



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sara Lindberg, Randy Jenniges, and Gary Cerkvenik

DATE: December 16, 2013

RE: VNPCWJPB Update Information - December 2013
Koochiching and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota
STLCO 118965

Board Meetings

The last meeting held was at 1:00 p.m. at the Land Dept building on October 2, 2013. See the attached draft meeting minutes for details.

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

Koochiching County

Commissioner Pavleck and McBride to comment.

Kabetogama

The schedule is on track, the plans and specifications are anticipated to be submitted to the MPCA near the middle to end of December. SEH and the Township will work with the DNR on land acquisition and easements to construct the mounds in the near future, after the locations of the mounds have been determined in early December. The township is currently working on a list of action items which were sent to SEH and the Township by Nancy Johnson of the PFA.

Ash River

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

Crane Lake

The CLWSD held a public meeting December to hear about ISTS management from Rollie Mann from Otter Tail Sewer District (OTSWD) and Sara Heger from the University of Minnesota. OTSWD has been managing ISTS systems since 1984 and their insight into the logistics of setting up and managing ISTS systems within the district will be extremely valuable.

Last month the CLWSD sent the MPCA a letter inquiring about expectations of the district. The CLWSD is waiting to hear from St. Louis County on what is considered an acceptable ISTS system within the District.

They continue to look at expansion options in the East Service Area. One of the main expansion areas that have been identified is Handberg Road where the DNR is planning to construct a public restroom at the boat landing.

Action Items

Refer to the attached document named VNPCWJPB action items tracking sheet.

Meeting Dates

Action Requested: Propose and approve an upcoming meeting date.

Contracts

Action Requested: Motion to approve payment of the invoice, as well as authorize Terry Soderberg to pay the future monthly Costin Group payments per the contract.

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

Sara Lindberg	Randy Jenniges	Mike Larson	Gary Cerkenik
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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 October 2, 2013, VNPCWJPB Action Items Tracking Sheet, VPNSLouisCNt Definitions, Compliance Criteria, Costin Group Invoice

VNP CLEAN WATER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING October 2, 2013

The monthly meeting of the VNP Clean Water Powers Board was held at the Cook Land Department on October 2, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Commissioner McBride. He was the only commissioner in attendance. Introductions were made by all present including 9 individuals from the public. There were no public comments.

Sara Lindberg, S.E. H. Engineering provided an update as outlined on S.E.H. Memorandum (10/02/13). Of note, Commissioner Pavleck gave a VNP Clean Water Project presentation to the House Bonding Committee. He was assisted by Gary Cerkvenik. The presentation covered the bonding request for \$8,567,000 for the Island View and Crane Lake sewer project. The same presentation was given to the Senate Bonding Committee was on October 1st with an additional emphasis on the economic impacts.

Commissioner Forsman arrived and chaired the meeting. He commented on the objectives of the JPB and the need for State bonding funds.

Koochiching: An update meeting was held on August 26th. There are concerns with construction costs, user fees, and newly installed ISTS systems. Dale Olson stated that the State Bonding Bill application has been submitted.

Kabetogama: The PPSSD will be moving forward with all members of the district being hooked up. All administrative actions are moving forward with planned construction to begin in the spring of 2014. Scott Harder is preparing the final financial report

Ash River: There is nothing new or developing at Ash River. Rob Scott commented on the need for St. Louis County to be the driver to get a sewer district established. Commissioner McBride feels that there is a need to move forward and St Louis County Environment Services office to review.

Crane Lake: The Handberg Road and Bear Island projects were discussed. There is concern regarding the need to expand the sewer system to Bear Island. There was a request by S.E.H. to Lake Country Power for usage rates. Rob Scott requested JPB support for the costs in the validation of the ISTS systems on Bear Island. The request was denied. A motion was made by Commissioner McBride to send a letter from the JPB requesting Lake Country Power support the S.E.H.'s request. Commissioner Nelson (via phone) seconded the motion and voted in favor.

A motion to approve the July 17th minutes was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Forsman. All voted in favor. A motion to pay the invoices per the S.E.H. memo (10/02/13) was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Forsman. All voted in favor

Bob Kaiser of Crane Lake emailed Commissioner Forsman outlining the concerns that the Bear Island Association has regarding expanding sewer to Bear Island. Sue Connaker read a statement that outlined the major concerns of the Association. Brent Bystrom discussed regarding who is monitoring the water, what is a failing system, and the accuracy of the Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 and the next meeting is set for December 4th at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Rob Scott, secretary

**VOYAGEUR'S NATIONAL PARK CLEAN WATER JOINT POWERS BOARD
ACTION ITEMS TRACKING SHEET**

Task	JPB Responsible Party	Contact Entity	Contact Name	Phone	Email	Status
Increase Econ Dvlpmt Support	Gary C.	Econ Dev	Bob Anderson Mayor of I-Falls	218.240.4233	boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us	Made contact 2/2/13
Address the current water condition and funding issues	Gary C.	Secretary of the Interior	Sally Jewell	202.208.3100	feedback@ios.doi.gov	
Address the current water condition and funding issues	McBride	VNP Director	Jonathan Jarvis	202.208.3818	Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov	Completed
Address the current water condition and funding issues	Nelson	Congress	Tom Anzelc	651.296.4936	sen.tom.anzelc@house.mn	Telephone
Address the current water condition and funding issues	Nelson	Congress	David Dill	651.296.4131	rep.david.dill@house.mn	Telephone
Be put into the budget (USCOE 569)	Gary C./Forsman/Nelson	Senate	Tom Saxhaug	651.296.4136	sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn	Senate Bonding Bill 10/1/13
Be put into the budget (USCOE 569)	Gary C./Forsman/Nelson	Senate	Thomas Bakk	651.296.8881	sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn	Senate Bonding Bill 10/1/13
Contact the current person in position of Jody Teryportor	Gary C.	VNP				
Contact	Paul Nevenen	Bluegreen Alliance				
Letter to LCP requesting individual usage rates for the users on Bear Island	JPB (Rob Scott, McBride)	LCP	Joseph "Dale" Long, President	218.757.3634		
Find the "true" definitions for ISTS compliancies	Sara Lindberg	St. Louis County	Online			Completed 10/4/13
Make the Comprehensive Plan Accessible	Lindberg/Nelson/McBride	JPB Current Projects	Online			Completed
Request from the CLWSD to cover the \$7500.00 costs to validate the JPB Comprehensive Plan	Rob Scott	CLWSD				
Take action on getting Ash River sewer district established	Terry Soderberg	St. Louis County Environmental Services Office				



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St. Louis County ISTS Definitions

From St. Louis County Ordinance 55-ISTS

Failing System

Failing System means any system that has less than one foot of Vertical Separation between the bottom of the distribution media and the saturated soil level or Bedrock. In addition, any system posing an Imminent Threat to Public Health or Safety shall be considered failing.

Imminent Threat to Public Health or Safety

Imminent Threat to Public Health or Safety means situations that pose an immediate or potential threat to public health or safety. Such situations include, but are not limited to: discharge of Sewage to the ground surface, surface water or a groundwater source, weak, rotted or non-securable tank covers; any system causing Sewage backup into a Dwelling or Other Establishment; or other situation that prohibits the system from functioning as intended.

Non-compliant

An ISTS that is not in compliance with St Louis County Ordinance and Standards.

Non-conforming

Non-conforming means any existing soil treatment system that has less than the equivalent of three feet but more than one foot of Vertical Separation between the bottom of the distribution media and saturated soil level or Bedrock in Shoreland areas or two feet in non-shoreland areas; any system that discharges Sewage to a Seepage Pit, Dry Well, or Leaching Pit; or Individual Sewage Treatment Systems in use that are undersized relative to occupancy.

Shoreland

Land located within the following distances from Public Waters: 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a lake, pond, or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or the landward extent of a Flood Plain designated by ordinance on such a river or stream, whichever is greater.

**Table 1
Compliance Criteria**

	Non-compliant	Probably Non-compliant	May Be Non-compliant	May Be Compliant	No Building	CLWSD	Unsustainable	Building, but no System	Buildable Lot w/Septic	Misc. Land
Age of System	Older than 1980	Between 1980 and 1990	Between 1990 and 2000	Newer than 2000						
Type of System				Mound		Holding Tank, Outhouse, Privy	Holding Tank, Outhouse, Privy			
Lot Size	Less than 0.25 Acres	Between 0.25 and 0.50 Acres	Between 0.50 and 0.75 Acres	More than 0.75 Acres						
Shallow Well	Less than 50 feet deep			More than 50 feet deep						
Maintenance	Never			Less than 3 years ago						
Permit	No			Yes						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

A spreadsheet was created based on County records and the information from the questionnaires. The definitions of the compliance criteria in the columns shown above are as follows:

1. Non-Compliant – System older than 1980, lot size less than .25 acres, well depth less than 50 feet, septic tank never pumped.
2. Probably Non-Compliant – System age between 1980 and 1990, lot size between .25 and .50 acres.
3. Maybe non-compliant - System age between 1990 and 2000, lot size between .50 and .75 acres.
4. Maybe compliant – System age newer than 2000, mound, lot size larger than .75 acres, well depth more than 50 feet, septic tank pumped within last 3 years.
5. No building - County records indicate a parcel with zero market value of the structures.
6. CLWSD – Properties already served by the CLWSD.
7. Unsustainable – Sewage generating properties with holding tanks or outhouse privy.
8. Building with no system – A parcel with an market value of the structures but no existing SSTS.
9. Buildable lot with septic - A parcel with zero market value of the structures and an existing SSTS.
10. Miscellaneous Land – Property owned by a government body with no sewage generation.