



# STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

### **Aaron Vande Linde**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

**Director**

### **Office of School Trust Lands**

Effective: January 1, 2025

Expires: December 31, 2029

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed December 20, 2024.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

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JAN 7 2025

Filed December 20, 2024  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State, Steve Simon

President of the Senate

Reappointment

# Aaron M. Vande Linde

Attorney

## PROFILE SUMMARY

An experienced attorney and leader with demonstrated skills in Advocacy, Strategic Planning, Process Improvement, and Team Building. Over the past nine years Aaron successfully guided the creation of the Office of School Trust Lands by motivating a small staff to create operational policies to achieve organizational goals. Aaron consistently represents School Trust beneficiary interests by:

- providing effective leadership to design and implement strategies to meet the goal of school trust lands;
- establishing and fostering relationships with School Trust beneficiary groups and stakeholders; and
- collaborating with state agencies and non-profit partners on projects to ensure the sustainable use of school trust lands.

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### CONTACTS



651-216-6800



amvlesq@gmail.com



11609 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Coon Rapids, MN

### EDUCATION

2002

#### JURIS DOCTORATE

William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN

1995

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS, HISTORY

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

### SKILLS

ADVOCACY

STRATEGIC PLANNING

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

TEAM BUILDING

### WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2015 – PRESENT

#### SCHOOL TRUST LANDS DIRECTOR

Office of School Trust Lands | St. Paul, MN

President of the Senate

- Direct the Office of School Trust Lands analysis, advice and recommendations to state agencies and legislature related to school trust lands management.
- Coordinate annual legislative initiatives to improve school trust lands management and asset allocation with Permanent School Fund Commission and executive branch.
- Established the first ever School Trust Lands Strategic Plan through a collaborative process with state agencies, legislature, and multiple beneficiary and stakeholder groups.
- Leading implementation of the 2018 School Trust Lands Strategic Plan through annual strategic priorities related to operating environment, fiduciary integrity, innovation and strategic direction, and education and communication.
- Design communication plan and communication materials for use in quarterly interactions with the legislature, tribal nations, beneficiary groups, conservation organizations, industry representatives and local governments.
- Establish biennial budgets and corresponding annual work plans across multiple funding sources identifying specific accomplishments to achieve with the appropriated funds.
- Leading the State interagency team advancing the BWCAW land exchange projects with the USDA Forest Service and The Conservation Fund.
- Serve as temporary trustee for the School Trust during internal condemnation actions and internal land exchanges.
- Develop and advocate for appropriations to compensate the Permanent School Fund for prohibitive policies and designations.
- Represent Minnesota school trust lands at local, regional, state, and national meetings related to public policy for school trust land management.
- Collaboration with state and federal agencies, non-profit partners and local government on projects, policy and legislative initiatives to implement environmental services strategies on school trust lands.

## SOCIAL



linkedin.com/aaron.m.vande.linde



@amvlesq

## VOLUNTEER ROLES

2018 to Present

### **PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT**

National Association of State Trust Lands

2007 to Present

### **CHAIR / BOARD MEMBER**

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

City of Coon Rapids

## TRAINING

2015 & 2022

### **TRIBAL-STATE RELATIONS**

University of Minnesota

2013

### **EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE**

MMB | Enterprise Talent Development

2010

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

DNR | Advanced Strategies

2009

### **Management Development**

MMB | Enterprise Talent Development

## INTERESTS

• Avid Outdoorsman

• Alpine skiing

• Bird dog training

• Triathlons

**President of the Senate**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

(CONTINUED)

September 2012 – September 2015

### **SCHOOL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATOR**

Department of Natural Resources | St. Paul, MN

- Coordinated the department's school trust legislative policy functions to ensure key policy, natural resource, financial and budget issues were effectively addressed.
- Served as the business liaison for all financial aspects of school trust management including an analysis of revenue sources and department operating costs, quarterly review of revenue forecasts and market trends, and an evaluation of the flow of net distributions to the corpus.
- Organized the inventory of 2.5 million acres of school trust lands by employing a highest and best use analysis to guide department management decisions.
- Directed communication to department staff concerning school trust land management responsibilities in an ongoing effort to meet the fiduciary duty owed to the trust beneficiaries.

January 2009 – September 2012

### **TRANSACTIONS MANAGER**

Department of Natural Resources | Division of Lands & Minerals | St. Paul, MN

- Managed a staff of 18 in Transactions Unit comprised of attorneys, real estate professionals, project consultants, and support staff.
- Oversaw the Department's real estate program and transactions – acquisitions, sales, land exchanges, easements, leasing, and resolution of real property title disputes.
- Directed state ferrous and non-ferrous mineral lease programs through public auction of mineral leases, negotiation of mineral royalties, and legal actions to perfect mineral interests.
- Established biennial budgets and corresponding work plans across multiple funding sources for Transactions Unit identifying specific accomplishments for Unit to achieve with the appropriated funds.
- Developed bonding request for condemnation of school trust lands and represented Lands & Minerals on Department Capital Bonding work group.
- Project Manager for LCCMR request for a \$5,000,000 funding request in order to condemn old growth forests located on school trust lands.
- Designed a real estate services cost recovery project for Lands & Minerals, analyzed department goals and necessary staff to accomplish goals, and recommended professional service costs for real estate transactional work.
- Developed, in a team setting, recommendations for legislative changes to Minnesota law related to various real estate matters: BWCAW land exchange; length of easement terms on school trust lands; application fees for utility licenses, real estate leases, and mineral leases; additional reclamation fee for earth material leases; and modification to sale of surplus riparian school trust lands.

April 2006 – January 2009

### **SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

Sjoberg & Associates, PA | Ham Lake, MN

- Initiated and managed numerous civil litigation matters – shareholder derivative actions, mechanic's lien foreclosure actions, and real property title actions.
- Developed the firm's estate planning and probate practice.
- Negotiation and preparation of franchise agreements, vendor service contracts, and business asset purchase agreements.
- Advised small business clients on entity choice, capitalization issues, intellectual property matters, and business succession planning.

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