



Association of Minnesota Counties

April 14, 2023

Scott Arneson
Goodhue County
509 W 5th
Red Wing, MN 55066-2540

Dear Scott:

We are writing to provide your county some information about an exciting opportunity that has been developed by the Boards of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Interstate Region (WIR). NACo and WIR have established the National Center for Public Lands Counties to create an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the planned work of the center to use new and traditional media to tell these stories as well as develop detailed, individual research and written county profiles. This document also outlines plans for staffing, governance, and financing of the center.

To finance this endeavor, NACo and WIR are looking for a voluntary investment of \$15 million over the next two years. That amounts to one percent of the recently distributed Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) a flexible, targeted federal investment in public lands counties. We are reaching out to you because Goodhue County is considered a public lands county for the purposes of distributing LATCF dollars. A contribution equivalent to one percent of the LATCF allocation would amount to a total of \$1,000 for your county over two years.

This new center will be a valuable resource for counties throughout the country. On behalf of AMC, NACo, and WIR we encourage your board to give serious consideration to financial participation in the center. NACo and WIR are hoping to have a sense of how many counties are interested in participating by mid-May. Your board does not need to have acted by then, but please let Ryan Erdmann at AMC know the likelihood of your county's participation (erdmann@mncounties.org or 651-789-4345). If there are questions that are not covered by the enclosed fact sheet, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ryan or to either of us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner
President, Association of Minnesota Counties
1st Vice President, National Association of Counties

Rich Sve, Lake County Commissioner
Western Interstate Region Board Member

National Center for Public Lands Counties

County governments are a leading voice in the intergovernmental partnership in responsible resource management. Understanding our unique role as co-regulators and conveners, Congress has consistently supported appropriations for critical programs like Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and granted new authorities to federal lands agencies to broaden the scope, pace and scale of their on-the-ground resource management work with local governments.

To truly benefit from these unique opportunities and investments, counties must accelerate our evidence-based research, peer information exchanges, and overall understanding of our lessons learned, emerging trends analysis, and priority public policy issues.

The NACo and WIR Boards of Directors therefore established the National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center) to give public lands counties an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America. The Center will utilize traditional and new media—such as podcasts and video interviews—to tell these stories and also develop detailed, individual research and written county profiles focused on:

- County partnerships with federal agencies, states, tribes and other counties to reduce wildfire risk, responsibly develop energy and minerals, improve public access to federal lands, protect watersheds, conserve species and their habitat, and protect our national parks and other natural treasures
- County investments of PILT, SRS and other natural resource revenue payments to benefit residents, visitors and surrounding public lands
- The different economic drivers in rural vs. urban public lands counties
- Development and implementation of county natural resource management plans and baseline socioeconomic data for environmental analyses
- Resource values of federal lands compared to nearby privately owned lands
- Meeting the unique challenges facing public lands counties, such as housing affordability for residents and federal employees, ensuring a stable tax base to deliver critical services, and managing infrastructure on federal lands

For the Center to meet its mission and serve as a long-term tool for public lands counties, a voluntary investment of \$15 million over the next two years is needed to hire the necessary staff to conduct this critical research and keep the Center on a sustainable financial course. Initially, the Center will need 1-2 hard-working, passionate and talented writers who can help tell the county story. The Center will report to the NACo and WIR Board of Directors on its financial health and issue an annual report at the annual WIR Conference.

The Center's governing body, which will :

- WIR Executive Committee (President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Immediate Past President)
- NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Chair
- NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Subcommittee Chairs
- Federal Lands Gateway County Official appointed by the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Chair
- NACo West Region Representative
- NACo Executive Director
- Executive Director from WIR Immediate Past President's home state

- NACo Public Lands Legislative Director and WIR Liaison, serving as NACo staff liaison to the governing board

The Center's governing board will also be empowered to develop an annual workplan based on the research priorities selected by the WIR Board of Directors and NACo Public Lands Steering Committee. At the WIR Annual Conference each May, the WIR Board of Directors and the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee will review the activities and performance of the Center, and consider and adopt the proposed workplan for the next year.

In order to leverage the expertise of NACo's public lands membership, the governing board will also have the ability to appoint research subcommittees made up of county officials, based on the research priorities selected by the WIR Board of Directors and NACo Public Lands Steering Committee, to coordinate and oversee the research efforts of the National Center. Research work conducted by the National Center will be non-partisan, aligned with NACo policy and priorities and will not directly conflict with the interests of any county.

NACo staff contact: Jonathan Shuffield, NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands, at 512.965.7268 or jshuffield@naco.org

Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund - Minnesota Allocations

State	Recipient Name	FY22 Allocation	FY23 Allocation
Minnesota	Aitkin County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Anoka County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Becker County	\$83,593.59	\$83,593.59
Minnesota	Beltrami County	\$198,956.71	\$198,956.71
Minnesota	Big Stone County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Blue Earth County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Brown County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Carver County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Cass County	\$689,173.70	\$689,173.70
Minnesota	Chippewa County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Chisago County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Clay County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Cook County	\$1,019,951.31	\$1,019,951.31
Minnesota	Cottonwood County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Crow Wing County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Dakota County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Douglas County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Faribault County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Freeborn County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Goodhue County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Grant County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Hennepin County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Houston County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Hubbard County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Itasca County	\$735,435.79	\$735,435.79
Minnesota	Jackson County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Kandiyohi County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Kittson County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Koochiching County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Lac qui Parle County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Lake County	\$580,463.07	\$580,463.07
Minnesota	Le Sueur County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Lincoln County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Lyon County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Mahnomen County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Marshall County	\$98,417.13	\$98,417.13
Minnesota	Martin County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	McLeod County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Meeker County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Mille Lacs County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund - Minnesota Allocations

State	Recipient Name	FY22 Allocation	FY23 Allocation
Minnesota	Morrison County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Mower County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Murray County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Nobles County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Norman County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Otter Tail County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Pine County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Pipestone County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Polk County	\$62,293.54	\$62,293.54
Minnesota	Pope County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Ramsey County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Renville County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Rice County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Rock County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Scott County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Sherburne County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Sibley County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	St. Louis County	\$1,357,171.53	\$1,357,171.53
Minnesota	Stearns County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Steele County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Stevens County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Swift County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Todd County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Traverse County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Wabasha County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Waseca County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Washington County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Watonwan County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Wilkin County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Winona County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Wright County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Minnesota	Yellow Medicine County	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

These MN Counties do not meet the Treasury definition of "revenue-sharing counties": Benton, Carlton, Clearwater, Dodge, Fillmore, Isanti, Kanabec, Lake of the Woods, Nicollet, Olmsted, Pennington, Red Lake, Redwood, Roseau and Wadena