

# ROSEAU COUNTY COORDINATOR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 14, 2006

RE: **Roseau County Board of Commissioners Meeting**

Contact: County Coordinator Trish Harren, 463-4248

The Roseau County Board of Commissioners met in regular session today. Buddy Erickson reported on the Red River Development Association Meeting he recently attended. The Association's Roseau County Valley Farmer award went to Roger and Ellen Falk of Salol. The Association also awards \$100 annually to 4-H groups in each county for leadership projects, and gives five \$500 scholarships to high school seniors in the area. The Red River Valley Development Association is comprised of 14 counties from Minnesota and North Dakota and recognizes outstanding achievement in the region.

The Board passed a resolution declaring a second district County Commissioner vacancy left by the passing of Jack Stone on March 5, 2006. The vacancy will be posted for one week in the Greenbush Tribune and Roseau Times Region. A two week filing period will follow, and if more than two candidates file there will be a special primary election on Tuesday, April 19, 2006. The special election will be held May 2, 2006.

The State of Minnesota has released Roseau County again to a private auditing firm for the next three years and the Board passed a resolution to hire Hoffman, Dale & Swenson as the County's auditor for this three year operating period.

Commissioner Russ Walker reported that about 75 people attended the Beltrami Island State Forest OHV trail open house held in Warroad last Monday. Attendees viewed the trail map displaying the designation of motorized and non-motorized trails. Maps have been posted at Marvin Windows and Polaris Industries. Commissioners Russ Walker and Alan Johnston will be scheduling a meeting with Marvin and Polaris employees to discuss the trail designations with employees and collect further public comment. Still under debate is the designation of the trail below Bemis Hill. The DNR currently wishes to declare this trail as non-motorized, to which there is strong opposition by motorized trail users. Additional open houses are scheduled for March 23 in Grygla to review trail planning in the Beltrami County portion of the BISF and March 24 in Baudette to review the trail planning in Lake of the Woods County.

The Board discussed the acquisition of in car cameras for six Roseau County squad cars as part of activities to improve operations of the Roseau County Sheriff's department. A Best Practices Assessment of the Roseau County Sheriff's Department is currently being conducted by Setter & Associates, LLC of Brooklyn Park.

Commissioner Orris Rasmussen reported on activities of the Building Committee, including a review of the security system for the courthouse. Rasmussen asked for a representative from the Sheriff's department to sit on this committee.

Commissioner Alan Johnston reported on the Human Resources committee meeting, with consensus to continue a review of County HR operations after the election of the new County Commissioner. Among changes needed to Human Resources are updating of job descriptions and the implementation of performance reviews.

Bid opening for the final 2002 flood repair project was held. Lu Tasa of Mn-DOT was present to handle the bid opening. This project includes a concrete culvert repair on CSAH No. 2 approx 8 miles SW of Warroad. The Board approved a call for bids on two FEMA ditch repairs, State Ditch No. 95 – Lateral 1 and State Ditch No. 72. Bid opening on these two projects is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 11:00 am.

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The Board discussed leasing of tax-forfeited land held by the County. Three parcels near Greenbush are currently under consideration. Commissioner Foldesi recommended a yearly lease at \$10 per acre for open land and \$1 per acre for other land and extending the lease time to include a full year. In the past the County has leased the land with the lease concluding on October 15. The Board passed a resolution to continue the current leasing arrangement for 2006, which is \$5.00 per acre for open land and \$.50 per acre for all other land but extending the lease end date to December 31, 2006. The Board will take the matter under further advisement and consider revising the lease structure further for 2007.

Approval of a clandestine drug lab clean-up ordinance was on the agenda but was table once again at the request of Chair Rasmussen who requested that a decision be extended to provide for further discussion. Clandestine drug lab clean-up is problematic in every county state-wide, and is a huge liability for home owners and for county governments who do not protect themselves with an ordinance.

A **Notice to Proceed** on the Roseau County Jail and Social Services Buildings was sent to Industrial Contract Services who had the low bid on the construction project. A 577 day completion calendar began March 1, 2006 with the date of substantial completion set for on or before September 28, 2007.

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