



MEMORANDUM

TO: Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB)

FROM: Sara Christenson, Randy Jenniges, and Gary Cerkvenik

DATE: July 16, 2014

RE: VNPCWJPB Update Information - July 2014
Koochiching and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota
STLCO 118965

Board Meetings

The last meeting held was at 10:00 a.m. at the Land Dept building on June 25, 2014. See the attached draft meeting minutes for details.

Action Requested: Motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting.

Kabetogama

There were two bids received – Wagner Construction and Utility Systems of America. The Bid Tab is attached and were higher than anticipated. At the last meeting SEH recommended to table award of construction contract at this time. The options included:

- a. Award Contract Now:
 - i. Wagner low bidder. Indicated \$200,000 could be removed from contract.
 - ii. Compute additional Funding from DNR Woodenfrog Connection
 - iii. Explore additional funding from IRRRB
- b. Award Collection System Only:
 - i. Compute additional Funding from DNR Woodenfrog Connection
 - ii. Explore additional funding from IRRRB
 - iii. Rebid treatment system only – Fryberger looking into this to see how quickly we can rebid and the ramifications of only awarding the collection system. Wagner will need to agree to enter into a contract for only the collection system portion.
 - iv. Nancy Johnson with PFA indicated that funding package will not change due to passing dates.
 - v. Wait to award collection system work until bids come back from the rebid of the treatment system to be sure the total project is still affordable.
2. Work with Scott Harder on all above options to determine affordability for the project for all above options. Proposed that monthly rates are computed for the options or combinations of options above. Also calculate what the rebid treatment system number and contribution from

other sources would need to be in order to make the project affordable – near the \$80 to \$90 range.

- House Bonding Bill - Woodenfrog Campground will be required to connect to the project. Once project is moving forward, send DNR a letter notifying them that bills will be sent to them starting on X date.
- There will be special meeting held on Wednesday, July 23rd at 7:00 pm at the new town hall/community center to further discuss the bids.

Ash River

Sara, Randy, and Mark held a meeting with Joe Rokala (DNR Land and Minerals) and Andrea Johnson (DNR Forestry) to discuss parcels that the DNR owns. See the attached minutes.

Crane Lake

The district held a public meeting on July 9, 2014 for the Bear Island and Handberg Road areas and specifically the ISTS management. The district submitted the MPCA grant application for the \$1.5 million in legacy funding. The district also held a special meeting regarding freezing issues of the existing system on July 15, 2014.

Island View

John Vigen and Scott Harder are working to complete a financial analysis along with a market assessment summary for the project like what was done on Jackfish Bay project. We received John Vigen's market assessment and are anticipating Scott Harder's report shortly. Once we are at a review point (hopefully soon), we will set up a sewer committee meeting to review the financial analysis, project schedule, and future public hearing. The group has been in discussion with Camp Kooch regarding a possible site for a detention tank and are working on a layout that works for all parties. As far as schedule, we believe we are looking at bidding this fall/early winter and completing all the construction in 2015.

Advisory Board Representative Updates

- Voyageurs National Park
- Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contract

Gary's contract was tentatively over May 31 and SEH's contract was tentatively over on June 30. However the current contract states these approximate deadlines, but does not have a time restriction until all of the contracted monies are given. There is currently approximately two to three months left in monies to pay for these contracts.

Meeting Dates

Action Requested: Propose and approve an upcoming meeting date.

If you have any questions regarding these items, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sara Christenson	Randy Jenniges	Mike Larson	Gary Cerkvenik
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Cc: VNPCWJPB Advisory Committee, Koochiching and St. Louis County Environmental Services staff, Project Area residents (upon request)

Att: VNPCWJPB Minutes from June, 2014, DNR Meeting Minutes, SEH Invoice, The Costin Group Invoice

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MEETING MINUTES

RE: Ash River Sanitary Sewer Project
Ash River, MN

Date of Meeting: 7/18/14

Project Manager: Sara Christenson

Time of Meeting: 9:30 AM

SEH No.: STLCO 121718

Location of Meeting: DNR Northeast Regional Office

Attendees: Andrea Johnson - DNR Forestry, andrea.johnson@state.mn.us
Joe Rokala – DNR Lands & Minerals, joe.rokala@state.mn.us
Randy Jenniges – SEH, rjenniges@sehinc.com
Mark St. Lawrence – St. Louis County Env. Services, stlawrencem@stlouiscountymn.gov

The following items were discussed at the above referenced meeting:

- I. Andrea, Joe, and Sara met at the DNR Northeast Regional Office, Randy and Mark called in on a conference call.
- II. Randy delegated the first portion of the meeting.
 - A. Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB)
 1. Includes the Namakan basin within two counties: St. Louis and Koochiching.
 - a. The board is made up of sanitary district members and county commissioners. St. Louis Commissioners include Keith Nelson and Mike Forsman.
 - b. The current projects being worked on are Island View, Crane Lake, and Kabetogama's Puck's Point Project.
 - B. Ash River Sanitary Sewer Project
 1. Estimated 3-5 year timeline before a project may begin
 2. No funding at this point
 3. Only preliminary study of the area completed
 4. Would most likely consist of a small diameter pressure system with pump stations, the treatment system may consist of an initial tank and mound systems. SEH would most likely also explore drip irrigation for treatment.
 - C. Ash River Treatment Site(s)
 1. DNR Land
 - a. Currently three parcels owned by the State of Minnesota are under investigation for treatment sites for a future sanitary sewer system.
 - b. Treatment footprint would most likely be similar to Puck's Point, in which 3-5 acre would be necessary for proper treatment, although the acreage may not be continuous in nature. The total acreage would depend on soil conditions.
 - c. St. Louis County Commissioners identified a DNR/County land exchange as a possible option for consideration.
 - d. Will explore various options, depending on what type of land it is (i.e. trust fund)
 - e. Mark St. Lawrence will contact St. Louis Land Department (Mark Weber) about the parcels and coordinate with St. Louis County Planning and Devolvement about exhibits on the parcels. These exhibits would include setback limits, contours, and assumed wetlands. These exhibits will be available within the next two weeks.
 - f. To date SEH has not considered any non-DNR administered lands for treatment sites.

- D. DNR Campground
 - 1. Possible assessments to state owned land that may generate waste will be a topic for discussion at future meetings.
 - 2. DNR will evaluate the three DNR administered parcels including one with campsites. The Division of Parks and Trails may manage the campsites.
 - 3. Randy stated, if it is waste generating, by legislation, it would have to be hooked up.
 - a. Need to explore the facility to determine if it would need to be hooked-up.
 - E. Future meetings
 - 1. Have meetings every 6-8 weeks to maintain relationship and give updates of the project.
 - 2. Joe will set up a meeting date and conference call
- III. The conference call ended, Sara recapped on the overall project.
- A. VNPCWJPB
 - 1. A brief description of what the VNPCWJPB is and its mission statement was given.
 - B. Explained the topography in the area
 - 1. Area is basically a rock valley with very steep slopes in areas.
 - 2. Many of the parcels are too small to have conforming sewer systems and bedrock is very shallow.
 - C. Ash River's Need for Sanitary Sewer
 - 1. Explained 73% of wastewater systems were non-conforming within the project area during the 2010 inspection.
 - 2. Photos consisted of the rock valley and also Google Street View of the River
 - a. The river in the photos show discoloration of the river.
 - D. DNR Land
 - 1. Ash River is an unorganized township, therefore the County creates ordinances for the area.
 - 2. Restated, the commissioners at the JPB meeting have discussed a Land Exchange.
 - 3. Soil Analysis would need to be done to help determine if the site conditions would be viable for sanitary sewer treatment.
 - a. Joe stated that SEH would be able to get an expedited approval to explore these parcel as long as exploration impacts are minimal.
- IV. The meeting adjourned

SEH believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Sara Christenson at 218.360.0463 or schristenson@sehinc.com.

c: Andrea Johnson
Joe Rokala
Randy Jenniges
Mark St. Lawrence
Lori Dowling-Hanson
Debra Filipovich