

**MINUTES OF THE
OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
New York Mills Offices, Conference Room
118 N. Main, New York Mills, MN
Special Meeting, Monday, June 20, 2005
10:00 a.m.

Present: Officials from Otter Tail, Wadena, and Todd Counties (approximately 40 officials)

Introductions: AMC Executive Director, Jim Mulder, acted as moderator of this joint meeting. Mr. Mulder requested introductions of each person participating in the meeting.

Opening Statement: The purpose of this meeting is to identify ways in which counties can collaborate and share services as State funding and delivery systems continue to change.

Five Mega-Trends: Mr. Mulder identified five trends in State and Local Governments that are and will continue to change how Government does business.

- 1) State and Local partnerships are waning
 - a) Devolution of services (becoming more difficult for state to offer services and make decisions)
 - b) Mandates (financial and service)
 - c) Pre-emption
 - d) Initiatives
 - e) Open hostility and intense competition for resources

- 2) Erosion of County's fiscal health
 - a) Tax structure and Revenue District Systems are inefficient
 - b) Reducing tax capacity limit taxing and expenditure decisions
 - c) Removing authority from local officials
 - d) Costs are rising

- 3) Public perceives local government to be redundant, fragmented, competitive and inefficient

- 4) Citizens are becoming "anti-government"

- 5) Erosion of grass roots government

Because of these Mega-Trends:

- 1) Change is necessary
- 2) Counties can be the center of change
- 3) Counties must think long term
- 4) Reform must be partnership-based

If we can answer affirmatively to the questions below, for a specific topic, reform may be possible:

- 1) Is the current service system sustainable?
- 2) Is the current system ripe for reform?
- 3) Is reform doable?
- 4) Is Board/staff willing to do it?

Discussion took place regarding Why Here/Why Now. It was decided that a committee would be put together for each agenda discussion topic that the group decided to pursue some type of collaborative arrangement to save funds and improve delivery of services. Vision and Goals should be established along with a Work Plan to consider what we want to look like in 10 years.

- 1) Justice Center:
 - a) Committee Members:

Coordinator, Larry Krohn	Otter Tail County
Commissioner, Mary Harrison	Wadena County
Sheriff's from each County	Otter Tail, Todd, & Wadena
District Judge, Sally Robertson	Todd & Wadena
Corrections Director, Kathy Langer	Todd & Wadena
Commissioner, Janet Goligowski	Todd County

(Larry Krohn and Wadena County Auditor/Treasurer, Char West will be responsible for this committee.)
- 2) Perham Incinerator:
 - a) No committee – leave this to responsibility of the commissioners
- 3) Social Services/Public Health:
 - a) Areas of discussion could be parceling into different kinds of services, regional sanitarian delivery system, mental health/elderly services, 16-bed MI units could be provided by public sector, managed care organizations are contracted with the counties, but could contract with other vendors – Should counties be in a provider role?
 - b) Committee Members:

Human Services Directors from each cty	Otter Tail, Todd, & Wadena
Public Health Directors from each county	Otter Tail, Todd, & Wadena

(Others needed for the committee should be included by consensus of above members.)
- 4) Public Transit:
 - a) Committee Members:

Coordinator, Tony Haasser	Todd County
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(Mr. Haasser will be responsible to establish this committee)
- 5) Judicial Ditches:
 - a) Committee Members:

(Otter Tail County Coordinator, Larry Krohn, and Board Secretary, Kathy Domholt will be responsible to establish this committee)

6) Extension:

a) Committee Members:

County Coordinator, Larry Krohn	Otter Tail County
Ext Service Region Director, Jim Carlson	U of MN
Auditor/Treasurer, Char West	Wadena County
Coordinator, Tony Haasser	Todd County

(This group should add to committee as needed – there should be one County Commissioner from each County.)

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Dated: _____ OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Robert Block, County Board Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

CB/kd