

Carver County Board of Commissioners  
October 17, 2006  
County Board Room  
Carver County Government Center  
Human Services Building  
Chaska, Minnesota

**County Board Work Session Agenda**

Time	Topic	PAGE
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	<b>1. Administrative Services</b>	
	1.1 Andrew Peterson Farm.....	1-4
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<b>2. Administration</b>	
	2.1 2007 Legislative Priorities.....	5-17

David Hemze  
County Administrator

Immediately following the Work Session the County Board has been  
invited to visit the Andrew Peterson Farm  
(located on Highway 5 between Waconia and Victoria)



# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## AGENDA ITEM : Andrew Peterson Farm

Originating Division: Administrative Services

Meeting Date: 10/17/06

Amount of Time Requested: 20 min

Attachments for packet:  Yes  No

Item Type:  Consent  Regular Session  Closed Session  Work Session  Ditch/Rail Authority

### BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Carver County Historical Society wishes to present the Commissioners with the background of the historic Andrew Peterson Farm. Arrangements are also being made for a site visit to the property immediately following the October 17 work session.

Andrew Peterson settled on his property in 1855 and most of the buildings he constructed still stand. In addition, Peterson kept a daily diary until his death in 1898, which gives insight into the lives of the pioneers. His 11 volumes of journals were used extensively by author Vilhelm Moberg during his research for his best-selling novels, beginning with *The Emigrants*. (More information about significance and property is attached.)

Located on Highway 5 between Waconia and Victoria, the farmstead is facing short-term and long-term threats due to maintenance issues and encroaching development. The Historical Society hopes that by working with other agencies that some viable options might be found to preserve the farm for future generations.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** This presentation is for information only. In the future, the Commissioners may be approached about including the Peterson farm in the 2030 comp plan or discussing other means of protecting the historic buildings.

### FUNDING

County Dollars = \$0

Other Sources & Amounts = \$

**TOTAL** = \$0

*Related Financial Comments:*

### FISCAL IMPACT

None

Included in current budget

Budget amendment requested

Other:

Reviewed by Division Director

Date: 10/10/06

### **Peterson Farm Situation**

The historic Andrew Peterson Farm (aka Rock Isle Farm) at 8060 Highway 5 is privately owned by two parties. A developer owns the northern section of the property which has one of the historic buildings. The rest of the historic buildings are owned by brothers Wade and Rick Holasek. The Holasek family has owned the property for thirty years. The Holaseks are willing to explore options for the property's future although they want their grandfather to be able to continue living on the property for the rest of his life.

While demolition by neglect is a concern, another is encroaching development. We want to work with the Holaseks (and the developer if he becomes willing) to explore options that would ensure the property's preservation for the future.

The Peterson Farmstead was listed on the 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites for 2006 by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. The Carver County Historical Society has used this listing as an impetus for planning. While the Historical Society has not been involved with private historic properties in the past, the Board of Directors believes that the historic significance of Peterson and his farm is too important to be left to chance. We have begun working with the Preservation Alliance, the State Historic Preservation Office, Carver County Parks, Carver County Land and Water Services, and Three Rivers Parks to discuss ideas.

### **Andrew Peterson Farmstead Background**

For fifty years Andrew Peterson and his farmstead have been the subject of many historians' research including Josphine Mihelich's *Andrew Peterson and the Scandia Story* (Ford Johnson Graphics, 1984) and the 2001 Minnesota Book Award winner *The Haymakers*, by Prof. Steve Hoffbeck (MHS Press, 2000). The farmstead also received special notice in the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office 1978 publication *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*. Written by Ted Lofstrom and Lynne Van Brocklin Spaeth, the guide states, "The significance of the Andrew Peterson farm lies both in the preservation of the farmstead and in the historical stature of Andrew Peterson himself."

Andrew Peterson was born in Sweden in 1818 and came to the USA in 1850 where he worked in Burlington, IA briefly. While in Burlington, Peterson joined a group of Swedish Baptists under the leadership of Fredrik Olaus Nilsson, who had fled Sweden to escape religious persecution. In the spring of 1855, the group moved to Minnesota and made claims in what was to become Laketown Township in Carver County. Peterson's log cabin was where the Scandia Swedish-Baptist Church was founded in 1855, becoming the birthplace of the Minnesota Swedish Baptist Conference.

In 1850 Peterson started a diary which he continued to his death in 1898 and which was to bring him posthumous fame. Peterson's diary records the

construction of his first log house in 1855 and the establishment of the Scandia Swedish-Baptist Church. Terse, unembellished entries record his marriage in 1858, the construction of his new house between 1867 and 1870, the birth of his nine children and his increasing prosperity and prominence in the local community. According to Lofstrom and Spaeth, "The diary is also a priceless sociological record that details the seasonal rhythm of hard work that was pioneer life and the system of barter, shared labor and mutual aid vital to the settlers' success."

During his lifetime, Peterson was best known for his efforts to develop varieties of apples and other fruits that were hardy in Minnesota. He began his experiments in 1856. By the 1870's he had discovered several apple varieties that bore well and were hardy in Minnesota. By 1875, his principal income came from selling hardy apple trees. He continued his experiments throughout his life and his efforts were primarily responsible for the establishment of a viable fruit industry in Minnesota. He was a member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society and frequently published reports in *The Minnesota Horticulturist* and *The American Agriculturist*. He was named an honorary life member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society in 1888.

Peterson died in 1898 and his diary was donated to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1939. Peterson seemed destined to become a historical figure of minor importance in Minnesota. However, in 1948, the prominent Swedish novelist, Vilhelm Moberg, discovered the diary and made extensive use of it in his writings about Swedish emigration to America in *The Emigrants* (1951), *Unto a Good Land* (1954), *The Settlers* (1956), and *The Last Letter Home* (1961). These books were named the best Swedish novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

And while many people in Carver County want to see the Peterson Farmstead preserved, there are many Swedes from Peterson's ancestral home who are also working for its preservation. The Andrew Peterson Society was formed in Sweden in 2003 following a well-attended "Andrew Peterson Day" event and a museum exhibit featuring Peterson. According to the Andrew Peterson Society's website at [www.andrewpeterson.se](http://www.andrewpeterson.se), "The organization aims to create an interest in and add to the knowledge of Andrew Peterson's life and work before and after his emigration. It is also a purpose to increase the knowledge of the Swedish society that Andrew Peterson left behind at the time of the emigration. The organization also aims to increase awareness of the significance of emigration for the development of society, and work towards bringing to life the memory of Andrew Peterson and his achievements and the times in which he lived."

Four members of the Andrew Peterson Society will be coming from Sweden to work on the roof and windows of the granary during late October. (A site visit is being planned for any interested Commissioners.) The Swedes are paying for their trip and for partial cost of building materials. Area families are providing housing, meals, and transportation and others are locating materials. All parties

are hopeful that this work will enable the granary to survive many more winters.

The Andrew Peterson Society website may have best summed up the importance of preserving this site. "If Andrew's old farm buildings contain gaps in their story, the diaries make up for it. By the same token, the farm can bring life and color to the diary entries. Seen separately, Andrew's farm and his diaries are fascinating and important historical sources. Combined, they probably make up the most complete account of a Swedish settler's life in North America."

### **The Buildings**

Five elements of the early Andrew Peterson Farmstead remain intact in their original location.

- The farmhouse, built between 1867 and 1870, is a two story frame structure with a simple gable roof. The house is somewhat unusual in that it was originally and still is, sheathed with vertical siding. Triangular windows embellish the gables. The buff-brick kitchen wing was added at a later date. The porch on the south side was rebuilt in its present configuration after Peterson's death and rests on a concrete foundation.
- The North barn dates back to Peterson's lifetime. It is a story and a half bank-barn built of hand hewn framing on field-stone foundations and is sheathed in board-and-batten siding.
- The South barn was also built during Peterson's lifetime. It is built in the same style as the North Barn.
- The north half of the "Log House" or granary is of hand-hewn horizontal log construction. The south half is a later addition of hewn timber frame construction. Notes in Peterson's handwriting recording grain transactions with his neighbors embellish most of the flat surfaces inside the building.
- The smoke house is of buff brick and is generally considered part of the original farmstead.
- Later additions to the farm include the c. 1917 dairy barn and machine shed. The garage immediately to the north of the house was build recently by the current owner. Perhaps the most significant missing element is Andrew Peterson's orchard, which is completely gone.

Most of the buildings are in need of some level of repair. However, the State Historic Architect, Mark Buechel, visited the property in July and stated that most buildings do not need extensive repairs.



# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**AGENDA ITEM : 2007 Legislative Priorities**

Originating Division: Administration

Meeting Date: 10/17/06

Amount of Time Requested: 90 minutes

Attachments for packet:  Yes  NoItem Type:  Consent  Regular Session  Closed Session  Work Session  Ditch/Rail Authority**BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION OF AGENDA ITEM:** A first draft of Carver County's 2007 legislative priorities is attached. Staff will be reviewing these issues and looking for Board direction during this work session.**ACTION REQUESTED:** Board direction.**FUNDING**

County Dollars = \$

Other Sources &amp; Amounts =

= \$

**TOTAL**

= \$

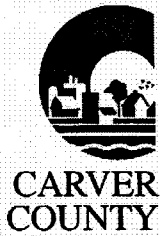
*Related Financial Comments:***FISCAL IMPACT** None Included in current budget Budget amendment requested Other: Reviewed by Division Director

Date: 10/2/06



# **2007 Carver County Legislative Priorities**

**10/02/06 Draft #1**



## Executive Summary

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This document represents Carver County's legislative priorities for the year 2007. The County requests the support of the entire legislative delegation in on the following issues.

- Issue #1: Wheelage Tax**
- Issue #2: Mn/DOT Chaska Truck Station**
- Issue #3: Local Bridge Repair & Replacement Program**
- Issue #4: Federal FY 2008 Transportation Appropriations**
- Issue #5: Park and Open Space Funding Operation and Maintenance**
- Issue #6: State Funding for Federal Deficit Act Reduction Revenue Losses**
- Issue #7: MR/RC Waiver County Allocation Over Spending Repayment**
- Issue #8: Support Full Funding for the Local Implementation of the Local Public Health Act for Support of the Public Health Infrastructure**
- Issue #9: E-Waste -- Getting Rid of Old TVs and Computers Responsibly**
- Issue #10: Clean Water Legacy Act Impaired Waters Program Funding**

The background and requested position related to each of these issues is described in this document. Carver County looks forward to working directly with its legislative delegation to successfully enact this list of priorities.

Commissioner James Ische  
Chair, Carver County Board of Commissioners

David Hemze  
Carver County Administrator





**CARVER  
COUNTY**

## **Issue #1: Wheelage Tax**

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### **Background**

Current law allows counties in the metropolitan area to impose a wheelage tax. However, the law mandates that counties must reduce their transportation levy by the amount of revenue raised by the tax. It also limits the maximum tax to \$5 per vehicle and limits the proceeds to only being spent for highway purposes. The wheelage tax option should be extended to all counties and the levy offset, and the \$5 cap should be repealed. The revenues raised should be allowed to be used for both highway and transit purposes. The 2005 Legislature authorized counties to impose a county wheelage fee of up to \$20 per vehicles and eliminated the transportation levy offset. However, Governor Pawlenty vetoed the transportation funding package that included this provision.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislation repealing the transportation levy offset and the \$5 per vehicle tax cap in the current county wheelage tax law.**



## Issue #2: Mn/DOT Chaska Truck Station

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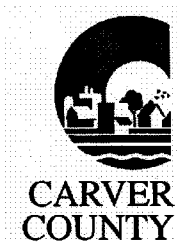
### **Background**

Over the past couple years, Mn/DOT has discussed the possibility of partnering with Carver County in the establishment of a joint use truck station located in the area of the New TH 212 interchange and CSAH 11 (Formerly CR 147). The proposed co-tenancy in the new maintenance facility would provide the opportunity for the relocation of the County's Chaska Highway Maintenance operations from its current location.

State funding of the truck station facility was considered by the 2006 State Legislature but not included as part of the approved bonding package for State building facilities.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislation funding the construction of the Mn/DOT Chaska truck station.**



## **Issue #3: Local Bridge Repair & Replacement Program**

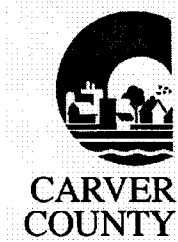
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### **Background**

Carver County has experienced significant population growth and has bridges that may be structurally sound but are no longer capable of handling increased traffic volume. These operationally deficient bridges should be eligible for funding under the State bridge funding program. Bridges that are functionally obsolete or structurally deficient and new bridges on new or existing alignment should be eligible for funding under this program.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislation adding a "new bridge" category to the Local Bridge Repair & Replacement Program to fund the construction of new bridges on new or existing county highway alignments where new bridges are needed to address highway network deficiencies caused by significant population growth and traffic volume increases.**



## **Issue #4: Federal FY 2008 Transportation Appropriations**

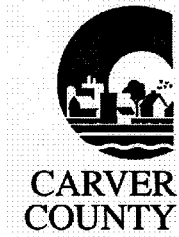
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### **Background**

Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition submits requests to members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation for legislation to fund various transportation projects impacting Carver County and the surrounding area.

### **Requested Position**

**Support Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition initiatives seeking federal legislation to fund various transportation projects impacting Carver County and the surrounding area.**



## **Issue #5: Park and Open Space Funding Operation and Maintenance**

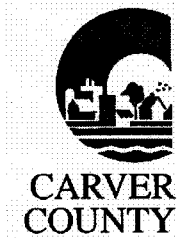
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### **Background**

Metro Council and Regional Park Implementing Agencies are considering a legislative change to operations and maintenance funding.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislation to change the State's funding for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Area Regional Parks as defined by the finalized position of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council.**



## **Issue #6: State Funding for Federal Deficit Act Reduction Revenue Losses**

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### **Background:**

Congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) in January 2006. DRA impacted a number of federal revenue sources that funded services provided by county social services departments. The largest of the impacts was to Targeted Case Management that is funded through Medical Assistance (Medicaid). For Carver County this amounts to a projected loss of \$750,000 in federal revenue that reimbursed case management services provided by county social workers to children and families, mentally ill persons, developmentally disabled individuals and vulnerable adults. Federal and state laws mandate services to these populations but the feds removed the funding and left the mandates. The County also projects that \$20,000 will be lost in federal revenue for social rehabilitation services for mentally ill adults. The DRA discontinued the practice of using federal child support incentive dollars to claim standard child support Federal Financial Participation (FFP) at 66%. The Paternity FFP of 90% was lowered to the standard child support FFP of 66%. The child support provisions are effective October 1, 2007. The CY2007 impact of the child support provisions is \$27,000. Annualized, that translates to \$108,000. If the county or state does not replace the lost federal revenue then the impact is \$80,000 for 2007 or \$320,000 on an annual basis.

The 2006 Legislature did not pass any legislation that provided funding to offset the loss of federal revenue from the DRA. The services are mandated. In essence, the state has let the loss of federal revenue slide down to the counties.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislative changes that provide state funding to replace some or all of the federal revenue that has been reduced by the Deficit Reduction Act.**



## **Issue #7: MR/RC Waiver County Allocation Over Spending Repayment**

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### **Background:**

For CY2004 nine counties spent in excess of their Mental Retardation/Related Conditions (MR/RC) Waiver Allocation were required to reimburse the federal and non-federal share of the excess expenditures to the Department of Human Services. The statewide expenditure for the MR/RC Waiver was 18 million dollars under the statewide allocation.

As part of the State's budget crisis solutions, legislation was passed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session in 2003 that made County agencies responsible for 100 percent of any spending in excess of the MR/RC Waiver Allocation. In CY2004 nine counties over spent their county allocation. The statewide spending for the MR/RC Waiver was under spent by 18 million dollars. Counties were given an opportunity to make case specific appeals to the Department of Human Services. The Department evaluated the appeals, forgave some of the over expenditures and three counties, Carver, Fillmore and St. Louis County were still required to reimburse the state of it's over expenditures. In the 2006 Legislative Session the legislature granted a one year re-payment moratorium until May of 2007 for the over spending counties.

Carver County's CY2004 over expenditure amount is \$540,710. Carver County has challenged the state's methodology in setting our MR/RC Waive allocation and the rebasing that has occurred as a result of the state budget crisis. Carver has the lowest per waiver average of the seven metro counties and the third lowest waiver average of the 20 largest counties in the state. Our MR/RC Waiver spending in CY2004 was the lowest amount per waiver of the seven metro counties and below the statewide average. The state's methodology of using actual expenditures to determine the new allocation would have an adverse affect on Carver County. In 2001 the state allowed an unprecedented open enrollment into the MR/RC Waiver. Carver County was caught short staffed and lacked providers, yet our waiver clients grew from 76 to 141. Individual service plans were formulated but the resources were not in the county to meet the client's needs. When the state took its expenditure "snap shot" in 2003 Carver County's service plans were not fully implemented. Those plans were fully implemented in 2004 but the waiver allocation had been revised. For 2002 Carver County was \$1.6 million under its waiver allocation.

### **Requested Position**

**Support legislative changes that allow reallocation of resources within the MR/RC statewide allocation and only seek repayment from over spending counties if the statewide spending exceeds the statewide allocation.**



## **Issue #8: Support Full Funding for the Local Implementation of the Local Public Health Act for Support of the Public Health Infrastructure**

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### **Background:**

In 2003, several state and federally funded public health programs were consolidated into one omnibus source for local public health activities, and then subsequently reduced by relying heavily on local property tax dollars to finance the public health system in Minnesota. The decrease was more than 30 percent in 2003.

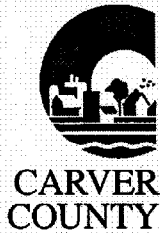
The allocation of funding to each county was based on a dated formula that did not consider changing demographics and rapid population growth. Consequently, the 2004 Legislature asked the Minnesota Department of Health to do a study on the public health formula and consider making a recommended formula change; unfortunately, the proposed --and more equitable-- formula recommendation was not enacted into law in 2005.

In Carver County, state funding for public health services decreased by approximately 30 percent in 2003; state and federal funding levels have remained stable (at the decreased amount) in 2004, 2005, and 2006. At the same time, the Carver County population increases have increased the demands and needs for disease investigation, surveillance, and disease prevention; an increase in risk behavior outcomes for youth and adolescents; and, at-risk mothers and babies.

### **Requested Position**

**Support the allocation of additional Local Public Health Grant dollars to Carver County and provide indexing factors to our funding to account for inflationary factors.**





## **Issue #9: E-Waste -- Getting Rid of Old TVs and Computers Responsibly**

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### **Background**

Metropolitan counties know it's vital to give residents easy, convenient options for recycling old electronics. But today, there is a patchwork of recycling options that makes it a challenge for citizens to properly get rid of unwanted electronics. Metro counties, working together through the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, don't believe that government alone should assume this responsibility

The Minnesota State Legislature recently prohibited putting TVs and computer monitors containing CRTs in the garbage, effective July 1, 2006. Therefore, there is a pressing need for easy, convenient options for recycling waste electronics, or e-waste. Also, Minnesota is not alone. Recent actions in other states and countries are building momentum for electronics recycling.

As the problem of e-waste grows, metro counties support a solution that involves consumers, government and electronics manufacturers in addressing the problem. The SWMCB wants consumers to seek recycling options for e-waste, government to help citizens find good options, and manufacturers to share the cost of collecting and recycling of products they produce.

### **Requested Position**

**Support electronic waste legislation that incorporates the following features:**

- **Shared responsibility among manufacturers, retailers, generators as well as local governments that choose to participate in the management of electronic waste.**
- **Reliable and convenient recycling services for citizens.**
- **Recycling services for a broad range of electronic components including video display devices (VDD), central processing units, and associated peripheral products such as keyboards, mice, and printers.**
- **Responsible recycling and management of electronic wastes.**
- **The costs of recycling should be borne by manufacturers, retailers, consumers, or a combination thereof, without end-of-life fees. The cost of recycling should not be borne solely by local government.**



## **Issue #10: Clean Water Legacy Act Impaired Waters Program Funding**

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### **Background**

The Federal Clean Water Act requires states to determine whether their lakes and rivers meet quality standards. Waters that do not meet those standards are considered .impaired. and the state must develop plans that determine pollution sources and reduce overall pollution to a level that allows the water to return to a healthy condition. Until impaired waters are effectively restored to meet Federal standards, community economic development opportunities in Minnesota (including job creation and tax base enhancements) are compromised.

- Funding would provide for the continued assessment of the state's waters, determine pollution causes and sources, and fund clean up of our water.
- Some of the resources would go to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for assessment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that would benefit urban, suburban, township and rural residents by helping to determine the sources of pollutants, and a fair, scientifically sound and reasonable plan for reducing pollutant loads.
- The CWLA also creates new funding for communities to deal with existing and new regulatory requirements, including money for small communities to replace failed septic systems; subsidized loan funding for municipal wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water infrastructure.
- The TMDL testing will also ensure that as lakes and rivers recover, they are removed from the impaired waters list, eliminating the permitting restrictions of those areas as long as the water continues to meet standards.

### **Requested Position**

**Appropriate general fund monies to fund the assessment of the state's surface waters, prepare and implement TMDL (total maximum daily load) reports/projects, and remediate non-point sources of pollution within the state that are causing TMDL's to be exceeded.**