



## Bids awarded to identify land survey markers in county

Cass County Board

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Cass County Correspondent

WALKER - Cass County Land Commissioner Joshua Stevenson told the county board Tuesday bids the county received to engage firms to identify survey corner markers in the county ran about half the amount he had expected.

Stevenson divided the county into four areas for bidding and sought a separate bid to have old survey records the county recently purchased from the Curo family indexed. The county board awarded contracts to the low bidder in each bid area.

Northern Lights Surveying and Mapping Inc. will do the indexing for \$22,400. Northern Engineering and Consulting Inc. won the contract for Area 1 with a \$32,620 bid. Area 2 will go to Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. for \$30,500. Westwood Professional services won the contracts for Areas 3 and 4 with bids of \$40,576 and \$34,802.

Stevenson said, because the bids ran lower than he expected, a fund balance from the county's tax forfeited settlement will be sufficient to cover the \$160,898 total cost.

When this work is done, all township survey corners will be re-identified. This will not only cut labor costs for the county's survey work needed to identify property lines around sites where timber is cut or roads are laid, but it also is expected to lower survey costs for private property owners who engage a surveyor.

With many corner markers lost over the years, surveyors have increasingly had to go farther and farther from the property they were surveying to find a township corner as a primary reference point.

Stevenson reported the county sold 12,337 cords of wood from county administered lands in April, plus 50.9 board feet of red pine saw timber for a total price of \$280,607.52.

Ash was sold for the lowest cost at \$13.10 per cord, while white spruce brought the highest price of \$30.70 per cord. Aspen was up slightly to \$24.17 per cord.

The county board approved an updated Forest Resource Management Plan. Stevenson said the plan will be posted soon on the county's website, with

improved search features. The website is [www.co.cass.mn.us](http://www.co.cass.mn.us).

Cass sells haying rights on some county properties similarly to the bidding process for tree stumpage. Haying bids this year ran between \$25 and \$300, depending upon the acreage and hay. Stevenson said fewer people have submitted bids over the years. As tracts fail to get bids, those areas are being dropped from the program and will be re-seeded into future timber production.

North Fork Boulders and Excavating was low bidder to grade Bungo and Bull Moose Trails with \$600 and \$525 bids. Schrupp Excavating was low bidder to grade Beuber and Old Grade Trails with \$200 and \$700 bids. Sawyer Timber Co. will brush the Beuber Trail for \$480.

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