



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: October 14, 2014

Title of Item: Water Lab Accreditation

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Terry Neff		Department: Environmental Services
Presenter (Name and Title): Michelle Leitinger, Environmental Health Specialist - if needed		Estimated Time Needed: N/A
Summary of Issue: Do not renew water lab accreditation with the Minnesota Department of Health. See attached memorandum for detailed explanation.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: Continue to renew accreditation with Minnesota Department of Health, water test fee's will remain at current level.		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approval to not renew water lab accreditation with the Minnesota Department of Health.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Water testing fee's would be lowered if the water lab accreditation is not renewed.		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning
209 Second Street NW
Room 100
Aitkin, MN 56431
Phone: 218-927-7342
Fax: 218-927-4372



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2, 2014
TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Nathan Burkett, County Administrator
FROM: Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director
RE: Water Lab Accreditation

The Minnesota Department of Health certifies water labs in Minnesota, which is a Water Lab Accreditation. The cost for this accreditation is approximately \$3,000.00 per year. Foster care and daycare facilities are the only samples that we have that require this accreditation (approximately 20-30 samples per year). All other samples do not require this accreditation (approximately 170-180 samples per year).

If we do not renew the accreditation we could reduce the water sampling fee from \$50.00 per sample (bacteria and nitrates) to \$40.00 per sample. We would then send all samples that require accreditation to AW Research in Brainerd.

Based on my discussions with other Counties that have their own water labs, many are not accredited labs and those that have been will not be renewing their accreditation.

Current water lab testing fee's are:
Bacteria (Coliform and E.coli) = \$30.00 Nitrate = \$30.00 or \$50.00 for both.

I propose Aitkin County not renew the Water Lab Accreditation in order to lower the water lab testing fee to \$25.00 for bacteria, \$25.00 for nitrates and \$40.00 for both.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 218-927-7342 or by e-mail at tneff@co.aitkin.mn.us.

c:\ctybrd\ctybrd2014