

Introductions: Pat Oman, Holly Wilson, Karly Fetters, Beth Crook, Kay Nastrom, Beth VanderPlaats, Ben Davis, Don Lorge, Michele McPherson, Daryl Moeller, Julie Peterson, Eric Bartusch, Mike Wimmer, Maggie Kuchenbaker, Char Kohlgraf, Paul Prokosch, Suzanne Lelwica

- Kay Nastrom addressed the Peacetime Emergency Declaration from Governor Walz through May 13, which is different than the Stay at Home order that expires May 4 and gives the governor additional resources that he can request going forward. The number of confirmed cases increased again, and the numbers from Monday/Tuesday did not accurately reflect cases reported over the weekend (since the deadline for reporting was moved from 8 p.m. to 4 p.m.). The lack of testing done over the weekend threw off the numbers for Monday/Tuesday. Currently, Minnesota has completed almost 40,000 tests. Mille Lacs County still currently has no confirmed cases. There are 16 other counties (besides MLC) with no positive cases. Counties are exploring issues such as homelessness and needs of the public; Mille Lacs County is listed as having a high need for homeless resources (Kay is aware of 94 homeless individuals in Mille Lacs County who are located on the reservation). As of yesterday there were 79 deaths, and 177 hospitalized with 75 in ICU. It is unclear how many of the individuals in ICU are on oxygen-only vs. needing a ventilator.
- Don Lorge changed out the front office staff so the 3 who were at home are now working, and the 2 who were working are now at home.
- Julie Peterson said that the Peacetime Emergency declaration gives the governor authorization to continue to address the COVID-19 needs, and a Stay at Home order extension would need to be separate. The order also aims to help small businesses.
- Pat asked managers to direct employees to ASO if they have questions that department heads cannot answer regarding what may happen over the next few weeks. Departments are working to slowly bring people back if needed or if they became essential after the initial 2-week period. Holly provided an overview of the policies in place to help employees if they are out of sick time, but noted that employees must use their accrued time prior to going into unpaid status when Daryl Moeller asked if employees could elect to go into unpaid status. Karly also added a comparison of the flexibility of policies to allow for paid time and the efforts Mille Lacs County has made to keep employees working (as opposed to furlough/layoffs) and did a brief comparison of some other counties.
- Pat reviewed the 4/7 Board meeting that was conducted electronically and said it went well. The same or similar platform is planned for the 4/21 Board meeting. Staff is looking into video conferencing as an option and plans to have more information for that approach by the end of the week. The board agenda will be fairly modest but a work session is planned.
- Noelan will be switching up staffing for custodians. There will be contractors around the building testing the system and they should be escorted by Cody & Jay, so Noelan asked employees to notify him if they see a contractor unescorted.
- Mike Virnig is working with staff who are teleworking, and on the teleconferencing/Board meeting setup. They are trying to come up with the best plan for the Board meeting and will most likely use WebEx. Technology Services are allowing employees to use Zoom for their work needs but they do have some concerns about confidentiality, so they are still working with other counties and benchmarking their technology uses. Aitkin, Morrison, & Pine Counties are all using

WebEx for their Board meetings so Mike will follow up with them to see how that is working for them.

- Kevin Schultz says Public Works is business as usual. Holly said the project for CSAH 2 & 32 is out for bids, and the advertisement is on the County website and Facebook. There are remaining projects that should be out for bids in the next few weeks; Reed & John are working remotely so the projects can keep moving forward.
- Ben Davis is having weekly meetings with fellow directors and has found that Mille Lacs County is generally consistent with what Probation Departments around the state are doing.
- Beth Crook is fully staffed with about 67 employees teleworking and 16 staff on-site. Staff are catching up over the last 2 weeks and providing support to teleworkers. Suzanne is happy to have “wonderful” child care providers who are providing child care to essential staff. CVS is seeing an increase in child protection reports, particularly related to drug use/overdoses. Beth VanderPlaats say SNAP benefits have increased to provide a household that is not receiving maximum benefits with a supplement to their monthly allocations. Kay says Community Health is still taking referrals for WIC & FHV and they are doing phone visits. The move to the ROC office from Wahkon is on hold but will be completed as soon as possible.
- Julie Peterson reviewed Executive Order 20-34 signed by the governor on Friday, which allows for MDH to share specific location information for confirmed COVID cases in Mille Lacs County with dispatch so they can make sure First Responders take proper precautions. If anyone knows or hears of entities with PPE needs they should send them to Julie so she can connect them with resources. Julie covered that the state is looking at options to move more herds into the food chain since some producers are looking at euthanizing herds/flocks due to food shortages, so if anyone has any suggestions on this topic they should contact Julie. Water levels in some areas of the county are very high, and the ice-out on Mille Lacs Lake caused some property damage to sheds/etc. in certain areas. The information for Severe Weather Awareness Week is on the county website; there will be a statewide tornado drill tomorrow. Mille Lacs County will not have a coordinated drill tomorrow, but that will be done the 1st Wednesday of the month after the Stay at Home order is lifted.
- Mike Wimmer says he has seen an uptick in businesses reaching out with growing stress around uncertainty of when/if they can open back up, and what it will look like when they do. He thinks there will likely be government restrictions on occupancy etc. Mike is continuing to provide information but is hearing from frustrations from the backlog of funding. Mike continues to participate in conference calls with economic developers, and is benchmarking what other counties are doing and getting ideas. The University of Minnesota is also holding weekly Zoom calls with community economic development teams.
- Dillon Hayes reported that Environmental Resources has been very busy, they have staff back who have been working hard. Corky & Steph are primarily teleworking but have some field visits, and Warren has been in the office intermittently.
- Maggie has been in the office every day for SWCD, and other staff are teleworking. Casey is continuing to rent out the interseeder, and SWCD is planning to have the tree sale pickup at the Public Works garage with a drive-through setup from 4-7 p.m. on May 7, 2020.
- Eric Bartusch has made some adjustments to bring Auditor staff on-site as needed, and the Treasurer’s Office staff have had their hours reduced. Most of the work in the A-T office is difficult to completely remotely so it is mostly being done in the office. They have not seen a

significant drop in property tax payments, but are conducting an ongoing review to see if offering other options may be needed. At this time there are a lot coming in. Eric thanked Technology Services for helping his staff with their technology needs.

- Michele McPherson says LSO is business as usual; phone calls have increased this week compared to last week. She appreciated having an Auditor staff person in the office to get through the backlog of documents in que waiting to be recorded. She is still seeing requests from abstractors for documents etc. Nathan is working in the office ½ time and teleworking the rest of the time, which is helpful since they have seen an increase in violation complaints.
- Daryl Moeller says the Assessor's Office has been busy and phone calls are picking up. He attended a meeting with the MN Association of Townships; townships have been instructed not to have any of their valuation meetings in-person (they should all be conducted virtually). 2 townships want MLC to give them information for call-in information they can use for meetings, 3 townships have requested to go away from in-person so Daryl needs to reach out to them as well as 5 townships that have not responded to him at all. 3 townships in the City of Princeton want to host their own meetings and they will likely use Zoom. The assessors are working well at home and are set up to continue working from home. The Assessor's Office paperwork is getting backlogged; Amisa worked Monday and will work Friday to get through a few things.
- Michael Virnig says the flyover is still in progress (the weather recently hasn't helped).
- Pat requested department heads to provide summaries of their work standpoint and any potential ongoing needs for him to review and filter through health/safety protocols. MLC is starting to move towards bringing people back slowly as the timeline lengthens and needs change, knowing it's important for departments to have the resources they need.

Adjourn at 10:26 a.m.