



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5B
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: January 27, 2026

Title of Item: Continue Public Hearing on Amendments to Shoreland Ordinance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
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Submitted by: Andrew Carlstrom	Department: Environmental Services
Presenter (Name and Title): Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director	Estimated Time Needed: 10 Minutes

Summary of Issue:

On November 17, 2025 the Aitkin County Planning Commission approved the proposed amendments to the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance. A public notice was published in the Aitkin Age on December 24, 2025 and on January 14, 2026 and of the continuance of this Public Hearing today. In accordance with MN Statute 394 and Rule 11 of the Aitkin County Ordinances and Procedures of the Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures and Rules of Business Board of Commissioners, two readings shall be conducted prior to the adoption of the amendment. The proposed amendments brought forth by the public and recommended by the Commissioners, and in addition to what the Planning Commission previously recommended approving are as follows:

Section 7.22 B(3): Re-introduce original language of "1/3 of the trees/shrubs greater than 5" in diameter 4.5 feet above ground level (DBH)...."

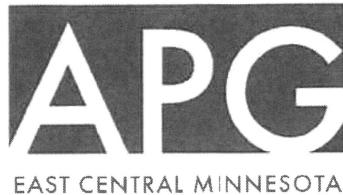
Section 7.22 B(4): Embolden "may be allowed with an approved vegetation alteration permit" to ensure reader knows a permit is required.

Please see attached public notice, memorandum with proposed summary of changes, and a proposed resolution.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: Discussion Only
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Recommended Action/Motion: Discussion Only
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Financial Impact: <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>		



-Public Notice Ad Proof-

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run on the dates indicated below. Please proof read carefully. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at Cambridge (763) 691-6000 or email at publicnotice@apgecm.com

Date:	01/09/26
Account #:	485996
Customer:	AITKIN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING
Address:	307 2ND ST NW, ROOM 219 AITKIN
Telephone:	(218) 927-3761
Fax:	(218) 927-4372

Publications:
Aitkin Independent Age

Ad ID:	1513094
Copy Line:	Jan 27 PH 2nd Reading SL Ordin
PO Number:	
Start:	01/14/26
Stop:	01/14/2026
Total Cost:	\$94.50
# of Lines:	94
Total Depth:	10.472
# of Inserts:	1
Ad Class:	150
Phone #	(763) 691-6000
Email:	publicnotice@apgecm.com
Rep No:	MA700

Contract-Gross

Ad Proof

Not Actual Size

AITKIN COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING

On January 27, 2026 at 10AM and in accordance with MN Statute 394 and Rule 11 of the Aitkin County Ordinances and Procedures of the Board of Commissioners Meeting Procedures and Rules of Business, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners will continue its Public Hearing from the January 6, 2026 regularly scheduled meeting, on the proposed amendments to the Aitkin County Shoreland Ordinance. A second reading will occur on this date, as well as the proposed adoption of these amendments.

A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Section 2.7 – Administrative additions to and revision of definitions
- Section 4.25 – Administrative update of the classification list for land uses
- Section 7.22 – Administrative updated language on vegetation alterations
- Section 9.82 – Open Space/ Common Open Space Administrative Change

The following is the past and present tentative timeline for the proposed amendments:

June 18 – July 18, 2025:
30 Day Press Release for written public comments on proposed amendments.

July 31, 2025:
County Board "Committee of the Whole" public meeting to discuss the proposed amendments and receive comments from the public.

September 22, 2025:
Aitkin County Planning Commission's held public workshop and received public comments on proposed amendments.

November 17, 2025:
Aitkin County Planning Commission Public Hearing on the proposed amendments.

January 6, 2026:
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Public Hearing and First Reading of proposed amendments.

January 27, 2026:
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners continuation of the Public Hearing, Second Reading, and tentative approval of proposed amendments.

A full text version of the proposed Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance can be found in its entirety online at: <https://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/> under News & Notices. It is also available for public review at the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office at the Aitkin County Government Center during regular business hours. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office: 307 2nd St NW, Rm 219, Aitkin, MN 56431,

by facsimile (218) 927-4372, or by
e-mail to aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us
before 9AM on January 27, 2026.
Please include a full name and
complete mailing address with all
correspondences.

Published in the
Aitkin Independent Age
January 14, 2026
1513094

NOTICE OF HEARING

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Resolution #20260127-xxx Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance Amendment

WHEREAS, in an effort to regulate land use practices that protect surface water quality, protect near shore habitat, and protect shoreland aesthetics, the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance regulates shoreland zoning with standards in place to mitigate possible adverse impacts to the health, safety, and welfare of surrounding properties and environments.

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is experiencing and is expected to experience a continued marked increase in shoreland zoned applications to include new buildings, vegetation alterations, and general land alterations; AND

WHEREAS, Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.2500 through 3900 governs State shoreland regulations, with Aitkin County initially adopting it's Shoreland Ordinance in 1992, and making further amendments in 2001, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2017, and 2018; AND

WHEREAS, Aitkin County desires to amend the current ordinance in order to improve organization, understandability, and enforceability of the current Shoreland Ordinance; AND

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the proposed amendments of the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance.

Adopted this 27th Day of January, 2026 By The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners.

Attest:

J. Mark Wedel
County Board Chair

David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the County Board

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}