications from the 2015 and 2017 Legislatures. Modifications include the construction of an addition to the east of the existing RRF.

The addition is to house a new, larger tip floor for incoming waste and recyclable materials, major upgrades to equipment in order to increase processing capacity and the integration of new technologies to increase the types

and efficiency of material recycling. The system will be designed and constructed to handle both the waste and recyclable material streams.

The 18,000-square-foot building addition was substantially completed by Vercon Inc of Menahga, MN at the end of 2017.

This did not occur without substantial efforts by Vercon and its subcontractors – most notably BCI Concrete. The month of December did little in the way of cooperating with our timelines and schedules of sheet metal and concrete work having many extreme cold

and/or windy days between snow storms.

With deadlines to hit before the concrete plants shut down and the equipment contractor arrived onsite to install equipment, interim measures were taken to get all 18,000 sq ft of the concrete poured in a four- day window. With the efforts of our contractors, and in particular Vercon and BCI, the work was done on-time without exceeding that critical deadline date.

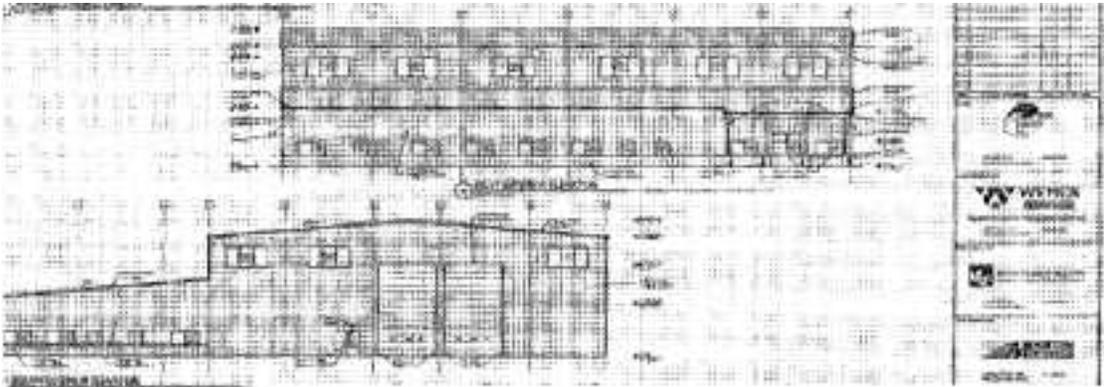
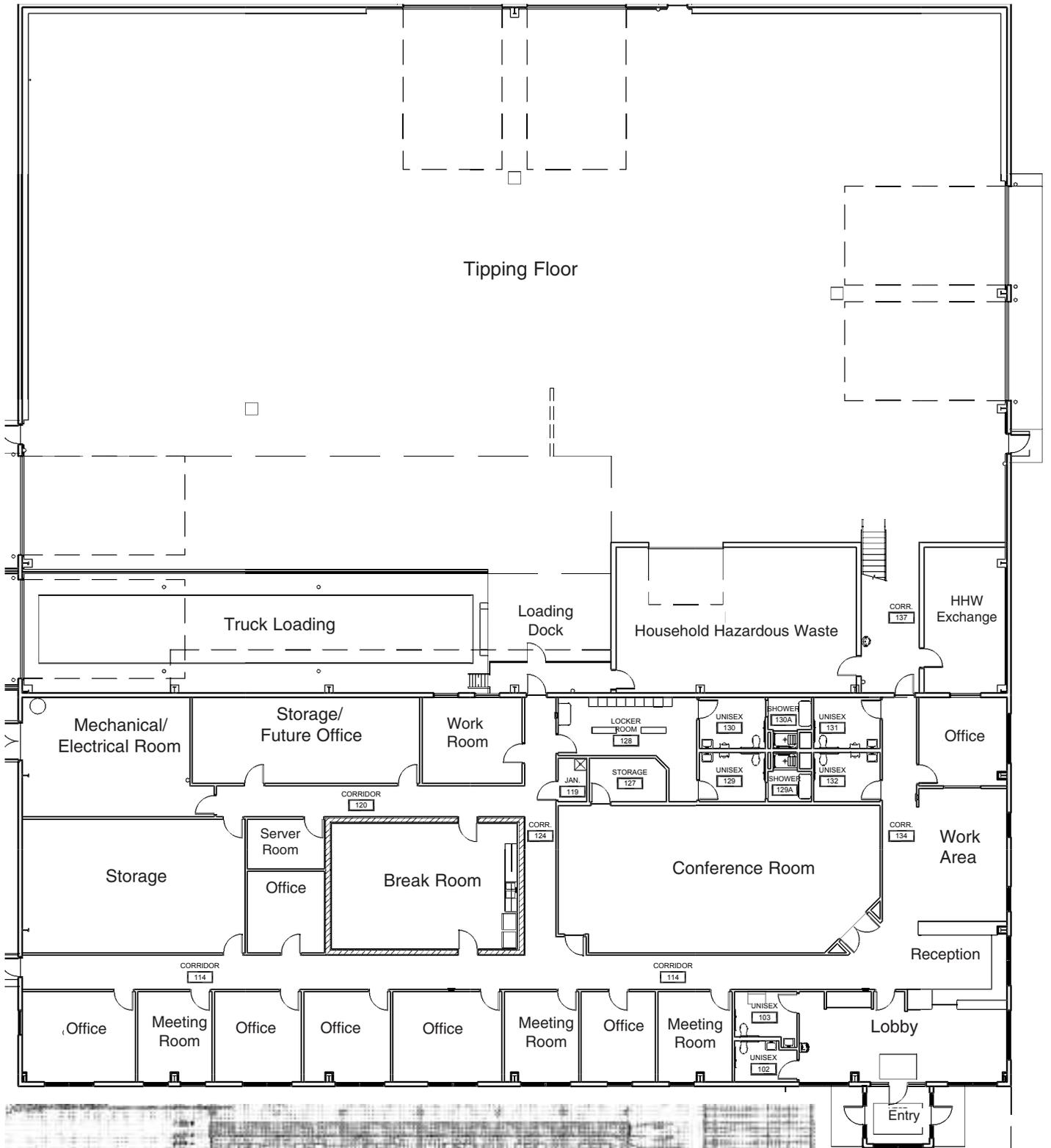
This paved the way for the next two phases of work on this project — two phases of processing equipment

installation by Titus MRF Services of Fontana, CA. The process equipment work was scheduled to start in the new addition in mid-January 2018, with equipment deliveries scheduled to start right after the new year. The first phase of equipment installation occurs in the new building addition and includes the equipment to be utilized in the first portion of the new processing line.

While the first phase is occurring, Polk County is able to continue to operate using the existing equipment. Once the first phase is complete, and equipment tested, Polk County will operate out of the new addition while Titus MRF

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Transfer Station
 Construction of a new \$4.6 million Crookston-based Transfer Station will begin later this spring following demolition of the present station. Completion is scheduled for later this summer.

Project includes new scales

Construction of new Transfer Station to begin

The Polk County Transfer Station in Crookston is scheduled for significant modification in 2018.

More accurately, the existing building will be razed, and a new facility will be constructed in its place. This project will commence in the spring of 2018 and be completed near the end of the year.

Solicitation of bids for new truck scales went out at the end of February. The project was awarded to Kennedy Scales of Coon Rapids, MN on March 6. The project consists of two truck scales — one indoor and one outdoor.

The indoor scale will be installed on the northwest portion of the new tip floor for loading our service trucks within the building to achieve maximum payloads and to decrease truck traffic in the lot and on the exterior (public) scale.

The new outdoor truck scale will be near the location of the current truck scale (parallel to Ingersoll Ave) but will be located further west to maintain visibility from the office to be attended.

Wenck Associates and Widseth, Smith and Nolting have collaborated on the architectural design and engineering for the new transfer station building.

The design and engineering was done over the winter of 2017-2018, and permitting done in February. Bids for the new building went out in late February and closed on March 13.

Three bids were received for the project, ranging from approximately \$4.58 million to \$5.15 million. The low base bid was from Nor-Son of Baxter, MN. Two of the bids were at or below the range of the engineers estimate of \$4.8 million for the project.

The project was awarded to the low bidder, Nor-Son Inc, on March 20. Including requested bid options that were added (alternates A-1 and A-2), the Nor-Son Inc. project price will be \$4,596,651.

Demolition activities will begin in April. Reconstruction activities will commence shortly thereafter and throughout the spring and summer. During the period between existing building demolition and construction of the new tip floor, interim operations will occur outdoors in the alley and along the former recycle building located directly to the east of the Transfer Station.

A temporary office has been placed near the former recycle building for administrative purposes and a temporary scale will be placed near the loading dock for use between the time the existing scale is decommissioned and the new scale is placed into service.

While most waste services will be available on a limited scale for residents during this interim period, large waste loads will be bypassed direct to the waste disposal facilities until the new tip floor is available for use.

Other services such as the HHW product exchange and aluminum can buy-back program will be suspended until the new building is available in 2019.

New design elements:

Tip Floor will have a significantly higher ceiling and overhead doors. This will allow roll-off trucks to unload inside the building and waste to be piled higher to increase the holding capacity of the facility.

Transfer vehicles will weigh inside the building to maximize payloads. Trucks will leave via new egress to the north, so the large trucks servicing the facility do not mix back into the parking lot or onto the exterior scale.

A new parking lot will be constructed on the west side of the building. This will allow those entering the office to park in areas that don't mix with the self-haul vehicles. This should increase parking and reduce lot congestion.

Canopies over the exterior waste containers for self-haulers will be constructed to reduce precipitation from coming into contact with facility users and the waste materials deposited in those containers. The canopies will be illuminated when operations are occurring after dark (seasonal).

— **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**



Resource Recovery facility with new addition

Solid waste upgrade

Continued from Page 1

Services removes the old, existing equipment and installs the second phase equipment which is the back portion of the new processing line.

Phase 1 work is scheduled to be completed around March 31 and Phase 2 is scheduled to be completed around July 31. At the completion of

equipment installation of both phases, the facility will be taken off-line for approximately one week to tie both phases together.

The end result of the project will be increased waste and recyclable material processing capacity — increasing waste processing rates from the current 22–24 tons/hour to

more than 32 tons/hr.

Likewise, recyclable material processing will increase from the current 3-10 tons/hour to more than 15 tons/hr. In addition to the increased capacity, the equipment will be more efficient at removing materials currently captured and will capture additional materials to be recycled.

As a result of the new technology used, the facility will have less unprocessed waste going to the Landfill and will have flexibility to adapt and change as required to meet future needs. — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Environmental Services**

Call if you can, text only if you can't

When an emergency takes place, the first instinct is to call 9-1-1. That's good for most people but there is now a way to get help when calling is not the best way to get through to the county PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point).

Now, when making the call by voice cannot be done dependably because of hearing issues, or safely because someone of questionable character could be listening, etc., that call can be made by text.

The new service, which became available in Minnesota on Dec. 5, comes with the motto: "Call if you can, text if you can't."

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, or who are in danger are encouraged to use Text-to-9-1-1 as a first contact option. All others should do so by voice, preferably via a Smart Phone that provides its location to

dispatchers.

"Texting is a resource that can be used by persons with disabilities and those in dire need situations where talking may not be done or be advisable," Polk County Dispatch Center Director Nancy Shafer says.

"But, whenever possible, calling is by far the best because that way the dispatcher, while getting the emergency response personnel and vehicles on the way, can keep the caller on the line to gather additional information that will give responders a better idea of what can be expected at the scene.

"Getting this additional information becomes more difficult when done by texting. Knowing more about the situation in advance of arrival at the scene is a big benefit to both the victims and those coming to assist."

Because of the cost of the new

equipment needed to take Text-to-9-1-1 messages, all text calls made from northwestern Minnesota counties are being received at a single regional center in Beltrami County (Bemidji) that was specifically developed to receive them. The information is then relayed back to the PSAP in the county where the incident has occurred.

The Text to 9-1-1 capability comes after three years of work by various stakeholders and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communication Network (DPS-ECN) in developing a system that makes it work dependably.

Each county has just one designated PSAP and all voiced-generated 9-1-1 calls go to that facility. The Polk County PSAP is located in the Dispatch Center in the Law Enforcement Center in Crookston.

Filing period opens May 22

The positions of sheriff, county attorney and for two of the five Polk County commissioner seats will be up for election this year.

The candidate filing period opens Tuesday, May 22, and closes at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 5. If more than two candidates file for any of the seats, a Primary Election will be conducted on Aug. 14 to narrow the field to two candidates for the General Election on Nov. 6.

The terms of each of the offices are for four years beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

Currently holding the positions are Sheriff Barb Erdman, County Attorney Greg Widseth, District 2 Commissioner Warren Strandell, and District 4 Commissioner Joan Lee.

Commissioner District 2 includes the First and Second Wards in East Grand Forks, the cities of Fisher, Climax and Nielsville, and 14 townships in the southwest part of the county (Huntsville, Nesbit, Fanny, Rhinehart, Bygland, Fisher, Lowell, Tynsid, Roome, Andover, Vineland, Hammond, Hubbard and Scandia).

Commissioner District 4 consists of the cities of Erskine, McIntosh, Fosston, Lengby and Winger and 15 townships in eastern Polk County (Johnson, Chester, Gully, Badger, Lessor, Hill River, Eden, Knute, King, Brandsvold, Queen, Winger, Sletten, Rosebud and Columbia).

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen and reside in the district for which they are running. Anyone interested in filing can contact Director of Property Records/Elections Michelle Cote at 218-281-2554 for more information.

52 precincts will vote by mail ballot in 2018 elections

Voters in 52 of the 82 precincts in Polk County will cast their 2018 Primary and General Election ballots through the U.S. Mail this year rather than at polling places at township halls or other sites within smaller cities.

The number of precincts electing to vote by mail is up 10 from a year ago. Those 10 are Badger, Euclid, Godfrey, Grove Park-Tilden, Higdem, King, and Rhinehart townships and the cities of McIntosh, Mentor and Winger.

Mail balloting is available to non-metro townships of any size and to cities with less than 400 registered voters.

By state law, mail ballots must be delivered to registered voters between 14 and 46 days prior to the election date. The ballots can then be filled out and mailed back to the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center as soon as the voter has decided how to vote up to Election Day.

Mail ballots can also be delivered on Election Day to the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center, which serves as the official polling place for all mail ballot precincts.

"Our target for this mailing," Michelle Cote, Polk County director of property records, says of sending the ballots out, "is to have them in the mail at around the 30-day mark. This is so the ballots won't arrive so early that people forget about them or so late that we are getting phone calls from voters who are looking

for their ballots." Cote is the county's election administrator.

Besides usually resulting in greater participation in the election process, advantages to those precincts that use mail voting are that they have reduced election judge costs and less issues staffing a polling place on Election Day. In addition, they will not have the expense of updating election equipment.

The cost of the mailing of the ballots amounts to about \$2 per ballot. "Mail balloting is not only fiscally responsible but it makes voting much easier," Cote says, while noting that it is still possible for precincts to move to the mail ballot voting process for the 2018 elections.

For the Primary Election, approximately 4,300 mail ballots will be mailed out to registered voters in the mail ballot precincts.

The other townships that use the mail ballot option are Andover, Angus, Belgium, Brandt, Brislet, Chester, Crookston, Eden, Fairfax, Fanny, Farley, Fisher, Gentilly, Grand Forks, Gully, Hammond, Helgeland, Hubbard, Johnson, Kertsonville, Keystone, Liberty, Lowell, Nesbit, Northland, Onstad, Parnell, Reis, Roome, Rosebud, Russia, Sandsville, Scandia, Tabor, Tynsid and Vineland.

Other cities that use the vote by mail ballot are Beltrami, Climax, Fisher, Gully, Nielsville and Trail.

Sanders set to be sworn in as president of National Association of County Engineers

Polk County Engineer Richard Sanders will be sworn in as president of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) on April 25 during the 2,000-member organization's annual Management/ Technical Conference at Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Sitting at Sanders' table for the installation event will be his wife, Ruth, and their two children Jake (with wife, Jensen, and daughter, Eden) and Rachel (with fiancé Jon Laudner).

Also attending will be Polk County Administrator Chuck Whiting, County Board Chair Joan Lee, and Bernie Lieder, who was Polk County engineer for 22 years (1962-1984) before serving as the District 2/District 1-A state representative for 25 years (1985-2010).

While in the legislature, Lieder authored many transportation bills and regularly served as chair of the Transportation Committee. A past president of NACE, Lieder



Richard Sanders

served the organization in that capacity in 1975.

The track for Sanders to advance to the position of president of the organization began when he was elected secretary-treasurer of the national organization in April 2016. He became president-elect last April when the organization met at Cincinnati, OH. The 2019 conference will be held at Wichita, KS.

A nonprofit, nonpartisan,

professional association now in its 61st year of existence, NACE promotes activities and legislation for safe, efficient county roads and bridges. Nationwide, local roads account for about 75% of the highway system. Over 231,000 bridges are owned and maintained by counties.

NACE membership includes county engineers, road managers and related professionals in the U.S. and Canada. The 2018 conference will span five days, April 22-26, including pre-conference and post-conference board meetings.

The organization's primary goals are to:

- Advance county engineering and management by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information aimed at improving service to the public.
- Influence federal legislation affecting county transportation/public works departments.
- Foster and stimulate the

growth of individual state transportation organizations.

The NACE executive board conducts its business through monthly conference calls. The executive board is made up of the president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer, past president, five regional vice presidents, and a liaison member from the National Association of Counties.

The full board of directors, which includes one representative from each state, meets twice a year.

Sanders was the vice president for the North Central Region of NACE from 2013-2015.

He has also served as president of the Minnesota County Engineers Association and has served as a member of several state and national transportation committees and study groups including the University of Minnesota Local Transportation Assistance Program Steering Committee.

Wilkens to end career in addressing water issues

Daniel Wilkens, who has been the administrator of the Sand Hill River Watershed District Board of Managers for the past 18 years and has worked on water issues for the past 45 years, will be retiring later this year. That's when the five-year Phased Retirement Option (PRO) that he has been working under will terminate.

"It is just time for me to slow down and have someone else take over," Wilkens says of retirement. "I have some projects that I want to do and I want to have some time for traveling and a little bit of fishing."

The PRO arrangement between an individual and the employer is a provision of the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association that allows for up to five annual extensions in advance of full



Dan Wilkens

retirement. With 2018, all five years will have been used.

A lifelong resident of the Fertile community and a Northwest School of Agriculture graduate, Wilkens earned a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering and agricultural economics at the University of Minnesota.

A leader in Red River Valley flood control and statewide drainage issues, Wilkens was instrumental in the creation of the Sand Hill River Watershed District in May 1975. He served on the board as a manager until 1999 when he resigned to accept the position of administrator.

His interest in water management began as a child when his family and neighbors were experiencing problems with flooding and poor drainage. He farmed in the Fertile area until 1987.

Wilkens has also served as treasurer of the Red River Watershed Management Board organization that promotes water management in the Red River Valley area of northwestern Minnesota. He is the Sand Hill River Watershed District's representative to that

organization and the only original board member.

His other memberships involve basin wide, state and even international water organizations. He is a member of the:

- Red River Basin Commission, which includes Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Manitoba.
- Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.
- Minnesota Drainage Inspectors.
- Is the U.S. representative on the International Red River Board, which covers the Red River Basin for the International Joint Commission.
- Legislative Drainage Work Group, which deals with changes to the Drainage Code.

He is also involved with many local organizations and serves as the mayor of Fertile.

MSTRWD picks administrator, Kovar begins 2nd 3-year term

Developments with the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) include that Joel Praska has become administrator of the organization and that Bob Kovar, rural East Grand Forks, is beginning his second three-year term as Polk County's representative on the board of managers.



Joel Praska

Praska was chosen as administrator last August to succeed Brent Silvas, who had resigned. A native of Warren, Praska graduated from high school there in 1988. He earned a business management degree at the University of Minnesota-Crookston in 1996. After having worked briefly for the FSA (Farm Service Agency) in Warren, he became the deputy Marshall County auditor in charge of taxes.

A career Northland Township farmer, Kovar was initially appointed to the board of managers by the Polk County Board in February 2015. He was reappointed in January.

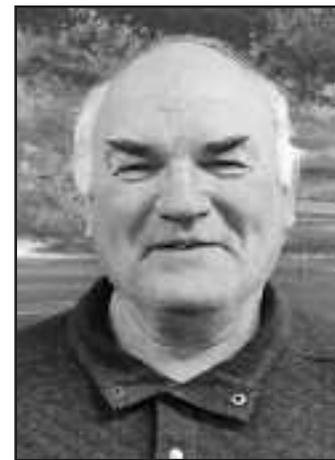
With 17 percent of the land in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed, Polk County has one

member on the seven-member on the board of managers. Marshall County, with 79.5 percent of land in the 1,476-square-mile watershed, has the other six managers. Small amounts of land in the watershed are located in Pennington, Roseau and Kittson counties.

The board managers from Marshall County are: John W. Nelson, Oslo (president); Bill Peterson, Middle River (vice president); David Bakke, Newfolden (secretary); Roger Mischel, Warren (assistant sec.-treas.); Bradley Blawat, Viking; and Eric Johnson, Warren. Kovar is the board treasurer. The watershed offices are in Warren.



Dan Vesledahl



Clayton Bartz

Bartz, Vesledahl start terms on Sand Hill Board

Clayton Bartz, McIntosh, and Dan Vesledahl, Winger, have begun three-year terms on the board of managers of the Sand Hill Watershed District.

Their appointments, which had been recommended by the Sand Hill Watershed Advisory Committee, were approved by the County Board in January.

Bartz, a farmer, has served on the district Farm Service Agency (FSA) board for nine years and is a member of the Midwest Dairy Association. He succeeds Scott Balstad, Fosston, who retired after having served 7½ years on the board and was its vice chair.

Vesledahl, who recently sold

his interests in Minnkota Technologies to Garden Valley Telephone Co. in Erskine now works there. He succeeds Philip Swenson, Fertile, who had served 5½ years and was the board treasurer.

Other members of the board of managers are: Stuart Christian, Erskine, (chair); John Joseph ("J.J.") Hamre, Beltrami; and Roger Hanson, Beltrami. The district has a 500-square-mile drainage area most of which is located in southern Polk County. Smaller areas are located in Norman and Mahanomen counties. The district has its office in Fertile.

Tiedemann reappointed to Red Lake Board

Gene Tiedemann, rural Euclid, has been reappointed to the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers as the representative from West Polk County. He has, however, ended his membership on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources after having completed the maximum number of two terms (eight years) in that capacity.

A career farmer, Tiedemann was first appointed to the watershed board in 2004 to complete the term of Bob Proulx, Crookston, who had resigned because of increasing farm responsibilities.

Tiedemann grew up on the family farm near Euclid and graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston in 1967. He earned a

degree in finance from Moorhead State University in 1972 before starting a farming career with his father and brothers.

Terry Sorenson, Mentor, is the East Polk County representative on the seven-member board. He was appointed to the board in January 2016 following the death of Albert Mandt. A native of Gonvick, Sorenson graduated from high school there in 1969 and, after several years in retail sales, had a 34-year career with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Tiedemann is vice chair of the board and Sorenson is the treasurer. Dale Nelson, Thief River Falls, the Pennington County representative, serves as the chair.

Snyder is interim Planning & Zoning administrator

Jacob Snyder, a field technician for Polk County Environmental Services for the past 10 years, is now serving as the interim administrator of the Planning & Zoning Division of the department.

The director position opened in February when Josh Holte left to become director of the Hubbard County Environmental Services Department based in Park Rapids, Minn.

A native of Crookston and a graduate of Crookston Central High School, Snyder has a bachelors degree from North Dakota State University. After working for the West Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District and in Thief River Falls, Snyder joined Polk County Environmental Services as a summer intern in 2008. When a staff vacancy developed that fall, he quickly earned the required state certifications needed to be a field technician and became a permanent member of the department.

Pederson, Schroeder promoted to new jail management positions

The two top positions at the Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail operated by Tri-County Community Corrections in Crookston have been filled by in-house promotions of supervisory level staff members.

Joey Pederson is the new jail administrator and Phil Schroeder is the new assistant jail administrator. Pederson had been the assistant jail administrator and Schroeder had been a shift sergeant.

The 200-bed jail serves the three TCCC member counties of Polk, Norman and Red Lake while also regularly housing prisoners from other county, state and federal jurisdictions.

A 21-year TCCC employee, Pederson advanced through the ranks from a beginning corrections officer 21 years ago to that of assistant jail administrator two years ago. He also has had two short terms as the "interim" jail administrator. With his selection to be the administrator following job candidate interviews on Jan. 12, the latest "interim" title was removed.

Pederson's work history includes 11 years as a corrections officer, 7 years as a shift sergeant and the last 2 years as lieutenant/assistant jail administrator.

He first served as interim administrator after Phillip Greer took a position in New Mexico in 2015 and again earlier this year when Dave Casanova left the organization.

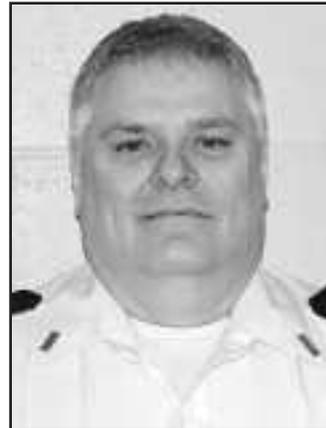


Joey Pederson

Pederson's duties have included serving as training coordinator, internal staff and inmate investigations, responding to inmate grievances and disciplines, arranging staff schedules, budget conformity, participating in the hiring process, and conducting and/or preparing for jail inspections.

A native of Warren where he graduated from high school in 1993, he studied at Northwest Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks and at University of Minnesota-Crookston where his studies focused on radiology and criminal justice. He and his wife, Julie, and their children, Kelsi and Tucker, live in East Grand Forks. Pederson is also an accomplished late model racecar driver.

Schroeder joined Tri-County as a beginning corrections officer in July 2001. He served on the jail planning committee



Phillip Schroeder

and was a member of the transition team that planned for and facilitated the move into the new jail in 2008.

The promotion from being a shift supervisor to that of assistant jail administrator included advancing from the rank of sergeant to that of lieutenant. He has also served in several training roles for new corrections officers and in administrative operations positions.

A native of Crookston, Schroeder graduated from Central High School in 1988 and earned a certificate in welding at North Dakota State College of Science at Wahpeton in 1990. After working first at Dee, Inc. and then at Crookston Welding, Schroeder joined TCCC in 2001. He and his wife, Paula, who is a TCCC probation officer, live at Thompson, N.D. Together they have two daughters, Kjersten and Teanna, and a son, Caleb.



Alecia Helms

Helms named HR director

Alecia Helms is the new Polk County human resources director. She succeeds Becky Kofoed, who has returned to Digi-Key, Thief River Falls, as senior manager of employee relations. Kofoed had worked at Digi-Key before joining the county in January 2015.

Helms has worked for both privately held as well as publicly traded companies within the retail and manufacturing industry. Her combined 13 years of human resources experience includes five years as the human resources manager for J. R. Simplot Co. in Grand Forks and eight years as a human resources business partner with Target Corporation where she was responsible for staffing, development, retention and brand management for 21 stores in the Twin City metropolitan area and in North and South Dakota.

A native of rural East Grand Forks, Helms and her 4-year-old son, Sawyer, enjoy the great outdoors, living in the country, and spending time at Maple Lake. The daughter of Curt and Betty Amundson, rural East Grand Forks, Helms is a 1996 graduate of East Grand Forks Senior High School and a 2000 graduate of the University of North Dakota where she earned a B.B.A. degree in marketing.

"I am excited to work with the great people and communities of Polk County and look forward to the future growth of the organization as the new HR director," she says. "Polk County has always been 'home' to me...and 'home' is where the heart is."



Jessica Hajicek

Hajicek becomes deputy chief probation officer

Jessica Hajicek is the new deputy chief probation officer for Tri-County Community Corrections. She succeeds Erik Ness, who has taken a position with the State of Minnesota.

A 10-year TCCC employee, Hajicek has worked with both adults and juveniles as a probation agent. She has also worked with victims of domestic violence as a shelter support staff member with

Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) in Grand Forks and with youth in the role of a violence prevention/chemical health specialist for the Climax and Fisher schools.

Hajicek received the 2010 Recognition of Excellence Award from TCCC and the 2017 Minnesota Outstanding Agent Award given by the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.

Behind the License Center

Chuck Whiting, County Administrator



If you are a Polk County resident in the Crookston area, you may have followed the County's consideration of whether to retain or let go the license center in the Polk County Government Center.

The license center has been situated in the Government Center for a couple of decades and it likely brings as many people into the Government Center as any other service the County provides.

However, it is not a requirement for a county, or city for that matter, to provide this service. It is, however, a significant service and when done properly is accountable to local leadership, which in Polk County's case is the County Board and management staff.

If you are a Polk County resident living outside the Crookston area, there is a good chance you do not come to the Government Center for your licenses and renewals. In Fosston, licenses can be had at Fosston Motor Vehicle on 2nd St. NW, and in East Grand Forks at the Hardware Hank store on Central Avenue.

Modest profit

The state allows non-government entities to operate license centers, which can be done for a profit from fees shared with the state when collected. Polk County's license center has made a modest profit over the years and continues to do so. So, why was the County looking at letting the license center go?

The primary reason was the option to do so presented itself when staff became aware of that the East Grand Forks Hardware Hank storeowner had acquired the Crookston Hardware Hank store.

While it is not the County's choice of who besides the County could operate a license center locally, that is the state's, it seemed appropriate to raise the option of letting the private sector do work the County was doing, particularly knowing a capable local option existed. And while

the County has made more than it costs to operate a license center, clearly nothing is guaranteed, as the current MNLRS (Minnesota Licensing and Registration System) foibles have shown around the state.

To be clear, the MNLRS issues were not the reason to bring the question to the Board, but it has exposed the one underlying and ongoing concern about running a license center, not profiting from the fees and being subsidized by local property tax dollars.

Why is that an issue, after all most government services do not make a profit?

Exactly the point, yet worse. If the state fees collected on licenses do not cover costs, the local tax levy would be used to close the gap, in effect, using property tax dollars to subsidize state operations.

Shortfall possibility

Counties and cities do that all the time, they just don't often do it for services they do not have to provide. Part of the thought behind looking at ceasing the license center was to avoid this issue if it were ever to come up, and let the local market place compete for providing the service knowing it is currently profitable.

In the end, the Board of Commissioners chose to keep operating the license center. Our strong history of good service, excellent employees and local convenience won the day. Staff will continue to account for our operational costs knowing that subsidizing with local property dollars is to be avoided, and hopefully will.

In the meantime, expect the Legislature to vigorously debate and perhaps even fund the costs of local license centers that have incurred extra costs because of the MNLRS rollout. And expect us to continue with the license center in the Government Center in Crookston as you have known it!

Roads damaged by overweight trucks require overlay work

It's too bad our roadway pavements aren't winter strong all year around. If they were they could handle all the heavy loads that are being hauled across them.

However, because roads thaw out and the temperatures get warm, pavements become weaker and overloaded trucks damage them.

Therefore, this year instead of doing a normal 5-mile grade-widening job along with some overlays, we will do all overlays to fix the roads being damaged by the overweight trucks

Here are this year's overlay projects:

CR 238 from CSAH 58 to TH 220.

CSAH 19 from TH 220 to 5 miles east.

CSAH 23 from 1 mile east of Tabor to TH 75.

CSAH 41 from TH 75 to CSAH 14.

CSAH 66 from CSAH 17 to CSAH 21.

We will be doing another 20 miles of gravel road stabilization as well using a product called BaseOne. The roads to be stabilized are CR 220 from CSAH 1 to TH 220 and CSAH 51 from TH 220 to TH 9.

Polk County has applied for a state grant called the Local Road Improvement Grant. The two projects submitted were:

Reconstruct CSAH 11 from North Broadway to the east limits of Crookston.

Grading and surfacing of CR 221/280 from TH 75 to CSAH 45 at the Eldred Piling Station.

If either or both of these projects are funded, they could be constructed in 2018. If not we could use our new Local Option Sales Tax revenue to construct them since they were both on the list of projects approved for use of those funds.

Remember to drive safely through our work zones. Not only will it keep the workers safe, but yourselves as well.

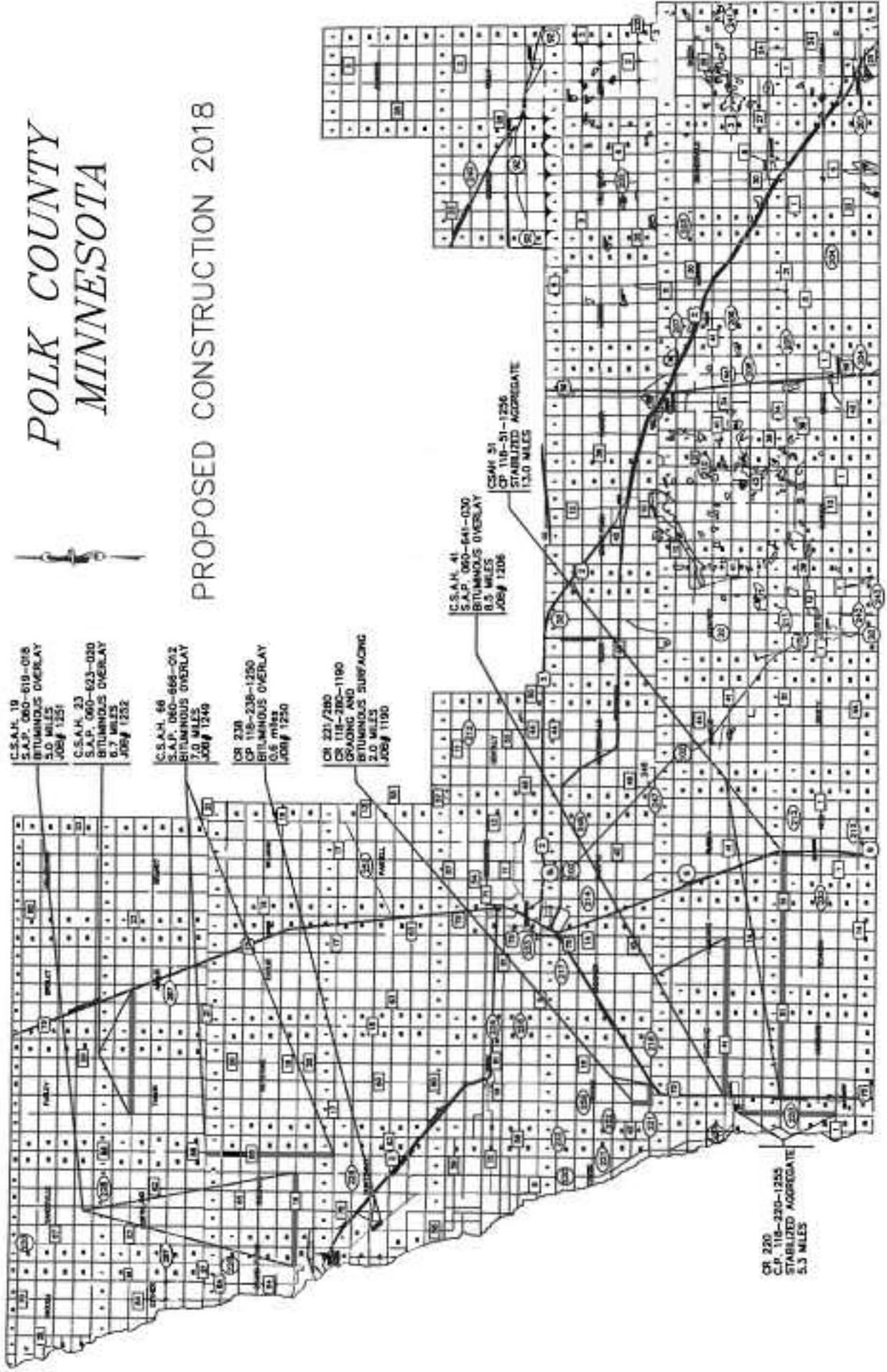
If you have any questions concerning this year's construction program, please give our office a call at 218-281-3952 and talk with either Darin Carlstrom at ext. 8254 or me, Richard Sanders, at ext. 8253. — **Richard Sanders, county engineer**

**Make a Difference
Change a Life
Become a
Foster Parent!**
Polk County Social Services
1-877-281-3127

POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA



PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION 2018



Anderson joins County Extension Committee

Danny Anderson, rural Fisher, is a new member of the Polk County Extension Committee. He succeeds Dustin McDonald, Fisher, who did not seek reappointment to a second term.

In other recent changes, Joan Lee, one of the two county commissioner members on the committee, was elected to serve as chair. The vice chair, also new to the position, is Scott Balstad, Fosston. Nancy Capistran, Crookston the at-large representative on the committee, had served a chair in 2017 while Paul Akre, Warren, the representative from District 5, was the vice chair.

Amy Theis, rural Crookston, and Balstad, Fosston, were reappointed to the committee by the County Board in December.

The committee hears reports and provides input on Extension Service activities, both those that are agriculture related and those involving the 4-H program. The committee also makes recommendations to the County Board concerning staffing and budgeting.

Lives in Bygland Township

Anderson and his wife, Alice, and their three children live in Fisher-Bygland area. The daughters are Lindsey, 12, Ashley, 6, and Carly 4.

A 1994 graduate of Fisher High School, Anderson attend-



Danny Anderson

ed Aakers Business College in Grand Forks before managing the Fisher Hardware Store for three years (1996-99).

He worked as a community employment specialist for the Occupational Development Center in East Grand Forks from (2000-2008) and has operated a small cleaning business. Currently he is a K-Bid Auctions affiliate.

Committee members representing the commissioner districts are: Cheryl Byrne, Erskine, (Dist. 1); Anderson, (Dist. 2); Theis, (Dist. 3); Balstad, (Dist. 4) ; and Akre, (Dist. 5). Committee members can serve two three-year terms.

The second county commissioner on the committee is Don Diedrich. Polk County Director of Property Records Michelle Cote serves as the committee secretary

Conversion of paper records to electronic form involves 30 staff

Polk County is converting boxes and boxes of paper records to an electronic form to both save valuable storage space and to make those “papers” much more easily accessible when there is a need to reference them.

This project is being done under the direction of Polk County Director of Property Records Michelle Cote and has encompassed multiple projects and offices.

The “scanning” effort is being done by several part-time employees hired specifically to do scanning and by full-time staff in the Taxpayer Service Center Office and from other county departments, too, when they are available. In all, some 30 plus people have been involved with the work.

To date, more than 101,130 paper records in the Sheriff’s Department have been scanned with completion of that part of the project expected this spring. The work in the sheriff’s department included more than 824

boxes of records that have been scanned, validated, logged and then destroyed. Even with 97.28 percent of these boxes scanned (through January), there are still another 23 boxes left to do.

In other areas of the project, all military discharge records (DD-214s) are being scanned and indexed for archival purposes. These DD-214s were in books.

The remaining work involving veterans records has been transitioned to the Veterans Service Office.

Other scanning that has been completed includes all active and inactive employee files, the County Board packets, and some 7,000 Tax Books. On the list to be done in 2018 are the auditor-treasurer records, ditch files, historical school records and road orders.

The content of all boxes is logged before being destroyed. In all, employees have logged over 6,286 hours scanning these records.

Peterson is interim 4-H Program coordinator

Mark Peterson is serving as Polk County 4-H Program coordinator on an interim basis.

A Crookston area farmer, Peterson was a Northstar 4-H Club member while growing up and now has a son, Anthony, in the 4-H program and is a member of the Paws & Pals dog club.

A permanent replacement for Kristina Johnson, who resigned the coordinator position in January, is expected to be named by early June. Johnson had been the coordinator since June 2012.

The Polk County 4-H coordinator works from the Extension office in the Bjella Building in McIntosh and also spends about two days at the Valley Tech Park facility on the UMC campus in Crookston.

Karyn Santl, a University of Minnesota Extension Service educator based in Roseau, is the regional 4-H Program supervisor.

Lisa Loegering is the new Northwest Regional director of the Extension Service. She succeeded Deb Zak, who retired after 20 years in that position. The office is located in the Valley Tech building.

Eli Gindele is the extension agent. He succeeds Jim Stordahl, who died in March following a 21-year career with the Extension Service.

Gindele works three days a week in Polk County and one day each week in Clearwater and Red Lake counties. His office is the Bjella Building in McIntosh.

County maps available

Polk County maps showing the streets and avenues in the rural addressing system are available at the Highway Department and at the Taxpayer Service Center in the Government Center.

The cost is \$2 each.

Public Waters Buffer deadline was Nov. 1, 2017; Drainage System Buffers due in by Nov. 1, 2018

Minnesota Statute §103F.48 requires water resource protection requirements (buffers) on public waters and public drainage systems.

Buffers are areas of perennial vegetation adjacent to all (indicated) bodies of water that are intended to protect water resources of the state from runoff pollution, stabilize soils, shores and banks and protect or provide riparian corridors.

Required buffers on Public Waters (50') were to be in place by Nov. 1, 2017; (West Polk SWCD systematically provided a one year [one time] lawful extension for compliance along Public Waters), buffers on Public Drainage systems (16.5') must be in place by Nov. 1, 2018.

If a landowner is out of compliance with the requirement, the County or Watershed District (with jurisdiction) will provide a correction letter (notification provided to the [state] Board of Water and Soil Resources [BWSR] with potential Administrative Penalty Order [APO]) and work with the landowner on a reasonable timetable for completion. SWCDs are not the enforcement entity regarding buffers under MN Statute.

Minnesota DNR has released a public "buffer protection map" (updated August 2017) www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers that identifies areas that require permanent

vegetative buffers. Landowners are encouraged to visit SWCD technical staff for assistance determining buffer requirements.

West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (with Watershed District, Drainage Authority and landowner assistance) has extensively reviewed the DNR map and submitted (to DNR) indicated reaches that involve changes in watercourses or possible error. Discrepancies involving Public Drainage (County, Jurisdictional and Watershed Ditches) must be indicated and submitted by the Drainage Authority.

Landowners are ultimately accountable for the installation and maintenance of buffers as identified on the DNR buffer protection map.

SWCD staff are available to: assist with any inquires relative to buffer legislation/requirements and qualified to identify multiple options for compliance with direction.

State Buffer Compliance Cost-Share funds are available as per/acre flat rate for site preparation/seed costs for buffer implementation or 75% State Cost-Share for design/installation of an (SWCD) approved "Alternative Practice" that provides comparable water quality benefit to a standard filter strip; (a 10 year practice lifespan contact must be entered into). If

you are an absentee landowner, we recommend that you instruct your renter or manager to contact our office.

Federal Agencies (FSA, NRCS) administer various programs that provide cost share and potential payments (CCRP, EQIP) for implementation and maintenance of buffer/filter strips, although availability of programs is questionable after buffer regulatory deadlines.

It is our certain intention to assist you with technical guidance and field all inquiries. A self-initiative approach to compliance (without any State or Federal program assistance or compensation) allows a landowner to determine the seed mix of perennial vegetation for establishment and required maintenance of buffer obligation.

Please view www.westpolkswcd.com and/or www.eastpolkswcd.org buffer page(s) and utilize direct links to BWSR, DNR and Minnesota Farm Bureau web pages for current available information regarding buffers or visit our field office West Polk SWCD: (co-located with NRCS) 528 Strander Ave. Crookston, MN. East Polk SWCD: Bjella Building, 240 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh, MN. — **Aaron Habermehl, district technician, Wetland Conservation Act administrator LGU, West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District**

Zoning ordinance amended to incorporate rules

County will enforce Buffer Law

Last fall, Polk County approved an ordinance update to comply with the Minnesota Buffer Initiative §103F.48. After careful consideration and input from landowners, the County Board decided to affirm jurisdiction and elected to accept enforcement of the buffer law.

The zoning ordinance was amended in late August to incorporate the rules, regulations, and enforcement procedures of §103F.48.

The ordinance requires that landowners owning property adjacent to a water body identified and reviewed on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) buffer protection map (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>) must establish and maintain a buffer to protect the state's water resources as follows:

- a) DNR Public Waters: a 50-foot average width and 30-foot minimum width continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation must have been seeded by Nov. 1, 2017.
- b) Public Drainage Systems: a 16.5-foot

minimum width continuous buffer must be seeded by Nov. 1, 2018.

If landowners fail to establish and maintain a required buffer, they may be subject to administrative penalty and/or criminal enforcement by the County.

The first step for landowners should be to work with their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office and take the appropriate steps to make sure they are in compliance with any buffer requirements on their property.

Landowners should contact their SWCD office as soon as possible to determine what alternative practices might be acceptable and to see what resources are available to help with implementation.

Our office is more than happy to answer questions and assist you with all land use/zoning requirements. For more information contact Polk County Planning & Zoning at (218) 281-5700. — **Josh Holte**

Driscoll renamed to board of Marshall-Polk Water System

Paul Driscoll, East Grand Forks, has been reappointed by the County Board to another three-year term on the Marshall-Polk Rural Water System's board of directors. He is vice president of the board.

Other members of the board of directors are: Michael Kasowski, Fisher, (president); Rodger Stordahl, East Grand Forks; Ronald Abrahamson, Warren; Wayne Nelson and Orin Knutson, both of Oslo; and Paul Bergeron, Argyle. The system has its offices in Warren.

Housing contract developed with Mahnomens County

2017 was another busy year in corrections

The Northwest Regional Corrections Center (NWRCC) had an average daily population of 181.3 for calendar year 2017. This is a slight decrease from the average daily population of 185.4 encountered in 2016. The drop in population was due to a decrease in local county inmate population, a population that had risen dramatically in the previous 15-18 months.

With the local inmate population stabilizing and recognition that 2018 will see the end of an inmate-housing contract with Clay County (which will be opening a new jail in 2018), contract options with other jurisdictions are being sought.

In that effort, Tri-County Community Corrections entered into an inmate-housing contract with Mahnomens County that went into effect on Jan. 1. The contract guarantees 12 inmate beds/day at a reduced per diem rate. In addition to inmate housing, the contract also includes inmate transport services conducted by jail staff one time per week.

The Red River Valley Juvenile Center (RRVJC) has continued to see higher than anticipated numbers, especially in the number of adolescents housed for non-member counties. In 2017, the center had an average daily population of 4.9 adolescents on the secure side of the facility and 4.8 adolescents on the non-secure side. Because of the increased housing of adolescents for non-member counties, the RRVJC exceeded revenue projections by 9 percent.

System upgrades

The replacement of the NWRCC security system has been completed thanks to the Regional Correction Board's approval to

use fund balance to speed up the completion timeline. To make it more financially viable, the security system replacement was originally planned to be done over the course of several years, but with a reduction in project costs and better than anticipated fund balance the more aggressive timeframe was implemented.

Securus Technology completed replacement of the video visitation system this month (March) bringing this very costly and time-consuming project to an end. The new system will be a significant improvement from the old system as it will allow for off-site visitation, on-line visitor registration, improved visitation monitoring/recording, and a significant expansion of existing visiting hours without requiring added staff time.

Probation practices

A concerted effort was initiated in 2017 and will continue well into 2018 to evaluate current practices within the Probation Department. An evidence-based practices work group began meeting on a bi-weekly basis in November with the intention of reviewing the department's efforts to implement practices that are supported by evidence as being effective. While certainly a time-consuming process, it is believed that evaluation of current practices is necessary to ensure that practices are cost-effective and produce the desired results of public safety and offender rehabilitation.

Leadership changes

Numerous leadership changes within multiple departments have occurred in recent months.

Joey Pederson was promoted to the

position of jail administrator in January.

Pederson has been employed with Tri-County Community Corrections for more than 20 years. In that time, he has developed the reputation of being a hard-working, devoted and thoughtful professional who genuinely cares about the well being of not only his fellow corrections staff but the inmates under his care as well.

Phil Schroeder, long-time NWRCC sergeant, was promoted to the position of lieutenant (assistant jail administrator) in February. Schroeder has been actively involved in policy development, training oversight, and criminal justice software implementation in addition to being extensively involved in the occupation of the current NWRCC as a member of the new jail transition team.

Jessica Hajicek, a probation agent with Tri-County Community for 10-plus years with a diverse correctional background, was promoted to the position of deputy chief probation officer. Hajicek is held in high regard by her peers both within Tri-County and throughout the state/region as evidenced by her selection for the 2010 Recognition of Excellence Award (agency award) and the 2017 Outstanding Agent Award (Statewide Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties Award).

While changes within the leadership ranks can be challenging, I am genuinely excited for the future of our agency due to the enthusiasm and potential that these employees bring to their new positions. — **Andrew Larson, Tri-County Community Corrections executive director**

New septic loan feature uses income levels

For the past five years, Polk County Environmental Services has been offering septic loan funding to low-income families within the county to upgrade failing septic systems.

Money has been made available through the Clean Water Legacy Act and distributed to counties across the state.

Polk County has set up a revolving loan fund with a 25% cost-share grant available to property owners who have failing septic systems. By operating this program as a loan we ensure that even if funding from the state runs out,

we will be able to continue to help upgrade failing systems long into the future. Since the program was launched in 2013, we have upgraded 22 septic systems in the county.

New this year, the county will be distributing money as a cost-share grant based on income. Depending on income levels, residents may be able to obtain a 75% or 90% cost-share grant.

In addition to the grant program, the county will continue to fund our loan program where the county will contribute 25% of the septic system replacement cost and the remaining 75% is rolled

into a .0001% loan that is paid back over a 10-year term as a special assessment. This makes it a very affordable and convenient program for many property owners within Polk County.

Currently the program has enough funding flowing back through special assessments to fund two systems per year.

Funding is subject to low-income guidelines and is based on household size. The county has been allocated funding again for the upcoming year and applications will be accepted through June 1st and awarded based on income

status, condition of existing system, and proximity to priority surface waters.

After the June 1st deadline, the program will continue on a first-come first-serve basis for the remainder of 2018.

More information regarding this great program can be found on the Polk County website at www.co.polk.mn.us on the Environmental Services and Planning & Zoning Department page or by calling Polk County Planning & Zoning at (218) 281-5700. — **Josh Holte**

In 8-county area of northwest Minnesota

Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force made 339 arrests

Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force agents made 339 arrests for drug trafficking and other violent offenses in the eight-county area of northwestern Minnesota in 2017.

That number was 68 more than the 271 arrests made in 2016 and almost 200 more than were made in 2015.

In the process of their investigations, the 12-member task force team confiscated 60 weapons, turned up extensive amounts of drug paraphernalia and stolen items, and seized a large amount of drugs.

Drugs seized in 2017 included 3,641 grams of meth, which was more than double the 1,671 grams removed in 2016 and more than 5 times the amount confiscated in 2015.

Cocaine, heroin, opioids up

The use of cocaine, heroin and prescription pills (opioids) also showed large increases in arrests and seizures in the past year.

- Cocaine seizures were up more than 15 times from the 38 grams collected in 2016 to 593 in 2017.

- Heroin seizures were up more than 2½ times from 102 grams to 275.

- The number of pills confiscated ballooned from 537 in 2016 to a whopping 200,433 in 2017.

- Marijuana confiscations were also up... from 2.8 pounds to 12.9 pounds in the year.

- After none were confiscated in 2016, 14.6 grams of synthetic marijuana were seized in 2017. There had been smaller seizure amounts of this drug in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

“As our statistics show, we’ve mirrored the nationwide trend of having an increase in the use of heroin,” a task force official notes. “The deadly fentanyl-laced heroin drug combination has been in our area and we are doing everything that we can to get it stopped. Since multiple other agencies have joined in our task force efforts we’ve been able to be much more



Heroin dealer’s wallet was loaded

effective. This shows in our increased number of cases.”

Many now doing time

About those cases, the official says, “A significant number of offenders are now doing time in prison. We have been able to develop air-tight cases; there just haven’t been many not-guilty verdicts.”

Also high in popularity is the use of prescription pills. That popularity has resulted in a number of home break-ins where the medicine cabinet was a prime focus. Of crimes committed locally, agents say, drugs and alcohol are a factor in a large percentage of them.

The cities of Crookston, East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls each assign an investigator to the task force. Counties providing investigators are Lake of the Woods, Norman, Polk and Roseau.

The U.S. Border Patrol commits four agents and U.S.

Homeland Security provides an investigator.

While not committing a full-time member to the task force, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington and Red Lake counties assist as needed. Marshall and Norman counties and the City of Thief River Falls each have canine officers that are available to the task force.

The task force receives \$200,000 in state funding annually. This money is split between the cities and counties to reimburse them for a portion of the salaries of the investigators that they provide. A part of the grant is also used for training and to purchase necessary equipment.

Advisory board supervises

The team answers to a 14-member advisory board. That board is made up of East Grand Forks Police Chief Mike Hedlund (president), Crookston Police Chief Paul Biermaier (vice president), Polk County

Sheriff Barb Erdman, Pennington County Sheriff Ray Kuznia, Thief River Falls Police Chief Dick Wittenberg, Crookston City Council member Bob Quanrud, East Grand Forks City Council member Mark Olstad, Polk County Commissioner Warren Strandell, Roseau County Sheriff Steve Gust, Assistant Roseau County Attorney Mike Grover, Norman County Sheriff Jeremy Thornton, Norman County Chief Deputy Ben Fall, Lake of the Woods County Sheriff Gary Fish and Lake of the Woods County Attorney James Austad.

Associate (non-voting) advisory board members include Polk County Attorney Greg Widseth, Red Lake County Sheriff Mitch Bernstein, Ada Police Chief Jody Bueng, Kittson County Sheriff Steve Porter, Marshall County Sheriff Jason Boman, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Eric Kuhn, and Homeland Security Investigations Agent Josh Goldberg.

Connection to U.S. courts

In addition to their work in the field, the federal agencies provide a connection to other government resources including prosecution through the U.S. District Court system.

The task force has agreements that allow it to work across state lines with the Grand Forks Narcotics Task Force and to work extensively with drug task forces in adjacent counties and throughout Minnesota.

Suspicious activities should be reported to local law enforcement offices.

Information can be reported to the Polk County Sheriff’s office (218-281-0431), the Crookston Police Department (218-281-3111), the East Grand Forks Police Department (218-773-4307), or to Polk County’s Help Us 2 Fight Meth and All Crime anonymous number (877-204-7505).

Public Health Services

Health Screenings and Disease Prevention

SITE	ADDRESS	DAYS	HOURS
Crookston	816 Marin Ave.	Every Tuesday	3 – 5:30 p.m.
McIntosh	240 Cleveland Ave	1 st and 3 rd Thursday of each month*	9 – 11 a.m.
East Grand Forks	1424 Central Ave NE	*By appointment, Call 218-773-2431	

**Immunizations at these locations are available by appointment only*

Public Health services available by walk-in or appointment:

- ✓ Childhood and Adult Immunizations*
- ✓ Flu Shot
- ✓ Mantoux-TB Testing
- ✓ Hemoglobin Testing
- ✓ Lead Testing
- ✓ Cholesterol Screening
- ✓ Height and Weight Checks, all ages
- ✓ Hearing and Vision Screening
- ✓ Blood Pressure Check
- ✓ Dental Varnish – Fluoride Treatment
- ✓ Blood Sugar Screening

✓ **Family Planning/Sexual Health Services:**

Extended time - Crookston, Tuesday 2-5:30pm

- Pregnancy Testing
- Emergency Contraceptives (Plan B)
- Male/Female Condoms, Dental Dams

Comprehensive Family Planning/Sexual Health Clinic:

Crookston office by appointment.

- ✓ Contraceptives
- ✓ Gynecological Exams
- ✓ Counseling, Education and Referrals
- ✓ STI Diagnosis and Treatment
- ✓ Pregnancy Testing

Questions or to make an appointment?

Call 218-281-3385.

What if I'm not able to come during these times?

Call and schedule an appointment for another date/time.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

No one will be turned away or denied services due to inability to pay.



2/2018



The entry area to the Polk County Social Services office in McIntosh now looks this. The office is in the Bjella Building where it is co-located with other governmental offices including Polk County Public Health, Polk County Extension Service and East Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District. Polk County Veterans Service Officer Kurt Ellefson also has office hours there once a week.

Polk County SWCD Dist. 5 has vacancy

The West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District currently has a vacancy on its board of supervisors for District 5.

The district is comprised of Vineland, Hammond, Russia, Onstad, Hubbard, Scandia, Beltrami and Liberty townships.

Supervisors deal with a wide variety of resource management issues, including wetlands, water quality, and soil erosion.

SWCDs manage and direct conservation programs, such as the State Cost-Share program and the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment Cost-Share program.

Supervisors do not receive a salary, although they do receive compensation for attending meetings and are reimbursed for expenses.

Contact the West Polk county office for more information at 218-281-6070 x4 or go to: <http://westpolkswcd.com/supervisors.html>.

Most everything that Public Health does...

2017 services highlight busy schedule

Infectious Disease – Surveillance, planning, and response for measles, mumps and sexually transmitted infections

Tuberculosis (TB) – 2017 = 14 total cases of active and latent TB in Polk County (612 total Public Health Nurse visits) (compared to 2016, 18 total cases of active and latent with 507 total Public Health Nurse visits)

Active Tuberculosis is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that is spread from person to person through the air. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick.

People who are infected, but not sick, have what is called Latent TB infection. People who have latent TB, do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms and cannot spread TB to others. Some people with latent TB infection go on to get TB disease.

TB disease (active TB) can be treated. Most people with latent TB can take medicine so that they will

not develop TB disease.

Implemented a new vaccine outreach program including vaccine reminder recalls and a well-child visit reminder

135 people were screened for Chlamydia, 17% tested positive and 100% were treated (June 2016-July 2017)

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – From Oct 2016 to Sept 2017, an average of 845 participants per month, and a total value of \$609,701 in food vouchers issued – supporting families and local grocers.

Received Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department and Workplace recognition from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Child and Teen Checkups – 2018 Estimated Eligible MA children (under 21) = 4474 in Polk County (compared to 3807 eligible from 2016). Child and Teen Checkups is Minnesota's comprehensive child health program for children and teens from newborn through the age of 20

years who are eligible for Medicaid.

The purpose of the program is to identify, diagnose and treat potential health problems or conditions and to encourage the development of good health habits. Public Health works to support and promote well-child health care and preventive screenings while improving access to quality health care and needed services.

Participated in the Commissioner of Health's Strengthening Public Health in Minnesota Workgroup

Received \$50,000 Super Bowl Legacy Fund award

Implementing Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based Family Home Visiting model

Provided services and supports for children with special needs, and adults who are elderly or disabled to help them get health care and support services while living safely in their homes

NW MN E-Health Initiative participant– partnership to provide

patient-centered, coordinated care through electronic means

Collaborative convenor of partners to continue moving the Community Health Improvement Plan forward

Community forum and documentary viewing on "Our Deadly Realities of Fentanyl and Drug Overdose in our community" – and workgroup formed

Community, law enforcement, school and healthcare partnerships such as Towards Zero Deaths Coalition, Polk County Wellness Coalition, Breastfeeding Coalition, Healthier Fosston, Emergency Preparedness, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, etc on various topics such as the District 2 Bike Plan, Land-use planning, One Vegetable One Community, Farmer's Markets, Red Lake River Corridor, Nature-Based Play, Comprehensive Planning, Wellness Policies, Tobacco and Alcohol Compliance Checks, Fitness Fever, Walk-Bike-Fun Workshop, and Month of the Young Child events.

Especially in Crookston and Fosston...

Need for child foster homes becomes critical

Polk County Social Services has a critical need for child foster care homes in Crookston and in Fosston.

It is important to have foster homes in all communities as we try to be least disruptive in children's lives and prefer to have children entering foster care remain in their communities that are close to their siblings, other family members and friends, attend the same schools, team events, cultural and social activities.

Foster care is a temporary living situation for children providing a safe place to be if a child cannot live with his/her family, or on their own. Foster Parents help by providing stability, affection, consistency, and nurturing. Foster parents also provide for the child's educational, health, cultural and social needs.

In child foster care foster parents open their homes to children whose families are in crisis. They help children heal and become productive, self-sufficient mem-

bers of our society. In both child and adult foster care they provide a safe, stable, nurturing environment that is needed at a very critical time in their lives.

When children must leave their homes, placement with relatives is considered first. If this is not a plausible option, the placing agency then looks to licensed foster homes.

Foster parents are as diverse as the children they care for. Some are married; some are single; some are grandparents; some are parents with young children, adolescents or grown children; some hope to eventually adopt children. The characteristics foster parents have in common are a love for children, an ability to commit to challenges and a desire to make a difference in children's lives. It can be very rewarding, but is also something that is not to be taken lightly.

Homes are also needed for adult foster

care. This is provided in a home setting for those who cannot live independently due to physical, emotional, developmental or mental impairments.

Residents receive meals, support, supervision and, as needed, some assistance with personal care and living skills.

Foster homes are licensed through the Minnesota Department of Human Services when the licensing process is completed. Orientation and training are provided by Polk County Social Services.

Foster care parents receive a monthly reimbursement for the care of a foster child. Further information is available by calling Jackie Jeffrey, Licensing Social Worker at 218-399-8536 or emailing:

jackie.jeffrey@co.polk.mn.us

An informational meeting is being held on Monday, April 23rd at 6:30pm at the Crookston Library.

Seven Serious Myths Regarding Foster Parenting

Myth: A foster parent must be married, own their own home and make lots of money.

Fact: You can be married or single, a homeowner or a renter. The only financial requirement is that you have enough income to support yourself and your family.

Myth: Foster parents have to stay at home with the children.

Fact: No, they do not. Many foster parents work outside of the home. Polk County Social Services will pay the cost of childcare when you work.

Myth: My children are grown and out of the house. I'm too old to be a foster parent.

Fact: There is no age requirement (other than you must be at least 21). Many "empty nesters" find foster

parenting to be a rewarding experience.

Myth: I don't have any children and to be a foster parent you need to have parenting experience.

Fact: Not true! Many of our foster parents are childless. They are, however, responsible people who have made a commitment to children and demonstrate an ability to parent or learn.

Myth: Once licensed the foster parent must take any placement they are called to foster.

Fact: Foster parents do not have to say yes to every placement. Your willingness to accept a placement depends on what the needs of your family are at the time of a request.

Myth: You must license for 0-18 years of age.

Fact: Each family licens-

es for the age/gender that best matches the family.

Yes, some families license 0-18 years, either gender but many license within these perimeters. Some homes license only female, others only school age and still others only teens.

Myth: I can't be a foster parent because I would get too attached. It would be too hard to see them leave.

Fact: It's true. You will get attached and it will be painful when children you love leave. But these children have suffered through things no child should ever face and they need the love and care foster parents provide when they open their hearts and homes.

Truth: Being a foster parent is a rewarding experience that you and your foster child will remember for the rest of your lives!

Ways to support Foster Care in your community:

- Coordinate a diaper drive for foster parents who have infants and toddlers as foster children.
- Coordinate a photo album-drive for foster children so they can create their own life books.
- Bake cookies and give them to foster families as a way to say "Thank You" or send them a card.
- Make "We Care" bags for girls coming in to foster care that include items such as headbands, earrings, cute socks, small shampoo/conditioner/body lotion.
- Sponsor or offer free music or sports lessons.
- Offer scholarships for activities such as scouting.
- Offer discounts in your business.
- Offer recreation such as paying for a day pass to a State Park.
- Offer to purchase tickets to entertainment venues.

Polk County Employee Anniversaries in 2018

Hire	Employee	Department-Position
30 Years		
1/04/88	Jay Rhone	Solid Waste - Landfill Supervisor
1/04/88	Shawn Sebenaler	Solid Waste - Combustor/Boiler Operator
4/15/88	Ricardo Ramon	Social Services - Eligibility Worker
5/02/88	Carol Egeland	Public Health - RN II
5/09/88	James Tadman	Sheriff's Dept. - Chief Deputy
6/01/88	Michelle Cote	Director of Property Records
6/04/88	Karen Warmack	Social Services - Social Svc. Supervisor
9/01/88	Arla Meyer	Finance Department - Accounting Officer
9/12/88	Lynette Lindgren	Social Services - Accounting Technician
9/16/88	Sheila Menard	Sheriff's Department - Lead Dispatcher
9/27/88	Clarisse Miller	Social Services - Child Support Officer
10/17/88	Ronald Larson	Solid Waste - Facilities Operations Mgr.
11/21/88	Randy Beggs	Social Services - Fiscal Supervisor
25 Years		
1/04/93	Darin Carlstrom	Highway Dept. - Construction Engineer
8/23/93	Deborah Berhow	Attorney's Office - Clerk Typist
9/07/93	LeAnn Holte	Social Svcs.-Financial Assistance Supr. II
9/16/93	Jill Sonsteliie	Public Health - RN II
9/20/93	Cherie Chaput	Social Services - Accounting Tech/Payroll
20 Years		
3/06/98	Heath Hanson	Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Sheriff Patrol
3/24/98	Beverly Johnson	Assessment Services- Admin. Assisstant I
7/06/98	Darcy Bjorgo	Finance Dept. - Accounting Clerk III
8/03/98	Wesly Oian	Assessment Svc. - Appraiser Tax Off. VI
9/01/98	Michael Leblanc	Highway Dept. - Highway Maintenance
9/09/98	Lori Oian	Finance Dept. - Clerk Typist Cashier IV
15 Years		
1/06/03	Greg Widseth	County Attorney
1/22/03	Scott Buhler	Assistant County Attorney
11/06/03	Gail Strom	Solid Waste - Sort Line Operator
11/10/03	Rebecca Halvorson	Assessment Svc.- Appraiser Tax Off. II
10 Years		
2/20/08	Denise Zier	Social Services - Social Worker (CPS)
3/26/08	Andrew Ricklefs	Sheriff's Dept. - Dispatcher
5/01/08	Jacob Snyder	Environmental Svc.- Environmental Tech
5/05/08	Kathi Stromberg	Sheriff's Dept. - Clerk Typist Cashier III
5/24/08	Sara Preusser	Social Svcs. - Support Enforcement Aide
6/04/08	Brittney Palm	Social Services - Social Worker (CPS)
6/09/08	Laura VanErem	Social Services - Child Support Officer
6/18/08	Angel Korynta	Public Health - Lead Coordinator RN III
7/07/08	Ryan Carslay	Solid Waste - Mechanical Mtc. Tech. II
11/03/08	Jonathon Street	Social Svcs - Financial Assistance Supr. I
5 Years		
1/02/13	Cynthia Muggli	Social Services - Social Worker
2/07/13	Michael Klasse	Solid Waste - Loader Operator
2/14/13	Amy Harlin	Social Services - Eligibility Worker
3/01/13	Kathy Sylvester	Public Health - RN II
3/11/13	Thomas Hegre	Solid Waste - Loader Operator
4/01/13	Daryl Halverson	Sheriff's Dept. - Jury Attendant
4/15/13	Lyle Ball	Solid Waste - Mechanical Mtc. Tech. II
4/25/13	Richard Baskerville	Facilities - Maintenance Worker
5/06/13	Jeremy Tofstad	Solid Waste - Loader Operator
5/28/13	Matthew Bellamy	Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Sheriff Patrol
6/10/13	Codi Lehmann	Facilities Management Director
7/01/13	Sebastian Sullivan	Management Information System Director
8/01/13	Mark Hudon	Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Sheriff Transport
8/02/13	Zachary Folkert	Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Sheriff Patrol
9/03/13	Erin Dimich	Social Services - Social Worker (CPS)
9/26/13	Mark Gunderson	Sold Waste - Sort Line Operator
10/05/13	Alicia Qualley	Social Services - Social Worker
10/07/13	Katie Midgarten	Social Services - Social Worker
10/15/13	Morgan Walsh	Social Services - Eligibility Worker
10/30/13	Jerami Sullivan	Social Services - Case Aide
11/18/13	Gina Roue	Attorney's Office- Victims Assistance Spec.
11/18/13	Emily Esperson	Social Services - Eligibility Worker
12/16/13	Kevin Berg	Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Sheriff Patrol

Lee becomes new chair of County Board

District 4 Commissioner Joan Lee, McIntosh, succeeded District 5 Commissioner Don Diedrich, Warren, as chair when the board re-organized at its first meeting of 2018 in January.

District 2 Commissioner Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks, is the new vice chair. The chair and vice chair positions rotate through the commissioners on an annual basis.

The focus of the board in 2018, according to Lee, will likely center on completion of the \$25.25 million expansion and upgrading of the Resource Recovery Facility (incinerator) in Fosston and construction of a new transfer station in Crookston. The work in Fosston began last summer and proceeded through the winter. Construction of a new transfer station in Crookston will start this spring. Both projects are to

be completed this year.

Financing for the projects includes \$17.25 million from Minnesota Capital Assistance Program (CAP) grants with the "local-share" covered by the sale of \$7 million in bonds by Polk County. The county bonds will be repaid by the collection of tipping fees collected when waste is delivered to the facilities.

Other subjects certain to be on the table, Lee says, will be Enbridge Energy's proposed Line 3 pipeline replacement project and the outcome of that company's tax appeal, which is now in the courts. Also in the mix will be issues dealing with health insurance costs, planning for possible upcoming retirements by key administrative staff, social service cost concerns (especially in the area of mental health issues), and the negotiation of new salary agreements.

Building/land use permits required for all construction

As the construction season is gearing up for the year, it is a good time to remind residents about zoning requirements in Polk County.

Polk County requires building/land use permits for all construction projects in the county. If you are planning building/land use projects, please contact Polk County Planning & Zoning prior to construction to determine setback and ordinance requirements that may apply.

People sometimes forget to apply for a building permit or don't think they need a permit for a deck, small shed, septic

system work, etc. However, permits are required for almost any construction project within the county.

Any land alterations or landscaping activity in the shoreland or floodplain zoning districts may also require a permit.

More information on building/land use regulations, including new buffer regulations, can be found on the Polk County website at www.co.polk.mn.us under the Environmental Services and Planning & Zoning Department page.

County Board Meeting Times

8:00 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of the month
 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday
 8:00 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday
All meetings are open to the public

County Commissioners
 Dist. 1 — Jerry Jacobson
 Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell, v. chair
 Dist. 3 — Gary Willhite
 Dist. 4 — Joan K. Lee, chair
 Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich

Polk County AIS Task Force ready for busy summer



The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force in Polk County is already gearing up for the upcoming summer.

Since 2015 the taskforce has been working on several projects focusing on education and public awareness. Billboards, public access signs, and several promotional items have been developed to help spread the message about the threat that AIS poses in Polk County and around the state

The task force is again planning to hire three seasonal AIS technicians to conduct watercraft inspections, work on monitoring projects and help with other AIS outreach and educational activities. Last summer, we were able to conduct over 1,600 watercraft inspections on public water access sites around Polk County. Our inspectors had a 3.8 % violation rate for boats arriving with drain plugs in and a 2.5 % violation rate for boats arriving with weeds attached. Although these numbers seem low, our goal is to get those violations rates even lower this upcoming year to help protect our lakes and rivers.

2018 will be the second year of I-LIDS at Maple Lake and Union Lake. I-LIDS stands for Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor. I-LIDS is a self-contained, solar powered

system installed at boat launches to prevent AIS through video capture and remote inspection of launching boats/trailers, and audio education of boaters using the lake. In 2017, we recorded over 1,266 boat launches on Union Lake and over 1,087 boat launches on Maple Lake. Combined we recorded over 13,000 videos. I-LIDS is proving to be a very valuable tool in the fight against AIS.

For more information regarding the I-LIDS system, you can visit www.environmentalsentry.com

Invasive species are species that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Minnesota waters are threatened by aquatic invasive species. It is illegal to transport any aquatic species like Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, starry stonewort, spiny waterflea or other prohibited invasive species.

Within Polk County, Eurasian watermilfoil is already present on Union Lake, and zebra mussels are present in the Red River. Starry stonewort is still an up and coming invasive species that is appearing in new lakes around the state. It is critical that every boater take the steps necessary to limit the spread of starry stonewort and other AIS.

With the spring fishing and boating season right around the corner, it is critical that every boater take the steps necessary to limit the spread of AIS. So remember to clean, drain, and dry your boat, gear and equipment every time to help protect our lakes and rivers. For more information visit www.co.polk.mn.us/ais. — **Josh Holte**, Polk County assistant Environmental Services administrator

Regulations You Should Know:

It is unlawful to...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug
- Arrive at a lake access with drain plug in place
- Transport any prohibited species on public roads
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers
- Dispose of live bait into the water

Penalties up to \$1,000

STOP

AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

- **Remove aquatic plants and invasive species from your boat**
- **Drain your live well and remove the drain plug**
- **Dispose of used bait in the trash**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.co.polk.mn.us



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Clean ALL recreational equipment. It's the law.

POLK COUNTY

2018 ASSESSMENT TILLABLE CHANGES

PRIOR TO STATE BOARD ADJUSTMENTS

KEY
TILLABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE
AVERAGE TILLABLE VALUE PER ACRE

COUNTY WIDE
-6%
\$3,252

HIGDEM -15% \$3,443	SANDSVILLE -15% \$3,461	FARLEY -15% \$3,967	BRISLET -10% \$2,692	HELGELAND -10% \$1,866
ESTHER -15% \$4,134	NORTHLAND -10% \$4,276	TABOR -10% \$4,563	ANGUS -6% \$3,298	BRANDT 0% \$1,632
GRAND FORKS -10% \$5,032	SULLIVAN -10% \$5,094	KEYSTONE -5% \$5,136	EUCLID -6% \$3,445	BELGIUM 0% \$1,976
RHINEHART -5% \$5,172	HUNTSVILLE -5% \$5,400	NESBIT -5% \$5,490	FANNY -6% \$3,878	PARNELL 0% \$2,063
	BYGLAND -10% \$4,917	FISHER -10% \$5,596	LOWELL -5% \$4,834	CROOKSTON -5% \$3,545
	TYNSID -10% \$5,029	ROOME -10% \$5,570	ANDOVER -10% \$4,657	FAIRFAX -10% \$4,193
	VINELAND -5% \$4,851		HAMMOND -5% \$4,044	RUSSIA -5% \$3,555
	HUBBARD -5% \$4,552		SCANDIA -5% \$3,631	REIS -5% \$3,027
				ONSTAD 0% \$1,506
				GARFIELD 0% \$2,198
				WOODSIDE 0% \$2,335
				KNUTE 0% \$2,495
				KING 10% \$2,213
				BRANDSVOLD 10% \$2,515
				ROSEBUD 10% \$1,864
				COLUMBIA 10% \$1,501
				EDEN 10% \$1,845
				HILL RIVER 10% \$2,163
				LESSOR 20% \$1,821
				BADGER 0% \$1,632
				TILDEN 0% \$1,320
				GROVE PARK 0% \$1,320
				LESSOR 20% \$1,821
				WINGER 0% \$2,671
				SLETTEN 5% \$2,645
				GARDEN 0% \$2,682
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