

**TRANSCRIPT AND REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF CASS
December 21, 2010**

- 1A. Chairman Demgen convened the regular meeting of the Cass County Board of Commissioners at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, with the flag pledge, in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Walker, MN. Commissioners present: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, and Peterson. Commissioners absent: None.

Others present during portions of the meeting included:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Robert Yochum	Administrator	Larry Wolfe	Chief Financial Officer
Josh Stevenson	Land Commissioner	Bob Kovanen	County Surveyor
Reno Wells	Probation-HHVS	John Ringle	ESD Director
Neal Gaalswyk	Commissioner Dist. #1 Elect	Randy Fisher	Sheriff
Erick Hoglund	Sheriff's Office	Tom Burch	Sheriff Elect
Retta Freeman	ESD Resource Mgr	Larry Howes	State Representative District 4B
John Persell	State Representative District 4A	John Carlson	State Senator Elect District 4.
Gail Leverson	Cass County EDC	Laura Kahmeyer	Citizen
Mitchell Mochinski	Citizen	Walter Weiss	Bungo Township
Doug Weiss	Bungo Township	Charlie Huffman	Bungo Township
Gail DeBoer	Pilot-Independent	Allan Olson	Cass Lake Times
Tim Richardson	Central Services Director		

- 1B. M/S/P Kangas, Peterson - To approve the agenda items for discussion as presented and the addition of Item 2A30. (Approve Joint powers agreement #34786900 with MN Sec. of State for partial cost reimbursement in the amount of \$392.43 for Governor's recount), Item 2E. (Approve Resolution No. 73-10 SCHA Joint Powers Agreement - Fourth Amendment regarding counties wishing to withdraw at the end of 2011), and Item 9B. (Approve Conservation Easement by Lewis A. Andrews, Trustee of the Lewis Marshall Andrews Revocable Living Trust on 4.1 acres of wetlands, 2.5 acres of forest, and 1,147 feet of shoreline along Lake Wabedo). Unanimous.

- 2A. Robert Yochum presented the Board the following matters:

M/S/P Kangas, Dowson – To waive reading and approve the consent agenda as amended. Unanimous.

Approve - Board Minutes of December 9, 2010.

Approve - (Batch#1) Manual warrants dated November 30, 2010 in the amount of \$3,179,622.68.

Approve - (Batch#2) Manual warrants dated November 30, 2010 in the amount of \$547,276.65.

Approve - Auditor warrants dated December 9, 2010 in the amount of \$256,315.36.

Approve - HHVS Commissioner's warrants dated December 10, 2010 in the amount of \$184,453.18.

Approve - HHVS Auditor warrants dated December 10, 2010 in the amount of \$126,656.78.

Approve - Auditor warrants dated December 16, 2010 in the amount of \$310,986.08.

Receive & file - Monthly Budget Reports.

Approve personnel actions - A. Budgeted positions scheduled for replacement - Receive & file - Notice of resignation of Certified Appraiser, Dennis Fisher, effective December 28, 2010, and receive & file notice of intent to fill the vacated Certified Appraiser position. Receive & file - Notice of appointment of the Social Worker Team Leader - Mary Anderson, grade 31 step 8, effective December 14, 2010. Receive & file - Notice of appointment of the Social Worker Team Leader - Tammey Stacey, grade 31 step 8, effective December 14, 2010. Receive & file - Notice of appointment of the Social Worker Team Leader - Karyn Flesch, grade 31 step 8, effective December 14, 2010. B. Positions scheduled for no replacement - Receive & file - Notice of separation – Mary Anne Tweder, Jailer, effective June 25, 2010. C. Other: None.

Approve licenses – On & Off Sale 3.2 Beer - McArdle's- McArdle's Resort Inc., Unorganized; Nodak Lodge - Roger J Croaker, Unorganized; Woman Lake Lodge - Burk's on Woman Lake, LLC, Woodrow. Off Sale Intoxicating Liquor - The Shadberry Inc - The Shadberry Inc., Crooked Lake. Tobacco - Legacy Courses at Craguns- Cragun Enterprises, East Gull Lake; Cedar Street Market- SYLMAE, Inc, Pillager; The Classic- Madden Bros Inc, East Gull Lake; Madden's on Gull Lake- Madden Bros Inc, East Gull Lake; Remer Clark- Cynthia Swankier, Remer; ABE'S/Campbell, Inc- Lorina Lynn Campbell, Federal Dam; Lone Wolf Liquor - Lone Wolf Outpost, Inc, Remer Twp; McGuire's Inn on Woman Lake-M & M Inn, Inc, Woodrow; Jake's City Grille- Gull Lake Jakes, Inc, Fairview; Station 371- Station 371, Pine River (City); Pillsbury Junction - Staples Express, Pillager. Tobacco licenses contingent upon receiving proper documentation & fees - Riverside Quick Stop - Guy Greene, Federal Dam.

Receive & file Auditor -Treasurer's Interest Income Report for November 2010.

M/S/P Kangas, Dowson - To approve the 2011 standard mileage rate for miles driven after December 31, 2010 – Full rate (No county department vehicle available) at .51¢ per mile, adjusted rate (County department vehicle available and not used) .25¢ per mile. Unanimous.

Approve - Purchase of six (6) 2011 budgeted vehicles for the Sheriff's Office utilizing recently released State Contract.

Approve - Pay request #23674 for Cass County Energy Upgrade Project to CAM in the amount of \$20,298.44.

Approve - Pay request #23675 for Deep Portage Project to CAM in the amount of \$12,950.00.

Approve Assessor's Office Abatements - Tom Blonigan - Shingobee, Cancel PPTT 2010/2010; Charles Johnson - Sylvan, Cancel Lease 2009/2010; Tom Blonigan, Shingobee, Cancel PPTT 2009/2009; Charles Johnson – Sylvan, Cancel Lease 2008/2009.

Approve - HHVS 2011 Agreements for Purchase of Services for Home Based Mental Health Services/In-Home Family Counseling (Not to exceed \$20,000.00).

Approve - 2011 HHVS Memorandum of Agreement with the Cass County Jail for public health nursing services in the jail.

Approve - HHVS ongoing service agreement - Pine River Semi Independent Living Services, effective January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011.

Accept - Donation of \$50.00 for Veteran's Transportation Program, from VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Sherman Yochum Post #772, Longville, MN.

Approve - HHVS Memorandum of Agreement for Physical Therapy Service for 2011 -Theresa Watson, RPT Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy Services, Inc.; St. Joseph's Area Health Services-Park Rapids.

Approve - HHVS roster nurse agreement - Sherry Fitch, LPN, for as needed nursing services, effective 1/1/11-12/31/11 at 2010 hourly rates.

Approve - HHVS Agreement - Child & Teen Checkups Support Outreach Worker, Jeanette Wiger, at the 2010 rate, effective 1/1/11-12/31/11, for C&TC support and outreach services.

Approve - 33 foot easement for ingress & egress to Wayne & Diane Hess PID #10-28-135-32-21 located in 28-135-32 (Byron Twp).

Authorize - Chief Financial Officer to sign amendment to Full Flex Cafeteria Plan.

Approve - Transfer of funds from Unorganized Township to Highway Department in the amount of \$63,884.16 for road maintenance for November 2010.

Approve - Appointment of Harlan Johnson to the Sheriff's Civil Service Commission (replacing Dennis Paulson).

Refer - Cass County Agricultural Association funding request in the amount of \$7,500.00 to the Cass County Budget Committee (\$5,000. budgeted).

Approve - HHVS Welfare Fraud Investigative Services Cooperative Agreement between Cass County Sheriff's Office for 2011.

Approve - Joint powers agreement (#34786900) with MN Sec. of State for partial cost reimbursement in the amount of \$392.43 for Governor's election recount.

2D. Administrator Yochum presented for discussion Resolution No. 68-10 establishing the Cass County Board members compensation for 2011. Mr. Yochum reported that the Commissioners current 2010 annual salary of \$23,596.50 is the 2009 rate less 64 hours and per diem rate of \$75 has been the same since 1997.

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 68-10 moved its adoption, Commissioner Peterson seconded:

WHEREAS, County Commissioners may receive per diem payment and reimbursement for necessary expenses in performing the duties of the office as set forth by this resolution of the County Board pursuant to legal authority of Minnesota Statutes 375.055-375.065, 471.665 and 475.06, and

WHEREAS, Cass County Board Resolution No. 29-94 (Amended), dated June 7, 1994 recognizes the recent Attorney General opinion regarding the interpretation and intent of laws governing county commissioner compensation per diem allowance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby reaffirms the following per diem payment policy and schedule for 2011 in compliance with applicable state statutes:

The rate of per diem payment shall be \$75.00 per day for attendance at one or more of the following: county board meetings, (except the first regular monthly board meeting, board of auditors, board of equalization, or canvassing board); for service by individual county commissioners on any board, committee or commission of county government including committees of the board pursuant to the official list of committee and board assignments adopted in January of each year; while acting on any committee or attending a meeting under the direction of the board; or for the performance of services by individual county commissioners when required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cass County Commissioner annual salary compensation for 2011 is hereby established at \$23,596.50.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the receipt of per diem payments by commissioners that might serve on other bodies of government for which additional compensation is separately authorized by statute in the performance of duties for a statutorily separate body with independent authority to compensate its members.

The foregoing resolution is effective for the calendar year 2011 effective January 01, 2011.

Resolution No. 68 -10 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

- 2C. Administrator Yochum summarized the Personnel Committee of the Board Meeting of Friday, December 17, 2010. Items discussed included: labor negotiation schedules, the 2011 continuation of wages/benefits, the Sheriff's Office grade rating for the Shift Commander position, and a HHVS transition team report.

M/S/P Dowson, Downham – To approve the Personnel Committee of the Board recommendations: to continue the 64 hour reduction program based upon State and Federal operating budget uncertainties; to review the 64 hour reduction program not later than July 1, 2011, to continue the terms/conditions of expiring labor contracts while negotiations are progressing (i.e. uniform allowance, 2010 wage rates, insurance contribution), and to apply the 64 hour reduction to 2011 elected wages as well. Unanimous.

M/S/P Downham, Peterson – To approve the Personnel Committee of the Board recommendation: to submit a grade rating review for the Sheriff's Office Shift Commander as both an exempt and non-exempt (overtime eligible) position, and to refer leaves of absence for at-will appointments (i.e. Chief Deputy, Shift Commander) to the Personnel Policy Committee. Unanimous.

M/S/P Downham, Dowson – To approve the Personnel Committee of the Board recommendation: to submit grade rating review for the positions of Human Services Manager, Administration Manager, Public Health Manager, and Office Support Supervisor, that any proposed grade ratings or appointments to new positions will require separate subsequent Board action, and further to establish a performance evaluation of Reno Wells & exit interview of Ane Rogers following the regular meeting of January 18, 2011. Unanimous.

- 2D. Administrator Yochum presented Resolution No. 69-10 establishing elected Department Head salaries for 2011.

Commissioner Peterson offered Resolution No.69 -10 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Downham seconded:

Resolution establishing compensation for elected department heads

Whereas: Minnesota Statute 386.015 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Recorder, and

Whereas: Minnesota Statute 387.20 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Sheriff, and

Whereas: Minnesota Statute 388.18 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Attorney.

Whereas: That the adoption of the foregoing annual salaries is consistent with labor settlements and budgetary guidelines for 2011.

Whereas: Each of the elected officials has volunteered to participate in the 2011 annual salary reduction plan.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

1. That the year 2011 salaries for the individuals indicated are hereby established as follows:

	<u>01/01/11</u>	<u>07/01/11</u>
County Attorney – Christopher Strandlie		
Grade	50	50
Step	8	9
Monthly rate	8,403	8,655
Annual rate		100,838
Annual salary reduction		3,102.72
		103,854
		3,195.52

County Sheriff – Tom Burch

Grade	45	45	
Step	7	8	
Monthly rate	7,037	7,248	
Annual rate		84,448	86,986
Annual salary reduction		2,598.40	2,676.48

County Recorder – Katie Norby			
Grade	34	34	
Step	10	10	
Monthly rate	5,555	5,555	
Annual rate		66,664	66,664
Annual salary reduction		2,051.20	2,051.20

2. That all positions are additionally eligible for an annual longevity payment in accordance with the current Cass County Personnel Policy Rules.

Resolution No. 69-10 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

- 2E. Administrator Yochum presented correspondence from South Country Health Alliance Chief Executive Officer Brian Nasi asking the member County Boards to approve support of an opt-out timeline extension until March 31, 2011 for the Counties considering withdrawal effective December 31, 2011. Mr. Yochum reported that the action requested by SCHA has no effect on the Counties that have previously filed notice of withdrawal effective December 31, 2010 (Cass, Crow Wing, and Freeborn).

Commissioner Downham offered Resolution No. 73 -10 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Dowson seconded:

WHEREAS, the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement sets forth the procedure by which counties may withdraw from South Country Health Alliance, and by which additional counties may be admitted; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of that Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement, counties wishing to withdraw at the end of 2011, must give notice by December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, certain counties may be considering withdrawal; and

WHEREAS, the Board of South Country Health Alliance wishes to afford the Member Counties the greatest opportunity possible to enter into a well-informed decision as to whether to withdraw, without prejudicing the contracting and planning processes for the 2012 calendar year;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of South Country Health Alliance recommends to the Boards of SCHA's Member Counties a resolution, which, if adopted by two-thirds of those Boards, shall constitute the Fourth Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement of South Country Health Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Cass County approves the Fourth Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement of South Country Health Alliance by amending Section 12.1 of that Agreement to read as follows:

12.1 Method of Withdrawal

A Member County may withdraw from this Amended Agreement by filing with the Joint Powers Board Chair a written notice of intent to withdraw by December 31, one year prior to the year of withdrawal. The effective date of withdrawal shall be December 31 of the year following the written notice ("Effective Date"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, any county wishing to withdraw effective December 31, 2011, shall have until March 31, 2011, to provide its written notice of withdrawal, effective on December 31, 2011. Upon receipt of the resolution of a withdrawal, the Chair shall send a copy of said resolution to each Member County.

Resolution No. 73 -10 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

- 3A. Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe presented Resolution No. 70-10 establishing the property tax levy for 2011 by Fund.

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 70 -10 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Downham seconded:

WHEREAS, A County Board shall conduct a public hearing prior to the adoption of its final property tax levy, and

WHEREAS, after proper public notice said public hearing was held on December 9, 2010.
 WHEREAS, M.S. 275.07 requires the County Board to adopt a property tax levy prior to December 28, 2010, and
 WHEREAS, M.S. 275.50 to 275.56 define the levying authority of the County Board, and
 WHEREAS, the 2011 Budget Committee has evaluated said financial information and formulated recommendations and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the following individual fund tax levies for 2011 in the stated amounts:

General Revenue	\$ 9,841,185
Library	328,023
Road and Bridge	4,101,961
Welfare – PH/SS/VS	4,983,662
Welfare - Public Assistance Administration	1,049,658
Longville Ambulance Subordinate Service District	<u>461,000</u>
 GROSS LEVY	 \$20,765,489
 Less County Program Aid	 <u>(718,876)</u>
Certified Levy	<u>\$20,046,613</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Cass County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to spread the levy on the tax rolls of the County.

Resolution No. 70-10 was declared adopted upon the following vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

3B. Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe presented Resolution No. 71-10 regarding Revenues/Expenditures 2011 by Fund.

Commissioner Peterson offered Resolution No. 71-10 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Dowson seconded:

WHEREAS, The Board considered the relevant information regarding the 2011 Cass County Budget, and
 WHEREAS, The budget requests, revenue projections, levy data and needs of Cass County have been duly considered,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That on the recommendation of the Cass County Budget Committee as amended, the Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the 2011 budget as follows:

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Revenue	18,426,043	17,217,989
Self Insurance	4,230,000	4,230,000
Road & Bridge	10,368,961	10,368,961
Health, Human, & Veterans Services	13,600,939	13,614,939
Unorganized Towns	285,000	285,000
Land Department	3,203,304	3,203,304
Environmental Trust	145,000	20,000
Kitchigami Library	<u>328,023</u>	<u>328,023</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>50,587,270</u>	 <u>49,268,216</u>

Details of which are available in the office of the Cass County Chief Financial Officer for public inspection during normal business hours.

Resolution No. 71 -10 was declared adopted upon the following vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

3C. Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe presented Resolution No. 72-10 regarding Cass County Unorganized Levy and Revenues/Expenditures.

Commissioner Dowson offered Resolution No. 72 -10 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Downham seconded:

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Commissioners acts as township authority for unorganized areas of Cass County; and
WHEREAS, the Cass County Board has considered revenue projections, levy data, and budget needs of the unorganized areas of Cass County for 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the following tax levy and Budget for 2011 for Cass County Unorganized Townships:

CERTIFIED NET LEVY	\$245,000.00
REVENUE BUDGET	\$285,000.00
EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$285,000.00

Resolution No. 72 -10 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Demgen, Downham, Dowson, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

3D. Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe presented the FY 2010 year end fund transfers.

M/S/P Downham, Kangas - To approve the 2010 year end fund transfers as follows: Transfer from Land Department to General Fund for Indirect Costs - \$70,000.00; and Transfer from ESD Zoning & Solid Waste to General Fund for Indirect Costs - \$110,000.00. Unanimous.

4A. MN State Representative (District 4B), Larry Howes, MN State Representative (District 4A) John Persell, and MN State Senator Elect (District 4), John Carlson were present to discuss: the 2011 County operating budget including a contingency plan, recent collaborative efforts with State assistance, sales tax exemption for Counties converting to the 800 MHz public safety radio system, a recommendation for policy review by the Legislature for a County option to manage additional state forest land and the need for policy review of Statewide land use variance standards. The Board thanked Representatives Howes, and Persell, and Senator Elect Carlson for their comments. No action necessary.

5A. Sheriff Randy Fisher, highlighted the findings of the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) Study for the MN Lakes Area consisting of the Counties of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca and the Leech Lake Band. The PSAP Consolidation Study Report was conducted by GeoComm and includes: an analysis of current conditions, political feasibility, technological feasibility, facility options, projected costs, projected call volume/workload; staffing levels, model options, governance options, and other special considerations. Mr. Fisher added that each jurisdiction will now assess whether PSAP Consolidation will provide a better, more effective, and more cost efficient emergency communications system in the MN Lakes Area.

M/S/P Dowson, Kangas – To receive & file the PSAP Study and to authorize final payment to GeoComm in the amount of \$105,240.00. Unanimous.

5B. Sheriff Elect Tom Burch and Chief Deputy Erick Hoglund explained to the Board a life saving incident that occurred on November 5, 2010 in the Gull Narrows and requested that a Certificate of Appreciation be presented to Mitchell Mochinski and Laura Kahmeyer.

Chairman Jim Demgen presented recognition certificates to Mr. Mochinski and Ms. Kahmeyer for their heroic life saving efforts that occurred on November 5, 2010.

6A. Central Services Director Tim Richardson presented bids that closed on December 2, 2010 for upgrading HVAC controls. Mr. Richardson added that Honeywell was the only bidder and that their bid of \$465,294 per the bid documents was \$130,000 more than the available budget. After review by County staff, construction manager CAM, and Honeywell the scope of the project has been reduced to meet the requirements of the State grant and still achieve the energy savings target (~\$32,000/year).

M/S/P Kangas, Downham – To accept the Honeywell bid proposal to replace existing controls, add controls, and replace building automation software, (funded with an approved State of MN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant EECBG and Cass County Capital Fund), to authorize contract execution and to approve Change Order #1 reducing the bid contract price from \$465,294 to \$321,187 plus sales tax of \$22,082 for a total amount of \$343,269. Unanimous.

7A. Land Commissioner Josh Stevenson presented quotes from vendors for window film at the Cass County Land Department Building. Mr. Stevenson noted the benefits include heating/cooling energy costs, and will extend the current warranty on all

of the exterior windows for an additional five years. Land Commissioner Stevenson estimated that the cost of the film and installation will be recovered in three years and the savings from recently contracted services will allow the Land Department to cover this expense within the existing building maintenance budget.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Sun Solutions	\$11,841.92
Solar Shield, Inc.	\$15,598.00

M/S/P Peterson, Downham – To accept the bid from the apparent low bidder, Sun Solutions in the amount of \$11,841.92 for the installation of window film at the Cass County Land Department. Unanimous.

- 7B. Mr. Stevenson requested the Board to approve an agreement with MNDNR to manage 370 acres lowland brush for wildlife habitat in Section 19 and 30 of Deerfield Township. The project includes shearing approximately 370 acres of lowland brush and willow. This cover type has been stagnant in this area since the Badoura Fire that took place in the 1970's and shearing this age of covertype will promote a regeneration of lowland brush species which is found to be beneficial to a wide range of wildlife species. The agreement is at no cost to Cass County.

M/S/P Downham, Kangas – To approve the agreement with the State of MN at no cost to Cass County to manage 370 acres lowland brush for wildlife habitat in Section 19 and 30 of Deerfield Township, a multi-agency project for wildlife habitat consistent with the Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan and landscape goals. Unanimous.

- 8A. County Surveyor Robert Kovanen asked for Board authorization to accept a donation to Cass County of historic survey records from the families of Don, Bob, John, Greg, and Grant Curo. The donation consists of numerous Certificates of Survey and worksheets maintained by John W. Curo dating between the early 1900's and the 1950's. These private records will now be maintained as public County records and augment some of the field books purchased by the County in 2009.

M/S/P Peterson, Dowson – To accept a donation to Cass County of historic survey records maintained by John W. Curo from the families of Don, Bob, John, Greg, and Grant Curo, and further to recognize the same with certificates of appreciation. Unanimous.

- 8B. Mr. Kovanen presented a status report on Public Corner Monumentation Program which began in April and May of 2010. The Curo field book indexing was completed in September and distributed to the corner contractors in October which the Surveyors' Office is now using the indexed data daily. The intent is to eventually provide public access to these records. Methods and procedures being used by other counties to distribute such data are being investigated. A target date to allow such access is near the end of the corner contracts in the summer of 2011. The Township Corner Remonumentation contracts run approximately 13 months, bringing the completion into the summer of 2011. As of this date most contractors have performed corner research and reconnaissance. Other than progress reports and a few requests for contract specification exceptions, there have been no deliverables for review thus far. The Contractors have all provided financial assurance for contract compliance. Using October 2009 figures obtained from the Assessors Office, the total value of real estate and buildings in Cass County is approximately \$9,280,000,000. There were about 7,800 corners established by the original public land survey in the late 1800's. From these numbers an average value that each public land corner supports is \$1,190,000. As the Township Corner Remonumentation project includes 135 corners, the average value of real estate and buildings the contracts will support is \$160,615,400. The Board thanked Mr. Kovanen for the progress report and look forward to the report next spring. No action necessary.

- 9A. ESD Director John Ringle and Retta Freeman ESD Resource Specialist explained to the Board that three volunteers from Bungo Township Walter Weiss, Douglas Weiss, and Charles Huffman, have spent the last two months cleaning up an open dumpsite on a private parcel in Bungo Township at their own expense. Cass County ESD provided 2 roll-off dumpsters for non-burn waste and the volunteers worked with Crow Wing Recycling to get all the metal material collected into 2 ten-yard dumpsters. Doug Weiss provided his tractor and fuel and each of the others hauled additional pickup loads of metal and/or trash (at their own expense) to be recycled or disposed of. Walter Weiss was successful in getting the Pine River Watershed Association and Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) to contribute \$1,000 to hire a contractor to come in with a backhoe and remove and haul over 20 tons of household garbage from an on site pit. The volunteers have worked with Cass County Sentence to Serve Crews to demo and dispose of 4 mobile homes. Mr. Ringle also added that the parcel has been on the Cass ESD radar for over 10 years and court action was taken in 2003 to force a clean-up, but the situation had deteriorated since. Mr. Ringle and Ms. Freeman added that had not these three volunteers stepped forward, the County would have faced proceeding with another court action, a cleanup at our expense, and no way to recover the costs.

Chairman Jim Demgen and District #2 Commissioner Bob Kangas presented certificates of appreciation to Walter Weiss, Douglas Weiss, and Charles Huffman.

- 9B. ESD Director John Ringle presented a Conservation Easement granted by Lewis M. Andrews for 9.38 acres in part of Government Lot 1, of Section 33, Township 140 North (Wabedo Twp.), Range 28 West. Mr. Ringle added that the protected property includes approximately 4.1 acres of wetlands, 2.5 acres of forest, and 1,147 feet of shoreline along Lake Wabedo. Mr. Ringle added that this is the first of several easements eligible for closing cost assistance under the 2010 LCCMR grant.

M/S/P Dowson, Peterson - To accept as presented the Conservation Easement granted by Lewis M. Andrews for 9.38 acres in part of Government Lot 1, of Section 33, Township 140 North (Wabedo Twp.), Range 28 West. Unanimous.

10. Administrator Yochum discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. No action necessary.
11. Chairman Demgen adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

SIGNED: _____
Jim Demgen, Chairman
Cass County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Robert H. Yochum
Cass County Administrator