



**Namakan Basin Sanitary Sewer Initiative**  
**Voyageur's National Park, St. Louis County, Minnesota**  
**Kabetogama Township, Crane Lake Township, Ash River Unorganized area**

**Frequently Asked Questions | Updated March 10, 2010**

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**1. What is the Namakan Joint Powers Board (JPB)?**

The Namakan Basin Joint Powers Board (JPB) was set up in 2009 to carry out a comprehensive planning project that prioritizes the area's wastewater treatment concerns within the Crane Lake Water and Sanitary District, Kabetogama Township, and the unorganized area around Ash River.

The members of the JPB include:

- Robert Nevalainen, Kabetogama Township
- Katy Ebel, Ash River Area
- Rob Scott, Crane Lake Township
- Keith Nelson, 6th District St. Louis County Commissioner
- Mike Forsman, 4th District St. Louis County Commissioner

The alternate members of the JPB include:

- Tim Watson, Kabetogama Township
  - Steve Wieber, Ash River Area
  - Bill Congdon, Crane Lake Township
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**2. What is the JPB's mission statement?**

The mission of the JPB is to provide an environmentally sensitive and responsible solution to the problem of non-compliant and failing septic systems on certain properties within the Study Area.

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**3. Where is the Project Area?**

The Project Area is located in northern St. Louis County and includes the following three distinct regions: Crane Lake Township, Kabetogama Township, and the unincorporated area of Ash River.

## **Namakan JPB Exhibit**

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### **4. What is the Project?**

The Project is to develop the comprehensive wastewater treatment plan that will help prioritize the wastewater treatment concerns and necessary improvements to allow for the sustainability of the residential, commercial, and recreational opportunities in the Namakan Basin area.

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### **5. What is the timeframe for the Project?**

**Apr 2009:** JPB contracts with Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) to prepare planning document

**Jun 2009:** Obtain GIS information from St. Louis County, funding assistance

**Aug-Sept 2009:** Attend neighborhood meetings, pursue project funding

**Oct 2009:** Conduct community survey, pursue project funding

**Nov-Dec 2009:** Analyze survey results, pursue project funding

**Jan-Mar 2010:** Prepare planning report, funding

**April - May 2010:** Present draft plan to JPB and at neighborhood meetings, pursue project funding

**June 2010:** Present final plan to Namakan Basin JPB

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### **6. What if I recently installed my own new, fully-compliant, private system?**

These situations will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case evaluation basis. The anticipated idea is that you may continue to use your system, but will become part of the Project by means of regular inspections for minimal annual fee. At such time that your existing system is no longer compliant, you will be required to upgrade to whatever type of managed system exists in that part of the Project Area.

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### **7. What if my current system is non-compliant? Do I have to make repairs now or can I wait?**

St. Louis County is currently reviewing their policy on how to address non-compliant systems in the Project Area. We will keep you posted on their decisions.

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### **8. What is the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board?**

The VNP Clean Water JPB was set up in 2010 between St. Louis County and Koochiching County to govern the application for, solicitation of and administration of funds received for the purpose of planning, grant writing, engineering, conservation, and environmental studies, and the development, management, and construction of wastewater treatment for property within the Project Area, which includes the Namakan Basin plus Rainy Lake. The Namakan JPB along with a citizen representative from Koochiching County

serve as the Advisory Committee to the VNP Clean Water JPB.

### Organizational Chart

The members of the VNP Clean Water JPB are:

- Keith Nelson, 6th District St. Louis County Commissioner
- Mike Forsman, 4th District St. Louis County Commissioner
- Wade Pavleck, 1st District Koochiching County Commissioner
- Brian McBride, 3rd District Koochiching County Commissioner

The members of the VNP Clean Water Joint Powers Advisory Committee are:

- Namakan JPB Members
- Tom Dougherty, Koochiching County

The alternate members of the Advisory Committee include:

- Namakan JPB Alternates
- Jay Mitchell, Koochiching County

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## 9. How is this project being funded?

SEH representatives and the Gary Cerkenik of the Costin Group are avidly working on funding the Project.

### Funding Summary

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## 10. How can I be informed of the project status in the future?

You may find up-to-date Project information in the following ways:

1. Attend Namakan Joint Powers Board meetings that are open to the public. The meetings are typically held at the County Land Department Building in Cook, MN at 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
2. Visit the Website <http://www.sehinc.com/online/namakan>
3. Contact SEH Project Manager, **Julie Kennedy, PE** at 218.259.5020 or [jkennedy@sehinc.com](mailto:jkennedy@sehinc.com).
4. Contact one of the JPB members.

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