



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

Requested Meeting Date: December 23, 2025

2G  
Agenda Item #

Title of Item: 2026 Natural Resources Advisory Committee Appointments

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing *provide copy of hearing notice that was published	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
---	--	---

Submitted by: Dennis (DJ) Thompson	Department: Land
Presenter (Name and Title):	Estimated Time Needed:

<b>Summary of Issue:</b> See attached memorandum.
--

<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>
---

<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Motion to re-appoint Steve Hughes, Tom Veenker, and Frank Turnock to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.
---

<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Please Explain:  All Committee members receive a meeting per diem of \$35 plus mileage reimbursement to and from meetings.
---	---	--



## AITKIN COUNTY LAND DEPARTMENT

---

502 Minnesota Ave N.  
Aitkin, MN 56431

acld@co.aitkin.mn.us  
phone: 218-927-7364

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 23, 2025  
**TO:** Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
David J. Minke, County Administrator  
**FROM:** Dennis Thompson, Land Commissioner  
**RE:** Natural Resources Advisory Committee Appointments

I have reviewed the applications for the three openings on the Natural Resources Advisory Committee. I recommend that Steve Hughes, Tom Veenker, and Frank Turnock be re-appointed as representatives for Commissioner Districts 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (218) 927-7364 or by e-mail at:  
[dennis.thompson@aitkincountymn.gov](mailto:dennis.thompson@aitkincountymn.gov)

## MINNESOTA OPEN APPOINTMENT ACT APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON COUNTY/STATE AGENCY

NAME OF AGENCY OR COMMITTEE YOU WISH TO SERVE ON:

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

Minnesota Statues 15.0597, state that the application shall include a "statement that the nominee satisfies any legally prescribed qualifications and any other information the nominating person feels be helpful to the appointing authority." (May include employment, community service experience, or education that would be pertinent to this appointment)

I believe that I can help manage and wisely use our forest resources and parks.  
Before I retired in 2022, I was District Manager of the Aitkin SWCD.  
For 37 years I worked directly with the protection of water quality, forest management, soil protection and serving our citizen clientele.  
I love Aitkin Co, and its resources.

I, the undersigned, hereby state that I satisfy, to the best of my knowledge, all legally prescribed qualifications for the position sought.

Steve Hughes  
Signature of Applicant

Nov 9, 2025  
Date

If applicant is being nominated by another person or group, the above signature indicates consent to nomination.

Is this application submitted by appointing authority? Yes        No X

Is this application submitted at the suggestion of appointing authority? Yes X No       

Please return application to the Aitkin County Administrator's office, located at  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW – Room 310, Aitkin, MN 56431

NAME OF APPLICANT: Steve Hughes

STREET ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

39113 355<sup>th</sup> Street  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
SRHland57@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBERS:

DAYS 218-670-0363

EVENINGS       

For Office Use Only

Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Term Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Term #: \_\_\_\_\_

## MINNESOTA OPEN APPOINTMENT ACT APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON COUNTY/STATE AGENCY

NAME OF AGENCY OR COMMITTEE YOU WISH TO SERVE ON:

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Minnesota Statues 15.0597, state that the application shall include a "statement that the nominee satisfies any legally prescribed qualifications and any other information the nominating person feels be helpful to the appointing authority." (May include employment, community service experience, or education that would be pertinent to this appointment)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

I, the undersigned, hereby state that I satisfy, to the best of my knowledge, all legally prescribed qualifications for the position sought.

Thomas H Veenker  
Signature of Applicant

November 10, 2025  
Date

If applicant is being nominated by another person or group, the above signature indicates consent to nomination.

Is this application submitted by appointing authority? Yes        No X

Is this application submitted at the suggestion of appointing authority? Yes X No       

Please return application to the Aitkin County Administrator's office, located at  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW – Room 310, Aitkin, MN 56431

NAME OF APPLICANT: Tom Veenker

STREET ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

38211 State Hwy 18  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
tv4fish@centurylink.net

PHONE NUMBERS:

DAYS 218-678-3792

EVENINGS " " "

For Office Use Only

Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Term Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Term #: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment to Tom Veenker's application to serve on the Aitkin County's Natural Resources Advisory Committee representing District 2

Home address - 38211 State Highway 18, Aitkin, MN. 56431

Email address - [Tv4fish@centurylink.net](mailto:Tv4fish@centurylink.net)

Current occupation

Retired (2017) - Aitkin County Land Surveyor from 2001-2017 prior to retiring

Employment history

Aitkin County Surveyor (2001-2017)

Owner/President of All-Metro Development Consultants (Civil Engineering Co.) (1990-2001)

Vice President of Merila & Assoc. (Civil Engineering Co.) (1984-1990)

Branch manager of RCM Associates in Brainerd (Civil Engineering Co.) (1978-1984)

Community Involvements

Currently Chairman of the Wealthwood Township Board of Supervisors (2010-present)

Member of ACAT (Aitkin County Association of Townships) (2010-present)

Member of Aitkin County NRAC (Natural Resource Advisory Council) (2022-present)

Member of ACAT (Aitkin County Association of Townships) Board of Directors (2022-present)

Member of Aitkin County Board of Adjustment (2022-present)

I have enjoyed being a member of this committee and hope that I have contributed to the membership by providing "surveying related" information as needed. I also feel that I have learned some valuable information about this committee and constantly try to relay this information to other county residents that have questions about what this committee does and how it serves the community.

## MINNESOTA OPEN APPOINTMENT ACT APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON COUNTY/STATE AGENCY

NAME OF AGENCY OR COMMITTEE YOU WISH TO SERVE ON:

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

AITKIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT

3

Minnesota Statutes 15.0597, state that the application shall include a "statement that the nominee satisfies any legally prescribed qualifications and any other information the nominating person feels be helpful to the appointing authority." (May include employment, community service experience, or education that would be pertinent to this appointment)

I would like another term

I, the undersigned, hereby state that I satisfy, to the best of my knowledge, all legally prescribed qualifications for the position sought.

Franklin Turnock

Signature of Applicant

11-10-25

Date

If applicant is being nominated by another person or group, the above signature indicates consent to nomination.

Is this application submitted by appointing authority? Yes        No X

Is this application submitted at the suggestion of appointing authority? Yes X No       

Please return application to the Aitkin County Administrator's office, located at  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW – Room 310, Aitkin, MN 56431

NAME OF APPLICANT: Frank Turnock

STREET ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

13196 360th Street

McGregor, MN. 55760  
turnocks@frontier.net.net

For Office Use Only

PHONE NUMBERS:

DAYS 218-838-2515

EVENINGS       

Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Term Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Term #: \_\_\_\_\_