

REPORT OF THE 1995-1996 PONDERA COUNTY STUDY COMMISSION

The Pondera County Study Commission elected by the voters on November 8, 1994 or thereafter appointed, present this final report.

The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law, is "to study the existing form and powers of a local government and procedures for delivery of local government services and to compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state." After completing these two phases of the study it is the responsibility of the study commission to submit a final report recommending no change, or propose an amendment to the existing form of government or offer an alternative form of government to the qualified electors.

In every phase of this review this study commission sought advice and information from as many people in the county as possible. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials, community organizations and citizens. All meetings of the study commission were open to the public. Commission members listened to the viewpoints, ideas, and concerns of the community. Public hearings were held; a survey of citizen attitudes was made.

Our recommendations reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who participated in public hearings, those who attended our regular meetings, and those who responded to a survey, in addition to the independent efforts of this study commission.

In this final report we present our recommendations for an alternative form of government that we feel will provide the governmental services expected by the people both today and in the future. Our concern has been to provide a form of government that will be responsive to local citizens and provide the opportunity for devising solutions to local problems. We feel the citizens of Pondera County can achieve these goals by adopting an Alternative Form of Government. The present Commission form of Government; with the commissioners elected for a four year term and Commissioners, Clerk & Recorder, County Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk of Court, Public Administrator, Coroner, Superintendent of Schools elected on a nonpartisan basis.

The question of adopting this alternative form of government will be placed on the ballot November 5, 1996. We solicit your support for its adoption.

A subliminary report has been presented to the Pondera County Commissioners with none ballot issues

1. A recommendation for the County Commissioners to consolidate or contract the City of Conrad Law Enforcement with the Pondera County Law Enforcement.
2. A recommendation for the County Commissioners to look at reducing the County Superintendent of Schools to a part-time position or combining with another county(s) Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Erickson

Gerald Miller

Jeannetta Gunderson

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Pondera County Study Commissioners