



Cass board to meet with lawmakers

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By **MONICA LUNDQUIST**

Cass County Correspondent

BACKUS – Cass County commissioners will meet Thursday with legislators from this area at the capital in St. Paul to discuss county related issues.

They will be in St. Paul for an Association of Minnesota Counties seminar this week.

Among the issues they plan to address with legislators will be offering their support for three neighboring counties.

Cass officials have voted to support Crow Wing County's request for state funding to purchase land along the Mississippi River, Beltrami County's request to locate a state veteran's hospital on land Sanford Health System has offered at Bemidji for the hospital and Todd County's request for \$500,000 toward a \$1 million project to build a community center for economic development, senior nutrition and healthy living at Eagle Bend.

Cass Environmental Services Director John Ringle reported the county will receive an \$83,590 Board of Soil and Water Resources grant to complete subsurface sewage treatment system inspections on Boy and Swift Lakes, for an imminent health threat fix-up grant and for a match to lake and home owner associations to reduce surface runoff into lakes and manage storm water.

He also reported the county has been awarded a \$35,000 Clean Water Legacy Funding grant to assist Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe with designing and developing a central sewer system for properties where individual systems are failing at Sugar Point on the east side of Leech Lake.

Cass will now submit an application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for further funding for that project.

Cass will receive \$56,171 for the sheriff's department boat and water safety program in 2012.

Assessor Mark Peterson noted people wanting to object to the valuations the county has set on their property must appear first at their local Board of Review. Dates and locations are stated at the bottom of valuation reports mailed to property owners this month.

If their concerns are not sufficiently addressed at the local meeting, property owners then may make an appointment to be heard by the county's Board of Equalization at the courthouse in June.

Anyone having questions can contact the assessing department by calling (218) 547-7298.

Gail Leveson, Cass County Economic Development (EDC) director, reported Craig Anderson, owner of Trussworthy Components in Pine River has completed purchasing delivery trucks and hiring new staff to drive the trucks through assistance from the EDC.

She also reminded the public of the following area business seminars: Business Basics, 6 to 9 p.m. March 12 in Walker (free); Social Media Use in Business, 5 to 8 p.m. April 3 at Pine River Community Computer Lab (free); and QuickBooks, 5 to 8 p.m. April 9 at Pine River Community Computer Lab (\$70). Registration is required for all seminars by calling (218) 947-7523.

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