



CROW WING COUNTY

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To: Local Elected Officials
From: Mark B. Liedl, Land Services Director
Date: October 3, 2013
Re: **Land Services Department – 3rd Quarter
Update for 2013**

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

Environmental Services

Chris Pence, Land Services Supervisor

Crow Wing County Water Plan Approved

Crow Wing County's Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan has now been approved by local and state officials. On July 23 2013, the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners formally adopted the Water Plan and is now in effect until 2023. The plan identifies local priority concerns, objectives, and actions related to surface and ground water resources. It also includes a watershed based, land protection model that is the first of its kind in the State of Minnesota. In written comments, the Department of Natural Resources, noted that the plan "demonstrates the continued leadership of Crow Wing County in designing performance-based outcomes that protect water resources in the county. This is an excellent venture into watershed-based planning."

County Landfill Earns Carbon Credits

Crow Wing County's Landfill has earned 58,832 metric tons of carbon offset credits from 2008 through 2012, worth approximately \$242,000. The landfill's gas collection system reduces the amount of methane, a greenhouse gas, which is emitted to the atmosphere. Carbon offset credits are awarded to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Businesses purchase credits to offset their greenhouse gas emissions and reduce their carbon footprint. The fiscal benefit of these credits is off setting the initial cost to install the active gas system. Plus, an additional savings comes from using landfill gas to heat two buildings located at the landfill site.

Crow Wing County to Hold Final Household Hazardous Waste Collection for 2013

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program will hold its final organized collection events for the 2013 season on October 9, 2013 (Wednesday) and October 12, 2013 (Saturday) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the County Landfill. This is a free service for all Crow Wing County residents. This will be the last opportunity of the year to dispose of unwanted chemicals, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, paints, stains and automotive chemicals.

2013 Permit Data by Township --- Permits & Enforcement through 9/30/2013

Township	*												TOTAL
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Permits*
1st Assessment	2	3	5	4	13	17	20	18	14				96
2nd Assessment	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0				4
Bay Lake	2	2	1	3	8	13	6	10	9				54
Breezy Pt. Septic	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	0				9
Center	3	0	1	2	10	7	3	1	2				29
City of Jenkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Daggett Brook	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0				5
Deerwood	0	2	1	1	12	3	2	6	6				33
Fairfield	0	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	3				15
Fort Ripley	0	0	1	0	2	3	6	3	4				19
Gail Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1				2
Garrison	0	1	1	1	4	6	4	9	7				33
Ideal	2	3	1	3	10	21	15	7	16				78
Jenkins	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	5	1				14
Lake Edward	2	1	2	2	10	9	6	8	4				44
Little Pine	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0				3
Long Lake	0	1	0	4	3	5	4	1	5				23
Maple Grove	0	0	1	0	2	6	4	2	3				18
Mission	1	0	2	4	3	6	4	6	1				27
Nokay Lake	0	1	0	2	3	1	3	4	3				17
Oak Lawn	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	3	2				14
Pelican	1	0	0	3	6	2	5	6	6				29
Perry Lake	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	0				10
Platte Lake	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	2				9
Rabbit Lake	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1				5
Roosevelt	1	1	3	2	5	5	4	0	7				28
Ross Lake	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	5	3				14
St. Mathias	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1				5
Timothy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1				4
Wolford	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2				9
TOTAL	16	24	24	37	112	121	104	108	104				650

Public Land Management
Kirk Titus, Land Services Supervisor

County Forests Recommended For Continued Certification

In July, forest certification auditors recommended continued certification of the county managed public lands to both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Cooperative standards. This is the second year in a row that no major or minor non-conformances were found. There was one observation found in the FSC standard and two opportunities for improvement in the SFI standard.

The independent third party audit of the County's forest management program is rigorous and a strong validation that the forest resources are healthy, productive and sustainable while still providing economic and recreational values.

Candidate Timber Stands Identified

Crow Wing County Natural Resource Managers have completed the development of a Five Year Candidate Stand List. The list is a tool for managers to identify which timber stands are ready for thinning or harvest. The list is also a proactive approach by the County to inform neighboring landowners and other forest users of the county's forest management plans for the next five years. The 5-Year Candidate Stand map can be found as a data layer on the County's Interactive Maps page. <http://www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?NID=85>

Pike Appointed to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Crow Wing County Natural Resource Manager, Bryan Pike, has been appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Pike, who has over 25 years of resource management experience in Crow Wing County, will represent District 2, which includes northwestern Minnesota and extends down into Crow Wing County.

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission will set the criteria and provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislative leaders for projects seeking financial investment from the Parks & Trail Legacy Fund, initiated by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment.

Gypsy Moth Traps Set

Gypsy moth traps were set on county managed public lands in July as part of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's, 2013 Gypsy Moth Section Trapping Survey. The gypsy moth is an invasive species that, as a caterpillar, is a serious defoliator of over 300 trees and woody shrub species. It is invading Minnesota from Wisconsin and being carried in as a hitchhiker by unsuspecting tourists and visitors to Minnesota, who have been in infested areas to the east.

Gypsy moths eat the leaves of many trees and shrubs, but favor oak, poplar and birch. The tent shaped cardboard trap contains a pheromone which acts as a lure or attractant and once inside the trap, the moths will stick to the interior surface. The traps will be collected and survey results reported to the state in late October.

Mowing Completed On County Non-Motorized Trail System

Crow Wing County Land Services has recently completed the annual mowing of 13 non-motorized trails located throughout the county. The trails are available for equestrian riders, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and other uses.

The County encourages residents and visitors to experience these non-motorized trail systems this fall. Each trailhead area has a map of the trail system and limited number of maps to take, if available. Locations and maps of the non-motorized trails can be found on the county's web-site at: <http://www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=316>

Bud Capping

Contractors will apply bud caps or mesh tubes to over 121,000 tree seedlings on county managed public lands in October to protect the trees from deer browse. A bud cap is a 4” by 6” paper that is wrapped around the terminal bud and stapled. The seedlings are susceptible to deer browse and usually bud capped until they reach four feet tall.

Tax Forfeited Land Sale December 13, 2013

The second of two land sales held this year will be Friday December 13th, 10:00 AM in the basement of the Land Services building. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the land sale brochure, please send an email request to: landservices@crowwing.us, call 218-824-1115 or visit the county website at <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=269>

Property Valuation and Classification

Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor

Sales Ratio Study Ending

Each year we review all sales of property in the County and determine which properties are good indicators of the market to be used in our sales ratio studies. State statute requires us to value property at 100% of market value. The County’s parameters may be between 90% – 105% of market and still satisfy this statute. Sales that have occurred October 2012 through September 2013 will be used in the studies that will set the values for the 2014 assessment taxes payable in 2015. Currently we have had a total of 2,148 sales of property with 703 of those sales verified as “arms length” or good for our sales studies, 969 sales that are rejected or not good indicators of the market and 476 sales pending verification. Last year, 718 of the 1,928 sales, were accepted as appropriate “arms length” transactions and used in the ratio studies. Sales between family members, foreclosures, and payoffs are examples of sales the state requires us to reject.

Homesteading

The deadline to file for homestead for the current assessment year for taxes due and payable in 2014 is approaching. In order to receive homestead for the 2014 payable tax the property must be owned and occupied by the property owner or qualifying relative of the property owner on or before December 1, 2013 and application for homestead must be received in the Land Services office by December 15, 2013. Applications are available to be printed from the Crow Wing County Website or can be obtained by stopping into or calling Land Services. Although the homestead credit no longer exists due to recent legislative changes, it was replaced with the homestead exclusion. Depending upon the value of the homesteaded property, the homestead exclusion reduces the taxable market value of the property with a maximum exclusion of \$30,400 when the homesteaded estimated market value is \$76,000. The excluded amount decreases as the estimated market value increases or decreases from \$76,000. Crow Wing County received 1,166 homestead applications in 2012 and 705 applications have been received so far in 2013.

- Article 46 – Definitions

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%

We look forward to providing you excellent customer service.
Please contact our office with any questions you have.
Enjoy the fall!



Please do not hesitate to email any feedback you may have to Darleen at: darleen.wood@crowwing.us