

**Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board
Meeting Minutes
St Louis County – Cook Public Works Building
May 21, 2025**

Board Members Present: Mike Jugovich (St Louis County), Destry Hell (Koochiching County), Jason Sjoblom (Koochiching County)

Others Present: Jason Chopp (SEH), Matt Gouin (Koochiching County), Ryan Logan (St Louis County), Matt Gouin (Koochiching County), David Sahli (MPCA), Laura Bellasalma (VNP), John Stegmeir (Kabetogama), Bob Degross (VNP), Brian Harmon (VNP), Deb Sanders (Ash River)

1. Call To Order/Establishment of Quorum:
 - a. Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Vice-Chair Sjoblom.
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Approval of Minutes from Aril 16, 2025
 - a. Commissioner's Hell/Jugovich motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
4. SEH/Advisory Board Representative Updates:
 - a. Ash River
 - i. No significant updates.
 1. Treatment design still being finalized with subconsultant.
 2. Ongoing property line survey work with St. Louis County.
 - b. Kabetogama
 - i. Continued work on collection system design.
 - ii. Executed contact with Archaeological subconsultant for summer work.
 - iii. Executed contract with historical property consultant
 - iv. Coordination with soil subconsultant for summer field work.
 - v. Continued work on temporary licenses. Low percentage of approvals so far for temporary licenses.
 - vi. Ongoing property line survey work with St. Louis County.
 - vii. Formal request submitted for purchase of state land.
 - c. Crane Lake
 - i. No updates
 - ii. HF478 to reduce the size of a quorum for small population sewer districts. This as passed the house and senate.
 - d. Koochiching County
 - i. Construction has made significant progress for the Rainy Lake RV Park project. Project to start soon with end of summer construction completion.

- e. VNP
 - i. Ongoing coordination with SEH at the Kabetogama Visitors Center.
 - ii. Legacy mound system removal at Rany Lake Visitors Center to start in early June.
 - iii. Discussion regarding VNP boat tour for St. Louis County Commissioners in the future.
 - iv. June 6, Grand Opening of the Crane Lake Visitors Center.
 - v. Bob DeGross is retiring on May 30th.
 - vi. Introduction of Brian Harmon, acting superintendent for Bob.
 - f. DNR
 - i. Not in attendance, no updates.
 - g. MPCA
 - i. No updates. Will be ready to review and approve work plans once funding is approved.
5. BL 25-01
- a. BL 25-01 was presented for the JPB to make application for 2026 Bonding Bill Funding for up to \$7M.
 - b. Commissioner's Hell/Jugovich motioned to approve BL 25-01. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Project Funding
- a. Clean Water fund bill approved and headed to Governor for signature.
 - b. General discussion regrading priority funding needs between the districts.
 - i. FY26 \$750,000 total funds
 - 1. \$450,000 Kabetogama, \$300,000 Crane Lake
 - ii. FY27 \$750,000 total funds
 - 1. \$450,000 Kabetogama, \$300,000 Crane Lake
 - c. Commissioner's Hell/Jugovich motioned to approve funding allocations to Kabetogama and Crane Lake as listed above. Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Ash River CWC funding extended
 - e. 2025 Bonding Funding not anticipated for Ash River
7. Pay Invoices
- a. The following April 2025 invoices were presented to the board.
 - i. \$2,500 Costin Group
 - ii. \$2,827.66 SEH
 - b. Commissioner's Jugovich/Hell motioned to approve the invoices. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Other Business
- i. June meeting date change required from the 18th to the 26th.
 - ii. The following meeting dates and locations were determined.
 - 1. June 26th – Kabetogama

2. July 30th – Koochiching County
3. August 20th – Ash River
4. September 24th – Crane Lake

9. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting will be June 26, 2025 (10AM) at Kabetogama Town Hall

10. Adjournment:

- a. Commissioner's Jugovich/Hell motioned to adjourn at 10:29 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Jason Chopp.



Commissioner Paul McDonald, Chair

Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board

Next Meetings

The next meeting was a hold in Crane Lake on May 21, 2025.

Action Requested: Minutes for Approval

Ash River

No significant updates.

- SEH survey team has completed survey on adjoining St. Louis County property lines for drawings and easements.
- SEH is meeting this week with Ash River to help assist and push for finalizing the design for the treatment site.

Action Requested: None

Kabetogama

- SEH is continuing work on the following tasks:
 - Collection system plans/drawings.
 - Received temporary license from St. Louis residents in preparation for survey and archaeology work this summer.
 - Continued coordination with the archaeologist to prepare for upcoming work this summer.
 - Continued to coordinate with Matrix Soils and Systems to have the treatment site soil conditions reviewed this summer.
 - Attendance at the Township meeting on May 6 to provide an update on the status of the project.
 - Update at the Joint Powers Board meeting at Township in June and visit the project site and residences to collect information and temporary licenses for project design.