

AIS Advisory Committee

Wednesday September 10th 10:00am

Wright county Courthouse

10 2nd St NW Buffalo, MN 55313 Rm 122

MINUTES

In attendance: Luke Johnson, Mike Zieska, Alicia O'Hare: Wright SWCD; Greg Kryzer: County Attorney's Office; Christine Husom: County Commissioner; Chris Hector, Jim Gray: WRIP Lake Association Governance Council; Todd Hoffman: Wright County Sheriff's Department; Jeff Herr: City of Annandale Police Department; Jefferson Bishop: Anchor Dock and Lift; Heidi Wolf (phone): MN DNR

Enforcement

Gray indicated the penalty associated with the ordinance should be changed to a petty misdemeanor and have the owner of the tow vehicle co-liable for the fine, which should have a max of \$300.

Kryzer indicated that in Wright County, based on past experience, a more likely fine would be \$50, but could be made a payable so it doesn't have to go to court.

Herr said there is a need to prove who was driving.

Hoffman indicated that as the ordinance is now, there is a need to contract for the deputy's time. Much like how cities without a police department do. Cannot pay for just the hours used.

Zieska stated that this is a major issue for the County so all options should be kept on the table for discussion and explored as much as possible.

Hector indicated with fines collected from citations will help fund the deputy. Also liability must include the owner of the tow vehicle to reduce investigation costs.

Hoffman responded there are state statute problems with having the co-owner liable.

Gray asked why the county could not enforce a parking ticket style ordinance

Kryzer indicated that the county has no authority to restrict parking at the access.

There was agreement that citations need to be written for the program to work, or no one will follow the ordinance.

Kryzer suggested a "speeding trap" style of enforcement to help identify the person.

Hoffman indicated that it is difficult to know how long the investigation time will take, maybe 30-45 minutes, then it needs to get sent to the county attorney's office.

Kryzer indicated that it may be better if the ramp checks were done by the park ranger or a peace officer.

Jeff Herr suggested other options for utilizing the regional system while having checks at the access such as a gate with a key pad.

Wolf indicated that DNR is not looking at gates because that could be viewed as restricting access on a DNR boat ramp.

There was agreement that using the "rover" is much more economical. O'Hare indicated that the information collected by the rover could be adjusted to meet the needs of law enforcement. Including the possibility of pictures, GPS, etc.

Hoffman asked if there was any possible funding from the DNR. Wolf responded that she knew of nothing available.

Next Meeting

There was agreement that the next meeting should be in 2 weeks. O'Hare will send an email to schedule.