

VNP Clean Water Joint Powers Board Meeting

March 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Public Works Office Cook

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public comments
3. Approve minutes of the February 24, 2021 JPB meeting
4. Comprehensive Plan and 10 Year Funding Budget
5. S.E.H./Advisory Board Representative Updates
 - A. Kabetogama
 - B. Ash River
 - C. Crane Lake
 - D. Koochiching
 - E. VNP
 - F. DNR
 - G. MPCA
6. Project Funding
7. Pay Invoices
8. Other Business
9. Next meeting date
10. Adjourn meeting

VNP CLEAN WATER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING
24 February, 2021

The monthly meeting of the VNP Clean Water Powers Board was held on February 24, 2021 at the ST Louis County Public Works Office in Cook. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 by Chairman Pavleck. Board members also present were Commissioners McDonald, Nelson, and Murray. There were no public comments and all attendees introduced themselves.

Gary Cerkvenik provided an update on the status of our finding requests. It looks like there is a possibility that our \$1.4M request for legacy funds is still in the works. However, he advised that there are numerous competing interests at work.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson and supported by Commissioner McDonald to approve the December 16, 2020 minutes. All voted in favor.

The Comprehensive Plan update is ongoing. A draft copy of the plan was distributed for review and changes are to be sent to S.E.H. The target date for public comment is July. Commissioner Nelson emphasized that community input should be solicited.

Ash River. The Ash River sewer board is working through the administrative processes required in getting the sewer district operational. St Louis County is going to assist in being the financial manager.

Kabetogama. The work continues on Phase II of the sewer project. The site for the second treatment plant has been identified.

Crane Lake. The Kicker Blvd survey letters have been mailed out. Additionally, there was a discussion on an alternate option for funding that was presented by a representative from Kicker Blvd. No issues with the collection system and preparing for the 2021 construction season. There is a project underway to update the treatment plant. Some of the components are reaching the end of their service life and need to be upgraded.

Island View. The project is operational.

DNR. Land exchange on track for completion in the Spring.

MPCA. Nothing to report.

VNP. Nothing to report.

Mark St Lawrence is retiring, but will continue to work some projects for the county including the VNP Clean Water Project. The December Costin invoice (monthly services) for \$2500.00 and the S.E.H. invoice (Ash River and JPB consulting, Comp Plan work) for \$7932.71 were presented. There was a motion by Commissioner Nelson to pay the invoices and supported by Commissioner McDonald. All voted in favor. The January Costin invoice (monthly services) for \$2500.00 and the S.E.H. invoice (comp plan and consulting JPB and Ash River) were presented. A motion to pay the invoices was made by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Nelson. All voted in favor.

A resolution was presented by Commissioner Nelson and supported by Commissioner Muray that the JPB directs St. Louis County to issue a request for proposals to secure services to conduct an audit of the JPB. All voted in favor.

The next planned meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 1000 at the Public Works office Cook. A motion was made by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Nelson to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Submitted by: Rob Scott, secretary



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Jason J. Chopp, PE

DATE: March 17, 2021

RE: VNPCWJPB Update
Koochiching and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota
STLES 156438

Board Meetings

The last meeting was a virtual meeting held on December 16, 2020

Action Requested: Minutes for Approval

Comprehensive Plan Update

Draft Update segments were provided to the 4 districts in February. So far, SEH has received comments back from Kabetogama.

Ash River

Project is still in a waiting period as site access permissions remain from some property owners in order to proceed with Archaeological Services.

Action Requested: None

Kabetogama

Phase II

No updates

The district would like to move forward with the Facility Planning process this summer once funding is available. SEH will help coordinate soil testing on the potential wastewater treatment plant site for this summer.

Action Requested: None

Crane Lake Water & Sanitary District

The district is proceeding with design of the WWTP equalization project. Soil borings were completed in February. Design is scheduled for permitting in March and potential summer 2021 construction depending on permitting timelines.

Action Requested: None

Island View Sanitary Sewer Expansion.

Contract C is complete. Contract A is in the processes of closing out. There are still outstanding issues with Contract B.

Action Requested: None

Advisory Board Representative Updates

- Voyageurs National Park
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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: SEH Invoice, The Costin Group Invoice

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I appreciate the opportunity to speak again today to the Board. The potential annexation of Kicker Blvd. by the CLWSD continues to be opposed by Kicker Blvd residents but I am here today to introduce a possible solution not only for Kicker Blvd residents but the entire comprehensive planning area. I will be brief and high level so as not to take up too much of your time.

In a nutshell my plan revolves around the JPB securing grants to be able to offer incentives to property and business owners in the comprehensive planning area who are not otherwise connected to a centralized waste-water processing system. Under this concept a property owner could apply to receive a percentage, say 1/3 or the cost of installing a new or upgraded waste treatment system up to a max amount, say \$20,000. Of course, all such systems must comply with the applicable existing State and County regulations for such systems. The processing and administration of these grants would be handled by any of the local sewer districts within the comprehensive plan area. As compensation for administering the rebate program, each successfully processed application would result in that sanitary district receiving a one-time \$7,500 fee for their services. This is really no different than a federal rebate incentive program for installing solar panels on your home.

This is truly a Win-Win-Win

The JPB wins in many ways. First a \$1 million of grant now results in \$3 million of upgrades across the system. Second, the first come first served nature of the grant money creates scarcity and therefore encourages upgrades or installations sooner rather than later. Lastly, and most importantly, increased water quality across the area.

Local Sanitary districts win because they get a cash infusion into their systems for working with and assisting property owners in the community apply for the grants. They also save the time, hassle, expense, and liability of trying to service remote waste treatment systems in their area.

Property owners win, because the cost to install these systems is greatly reduced and there are no longer-term payments, taxes or additional regulations put upon their property.

The fact that the JPB has been able to secure over \$25 million in grants in support of the comprehensive plan to date is both commendable and enviable. I believe a uniform, equitable and comprehensive proposal like I just set forth that applies to all properties in the Comprehensive Plan Area would be well received by both property owners and those making the decisions to grant money towards this cause.

I would be happy to take any questions or hear any comments. As a quick disclaimer, with respect to this concept, these thoughts are my own and not necessarily reflective of the 25 properties on Kicker Blvd that continue to oppose annexation.

VNPCWJPB Funding Tracker

KOOCHICHING COUNTY				
Project	Project Cost	No. of EDUs	Project Status	Land Concerns/Comments
Island View Sanitary Sewer Extension	\$19,500,000	365	Under Construction, Awarded to Wagner and USA	County Responsible, multiple easements
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	Koochiching County	\$30,000	Received	
	Koochiching County	\$400,000	Received	Used to complete design work
	State Bonding Bill, 2010	\$100,000	Received	
	State Bonding Bill, 2014	\$7,817,800	Secured	
	MN Legacy Funds 2015	\$1,000,000	Secured	\$2m awarded, \$940,000 Kab, \$60k Crane
	2016 US Army Corp (\$4.5m, \$100k to Corp)	\$4,400,000	Secured	
	State Bonding Bill, 2017	\$2,000,000	Secured	
	Mn Legacy Funds 2018/2019	\$1,200,000	Secured	\$2m awarded, \$50k Kab, \$450k to Ash, \$300k to Crane
	anticipated assessment	\$3,600,000		

KABETOGAMA TOWNSHIP				
Project	Project Cost	No. of EDUs	Project Status	Land Concerns
Puck's Point San Swr & WWTF	\$4,500,000	80	Design Complete, Project has been bid twice. Bids are too high	
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	IRRRB, 2009	\$50,000	Secured	
	State Bonding Bill, 2010	\$0	Secured	
	IRRRB, 2010	\$129,349	Secured	
	PFA, 2013	\$0	Secured	
	DEED - Small Communities Program, 2013	\$274,619	Secured	Loan @ 1% over 20 years
	DEED - Small Communities Program, 2013	\$1,098,476	Secured	Grant
	MN Legacy Funds 2015	\$940,000	Secured	\$850k approve but not used. Interim financing used
	Mn Legacy Funds 2018/2019	\$50,000	Secured	
	MN Rural Water Loan	\$0	Secured	
	MPFA PSI Grant	\$1,864,929	Secured	
	DNR Capital Contribution	\$70,248	Secured	
	Other Levied Township Sources	\$42,944	Secured	

ASH RIVER - CURRENTLY UNORGANIZED				
Project	Project Cost	No. of EDUs	Project Status	Land Concerns
	\$5,500,000			
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	State Bonding Bill, 2010	\$10,000	Secured	
	Mn Legacy Funds 2018/2019	\$450,000	Secured	
	St. Louis County	\$90,000	Secured	
	Clean Water Legacy	\$905,000	Pending	

CRANE LAKE WATER & SANITARY DISTRICT- CLWSD				
Project	Project Cost	No. of EDUs	Project Status	Land Concerns
CSAH 24	\$3,000,000			Construction Complete 6/11
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	Taconite Property Tax Relief, 2010	\$99,887	Received	
	State Bonding Bill, 2010	\$150,000	Received	
Handberg Marine				
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	MN Legacy Funds 2015	\$60,000	Secured	
	Bonding Bill, 2014	\$750,000	Secured	
	Taconite Homestead Funds, 2013	\$687,000	Secured	
ESA & Bear Island				
	Funding Option	Funding Amount	Funding Status	Other Notes
	MPCA National Park Grant Program, 2014	\$1,500,000	Secured	ESA & Bear Island
	Mn Legacy Funds 2018/2019	\$300,000	Secured	
Managed ISTS	Clean Water Legacy	\$600,000	Pending	

\$27,070,252 Outside Funding Source Funds