



## MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sara Christenson, Randy Jenniges, and Gary Cerkvenik

DATE: June 16, 2014

RE: VNPCWJPB Update Information - June 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 May 14, 2014. See the attached draft meeting minutes for details.

Action Requested: Motion to approve the minutes of the April and May meeting.

### Kabetogama

- Schedule - Project currently being advertised. Bid date is June 24, 2014. Still on schedule for construction in summer/fall, 2014.
- DNR land acquisition - Township has the revised agreement from DNR in hand. We recommended that they delay signing it until after the bid date to be sure that bid prices aren't much higher than anticipated. They will likely sign the agreement at the July 1 meeting, at the same time as award of the project.
- Shared tanks - only 3 shared tanks currently proposed. A water meter will be installed at one of the residences served by the tank in order to monitor usage. That usage will be subtracted from the run time meter on the wastewater pump to get the usage value for the other user.
- Bonding Bill - Subdivision 16 requires State Forest Campground to be connected to the public sewage treatment system when it is constructed and operational. Great news, but no time frame for when hookup will be required.
- MPCA - operating permit went off public notice on June 10, 2014. The final permit should be issued soon, along with a letter approving plans and specifications.
- Archaeological Review - Duluth Archaeological Center did the field work and are working on the report. Nothing of historical significance was found.

### Ash River

Commissioners and Environmental Service to comment for review of the project.

## Crane Lake

The district received 4 proposals for a CAR, which is an in-depth assessment of the existing ISTS systems on Bear Island and Handberg Road areas. The district tabled approval of the contract until the public hearing on July 9, 2014 at 6:30pm. Attached is a summary of the proposals. In addition, SEH is assisting the district to complete the MPCA grant application for the \$1.5 million in legacy funding. The application is due at the end of June 2014.

## Island View

As previously discussed, the County hired John Vigen and Scott Harder to complete a financial analysis along with a market assessment summary for the project like what was done on Jackfish Bay project. The guys are still working on it and getting information when needed from Matt Gouin, Dale Olson, and Randy Jenniges. Staff met last week and discussed the progress and plan to meet again in a week. This analysis is vital to answer the question, "how much is this going to cost me". Once the analysis is 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. We are looking at two alternative construction schedules, the first completing some trunk line work this fall and the bulk in 2015, or secondly, bidding the project this 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 four 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 Cerkenik
218.360.0463	320.229.4378	218.305.4722	218.741.0139
<a href="mailto:schristenson@sehinc.com">schristenson@sehinc.com</a>	<a href="mailto:rjenniges@sehinc.com">rjenniges@sehinc.com</a>	<a href="mailto:mlarson@sehinc.com">mlarson@sehinc.com</a>	<a href="mailto:gcerk@me.com">gcerk@me.com</a>

Cc: VNPCWJPB Advisory Committee, Koochiching and St. Louis County Environmental Services staff, Project Area residents (upon request)

Att: VNPCWJPB Minutes from May, 2014, Crane Lake RFP Comparisons, SEH Invoice, The Costin Group Invoice

## **VNP CLEAN WATER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING May 21, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the VNP Clean Water Powers Board was held at the Cook Land Department on May 21, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Pavleck. There were no attendees from the public.

The minutes of April 14, 2014 are requested to be approved on June 25, 2014 due to Rob Scott being absent and minutes being lacking.

**Bonding Money:** The House and Senate completed a \$846 million bonding bill and a Capital Investment cash bill of \$200 million to fund major projects across Minnesota. Our project submitted requests and **received** \$8,567,000. \$750,000 of that amount is dedicated to the Crane Lake Water and Sanitary District for use in Area T and \$7,817,000 is for a grant to Koochiching County for the Island View sewer project as designated in the November, 2013 VNPCWJPB draft comprehensive plan. Woodenfrog will also have mandatory hookup into the Puck's Point sanitary sewer system.

The money can be used to acquire land for and to predesign, design and construct new systems and expand existing systems. Both grants require that at least an equal amount has been committed to the project from non state sources.

Randy Jenniges joined the meeting via phone; he stated that a few things shall be completed before the money can be allocated.

For the Island View project six main portions need to be completed, these consist of: deciding to either sign the lease with the DNR or use Camp Koochiching's land for the detention tank, update the cost estimate, need to review the financials of the project, clarify easements, complete revisions on the plans (the plans are currently 95% completed), which consist of property owners and grinder product options, as well as holding a public hearing during the summer. He also stated that it may be possible to start construction on the main line up to Sha Sha this fall.

For Crane Lake, a RFP of a CAR bids are due on May 28, 2014 and must be completed by September 1, 2014. The project areas include Bear Island, Handberg Road Extension and DNR landing. Different options are being identified by Sara Hager from the U of M; these consist of the management of existing systems and staging of systems. Currently there is no solidified plan for the allocation of the bonding monies, and currently the 1.5 million Legacy monies are being held at the PFA until a project is decided.

**Kabetogama:** Bob Nevalainen stated now that Woodenfrog will have mandatory hookup Scott Harder will need to rework the financials depending on the timeline that they will hook into the system. Currently their attorney completed a new lease agreement with the DNR, although there are three items that the DNR will need to keep on the lease that the Sanitary District would like changed. These include that the lease will remain 21 years, they could take away the property at anytime, and the District would like to have 2 years to remove equipment if the property was taken. The bids for the project will be published May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, and be

awarded the first week in July. Currently the Duluth Archeology Center is completing an archeology study of the area.

Ash River: There is still communication with the DNR about the exchange and identifying parcels of certain sizes.

VNP: The RV dump station can be removed at the Visitors Center from the plans.

MPCA: Kabetogama's permit is currently being reviewed. Island View will need an extension permit which is expected to be reviewed for 2-3 weeks once filed.

Contract: Gary's contract is over May 31 and SEH's contract ends on June 30. It was proposed to have a 6 month extension of SEH's existing agreement under the same conditions; this would extend the existing agreement until 12/31/2014. As well as have a one year extension of The Costin Group's existing agreement under the same conditions, this would extend the existing agreement until 5/31/2015. Currently the board does not have enough in funds to approve these contracts. A motion was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Forsman to approve the contract once the funds were made available, therefore the board will need to ask for allocation from St. Louis and Koochiching counties.

Sara Christenson went over the invoices. A motion was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Forsman to pay the invoices.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 and the next meeting is set for June 25 at 10:00

Submitted by: Sara Christenson, SEH