Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.
Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.
Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

AGENDA

Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners
Emergency Meeting

05/20/2026
9:00 AM
County Board Room, 3rd Floor, Historic Courthouse, Brainerd MN

*Note: Times are approximate

The agenda has been published as shown below but is subject to change to include such business as may come before the Board.

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR BY MICROSOFT TEAMS (CALL 218-302-1725, CONFERENCE ID: 465 302 183#); LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE AT WWW.CROWWING.GOV OR ON THE CROW WING COUNTY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD MAY ATTEND REMOTELY

1. **9:00 AM Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Flanders Wild Fire**

   2.1. Sheriff's Office Update

   2.2. Public Health/Red Cross Update

   2.3. County Highway/Engineering Update

   2.4. Environmental Services Supervisor Update
   - Authorize Special Timber Auction for June 1st, 2026, at 8:00am in the Land Services Meeting Room 1 & 2.

   2.5. Resolution Renewing Declaration of Local Emergency and Local Disaster Related to the Flanders Wildfire

3. **Adjournment**

For more information, call 218-824-1067
Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners meeting agendas are available online at
www.crowwing.gov

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Sheriff	Eric Klang and Clayton Barg
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER

AGENDA ITEM: Sheriff's Office Update

PREVIOUS ACTION:

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:
Provide an update on emergency operations.

Approximate length of presentation:

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Community Services	Public Health
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER

AGENDA ITEM: Public Health/Red Cross Update

PREVIOUS ACTION:

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:
Provide an update on the relief effort from Public Health and the Red Cross.

Approximate length of presentation:

Volunteers/Red Cross making sandwiches



Services Provided

- Opened Saturday with transition from temporary evacuation point to overnight shelter
- Sheltering of three guests and three pets
- Sheltering also provided by Camp Knutson
- Blankets, towels, toiletries
- Transitioned to Log Church on Monday morning as a temporary evacuation point.
- Information hub for residents
  - Current fire status
  - Evacuation sites
  - Donation needs
  - Volunteers


EXIT

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Highway and Engineering	Tim Bray
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER

AGENDA ITEM: County Highway/Engineering Update

PREVIOUS ACTION:

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:
Provide an update on the CSAH 11 construction project delay.

Approximate length of presentation:

CROW WING COUNTY MINNESOTA

MEMO

Date: May 19, 2026

To: County Board of Commissioners

From: Timothy Bray, County Engineer

Subject: CSAH 11 Project Timeline Decision – Flanders Wildfire Impact

CSAH 11 Project Status, Risk Assessment, and Recommendation

The CSAH 11 project, programmed for 2026, includes a 1.5-inch mill and overlay along the 11-mile corridor between CSAH 3 and Trunk Highway 6 southeast of Crosslake, along with a left-turn lane at CSAH 19, bridge approach improvements, and correction of subgrade deficiencies.

Active construction began the week of May 4. To date, Anderson Brothers (AB) has completed approximately $350,000 in project work, representing roughly 15% of the total project cost. This includes grading, paving, mobilization, construction signing, guardrail removal, and related work. Of this amount, approximately $256,000 represents County investment in grading, paving, and related improvements that could be vulnerable to damage or require replacement depending on future project conditions.

On May 16, a wildfire occurred, and CSAH 11 was closed to traffic to support emergency response efforts and protect public safety. On May 18, with the fire scene still active, the County Engineer directed AB to suspend operations to avoid interfering with emergency responders and maintain unrestricted access to the area.

Following the wildfire, the County learned that a hasty salvage harvest of approximately 1,000 acres of fire-damaged timber is expected to begin in early June. This operation may generate a substantial volume of logging truck traffic along CSAH 11, potentially approaching or exceeding 1,000 truck trips over several weeks and potentially into subsequent months.

The initial thought was to delay project completion until fall and allow logging operations to proceed first using the existing roadway surface. The concern with that approach was knowingly placing heavy logging traffic on a newly completed roadway surface, creating risk of early rutting, surface wear, and long-term performance concerns.

However, further review identified a greater concern. Portions of the roadway include recently completed grading and paving work that remain vulnerable to sustained heavy truck traffic. The greatest risk is not general wear to a completed roadway surface, but direct damage to unfinished roadway improvements and recently completed work that may not be intended to carry a prolonged concentration of heavy logging traffic before final project completion. This could place approximately $256,000 of County investment at risk of rework and additional cost. Because this project is funded through federal aid, rework costs beyond eligible project scope could become a direct County expense.

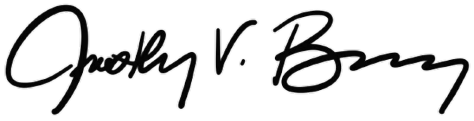
A secondary concern is financial exposure related to project delays. The current one-week suspension has already resulted in more than $12,000 in contractor costs related to demobilization and operational changes. AB has indicated that if the project experiences significant additional delays, total contractor costs could approach $165,000, including relocation of the bituminous plant and eventual remobilization. These costs would be in addition to any potential damage or replacement of already completed work. It also remains unclear whether rework, mobilization, or demobilization costs would qualify for state or federal emergency reimbursement.

The primary policy and financial decision is whether to restore contractor access and complete the project before logging operations begin, or delay construction and accept the risk of damage to unfinished roadway improvements and completed work. Based on current information, the greater financial risk appears to be allowing heavy logging traffic on unfinished roadway sections rather than completing the project first and limiting impacts to possible early rutting or surface wear on a finished roadway.

Recommendation: Restore contractor access to CSAH 11 beginning no later than Tuesday, May 26, contingent upon confirmation that unrestricted emergency response access is no longer significantly needed and allow Anderson Brothers to proceed with project completion before anticipated logging operations begin in early June.

AB has indicated that if work resumes by May 26, paving could be completed by June 5, with all remaining project work substantially completed by June 12, both dates being weather dependent.

Based on current information, this approach appears to present the lowest financial and operational risk to Crow Wing County.



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Land Services	Tom Strack
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER

AGENDA ITEM: Environmental Services Supervisor Update

- Authorize Special Timber Auction for June 1st, 2026, at 8:00am in the Land Services Meeting Room 1 & 2.

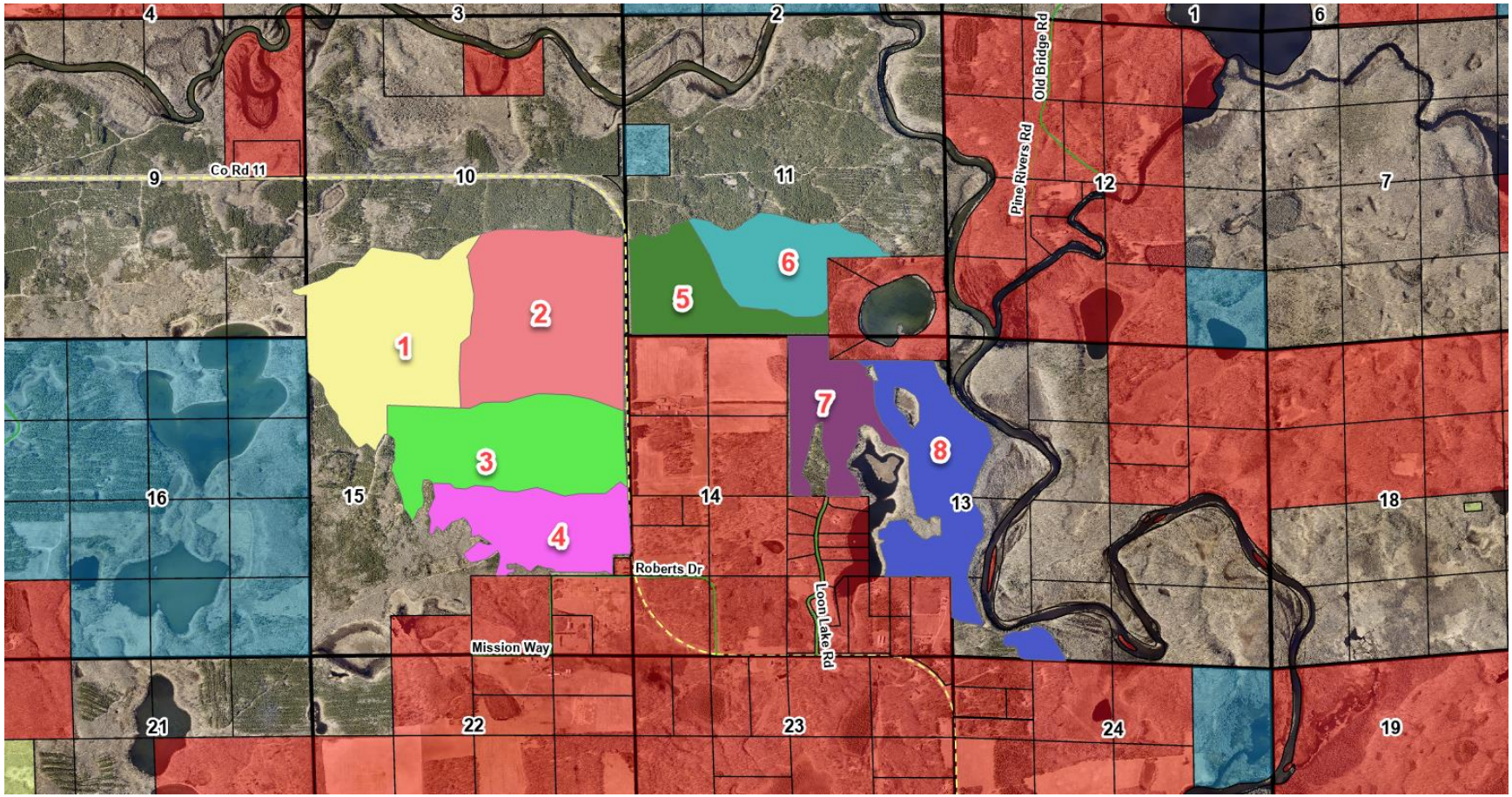
PREVIOUS ACTION:

COMMENTS:

- On May 16th 2026, the Flanders Lake Fire damaged a significant area of County Administered Lands in Mission Township.
- Staff have prepared numerous timber sales to salvage the dead standing trees and prepare the site for replanting in 2027 and 2028.
- Dead red pine this time of year are susceptible to blue staining as the result of a naturally occurring fungus. Once stained, the wood is unusable by most timber markets.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:
Approve Resolution (attached): Resolution for Authorizing Special Timber Sale

Approximate length of presentation:


4
3
2
1
6
Co Rd 11
9
10
11
12
7
Old Bridge Rd
Pine Rivers Rd
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
16
15
14
13
18
Roberts Dr
Loon Lake Rd
Mission Way
21
22
23
24
19

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Crow Wing County, Minnesota

DATE: **Resolution:**
OFFERED BY COMMISSIONERS: and
AYES: NAYS:

AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TIMBER SALE

WHEREAS, it is deemed to the best interests of the County of Crow Wing, State of Minnesota, that certain timber on said lands be sold for cash, subject to timber scale, in the manner provided by Minnesota Statute 282.04.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners of Crow Wing County, Minnesota, authorizes and directs the Land Services Director to sell to the highest bidder for cash, at not less than the value determined by the Board of Commissioners, and reserving the right to reject any or all bids, timber located on each of the tracts of land described in the list on file in the Land Services Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED additional conditions of the sale are governed by the County Board Resolution adopted January 11, 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED notice of a regular sale of such timber has been given by publication in the manner provided by Minnesota Statute 282.04, that the Land Services Director of Crow Wing County offer such timber for sale in the order in which they appear in said notice of sale and such sale shall commence on June 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Lower Level, Land Services Building, Brainerd, Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF CROW WING) *ss*

I, Deborah A. Erickson, County Administrator, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on < >, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this <X day of X, 20XX>.

_____

DEBORAH A. ERICKSON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Administration	Deborah A. Erickson
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	PRESENTER

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution Renewing Declaration of Local Emergency and Local Disaster Related to the Flanders Wildfire

PREVIOUS ACTION:
05/17/2026 - Chair Franzen signed the Declaration of Local Emergency, in accordance with MN Statute §12.29 and 12B.30.

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:
Approve resolution (attached): Renew Declaration of Local Emergency and Local Disaster Related to the Flanders Wildfire

Approximate length of presentation:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Crow Wing County, Minnesota

DATE: **Resolution:**
OFFERED BY COMMISSIONERS: and
AYES: NAYS:

Resolution Renewing Declaration of Local Emergency and Local Disaster Related to the Flanders Wildfire

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2026, Crow Wing County declared a State of Local Emergency and State of Local Disaster pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 12.29 due to the Flanders wildfire that began in Crow Wing County on May 16, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Flanders wildfire caused significant property and environmental damage and continues to pose a significant threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Crow Wing County; and

WHEREAS, Crow Wing County and affected municipalities continue conducting Damage and Impact Assessment activities for submission to Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to determine eligibility for fire management assistance grants and state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §§ 12.29 and 12B.30; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of emergency conditions requires that Crow Wing County maintain and extend its local emergency and disaster declaration in order to continue response, recovery, coordination, and assistance efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 12.29, that the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners hereby renews and extends the State of Local Emergency and State of Local Disaster due to conditions resulting from the Flanders wildfire beginning May 16, 2026, and continues to request state public disaster assistance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §§ 12.29 and 12B.30 for any eligible wildfire response and recovery activities.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF CROW WING) *ss*

I, Deborah A. Erickson, County Administrator, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on < >, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this <X day of X, 20XX>.

_____

DEBORAH A. ERICKSON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR