



PROTECTING THE FIRST 400 MILES

**Mississippi Headwaters Board
Meeting Agenda
Cass County Courthouse
Walker, MN**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86334152726>

February 28, 2025

9:00 am

9:00 AM

- **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
- **2025 Officers:** Chair Ted Van Kempen (Hubbard), Vice Chair Craig Gaasvig (Beltrami), Sec./Treasurer Steve Barrows (Crow Wing).

9:05 AM Approve/Amend

- Agenda
- Consent Agenda – January 2025 Expenses & Minutes

Correspondence

- Bemidji & Star Tribune Article
- Email to US Rep. Stauber and Sen. Klobuchar and Smith

Planning and Zoning (Actions)

- I2a25- Itasca county ordinance review

Action / Discussion Items:

- Teacher survey
- Set up 2026 workplan and budget committee.
- DRAFT Biennial Conference Agenda
- Minnesota Traditions update
- Executive Directors report-discussion

Misc: Legislature Update (if any), County Updates

Meeting Adjourned - Thank you

Mtgs: February 28, 2025 9:00 AM- MHB Monthly Meeting, Walker, MN

October 31, 2025 9:00 AM- MHB Biennial Conference, Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Pt., MN

Mississippi Headwaters Board
January 24, 2025
Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN
Optional interactive technology: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88644697729>

MEETING
MINUTES

Members present: Ted Van Kempen (Hubbard), Michael Kearney (Aitkin), Cory Smith (Itasca), Steve Barrows (Crow Wing), Scott Bruns (Cass), Craig Gaasvig (Beltrami) and Tim Terrill (Executive Director).

Video Interactive Reasons: None

Others Present: Dave Fallis (Ten Lake Township), Tom Strack (CW Land Commissioner), Mark Gossman (Cass Land Commissioner), Amy Kowalzek (Morrison ESD), Kory Cease (Itasca Land Commissioner), Shane Foley (Beltrami Land Commissioner, Dennis Thompson (Aitkin Land Commissioner), Ben Bergey (DNR NW Regional Director).

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers: The 2024 officer were printed on the agenda and their was a call by the chair to open up nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Sec./Treasurer. The board asked if anyone wanted to hold a position and everyone agreed that the current officers were doing a good job. Comm. VanKempen stated that he had been on the MHB board for seven years, and that next year he would consider stepping down as Chair to let others lead. **M/S (Smith/Kearney) to approve of Van Kempen as Chair, Gaasvig as Vice Chair, and Barrows as Sec./Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Ted VanKempen asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No changes to agenda, **M/S (Barrows/Gaasvig) to approve of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

M/S (Smith Barrows) to approve of the Consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

1. Royalton Thank you Note- Tim stated that he has been going for years to high schools talking to them about careers in natural resources, and he received a thank you note from a student who is a junior at Royalton high school. The board was pleased about the matter and encouraged that there was interest in possible summer work at a conservation organization.

Planning and Zoning

B1a25- Dave Fallis, board member of Ten Lake Township, presented the board with a plat that was approved by Ten Lake Township. He gave a brief history of the land and said that all the lots on the plat are over two acres, and the developer will make sure that every plat that is sold in the future will have a structure setback of

100 feet. Every building in the setback area will be removed by the developer, and all the septic tanks currently on property will be abandoned, and new septic tanks will be installed according to the Beltrami County ordinance. Comm. Gaasvig stated that this plat meets the regulations of the MHB Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval. Comm. Van Kempen thanked Ten Lake Township for being meticulous with the detail and following the township and MHB plan. **M/S (Gaasvig/Barrows) to approve of the plat. Motion carried unanimously.**

B1b25- Dave Fallis presented the Joe's Lodge variance before the board. He explained the cabin was built in 1924 and is being requested to be replaced. The reason for the variance is because the Dept. of Health requires that the bedroom size to 120 sq. ft. be along with the size of the handicap accessible bathroom. Cabin 1 is at 41'-10" from the lakeshore and will be moved back to 45'. They are also dealing with height issues because the Dept. of Health requires an inside height of 8 feet. This will mean the roof cap will need to be increased to 19.2' instead of the existing 12.5'. Discussion ensued and Comm. Gaasvig stated he wasn't as much concerned about the height increase due to updated standards, and realizes the MN Dept. of Health standards need to be followed. Septic compliance was performed on cabins 1, 2, 17, 17. 18, and 20. It was noted by the board that Ten Lake Township variances are stricter than the MHB plan. Comm. Gaasvig said these were some good sense decisions made by the board. **M/S (Gaasvig/Smith) to approve of the variance. Motion carried unanimously.**

Action/Discussion:

1. Tax Forfeit discussion- Tim stated that there was a change in the tax forfeiture law by the federal supreme court, and he called on Land Commissioner Kory Cease to explain the change. Kory explained the new law in detail and noted that the SCOTUS determined that the taxpayer must pay back taxes on land but no more. Tax Forfeit laws now require any land in 2024 and into the future that goes tax forfeit, must be sold within 6 months on public auction unless the DNR condemns the land within 30 days after they are notified. Any surplus from the sale will go to the landowner. The existing tool to classify land as conservation so it doesn't need to be auctioned is not available anymore. Most of the land commissioners agreed that many of the parcels that go into forfeitures after 2024 will be small acreages and not large tracts of land. Beltrami Land Commissioner Shane Foley stated that he had a 9 ac. parcel on the Mississippi river recently go into forfeiture, but stated that it was a non-typical example. Comm. Gaasvig stated where they were in the timeline and Shane stated that it is out for DNR review right now. Comm. Gaasvig thought that with such small parcels, it would be his opinion that the market take it. Discussion ensued and Comm. VanKempen stated that the land starts as private, and the new bucket of forfeitures will keep it in private ownership. He presented an idea that the County could approach the landowner before it goes into forfeiture, and if it has a conservation value, be willing to acquire the land through various sources of funds. This would be before the property going into tax forfeiture. He also saw the value of various agencies or organizations look at the property to see if there is any economic development value. DNR NW Regional Director Ben Bergey spoke about the matter and complemented what Kory spoke about in that DNR would use condemnation sparingly. He stated that mineral rights are another consideration that makes the situation complicated. It could lead to having the DNR pay for an assessment of mineral rights if the landowner believes they are worth more than the minimum bid. Mineral rights can sever at the time of sale. Comm. VanKempen asked for additional comments, and with none given, he thanked everyone for commenting and attending.
2. Pay Equity Report- Tim provided the board with an update on the pay equity report which needs to be completed every three years. He stated that the purpose of the report is to ensure that women are being paid the same as a male counterpart in the same position. Tim stated that since MHB doesn't have a female employee, that this is just a formality for MHB. **M/S (Barrows/Smith) to approve of the Pay Equity report and sign on behalf of the Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Northern Township Letter of Support- Tim explained that he was requested by Northern Township (NT) administrator Chris Lahn to send a revised letter of support to him. He stated that although the funding for this project was approved of last year, the legislature didn't pass a bill which would allocate funding to the project. Tim stated that the only change really is the dates in the letter. Discussion ensued and Comm. Gaasvig said that this will buffer something like 75% of Lake Bemidji. Comm. Smith asked Comm. Gaasvig why NT didn't hook up with the city of Bemidji and Gaasvig stated that there were some different points of view which would require annexation. Currently NT is looking at potentially becoming their own municipality. Comm. Gaasvig said this will be a much better solution because of the timing of a new road going in, and will serve Rutgers resort, DNR headquarters, and townspeople as well. **M/S (Gaasvig/Smith) to approve of the Letter of Support. Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Audit- Tim provided the board with the 2024 audit which explained the position of the MHB. It was asked how often MHB does an audit and Tim replied every year. Tim explained the process on how he had to find a new auditor because the previous one had retired. Tim said he looked for one that was inexpensive and close to the cost of the previous auditing firm. The board appreciated Tim's concern on cost, and would like to see the audit come before the board every year. **M/S (Barrows/Smith) to approve of the audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Directors Report

1. Tim stated that a letter was sent in December 2024 to Rep. Heintzeman about increasing MHB support. He said that he ran into him at the DNR roundtable and brought it up to him as well. Comm. Barrows said that he also brought it up to Heintzeman as well. Heintzeman seemed positive about the increase because it is not a very large increase.
2. Tim explained that HR 197 is a new US House bill for the Bowen Lodge land exchange. Tim explained why the previous bill didn't pass in the senate and explained his strategy moving forward. Tim stated that an article explaining the passage of this bill was in the Star Tribune. Discussion ensued and Comm. Smith commented that he talked with people about the pairing of the two bills and they understood how it would be detrimental to both bills. Smith believes that giving the tribe an additional 4000 acres will probably go through because it was an administrative mistake. Smith said he is working with Klobuchar's office to help get this done in the Senate.
3. Tim talked with the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce to discuss a potential partnership promoting the Mississippi river through natural resource tourism. Tim was referred to Visit Bemidji because it is more of their role to promote tourism.

Performance Review

M/S (Kearney/Barrows) to close the meeting for Executive Directors performance review. Motion carried unanimously.

M/S (Barrows/Kearney) to open the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The board expressed gratitude for the Executive Directors work and noted that they would be developing a new job description as the current one is over ten years old. **M/S (Barrows/Gaasvig) to have the Chair sign the Performance Review Rating document and approve of Resolution 2025-01 with a performance rating of Performing and the pay increase associated with the 2025 salary schedule prorated back to 1/1/2025. Motion carried unanimously.**

M/S (Barrows/Gaasvig) to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Ted Van Kempen, Chair

Executive Director Tim Terrill

January SFY'25 Budget Summary

		YTD spending/rei mbursement	Projected Budget	% of budget spent	
Revenues:	Monthly Amount				Notes
Governor's DNR grant (53290)	\$ 23,712.21	\$ 85,661.64	\$ 117,800.00	72.72%	non competitive quarterly reimbursement
LSOHC grant (53290)	\$ 2,335.81	\$ 8,008.50	\$ 8,000.00	100.11%	LSOHC reimbursement
Guidebook sales (58400)		\$ 18.32	\$ 200.00	9.16%	reimbursment for Guidebook sales
Enbridge program (58300)		\$ 8,021.13	\$ 11,000.00	72.92%	enbridge reimbursement
Miscell. Other revenue (58300)		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	16.67%	Visit Grand Rapids social media campaign
MCIT Dividend (58300)		\$ 36.00	\$ 42.00	85.71%	MCIT refund
County Support (52990)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	87.50%	8 county support
Total	\$ 36,548.02	\$ 28,083.95	\$ 40,242.00		
Expenses:	Monthly Amount				Notes
Salaries/Benefits FICA/Med/PERA/LIFE/LTD/Hlth/ WC(61000)	\$ 9,121.37	\$ 66,633.46	\$ 120,000.00	55.53%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
MCIT insurance/work comp/liability (61500)	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 3,022.00	92.49%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
MHB board Per Diem (62680)	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 3,000.00	43.33%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Hotel/Meals/travel exp. (63340)	\$ 170.56	\$ 207.22	\$ 500.00	41.44%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Commissioner Mileage (62720)	\$ 285.60	\$ 1,754.66	\$ 3,500.00	50.13%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Employee Mileage (63320)	\$ 248.97	\$ 2,038.61	\$ 4,500.00	45.30%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Professional Services (62990)	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 8,320.00	\$ 35,000.00	23.77%	Audit
Office supplies/operations (64090)	\$ 61.53	\$ 657.53	\$ 3,000.00	21.92%	telephone
Training & Registration Fees (63380)		\$ 360.00	\$ 800.00	45.00%	
Total	\$ 17,383.03	\$ 84,066.48	\$ 173,322.00		

Governor's DNR grant is always \$124K every year

LSOHC grant is around \$6K to \$8K every year

*The total under revenue does not reflect the \$124K because it is a non-competitive grant, and it doesn't always fall in the fiscal year.

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 01

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
74830	52990		Local Grant							
REVISED BUDGET										.00
25/01	iNovah	278	01/15/25	GNI 755171 Britny.McC	57214			-1,500.00	-1,500.00	
				CwC support levy 25						
25/01	iNovah	890	01/24/25	GNI 755716 Britny.McC	57310			-1,500.00	-3,000.00	
				ATKIN COUNTY SUPPORT						
25/01	iNovah	890	01/24/25	GNI 755713 Britny.McC	57310			-1,500.00	-4,500.00	
				HUBBARD COUNTY SUPPORT						
25/01	iNovah	1128	01/27/25	GNI 755834 Britny.McC	57328			-1,500.00	-6,000.00	
				Itasca County Support						
25/01	iNovah	1439	01/31/25	GNI 756263 Britny.McC	57391			-1,500.00	-7,500.00	
				Beltrami County Support						
25/01	iNovah	1439	01/31/25	GNI 756264 Britny.McC	57391			-1,500.00	-9,000.00	
				Cass County Support						
25/01	iNovah	1439	01/31/25	GNI 756265 Britny.McC	57391			-1,500.00	-10,500.00	
				Clearwater County Support						
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					.00	CREDITS:		-10,500.00	NET:	-10,500.00
74830	53290		Natural Resources							
REVISED BUDGET										.00
25/01	iNovah	1456	01/30/25	GNI ST OF MN 3-3000215701				-7,300.83	-7,300.83	
25/01	iNovah	1458	01/31/25	GNI ST OF MN DNR2Q-25				-23,712.21	-31,013.04	
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					.00	CREDITS:		-31,013.04	NET:	-31,013.04
74830	58300		Miscellaneous Other Revenue							
REVISED BUDGET										.00
25/01	iNovah	58	01/06/25	GNI 754593 Britny.McC	57098			-500.00	-500.00	
				pope ais support						
25/01	iNovah	88	01/07/25	GNI 754705 Britny.McC	57112			-750.00	-1,250.00	
				Sibley AIS Support						
25/01	iNovah	226	01/13/25	GNI 755023 Britny.McC	57180			-2,000.00	-3,250.00	
				COTTONWOOD AIS						
25/01	iNovah	226	01/13/25	GNI 755019 Britny.McC	57180			-1,000.00	-4,250.00	

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 01

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
	iNovah	Chippewa AIS support								
25/01	226	01/13/25	GNI 755021	Britny.McC	57180			-1,000.00	-5,250.00	
	iNovah	LINCOLN AIS SUPPORT								
25/01	226	01/13/25	GNI 755020	Britny.McC	57180			-5,000.00	-10,250.00	
	iNovah	JACKSON AIS SUPPORT								
25/01	226	01/13/25	GNI 755018	Britny.McC	57180			-2,000.00	-12,250.00	
	iNovah	Sherburne AIS support								
25/01	890	01/24/25	GNI 755710	Britny.McC	57310			-2,000.00	-14,250.00	
	iNovah	Brow AIS support								
25/01	890	01/24/25	GNI 755711	Britny.McC	57310			-1,000.00	-15,250.00	
	iNovah	Ottertail AIS Support								
25/01	890	01/24/25	GNI 755712	Britny.McC	57310			-500.00	-15,750.00	
	iNovah	Norman AIS support								
25/01	1439	01/31/25	GNI 756261	Britny.McC	57391			-2,000.00	-17,750.00	
	iNovah	Freeborn AIS support								
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		.00	CREDITS:		-17,750.00	NET:	-17,750.00		
74830	61000	Salaries & Wages - Regular		REVISED BUDGET						.00
25/01	144	01/10/25	PRJ PR0110 1250110	1250110	1250			3,107.81	3,107.81	
	PAY011025	WARRANT=250110	RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
25/01	659	01/24/25	PRJ PR0124 1250124	1250124	1250			3,107.80	6,215.61	
	PAY012425	WARRANT=250124	RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		6,215.61	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	6,215.61		
74830	61200	Active Insurance		REVISED BUDGET						.00
25/01	144	01/10/25	PRJ PR0110 1250110	1250110	1250			1,006.02	1,006.02	
	PAY011025	WARRANT=250110	RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
25/01	659	01/24/25	PRJ PR0124 1250124	1250124	1250			1,028.68	2,034.70	
	PAY012425	WARRANT=250124	RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		2,034.70	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	2,034.70		

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 01

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
74830	61300		Employee Pension & FICA							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
25/01	144	01/10/25	PRJ PR0110	1250110	1250110	1250		435.53	435.53	
			PAY011025 WARRANT=250110 RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
25/01	659	01/24/25	PRJ PR0124	1250124	1250124	1250		435.53	871.06	
			PAY012425 WARRANT=250124 RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		871.06	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	871.06
74830	61500		Worker's Compensation							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
25/01	227	01/14/25	API 101939		231269	1961507		2,795.00	2,795.00	
			W A011425 MCIT INSURANCE			MN COUNTIES INTERGOV				
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		2,795.00	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	2,795.00
74830	62100		Telephone							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
25/01	319	01/21/25	API 006205		231574	40155		6.53	6.53	
			W C012125 COUNTY WIDE CELL PHONE BILLS			CONSOLIDATED TELECOM				
25/01	659	01/24/25	PRJ PR0124	1250124	1250124	1250		55.00	61.53	
			PAY012425 WARRANT=250124 RUN=1 BI-WEEKL							
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		61.53	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	61.53
74830	62680		Non-Employee Per Diems							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 006995		232016	1961811		93.80	93.80	
			W A012825 MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			CORY SMITH				
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 003257		232017	40231		50.00	143.80	
			W A012825 MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			GAASVIG, CRAIG				
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 003356		232018	40232		50.00	193.80	
			W A012825 MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			HUBBARD COUNTY TREAS				
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 006952		232019	40234		50.00	243.80	
			W A012825 MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			MICHAEL KEARNEY				
25/01	1544	01/28/25	APM 006995		232016	1961811		-43.80	200.00	
			MODIFY MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			CORY SMITH				

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 01

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					243.80	CREDITS:		-43.80	NET:	200.00
74830	62720	Non-Employee Mileage				REVISED BUDGET				.00
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 006995		232016	1961811		50.00	50.00	
	W A012825	MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			CORY SMITH					
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 003257		232017	40231		71.40	121.40	
	W A012825	MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			GAASVIG, CRAIG					
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 003356		232018	40232		39.20	160.60	
	W A012825	MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			HUBBARD COUNTY TREAS					
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 006952		232019	40234		81.20	241.80	
	W A012825	MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			MICHAEL KEARNEY					
25/01	1544	01/28/25	APM 006995		232016	1961811		43.80	285.60	
	MODIFY	MHB MEETING & MILEAGE			CORY SMITH					
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					285.60	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	285.60
74830	62990	Prof. & Tech. Fee - Other				REVISED BUDGET				6,300.00
25/01	78	01/07/25	API 101649		230785	1961310		3,800.00	3,800.00	
	W A010725	WEST INVOICE #3			WEST COMMUNICATIONS					
25/01	78	01/07/25	API 001180		230786	40060		302.34	4,102.34	
	W A010725	CASS POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT			CASS SWCD					
25/01	78	01/07/25	API 007203		230787	40061		607.98	4,710.32	
	W A010725	HUBBARD POSTAGE/SUPPLIES REIMB			HUBBARD COUNTY					
25/01	1057	01/28/25	API 009999		232022	40237		4,500.00	9,210.32	
	W A012825	MHB AUDIT			Unknown					
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					9,210.32	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	9,210.32
74830	63320	Employee Mileage				REVISED BUDGET				.00
25/01	639	01/28/25	API 007742		231739	1961652		248.97	248.97	
	W OOP1224	December mileage			TIM TERRILL					
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					248.97	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	248.97

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 01

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
74830	63340		Hotel & Meals Travel Expense							
							REVISED BUDGET			.00
25/01	1288	01/30/25	GNI					12.09	12.09	
	BREM	PCARD	AMC meal							
			TIM TERRILL - CHICK-FIL-A #03153 - AMC meal							
25/01	1288	01/30/25	GNI					17.99	30.08	
	BREM	PCARD	AMC hotel							
			TIM TERRILL - HOTELBOOKING*SERVFEE - AMC hotel							
25/01	1288	01/30/25	GNI					21.56	51.64	
	BREM	PCARD	AMC meal							
			TIM TERRILL - EL LORO MEXICAN RESTAURAN - AMC meal							
25/01	1288	01/30/25	GNI					118.92	170.56	
	BREM	PCARD	AMC hotel							
			TIM TERRILL - HTL*HOLIDAYINNEXPR - AMC hotel							
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					170.56		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	170.56
GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:					22,137.15		CREDITS:	-59,306.84	NET:	-37,169.69

48 Records printed

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Matthew Donley **

US House of Representatives passes Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act

The act, introduced by Rep. Pete Stauber, would exchange 36.7 acres owned by the Bowen Lodge resort in Deer River for 17.5 acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Chippewa National Forest.



U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber

By [Pioneer Staff Report](#)

January 23, 2025 at 11:28 AM

Share

News Reporting

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District Rep. Pete Stauber’s Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act.

The bill, passed by the House on Tuesday, Jan. 21, would exchange 36.7 acres owned by the Bowen Lodge resort in Deer River for 17.5 acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Chippewa National Forest, a release said.

This is Stauber’s first bill to pass the House in the 119th Congress.

"This land exchange is a win-win, which is why it passed out of the House with unanimous support," Stauber said in the release. "It will grant the Bowen Lodge permanent access to the waterfront, ensuring that guests and residents of Itasca County can partake in recreational opportunities for generations to come, all while helping the Chippewa National Forest achieve its management goals."

Lake Winnibigoshish, also known as Lake Winnie, is located in the Chippewa National Forest and is home to Bowen Lodge.

"Bowen Lodge is a fishing lodge currently run by Bill and Gail Heig, who have served as incredible stewards of Lake Winnie, while also providing fishing and recreation opportunities to the local community," the release said.

Currently, Bowen Lodge has a 20-year agreement with the USFS to lease acreage along the shoreline of Lake Winnie, where the Heigs operate their marina. Under their stewardship, Lake Winnie has remained accessible to the citizens of Itasca County.

Stauber's bill would facilitate a land exchange between Bowen Lodge and the USFS, providing Bowen Lodge permanent access to the lakeshore and marina, along with greater certainty for the greater Itasca County community, the release said.

In exchange for this land, Bowen Lodge would convey nearby acreage to the USFS, which would then be added to the Chippewa National Forest.

"I urge the Senate to quickly pass this legislation and send it to the President's desk," Stauber said.

a balance between a casual informative email, and motivation to pass the Bowen lodge bill.

Hello Honorable Representative Pete Stauber, Honorable Senator Amy Klobuchar and Honorable Senator Tina Smith,

I would like to inform you of some accomplishments that have resulted from the introduction of HR 197 along with our discussion about this bill. As a result of a conversation between Itasca County Commissioner Cory Smith and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday; Itasca county will be holding meetings with the tribe on matters that fall within the LLBO reservation boundary. This is HUGE because conversation at the leadership level can result in better understanding and policy for all Minnesotans. Another accomplishment is that Lenny Fineday agreed to send a letter of support from the tribe to you for a stand-alone identical companion bill to HR 197. This show of support is a result of early, local notification and discussion with the tribe on the land exchange bill. So I urge our Minnesota to support this as it is a model of local and federal coordination and promotes federal protection of the Mississippi river.

Finally I would like to invite Representative Stauber, Senator Klobuchar, and Senator Smith to attend the Miss. Headwaters Board biennial conference on October 31, 2025 at Breezy Point Resort in Breezy Point, MN. We have around 65 to 75 County Commissioners, local elected officials, and staff that attend this, and my hope is to show how everyone worked together to bring about leadership conversations that promoted bill passage and closer relationships. My priority one is to have Stauber, Klobuchar, and Smith attend in person to present, but if that isn't possible, priority two would have Washington DC staff present for each respective office. This would make an impression on the elected officials that are present that Washington and Minesota are united by a common goal of protection of the Mississippi river.

Please let me know if you can make it to the conference, and where we are at in the Senate process of passing a companion bill.

Best,



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

RESOLUTION

RE: Hold a Public Hearing Re: Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (effective March 1, 2025) Relative to Conditional Uses in the Shoreland Overlay District, Article 5.6.5.

WHEREAS, the Zoning Ordinance Text may be amended whenever the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare would best be served by such amendments, in accord with the Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and by the procedures set forth in the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance, Article 20;

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2025, an application for a text amendment to Article 5.6.5 of the Zoning Ordinance was initiated by Jim & Julie Maddern/The Great Outdoors Bottle Shop & Bait. The amendment would allow a conditional use not listed in the shoreland overlay district. The proposed language of the text amendment reads as follows (as revised by the DNR):

“Eating establishment on a non-riparian parcel. Establishment shall not be within 400’ of the DNR Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of any lake, river, or stream.”

WHEREAS, an amendment not initiated by the Planning Commission shall be referred to it for study, public hearing and report back to the County Board in writing;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections, 13D.04, 375.51, 394.26 and the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance, public notice of the Planning Commission hearing was sent to the municipalities, organized townships and the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment distribution list on January 10, 2025 and notice of the public hearing was published in the county newspapers, The Grand Rapids Herald Review on January 15, 2025 and the Scenic Range NewsForum on January 16, 2025 informing the public of the February 12, 2025 public hearing;

WHEREAS, at the February 12, 2025, Planning Commission public hearing, the commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the text amendment and report back to the County Board in writing at their February 18, 2025, public hearing;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections, 13D.04, 375.51, 394.26 and the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance, public notice of the County Board hearing was sent to the municipalities, organized townships and the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment distribution list on January 10, 2025 and notice of Intent to Enact and public hearing was published in the county newspapers, the Grand Rapids Herald Review on January 15, 2025 and the Scenic Range NewsForum on January 16, 2025 informing the public of the February 18, 2025 public hearing and Intent to Enact;

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2025, at 2:30 pm, in the County Board Room of the Courthouse, City of Grand Rapids, MN, the County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to receive input; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Commissioners hereby enacts, ordains and adopts the text amendment to Section 5.6.5 of the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance, and which amendment accompanies this resolution and relates to conditional uses in the shoreland overlay district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title and a summary of this amendment shall be published at least once as part of the proceedings of the meeting at which the ordinance was enacted together with notice of the following: A printed copy of the amendment marked as the official copy together with a copy of the entire ordinance shall be filed with, and is available for inspection and use by any person during regular office hours at the Office of the Itasca County Auditor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment shall take effect on March 1, 2025.

In Re:

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
RESOLUTION AND ORDER

Rezone application for: Jim & Julie Maddern/The Great Outdoors Bottle Shop & Bait
16207 Lakeview St., Pengilly, MN 55775

Property Location/Address: Same

The application for a text amendment in the Zoning Ordinance came before the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment at their regular meeting on 2/12/2025 with Jim Maddern present as representative. Also present were Board Members Bellomy, Butterfield, Oja and Janssen; Environmental Services Director Katie Benes, Commissioner Venema, Rich Libbey and Wayne Roberts. The text amendment relates to conditional uses within the shoreland area of Section 5.6.5 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Upon the records, files and proceedings herein, the Board makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On 1/8/2025, Jim & Julie Maddern submitted an application for a text amendment to the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance would be an additional conditional use in Section 5.6.5 of the Shoreland Overlay District. The written language of the proposed text amendment would be as follows:

“Eating establishment on a non-riparian parcel. Establishment shall not be within 400’ of the OHWL of any lake, river, or stream.”
2. Section 20.2 of the Zoning Ordinance regulates Text Amendments under the following criteria:

20.2.1 The County Board or Planning Commission may initiate a text amendment to this Ordinance. An amendment not initiated by the Planning Commission shall be referred to it for study, public hearing and report back to the County Board in writing.

20.2.2 Public hearings on text amendments by the Planning Commission, including requirements of notice to the public, shall be conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes regulating the adopting of ordinances by Counties and by the standards set forth in Article 18 of this Ordinance.

20.2.3 After conducting a Public Hearing on an Ordinance text amendment, the Planning Commission shall report in writing to the County Board within 30 days of the close of the public hearing. Upon filing of a report by the Planning Commission, the County Board, in the manner prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, may by resolution adopt the amendment or any portion thereof as it deems advisable
3. As per the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) the Natural Resources Goal is to promote land and water uses that result in the sustainable use of natural resources, balancing development and environmental commitment to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and resources of the County for this and the next one-thousand years.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law Order & Resolution for Text Amendment initiated by Jim & Julie Maddern/The Great Outdoors Bottle Shop & Bait

4. Correspondence dated 1/25/2025 was received from the DNR with approval of the proposed amendment with the below revision:
 “Eating establishment on a non-riparian parcel. Establishment shall not be within 400’ of the DNR Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of any lake, river, or stream.”
5. Notice of the 2/12/2025 Planning Commission public hearing was sent to all organized townships, municipalities, ICOLA, DNR, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board, Bigfork River Board and Mississippi Headwaters Board and the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment distribution list on 1/10/2025.
6. Notice of the 2/12/2025 Planning Commission meeting/public hearing and the 2/18/2025 County Board public hearing was published in the 1/15/2025 issue of the *Grand Rapids Herald Review* and the 1/16/2025 issue of the *Scenic Range NewsForum*.
7. The County Board will conduct their public hearing at their meeting on Tuesday, 2/18/2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Courthouse.
8. Per Section 20.3.2, upon the filing of a report by the Planning Commission/BoA or upon expiration of the 30-day period, the County Board may by resolution adopt the amendment or any portion thereof as it deems advisable.
9. At the 2/12/2025 PCBA meeting, documents PCBA 06 – 18 were added to the record which were mainly comments in support except for PCBA 15-17 which were comments in opposition with concerns of the impact county-wide and review process.
10. The record consists of:
 - PCBA 01- Text Amendment application submitted (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 02- Notification letter dated 1/10/2025 and application (7 pgs.);
 - PCBA 03- Draft Text Amendment to Section 5.6.5 of the Zoning Ordinance (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 04- Comments/correspondence dated 1/25/2025 from the DNR and amendment revision (4 pgs.);
 - PCBA 05- Published legal notices (4 pgs.);
 - PCBA 06- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Dave Shevich;
 - PCBA 07- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Ryan Olson;
 - PCBA 08- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Lori Holst;
 - PCBA 09- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Krista & Steve Shevich;
 - PCBA 10- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Nicholas Fetzik (3 pgs.);
 - PCBA 11- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Marnie Chupurdia (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 12- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Jim Keranen;
 - PCBA 13- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Al Hanson;
 - PCBA 14- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Donna Evans;
 - PCBA 15- Emails dated 2/11/2025 from Stephanie Kessler (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 16- Email dated 2/11/2025 from David Lick;
 - PCBA 17- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Bill & Deb Hagenbuck;
 - PCBA 18- Email dated 2/11/2025 from Jeff Korpi (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 19- Staff report dated 2/7/2025 (2 pgs.);
 - PCBA 20- Excerpt from 2/12/2025 PCBA minutes;


RESOLUTION

Now therefore, Oja/Butterfield motioned to recommend (to the County Board) approval of the text amendment application submitted by Jim & Julie Maddern/The Great Outdoors Bottle Shop & Bait as set forth in the 2/7/2025 staff report (and as revised by the DNR) and motion carried unanimously.

Additional language under conditional uses in Section 5.6.5:

“Eating establishment on a non-riparian parcel. Establishment shall not be within 400’ of the DNR Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of any lake, river, or stream.”

ITASCA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION


Mike Bellomy, Chairperson

2-12-25
Date

ATTEST:


Katie Benes, Environmental Services Director

2/12/25
Date

2024-25 Teacher

Survey

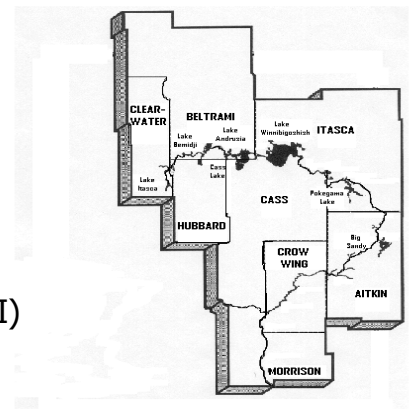
After completing survey, please email to ted.vankempen@co.hubbard.mn.us

1. In listening to the video, was it clear to you and the class how the Miss. Headwaters Board was formed and what they do?
2. What did you learn most about the Miss. Headwaters Board in the video or presentation given to you?
3. What aspects of the meeting did you find most valuable and practical to the students?
4. Did the speaker demonstrate a clear understanding of the topics presented (MHB formation and careers in natural resources)?
5. Now that you have heard the presentation, is there any comments you would like to add that may help improve the presentation material?



Mississippi Headwaters Board Biennial Conference

Breezy Point Resort
9252 Breezy Point Dr.
Breezy Point, MN 56472
Lakeside Ballroom (Located above Marina II)



October 31, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- 8:30 AM** **Check In**
- 9:00 AM** **Pledge of Allegiance & Welcome** – MHB Chairperson Ted Van Kempen
- 9:05 AM** **Legislative Welcome-** MHB Senators and Representatives invited to talk to group.
- 9:15 AM** **Opening Remarks-** John Jaschke, Board of Water & Soil Resources Executive Director
- 9:30 AM** **Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project** – Learn how easements and acquisitions come together seamlessly to effectively create habitat complexes and protect water quality across 400 miles. Will Cooksey, The Trust For Public Land; Paula West, Miss. Headwaters Habitat Corridor Coordinator, and BWSR.
- 10:00 AM** **Bowen Lodge Land Exchange** – This is a developing story of how the MHB used political means to pass a US House bill (HR 197) to help a land exchange move forward legislatively. Bill Heig, Bowen Lodge, Michael Stansbury, Chippewa National Forest, Pete Stauber, US House of Representatives, Amy Klobuchar, US Senate, Tina Smith, US Senate.
- 10:45 AM** **BREAK**
- 11:00 AM** **Minnesota Traditions Campaign-** See what Aquatic Invasive Species education was done the last few years, and what new opportunities are on the horizon. Chip Leer, Fishing the Wildside.
- 11:15 AM** **Mississippi River Recreational Signage & Economic Development Project-** Discover how your Mississippi River became an economic boost to the economy through intentionality. Tim Terrill, MHB; Megan Christianson, Visit Grand Rapids.
- 11:35 AM** **Honorable Mentions & Lasting Impressions-** Discover other programs that are less known about the MHB and how we are helping member counties meet their goals.
- 11:40 AM** **Wildlife Photography-** Mark Harlow is a National Award Winning Nature-Wildlife photographer from Minnesota. Join him as he discusses how he takes an image by being a “minimalist” nature shooter.
- 11:55 AM** **Closing Remarks-** Sarah Strommen (**confirmed**), MN Dept. of Natural Resources Commissioner
- 12:05 PM-** Lunch Provided. Adjourn at 1:00 pm.

Executive Director Report

November 2024 – January 2024

Personnel, Budget, Administration, Information & Education, Correspondence

1. Reviewed monthly budget.
2. Prepared monthly agenda packet.
3. Sent in monthly expense report.
4. Sent press release to newspapers.
5. Reviewed monthly variances as they are brought forward by counties.
6. Sent Letter of Support to Northern Township showing approval for their water and sewer project.
7. Submitted SDFR to State Auditor.
8. Reviewed potential contract between Hubbard SWCD and MHB for consideration at the February MHB board meeting.
9. Developed new tent cards for new Clearwater commissioner.

Meetings & Networking

1/27 Began the process of writing language for a bill to be introduced by Chairman Heintzeman to the MN Environment and Natural Resources Committee. If that passes, it will go to the Senate where Chair Eichorn will introduce it to the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee. Bob Meier from the DNR will help encourage these bills to get passed.

1/28 Met with Josh Doty from the city of Baxter to discuss marketing of natural resource infrastructure through Minnesota Traditions social media. Josh provided me with the recreational opportunities in Baxter and said that they have more sports based infrastructure, but noted that the city purchased 880 acres of natural land in the South side of the city which could be an opportunity for promotion in the future. He said the biggest issue for them is they need road access to the area along with some basic infrastructure to create a natural environment hub by which trails and natural areas can be accessed easily. Once grants are utilized over the next five years they can look at marketing through the MHB.

2/4 Received email from kayak club looking for stretches on the Miss. river to paddle. I sent them a link to the MHB website that has the stretches that I signed so they could have a worry free paddle.

2/5 Introduced Royalton high school student Nevaeh Freese to Morrison SWCD for a possible internship this summer. Nevaeh is interested in conservation work based on my talk I gave to at the Royalton career day last fall.

2/6 Met with Mary Devine Johnson, Executive Director of Visit Brainerd. She is interested in partnering with MHB for a paddle down the Miss. river in Brainerd. They have 45K followers on FB, and MHB has about that on MN Traditions social media, so it will be interesting to see how social media influences people to attend our paddling history event.

2/7 Talked with Itasca ESD Katie Benes about a non-conforming lot and violations.

2/13 Cass county is updating their land use ordinance for signs, so I sent them MHB's ordinance so they could insert it in their ordinance.

2/19 Attended FERC video conference on LittleFalls, Sylvan, and Pillager dams. The group received a study report on water quality, fish entrainment, recreational use, and cultural resources.

2/19 Crow Wing county is considering selling land to the city of Brainerd for \$1 to help clean up their land base. The parcel is 32 acres and is located West of the Evergreen public water access. Our MHB Comprehensive Plan states that local counties should be the decision maker on

2/21 Held MHHCP technical committee meeting where four parcels of land totaling over \$400,000 was approved for moving forward.