



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

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Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** November 14, 2017

**Title of Item:** Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Presentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Ross Wagner		<b>Department:</b> Economic Development & Forest Ind
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 15 Minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>A Mille Lacs Scenic Byway committee has been meeting for the purpose of designating the State Highways around Mille Lacs Lake as an official "Scenic Byway". Grassroots organizations nominate Scenic Byways and engage in planning, conservation, preservation and marketing activities. Four state agencies, MN DNR, MN DOT, Explore Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society, partner with the grassroot organization and local governments on byway projects. Minnesota Scenic Byway federal funding is available through MN DOT. Penny Simonson, East Central Regional Development Commission is spearheading the effort and will be present for further discussion. Rob Muggs, Muggs on Mille Lacs, Wahkon, is the committee chair.</p> <p>A resolution of support may be asked for. If so, I will work with Penny to develop one and have it available for the next Board meeting.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b>		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

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

## Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway



Enhancing the lake experience.

Scenic Byways beckon the traveling public to experience our region's rich beauty, historic past, cultures, traditions, and diversity. People from around the state and beyond are drawn to the forest, shoreline and Lake Mille Lacs. They also come to experience life "up north at the lake" that reflects the cultures of the people who built the communities and those who live and work here today. Increasingly, people everywhere want to visit authentic places.

Why a Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway? Everyone loves to travel along the lake. We have favorite roadways that could be preserved and improved through a scenic byway designation. The roadways and the lake are regarded as a special resource, worthy of work toward some kind of official designation. By doing so, it allows our community to protect and promote its unique qualities.

There is a process to a scenic byways designation. We want to give it some thought before we plunge in. If done well, the steps taken now will lead to an excited community. Building local support at every stage of the process is absolutely crucial. How effective we are at developing our scenic byway plan depends directly on the ideas, energy, interest and expertise of many people.

We're asking for participation early in this process, and often. We're hoping to identify where our support is and work toward those strengths. Planning a scenic byway is an exciting and dynamic process, but it requires commitment to see it through to completion.

Our initial group of advocates will provide the engine that drives the process. With luck, and a little persuasion, we're hoping to find local individuals who can work together, who especially value the route, and who have contacts and influence on others in our community. We are looking for people who might welcome the opportunity to explore, discover, and share the qualities of our route with the goal to increase tourism and economic development, plus maintain this community resource—Lake Mille Lacs into the future. To learn how you can be involved, contact [penny.simonsen@ecrhc.org](mailto:penny.simonsen@ecrhc.org) or 320.679.4065x23