



CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2013

CONTACT: Chris Pence
218/824-1125

ON-LINE PERMITTING AVAILABLE IN CROW WING COUNTY

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department is pleased to announce that citizens can now apply for permits on-line. The new permitting software was designed by RtVision out of Little Falls, MN and provides a convenient way to apply for permits without having to come to the County Offices in Brainerd.

Access to the on-line permit system is as easy as following this link: <https://enviropermits.co.crow-wing.mn.us/>. All that is needed is an email address to log in to the system. The permitting system will also allow customers to pay required fees either with a check or credit card. The county will still accept paper permit applications but is encouraging the public to use the permitting system. Customers will be notified via email as the permit moves through the approval process so the customer knows where the permit is during the approval process.

Crow Wing County requires permits for new construction, additions to existing structures and septic systems. In addition, permits are needed for most landscaping activities around lakes. Site specific performance standards to protect county lakes and streams are now reviewed and approved prior to issuing a building permit. Properties that exceed 15% impervious surface coverage (hard surfaces such as driveways or roof tops) are required to submit a stormwater management plan that prevents water from a 1" rain event going directly into a lake or stream. Cumulatively, this resulted in an approximate reduction of 16 lbs of phosphorous or 8,000 lbs of algae impacting lakes and streams.

"We recognize that many of our customers are from the Twin Cities Metropolitan area and it's not always convenient to come to Brainerd to apply for a permit" stated Land Services Supervisor Chris Pence. "This new software will make it easier for folks to get the proper permits. It really means that permits applications can be submitted 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

Contractors should also find this permitting system to be a quick and convenient alternative to coming to the offices in Brainerd to apply for a permit. The permitting system will now allow contractors the opportunity to apply for permits when it is most suitable for them.

"The permitting software was completed with the customer in mind" stated Tom Girtz of RtVision. "The permitting system is user friendly and will provide a convenient and easy way to apply for permits.

Future enhancements to the permitting system include a site sketcher to draw the site plan for the proposed project. In addition, the permit system will eventually be expanded for permits and licenses in the Sheriff's Office, Auditor/Treasurer and Highway Department.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 to discuss land use questions or visit the Crow Wing County Web Site at www.crowwing.us for more information.

END