



MEMORANDUM

TO: Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB)
FROM: Sara Christenson, Randy Jenniges, and Gary Cerkvnik
DATE: March 18, 2015
RE: VNPCWJPB Update Information - March 2015
Koochiching and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota
STLCO 121718

Board Meetings

The last meeting held was at 10:00 A.M. at the St. Louis County Land Department building on February 11, 2015. See the attached draft meeting minutes for details.

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

Kabetogama

The project was split into three and opened on March 11, the apparent bids are below:

- Collection - original design included STEP collection system. Grinder stations was bid as an alternate. Forcemains from pretreatment site to mounds/at-grade was included in collection system bid

Table with 4 columns: Bidder, Base Bid, Schedule A, Schedule B. Rows include Low Impact Excavators, Inc. Ely, MN; Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN; Wagner Construction International Falls, MN.

- Pretreatment System - Only the work on the treatment site - buried tanks and new building - was included in this bid. Tank elevation was raised as much as practical to decrease rock excavation costs.

Table with 2 columns: Bidder, Grand Total Bid. Rows include Magney Construction, Inc. Chanhassen, MN; Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN; Wagner Construction International Falls, MN.

- Dispersal Systems - Two mounds and one at-grade included in this bid.

Bidder	Grand Total Bid
Low Impact Excavators, Inc. Ely, MN	\$549,510.00
Septic Check Milaca, MN	\$564,388.00
Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN	\$895,000.00
Viita's Excavating Cook, MN	\$362,277.00

Kabetogama will hold a special meeting to discuss the bids on March 17th.

The VNPCWJPB asked about legislation to force Woodenfrog State Campground to hook up to the Puck’s Point project. As you may recall, we got this passed last year. The following is the language that is now law that we accomplished last year:

“The Commissioner must provide for the state forest campground in Kabetogama Township to be connected to a public sewage treatment system within the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board’s jurisdiction, when one is constructed and operational.”

However appropriation or a fiscal note is necessary.

Ash River

A conference call between the DNR, St. Louis County and SEH was held on March 2nd. Currently the county and the DNR have been in discussion of a potential land exchange for an entire parcel (732-0010-04150). Soil Testing was completed on the parcel in November and the preliminary results from the testing were encouraging for onsite treatment. However, additional testing would be necessary to further evaluate the land before a land exchange would take place.

St. Louis County would be representing Ash River through the land exchange, however the county would not like to be recognized as the leader of a Sewer District. In the near future, a township meeting shall be held to inform the public of the potential for a Sewer District.

The next conference call will be schedule for the end of May.

Crane Lake

Bids were opened on March 4 for the 2015 Handberg Road Extension the **apparent** bids are below. A decision on the bids will be likely be made in April.

Bidder	Grand Total Bid
Utility Systems of America Eveleth, MN	\$781,296
Wagner Construction International Falls, MN	\$784,950

Island View

Randy to comment.

Project Funding Status

- Sen. Bakk and Rep. Dill have put in a bonding bill request for \$6 million for the project to cover the shortfalls at Kab and Island View and Gary will try to amend it to include the \$60,000 needed by CLWSD. SF 833 and HF 811.
- Commissioner Ecklund attended the NACO conference in Washington DC from February 21st through the 25. His summary of the appointments are attached.
- Two lobby proposals were given to Commissioner Ecklund during his trip to Washington D.C. Both documents have been printed under a separate cover from this update.
 - Action Requested: Propose and approve a proposal.

Advisory Board Representative Updates

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

Meeting Dates

Due to lack of attendance and subject matter of the meetings, it was requested that meetings be held every other month.

- Action Requested: Propose and approve an upcoming meeting date for May.

Invoices

- Action Requested: Propose and approve the Costin Group Invoice.

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

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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 February 11, 2014, NACO Conference Appointments, SEH Invoice, The Costin Group Invoice

VNP CLEAN WATER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING February, 2014

The monthly meeting of the VNP Clean Water Powers Board was held at the Saint Louis County Land Office on January 14, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Rob Ecklund. Commissioner Rukavina was also present and Commissioner McBride was added to the meeting via phone. There were no comments from the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rukavina and seconded by Commissioner McBride to approve the January 14 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Kabetogama: Currently St. Louis County and the DNR are discussing a land exchange for the area used on the Woodenfrog State Campground (school trust fund land). The Woodenfrog State Campground also has been legislatively forced to hook up, however appropriation or a fiscal note is necessary.

Ash River: Currently the DNR, St. Louis County, and SEH are working on another meeting date to discuss a land exchange for a potential treatment site.

Crane Lake: The Crane Lake expansion project was submitted as one package that includes the grand funds from the State and Legacy. It includes running a force main pipe to the DNR landing, expanding sewer management to Bear Island, and doing a CAR on Bear Island and Handberg Road. The project is currently being advertised and is scheduled for bidding March 2nd.

Koochiching: Surveying is close to being complete. Funding continues to be a main issue.

Project Funding: Commissioner Ecklund will be going to Washington D.C. February 21st, he has made appointments with the MPCA, Army Core of Engineers, and the Department of Interior to discuss the funding situations for the project area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M. The next meeting is set for 10:00 on March 18 at the County Land Office in Cook.

Submitted by: Sara Christenson, SEH Inc.

I attended the NACO conference in Washington DC from February 21st through the 25th. While out there, I was able to meet with staff and members of the entire Minnesota Congressional Delegation about the Voyageurs National Parks clean water project.

Representative McCollum

I met with Bill Harper, the representative's chief of staff. Representative McCollum will be in full support of whatever effort needs to be done to get this project done. Bill also suggested that we look into inquiring about any USDA funding that may be available. Representative McCollum is a great supporter of the Park, and will help Representative Nolan in any way that she can.

Representative Kline

I met with Pat Pelletier, the representative's infrastructure aid. I went over the packet and talked to him about needing the federal government to step up and help us get this project done. He told me that they would wait to hear from Representative Nolan and see if they could be of any assistance.

Representative Ellison

I met with Maria Laverdiere, the representative's environment and infrastructure aid. The office likes that we are advocating for municipal sewer in and around the national park. Representative Ellison is a big advocate of the park, and will help Representative Nolan out in any way possible to get this project done.

Representative Walz

I met with Randolph Briley the representative's environmental aid. The representative will support Nolan's office in any way possible. They are also a supporter of the park, and these types of clean water projects.

Representative Paulson

I met with Ryan Huff. He did not seem to me real engaged in listening to the request. Once I showed him the potential development around the lake, and the economic benefits that it may bring, he did seem to pay a little more attention.

The office will wait and see what request for assistance comes from Representative Nolan and will react accordingly.

Senator Klobuchar

I met with Brian Werner, the senator's environmental aid. The office is on board with our request. They have had conversations with Jake Schwitzer in Senator Franken's office about this project. The senator is a big advocate for the park, and likes that we are trying to do a project that is critical to the entire watershed. They will follow the lead of Representative Nolan and Senator Franken.

Senator Franken

I met with Senator Franken, and Jake Schwitzer. The Senator is very supportive, and stated that he will do anything needed to get the project done. Jake is fully engaged and briefed on this project. He told me that when I met with Representative Nolan, that I should have Jim Swiderski, Nolan's legislative director get in touch with him to work on the strategy necessary to get the project done.

Representative Nolan

I met with Representative Nolan and Jim Swiderski the representative's legislative director. The representative told me that he sees no reason that they cannot find the money we need to get this project done. He wants to talk to Representative McCollum to see if we can get in a direct appropriation. He also likes that the DNR is willing to be a state sponsor and advocate for this project. He did recommend that we think about getting a lobby group to work this process through, because they have the connections and strategies used on past projects to follow something like this through. The representative told Jim that he wanted an update every 2 to 3 weeks on the progress of this effort, and what he may need to do to make it happen.

Representative Peterson

I met with Zach Martin, the representative's environmental aid. He liked that we were doing a project that had benefit to the entire watershed. They hear a great deal from their Lake of the Woods constituents about the impacts from their "upstream" neighbors. I informed him that that was the main reason that I was making sure to visit members from the entire Minnesota delegation. Zach stated that they would wait to hear from Nolan's office and that they would do what they could to help. He did like that the DNR was a sponsor, because it was sometimes easier to get money when a partnership was shown with a state agency.

I also met with two lobby groups, and you have their proposals in front of you.

Overall I believe that the effort was successful, and that we will be able to get some help on this project from the federal government.