



**Mississippi Headwaters Board
Meeting Agenda
Cass County Courthouse
Walker, MN
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81443704715>
March 20, 2026
10:00 am**

10:00 AM

- **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
- **2026 Officers:** Chair Michael Kearney (Aitkin), Vice Chair Craig Gaasvig (Beltrami), Secretary/Treasurer Steve Barrows (Crow Wing)

10:05 AM Approve/Amend

- Agenda
- Consent Agenda – February 2026 Expenses & Minutes and Jacobson contract

Correspondence

- Litter On the Ice statistics

Planning and Zoning (Actions)

- None

Action / Discussion Items:

- MHB SFY 2027 Work Plan, Budget, and Audit- approve
- Bowen Lodge Archaeological assessment- informative
- Stormwater Retrofit Report- discussion
- Boswell Report- informative
- Overview of Biennial Conference History- discussion
- Program Gantt Chart- discussion
- Executive Directors report-discussion
- MHB Board organizational discussion

Misc: Legislature Update (if any), County Updates

Meeting Adjourned - Thank you

Mtgs: April 24, 2026 9:00 AM- MHB BOARD MEETING- Walker MN.

Mississippi Headwaters Board
February 27, 2026
Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN
Optional interactive technology: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730243253>

MEETING
MINUTES

Members present: Ted Van Kempen (Hubbard), Scott Bruns (Cass), Bobby Kasper (Morrison), Michael Kearney (Aitkin interactive), Brian Ramsrud (Clearwater), Steve Barrows (Crow Wing), and Tim Terrill (Executive Director).

Video Interactive Reasons: Commissioners attending interactively is due to scheduling differences.

Others Present: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers: The 2025 officers were printed on the agenda and there was a call by the chair to open nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Sec./Treasurer. Comm. Van Kempen expressed a desire to nominate another person since he has been chairing for 3 years and noted that Comm. Gaasvig had said that he was willing to continue as Vice Chair. Comm. Kearney volunteered for the Chair position with, with Comm. Barrows agreeing to continue as Secretary-Treasurer. Discussion ensued about an annual election based on a rotational basis. **M/S (Bryan/Kasper) for nominations to cease and to nominate Comm. Kearney, Gassvig, and Barrows as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. Motion carried unanimously.** Comm. VanKempen will run the meetings since the newly elected chair is attending interactively.

Chair Ted VanKempen asked if there were any additions to the agenda. VanKempen stated that he would like to add a bullet point after the closed meeting called MHB board. **M/S (Barrows/Bruns) to approve of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

M/S (Bruns/Kasper) to approve of the Consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence/Outreach

1. Tim provided the January and February news release informing the public about MHB and other partners holding a discussion with MN Power about a solar project being constructed near Cohasset, MN, and a required replacement tree plan being developed to mitigate the loss of trees that will occur when construction begins. He also provided an article on how the MHB is adding value to their existing social media program by increasing the budget for the 2026 social media program.
2. The board read an email from Executive Director John Jaschke giving praise for the partnership work being done in MN to help with placing more easements on land with multiple priorities and benefits.

3. Tim provided the board with a sample DNR Litter on the Ice video campaign encouraging people through social media to keep trash off the ice when ice fishing on frozen lakes. Tim said his role was to review the video scripts and make them more appealing to viewers.

Planning and Zoning

None

Action/Discussion:

1. **Legislative Letters Update-** Tim provided an update on the efforts to secure legislative funding. Tim said he sent letters to co-chairs of the State Env. & Natural Resources Committee in the House, and met with Rep. Heintzeman with Comm. VanKempen on February 19th to discuss their request. Tim explained the legislative process for bill approval noting that HF2940 from last year is still a viable bill. He also mentioned that the forecasted budget report due at the end of February could impact funding decisions. He informed the board that since there are multiple ways to get a bill passed at the state level, he will follow the same letter sending process that was used for the House. The board thought that using the same system that was used for the House would be a good model to follow.
2. **Budget Committee Formation-** Tim explained the need to form a budget committee to review the sfy2027 upcoming budget. Comm. Barrows, Kearney, and Ramsrud volunteered with the potential of Gaasvig attending as well. Comm. Ramsrud said he would do it if Comm. Gaasvig wasn't able too. Comm. VanKempen texted Gaasvig asking if he would like to be on the committee and he responded favorably. Tim was advised by the board to send an email to the group providing specific days and times that the group could meet and then schedule the meeting through Zoom.
3. **MHHCP proposal-** Tim discussed a strategic planning session with MHHCP partners brought about by the LSOHC Council requesting a 10-year plan with goals and when they will be met. The group discussed the current geography of the program and the need to focus the efforts on specific watersheds in that geography. To find focus watersheds, the group wanted MHB to develop a contract with retired DNR employee Peter Jacobson to establish the correlation between water quality and habitat. The 75% watershed protection standard is good for water quality, but there is no metric for habitat. Jacobson helped create that standard and would be the best candidate for the contract. Tim provided the board with the process that he used for selecting Jacobson using the Crow Wing County professional services model and stated he will put it on the consent agenda at next month's meeting. Tim stated that this research could influence the DNR and state agencies to adopt the habitat model alternatives that are produced. Comm. VanKempen stated that he personally thinks that the 75% model is unrealistic and should be implemented statewide and not just in our area. Commissioner Kasper, Ramsrud and other Commissioners agreed that there is plenty of state land in the MHB counties.
4. **Outdoor & Public Spaces Committee-** Tim discussed with the board that he received an invitation from the Brainerd YMCA to join a committee that follows an AARP process plan that would focus on housing, transportation, outdoor spaces, and communication. He stated that much of the plan focuses on walkable and bikeable recreation but struggles to see how this primarily fits into the MHB overall mission focus on the Mississippi river. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that Tim attend as an individual rather than representing the MHB as it doesn't directly align with MHB's mission. Tim stated that he would decline the offer to attend but be a resource if there were any river-related issues that the group needed clarification or guidance on.
5. **We Are Water-** The Morrison County Great River Arts will host the "We Are Water" exhibit from August 13 to October 5th this year and Tim provided the board an explanation of what the exhibit and program is and who the state and local partners are. He stated that events that occur don't need to be in that time frame and that Morrison SWCD is hosting a water testing demonstration, and there is an MHB role in promoting our Brainerd History Paddle through the We Are Water education campaign.

Tim said that it would at least promote our event in a different marketing medium. Discussion ensued and Comm. Ramsrud stated that he saw one of those at the Headwaters Center in Bemidji and asked if MHB could have a booth there. Tim said he would follow up on that request. Comm. Kasper said he was interested in attending one of those exhibit days and Tim said he would set up a date and time with him in the future to attend. The board felt this aligned with our natural and historical values of the Comprehensive Plan.

- 6. Mighty Mississippi River Cleanup-** Every year, Goodhue County sends out an announcement for counties on the Miss. River to host a cleanup day on the Mississippi River. Tim said he is partnering with Morrison County and Beltrami SWCD on a Miss. River cleanup day. Beltrami is planning on hosting one on May ninth at Paul Bunyan Park. According to Morrison Env/Recreation Manager; they want to connect with committed partners, but this will depend on summer construction timing, finding a local group, and funding. They would like to have approximately \$500 for safety vests, trash bags, and gloves which could be reused every year except for bags. Tim talked with Mike Becker who works at Morrison SWCD and is a scout leader. He thinks the Boy and Girl scouts will be interested in cleaning up Bell Prairie Park. The board thought this would enhance the recreational values of the Mississippi River and be a good public event.
- 7. Schedule of Events-** Tim provided the board with a tentative schedule of river-related events. He mentioned established events that are planned and a potential paddle event at Itasca State Park (ISP). He mentioned that there is a planned filming event at the Miller Black Bear ATV trail to help the public gain awareness about the Mississippi river and trails. The board was pleased that Tim reached out to get a potential event at Itasca State Park. Comm. VanKempen discussed how they are looking at adding a trail from ISP to Emmaville and noted the potential issues with timber harvesting on public lands.

Executive Directors Report

1. Tim followed up with cities that had completed stormwater retrofit practices over the last ten years and will have a report next month on what was completed and next steps.
2. Tim attended the Mississippi River Sartel One Watershed One Plan advisory committee meeting where they discussed priority areas, 10-year goals, measurable goals, and future conditions. The plan would include language on nutrient and sediment reduction goals, smart salting management training programs, and animal waste systems. Comm. Ramsrud asked about the chloride goals and Tim stated that reducing over-salting and risk reduction can be achieved through salt management training programs. Comm. Barrows said that some counties are now applying a salty brine instead of salt because the salt crystals send up being thrown into the ditches when the plow goes through whereas the brine does not.
3. Tim said he held a meeting with the Miss. River Parkway Commission and provided them with examples of how the MHB can promote the Great River Road through influencer videos. The group liked the videos and presentation and decided to develop a marketing subcommittee.
4. Tim discussed that he modified the original Gantt chart reporting system to better connect with the monthly reports he gives.
5. Tim met with Beltrami County Commissioner Scott Winger and they discussed MHB programs and county issues.

Annual Performance Evaluation- The board closed the meeting to evaluate the MHB Executive Director.

M/S (Barrows/Kasper) to approve of closing the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

M/S (Barrows/Kasper) to approve of opening the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The board gave a rating of underperforming but provided the Executive Director with a 3% cost of living increase. Comm. Barrows will work with Crow Wing County Human Resources to update the resolution since it doesn't meet the current changes to Crow Wing County policy and make sure the correct signature can be placed on the resolution.

M/S (Kasper/Barrows) to approve of Resolution 2026-01 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

MHB Board- Comm. VanKempen discussed that the board should have a discussion at their next meeting about what they are here for, and what the mission is, and if there are opportunities to partner with county staff to administer some of the work done by the Executive Director. He provided examples of how some joint powers boards operate. He would like to look at factors surrounding structure, operation, and existence of the MHB.

County Updates- None

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

Vice Chair

Executive Director Tim Terrill

February SFY'26 Budget Summary		YTD spending/rei mbursement	Projected Budget	% of budget spent	
Revenues:	Monthly Amount				Notes
Governor's DNR grant (53290)		\$ 119,836.29	\$ 124,000.00	96.64%	non competitive quarterly reimbursement
LSOHC grant (53290)		\$ 6,309.12	\$ 7,800.00	80.89%	LSOHC reimbursement
Guidebook sales (58400)		\$ 242.84	\$ 100.00	242.84%	reimbursement for Guidebook sales
Enbridge program (58300)		\$ 8,976.30	\$ 8,000.00	112.20%	enbridge signage and resourcetainment reimbursement
Miscell. Other revenue (58300)		\$ 3,361.60	\$ 6,000.00	56.03%	AIS admin revenue
MCIT Dividend (58300)		\$ 14.00	\$ 200.00	7.00%	MCIT refund
County Support (52990)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	62.50%	8 county support- Morrison
Total	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 146,240.15	\$ 34,100.00		
Expenses:					Notes
Salaries/Benefits FICA/Med/PERA/LIFE/LTD/Hlth/ WC(61000)	\$ 9,821.68	\$ 79,815.03	\$ 123,307.00	64.73%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
MCIT insurance/work comp/liability (61500)		\$ 2,570.00	\$ 3,000.00	85.67%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
MHB board Per Diem (62680)		\$ 1,100.00	\$ 3,000.00	36.67%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Hotel/Meals/travel exp. (63340)	\$ 12.58	\$ 364.20	\$ 500.00	72.84%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Commissioner Mileage (62720)		\$ 1,683.60	\$ 3,500.00	48.10%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Employee Mileage (63320)	\$ 266.51	\$ 3,129.37	\$ 5,500.00	56.90%	reimbursed by Gov. DNR grant
Professional Services (62990)		\$ 27,761.15	\$ 35,000.00	79.32%	
Office supplies/operations (64090)	\$ 118.55	\$ 1,594.89	\$ 3,000.00	53.16%	telephone, printer ink, stamps
Training & Registration Fees (63380)		\$ 450.00	\$ 800.00	56.25%	
Total	\$ 10,219.32	\$ 118,468.24	\$ 177,607.00		

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

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

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2026 02 TO 2026 02

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
							PER 01	-6,000.00	-6,000.00	
26/02	iNovah	271 02/03/26	GNI 868931	Britny.McC 62044				-1,500.00	-7,500.00	
				Morrison AIS county support						
										LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS: .00
										CREDITS: -7,500.00
										NET: -7,500.00
74830	58300		Miscellaneous Other Revenue							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	-10,000.00	-10,000.00	
26/02	iNovah	271 02/03/26	GNI 868931	Britny.McC 62044				-7,500.00	-17,500.00	
				Morrison AIS county support						
26/02	iNovah	368 02/06/26	GNI 869183	Britny.McC 62089				-1,000.00	-18,500.00	
				LINCOLN AIS SUPPORT						
26/02	iNovah	933 02/20/26	GNI 870134	Britny.McC 62227				-500.00	-19,000.00	
				Norman AIS Support						
26/02	iNovah	1102 02/24/26	GNI 870317	Britny.McC 62260				-5,000.00	-24,000.00	
				Hennepin AIS support						
26/02	iNovah	1102 02/24/26	GNI 870316	Britny.McC 62260				-2,000.00	-26,000.00	
				Todd AIS Support						
26/02	iNovah	1294 02/27/26	GNI 870663	Britny.McC 62311				-5,000.00	-31,000.00	
				Itasca AIS support						
										LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS: .00
										CREDITS: -31,000.00
										NET: -31,000.00
74830	61000		Salaries & Wages - Regular							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	6,464.24	6,464.24	
26/02		327 02/06/26	PRJ PR0206	1260206	1260206	1260		3,232.12	9,696.36	
										PAY020626 WARRANT=260206 RUN=1 BI-WEEKL
26/02		843 02/20/26	PRJ PR0220	1260220	1260220	1260		3,232.11	12,928.47	
										PAY022026 WARRANT=260220 RUN=1 BI-WEEKL
										LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS: 12,928.47
										CREDITS: .00
										NET: 12,928.47

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2026 02 TO 2026 02

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
74830	61200		Active Insurance							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	2,448.52	2,448.52	
26/02	327	02/06/26	PRJ PR0206	1260206	1260206	1260		1,228.12	3,676.64	
	PAY020626	WARRANT=260206	RUN=1	BI-WEEKL						
26/02	843	02/20/26	PRJ PR0220	1260220	1260220	1260		1,220.40	4,897.04	
	PAY022026	WARRANT=260220	RUN=1	BI-WEEKL						
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		4,897.04		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	4,897.04
74830	61300		Employee Pension & FICA							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	908.91	908.91	
26/02	327	02/06/26	PRJ PR0206	1260206	1260206	1260		454.47	1,363.38	
	PAY020626	WARRANT=260206	RUN=1	BI-WEEKL						
26/02	843	02/20/26	PRJ PR0220	1260220	1260220	1260		454.46	1,817.84	
	PAY022026	WARRANT=260220	RUN=1	BI-WEEKL						
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		1,817.84		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	1,817.84
74830	62100		Telephone							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	60.86	60.86	
26/02	498	02/17/26	API 006205		253704		43692	6.47	67.33	
	W C021726	COUNTY WIDE BILL			CONSOLIDATED TELECOM					
26/02	843	02/20/26	PRJ PR0220	1260220	1260220	1260		55.00	122.33	
	PAY022026	WARRANT=260220	RUN=1	BI-WEEKL						
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		122.33		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	122.33
74830	63320		Employee Mileage							
										REVISED BUDGET .00
							PER 01	282.80	282.80	
26/02	847	02/24/26	API 007742		253930		43791	266.51	549.31	
	W OOP0126	JANUARY MILEAGE			TERRILL, TIM					
			LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		549.31		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	549.31

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2026 02 TO 2026 02

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT PROJ JNL EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
74830	63340	Hotel & Meals Travel Expense							
						REVISED BUDGET			.00
						PER 01	174.06	174.06	
26/02	1293 02/26/26	GNI					12.58	186.64	
	BREM PCARD Commissioner meeting TIM TERRILL-MCDONALD'S F18824-Commissioner meeting with Scott Winger								
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:			186.64	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	186.64
74830	64090	Office Supplies							
						REVISED BUDGET			.00
26/02	1293 02/26/26	GNI					47.38	47.38	
	BREM PCARD printer ink TIM TERRILL-WAL-MART #1654-printer ink								
26/02	1293 02/26/26	GNI					9.70	57.08	
	BREM PCARD mailing/stamps TIM TERRILL-USPS PO 2611000401-mailing/stamps								
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:			57.08	CREDITS:		.00	NET:	57.08
	GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:			20,558.71	CREDITS:		-38,500.00	NET:	-17,941.29

19 Records printed

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

CROW WING FUNDING AGREEMENT

This non-exclusive Agreement (“Agreement”) is made, effective upon execution by all parties (“Effective Date), by and between the Mississippi Headwaters Board, located at 326 Laurel St. Brainerd, MN 56401(MHB) and Peter Jacobson, Consultant (Jacobson), with its principal office located at PO Box 206 Lake George, MN 56458.

ARTICLE 1: RECITALS

WHEREAS, MHB was established in 1980 under Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-378 to identify and protect the natural, cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational values of the Mississippi River’s first four hundred miles; and

WHEREAS, MHB and Jacobson agree to enter into this Agreement whereby Jacobson will provide easement services for Cass County Miss. Headwaters Habitat Corridor project program area and MHB will reimburse those services through their agreement with the Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, covenants and mutual promises contained in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

2.1 Purpose.

MHB and Jacobson agree that the purpose of this Agreement is to provide professional services to the MHB.

ARTICLE 3: TERM OF GRANT AGREEMENT

- 3.1 ***Effective date:*** The date the MHB obtains all required signatures. **The Grantee must not begin work under this grant agreement until this Grant Agreement is fully executed and the Grantee has been notified by the Executive Director to begin the work.**
- 3.2 ***Expiration date:*** May 31, 2026, or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever comes first.

ARTICLE 4: DEFINITIONS

4.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Agreement and the Schedules hereto, unless there is something in the context inconsistent therewith, the following words and phrases will have the following meanings:

- (a) **Agreement** means this Agreement as the same may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms hereof and the expressions “herein”, “hereof”, “hereto”, “above”, “below” and similar expressions if used in any sub-paragraph, paragraph, sub-section, Section or Article of this Agreement refer and relate back to the whole of this

Agreement and not to that sub-paragraph, paragraph, sub-section, Section or Article only, unless otherwise expressly provided;

- (b) **“Confidential Information”** means information that is deemed nonpublic or confidential pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act;
- (c) **Event of Default** means, with respect either Jacobson or MHB, that:
- (i) such Party makes an assignment of its assets for the benefit of its creditors or makes a proposal to its creditors under any bankruptcy or insolvency legislation of any jurisdiction;
 - (ii) a petition in bankruptcy is filed and presented against such Party or a receiver, receiver and manager, custodian or similar agent is appointed or takes possession of any property or business of such Party;
 - (iii) such Party ceases or threatens to cease to carry on its business;
 - (iv) an execution, sequestration, extent or other process of any court becomes enforceable against such Party or a distress or analogous process is levied upon the property of such Party or any part thereof that is not cured within sixty (60) days;
 - (v) in the case of either Party, any of the representations or warranties given hereunder are found to be incorrect or untrue and, as result, have a material, adverse effect upon such Party carrying out its obligations hereunder;
 - (vi) either Party’s failure to remedy a material breach of this Agreement within sixty (60) days of receipt of written notice from the other Party specifying in detail the nature of such breach.
 - (vii) written notice from any authorized agency finding either Party’s contract activities pursuant to this Agreement to be in violation of the law.
 - (viii) in the case of either Party if is found to be engaged in illegal contract or purchasing activities and/or no longer exists under the applicable law.
- (d) **“Parties”** means the parties to this Agreement, specifically Jacobson and MHB and **“Party”** means any one of Jacobson and MHB;

ARTICLE 5: PROJECT INFORMATION

5.1 Project Deliverable.

- Produce a report to quantify the relationship between terrestrial habitat quality and watershed protection of lands at a hydrologic scale. Various hydrologic unit scales will be analyzed.
- GIS data for each of these tools will be assembled by hydrologic units and correlations will be explored between land use, watershed protection, and terrestrial habitat quality. Response plots of

terrestrial habitat quality as a function of land use (e.g. National Land Cover Data - NLCD) to identify important land use disturbance benchmarks.

- When appropriate land use disturbance benchmarks are determined; effects of targeting watershed land protection will be evaluated from a wildlife habitat perspective and a report will be prepared providing insights into the amount of land protection required to maintain wildlife habitat quality with defined benchmarks. These benchmarks can provide an indication of “How much land protection is enough” within each hydrologic unit.

5.2 Action Steps and Timeline.

- March 6, 2026 – May 1, 2026: study and develop report.

ARTICLE 6: FINANCIAL NEED AND RESOURCES

6.1 Funding.

MHB shall provide funding through their Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation the amount of up to \$8,400 for professional services. The contract shall not exceed \$8,400.

ARTICLE 7: TERMINATION

7.1 Term

The period of this Agreement will commence on the date hereof and expire on May 31, 2026.

7.2 Termination

This Agreement shall be terminated prior to the expiration of the Term:

- (a) immediately upon either Party providing written notice to the other Party in the event of the occurrence of an Event of Default with respect to the other Party. Termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Subsection (a) shall not limit, in any way, the recourse to any remedies available to either Party at law or in equity; or
- (b) ninety (90) days following delivery by either Party of written notice to the other Party to that effect.

7.3 Payment upon Termination

In the event of termination of this Agreement, each Party shall perform its obligations up to and including the effective date of termination.

7.4 Rights and Obligations on Termination or Expiry

Upon the expiry of the Term or the termination of this Agreement and in addition to the other obligations of each Party as set forth herein, each Party shall promptly and unconditionally return or cause to be returned to other Party, as the case may be, all data, property, documentation and other materials supplied by or at the direction of one Party to the other Party or to any of its employees or agents.

ARTICLE 8: LIMITED LICENSE TO USE OF NAMES AND TRADEMARKS

8.1 Limited License To Use Name and Logo

Each Party grants the other Party a limited license to use its name and logo in advertising and promoting the events as contemplated in this Agreement, including the use of its logo on any merchandise authorized by both Parties.

8.2 Written Approval Required Before Use of Name and Logo

Notwithstanding Section 8.1, prior to a Party using the other Party's name and logo, such Party shall first submit to the other Party, for its prior written approval, such approval will not be unreasonably withheld, the nature of the use provided for in Section 8.1.

ARTICLE 9: GENERAL CONDITIONS

9.1 Notices

Whether or not so stipulated herein, all notices, communication, requests and statements (the "Notice") required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing.

Any Notice required or permitted hereunder shall be sent to the intended recipient at its address as follows:

- (i) Mississippi Headwaters Board
ATTN: Executive Director
Address: 326 Laurel Street
City/State: Brainerd
Zip: 56401
Email: timt@mississippiheadwaters.org
Telephone: (218)-824-1189

Notice shall be served by the following means:

- (a) by delivering it to the Party on whom it is to be served via email or US postal mail. Notice delivered in this manner shall be deemed received when actually delivered to such Party through these methods.

9.2 Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Attorney's Fees

This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be adjudicated in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. In any action or proceeding to enforce rights under this Agreement, the prevailing Party will be entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorney's fees from the other Party

9.3 Force Majeure

Neither Party hereto shall be liable to the other for default or delay in performing its obligations hereunder if caused by fire, strike, riot, war, act of God, delay of carriers, governmental order or regulation, complete or partial shutdown of plant by reason of inability to obtain sufficient raw materials or power, and/or any other similar or different occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the Party so defaulting or

delaying. The Party whose performance is prevented by any such occurrence shall notify the other Party thereof in writing as soon as is reasonably possible after the commencement of such occurrence, setting forth the full particulars in connection therewith, shall remedy such occurrence with all reasonable dispatch, and shall promptly give written notice to the other Party of the cessation of such occurrence.

9.4 Assignment

Neither Party shall have the right to assign or otherwise transfer its rights and obligations under this Agreement except with the prior written consent of the other Party, provided that a successor in interest by merger, by operation of law, assignment, purchase, or otherwise of the entire business of either Party shall acquire all interest of such Party hereunder. Any prohibited assignment shall be invalid.

9.5 Relationship

Each Party is an independent entity under the terms of this Agreement. Neither Party, by virtue of this Agreement, will have any right, power, or authority to act or create any obligation, expressed or implied, on behalf of the other Party. Except as otherwise provided or as may hereafter be established by a written agreement executed by authorized representatives of the Parties, all operational expenses incurred by either Party will be borne by the Party incurring the expense. Neither Party will hold itself out as, nor claim to be, an agent of the other Party and will not make any claim, demand, or application to or for any right or privilege applicable to an agent of the other Party.

9.6 Indemnity

Each party agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the other harmless from any and all claims and demands of Members or Participants, which may result from the negligence of the other in connection with its duties and responsibilities under this Agreement, unless such action is a result of intentional wrongdoing of the other party. Each party agrees that it will be responsible for its own acts and the result thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party and the results thereof.

9.7 Limitations of Liability

Excepting the parties' indemnification obligations hereunder, neither party shall, by reason of termination of this Agreement or otherwise, be liable to the other party for any punitive, special, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to the following: compensation or damages for loss of present or prospective profits or revenues; loss of actual or anticipated commissions on sales or anticipated sales; expenditures, investments, or commitments made in connection with the establishment, development, or maintenance of the selling representation created by this Agreement or in connection with the performance of obligations, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, tort, or other legal theory. The foregoing limitation shall apply (A) even if such party has been advised of the possibility of such damages and (B) notwithstanding any failure of essential purpose of any limited remedy herein.

9.8 Binding Effect

This Agreement binds and inures to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

9.9 Entire Agreement

The individuals signing this Agreement hereby represent that they are authorized, on behalf of their

respective organizations, to execute this Agreement and the Agreement contains the entire understanding between the Parties concerning the subject matter.

9.10 Severability

In the event that any of the terms of this Agreement are in conflict with any rule, law, statutory provision, or are otherwise unenforceable under the laws or regulations of any applicable government or subdivision thereof, such terms shall be deemed stricken from this Agreement, but such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate any of the other terms of this Agreement. This Agreement shall continue in force, unless the invalidity or unenforceability of any such provisions hereof does substantial harm to, or where the invalid or unenforceable provisions compromise an integral part of, or are otherwise inseparable from, the remainder of this Agreement.

9.11 Waiver

Failure by either Party to take action or assert any right hereunder shall not be deemed a waiver of such right in the event of the continuation or repetition of the circumstances giving rise to such right.

9.12 Successors

All rights and remedies of the Parties hereunder shall insure to the benefit of their successors and assigns.

9.13 Amendments

This Agreement shall not be deemed or construed to be modified, amended, rescinded, canceled, or waived, in whole or in part, other than by written amendment signed by both Parties.

9.14 Confidentiality

The Parties agree and understand that each Party that all information that each Party possesses shall be considered public unless such information qualifies as an exception under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Parties agree to not disclose Confidential Information and shall take all reasonable measures to enforce the obligation of confidentiality and use contained herein with respect to any of their employees or former employees who while in the employ of the Parties have access to Confidential Information. In the event of unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information, the disclosing Party will indemnify, and hold the non-disclosing Party harmless from any and all claims, suits, fines, penalties, causes of action, damages, liabilities, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred as a result of the disclosing Party's unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information. The disclosing Party will be bound by, and will pay, the amount of any settlement, judgment, penalty, fine, and award as well as any and all costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred by the non-disclosing Party as a result of the unauthorized disclosure.

9.15 Reference to Articles, Provisions, and Sub-provisions

As used herein, reference to any Article, Provision, or Sub-provision shall be only with reference to an Article, Provision, or Sub-provision of this Agreement unless specifically indicated otherwise.

9.16 Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed and delivered in any number of counterparts, by facsimile copy,

by electronic or digital signature or by other written acknowledgement of consent and agreement to be legally bound by its terms. Each counterpart when executed and delivered will be considered an original but all counterparts taken together constitute one and the same instrument.

9.17 Execution and Delivery of Documents

Each of the Parties hereto, legal representatives, successors, and assigns shall do all things to execute and deliver any and all documents which may be necessary at any time to carry out and effectuate the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

9.18 Recitals and Schedules

The Parties hereby confirm and ratify the matters contained and referred to in the Recitals and this Agreement and agree that it and the various schedule(s) hereto are expressly incorporated into and form part of this Agreement, notwithstanding that such Schedules may not be expressly referred to herein. If a conflict arises between any provision contained in this Agreement and any provision contained in any of the schedules hereto, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

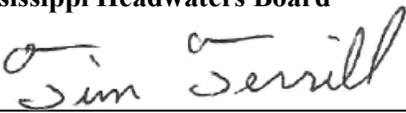
The Schedules to this Agreement are as follows:

Schedule "A" - **Develop methods to evaluate terrestrial wildlife habitat values that accrue from watershed protection efforts in the Mississippi Headwaters**

ARTICLE 10. AGREEMENT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement effective the date hereof.

Mississippi Headwaters Board

By 
Authorized Signature-**Signed**

By Tim Terrill
Name-**Printed**

Title Executive Director

Date 3/3/2026

Peter Jacobson

By 
Authorized Signature-**Signed**

By _____
Name-**Printed**

Title _____

Date _____

Schedule A

A Proposal to the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project

Develop methods to evaluate terrestrial wildlife habitat values that accrue from watershed protection efforts in the Mississippi Headwaters

Prepared by Peter C. Jacobson, Consultant

February 23, 2026

Background

A significant number of forested and natural lands have been protected in the Mississippi Headwaters region of Minnesota. These conservation efforts have been primarily focused on protecting the excellent water quality of lakes and streams throughout the region. Significant wildlife benefits have also accrued because of these land protection efforts. The same forested lands that benefit watersheds by delivering clear, unpolluted water to our lakes and streams are also important habitats for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. The purpose of this proposal is to examine methods that calculate the wildlife habitat benefits that happen concurrently with watershed protection efforts.

Approach

Quantify the relationship between terrestrial habitat quality and watershed protection of lands at a hydrologic unit scale. Various hydrologic unit scales (HUC-10, HUC-12, and HUC-14/DNR Minor Watersheds) will be analyzed.

First, the work will explore a number of terrestrial wildlife habitat value models and data sets that have been developed in recent years. They include:

1. DNR Terrestrial Habitat Value Score. The score is being used within the [DNR Watershed Health Assessment Framework](#). The model uses habitat needs of representative wildlife species and the score is based on the methods developed for the Regionally Significant Ecological Areas modeling done by the Minnesota DNR. Areas with native and semi-natural vegetation provide important habitat for the representative species.
2. [DNR Wildlife Action Plan Network](#). The maps and data were developed in support of the 2015-2025 MN Wildlife Action Plan. Specific data included in the analysis were Species In Greatest Conservation Need, Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, cores and corridors of the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, High Conservation Value Forests, Lakes of Biological Significance, and Rivers/Streams with an exceptional index of biological integrity (IBI) score.

3. [The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Lands Mapping Tool](#). The tool incorporates a number of ecological features such as resilience, connectivity, climate, and biodiversity. Data is available for the entire nation.

Then, GIS data for each of these tools will be assembled by hydrologic units and correlations will be explored between land use, watershed protection, and terrestrial habitat quality. Response plots of terrestrial habitat quality as a function of land use (e.g. National Land Cover Data - NLCD) to identify important land use disturbance benchmarks. This would be similar to the approach used by the Minnesota DNR Fish Habitat Plan that identified the 75% natural lands benchmark used as a goal for watershed protection efforts. Determining the shapes of each response curve will be important for determining appropriate thresholds. Sharp breakpoints can make for obvious benchmarks, where habitat quality changes rapidly as a function of land use disturbance. Other, more gradual responses, require interpretation where suitable benchmarks can be assigned to minimize the loss of habitat quality.

Once appropriate land use disturbance benchmarks can be determined, the effects of targeting watershed land protection can be evaluated from a wildlife habitat perspective. Specifically, the evaluation can provide insight into the amount of land protection required to maintain wildlife habitat quality above the defined benchmark. These benchmarks can provide an indication of "How much land protection is enough" within each hydrologic unit for MHHCP conservation focal areas.

Budget

Terrestrial Habitat Data Sources Exploration	30 hours
Benchmark Statistical Analysis	70 hours
Report Preparation	20 hours
Total	120 hours

Consultant rate @ \$70.00/hour for a total of \$8,400 for the potential contract

Contract period: March 1, 2026 through May 1, 2026

Litter On the Ice Campaign Partnership Performance

3/10/26

January 23 Post Performance: Let's All Work Together

DNR

Facebook:

- Views: 9,565
- Interactions: 100 (74 reactions, 5 comments, 20 shares, 1 save)
- Net follows: +5
- Link clicks: 2

Instagram:

- Views: 3,813 (47.3% followers, 52.7% non-followers)
- Accounts reached: 3,054
- Interactions: 84 (72 likes, 10 comments, 2 shares)

MHB

Facebook:

- Views: 550
- Viewers: 436
- Interactions: 9 (8 Likes/reactions, 0 comments, 2 shares, 0 save)
- Net follows: +0

Instagram:

- Views: 97 (34 followers, 61 non-followers)
- Reach: 66
- Interactions: 3 (2 likes, 0 comments, 1 shares)
- Watch Time: 9 minutes

Litter On the Ice Campaign Partnership Performance

3/10/26

- Profile activity: 2 follows

Feb. 3rd, 2026 Post Performance- Permanent Shelter cities on the ice

DNR

Facebook:

- Views: 11,258 (62.1% followers, 37.9% non-followers)
- Viewers: 8,917
- Interactions: 207 (172 reactions, 8 comments, 26 shares, 1 save)
- 3-second views: 5,855
- Net follows: +1
- Link clicks: 2

Instagram:

- Views: 12,072 (44.9% followers, 55.1% non-followers)
- Accounts reached: 8,890
- Interactions: 454 (401 likes, 4 comments, 13 saves, 26 shares)

MHB

Facebook:

- Views: 2229 (776 Followers, 1,452 non-followers)
- Viewers: 2047
- Interactions: 31 (28 Likes/reactions, 0 comments, 2 shares, 1 save)
- Watch Time: 22 minutes

Instagram:

- Views: 171 (39 followers, 127 non-followers)
- Reach: 151
- Interactions: 3 (3 likes/reactions, 0 comments, 0 shares)
- Watch Time: 22m 54s

Litter On the Ice Campaign Partnership Performance

3/10/26

Feb 18th 2026 Post Performance- Trash on the Ice

DNR

Facebook:

- Views: 6,272 (66.6% followers, 33.4% non-followers)
- Viewers: 5,257
- Interactions: 130 (97 reactions, 12 comments, 21 shares)
- 3-second views: 2,887
- Link clicks: 5

Instagram:

- Views: 7,375 (48.6% followers, 51.4% non-followers)
- Accounts reached: 5,722
- Interactions: 262 (234 likes, 5 comments, 5 saves, 10 shares)
- Profile activity: 1 follow

MHB

Facebook:

- Views: 3,140 (1,526 followers, 1611 non-followers)
- Viewers: 2849
- Interactions: 43 (28 Likes/reactions, 2 comments, 12 shares, 1 save)
- Watch Time: 24 min

Instagram:

- Views: 54 (20 followers, 33 non-followers)
- Reach: 42
- Interactions: 3 (2 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares, 1 save)
- Watch Time: 6 min 10sec

Litter On the Ice Campaign Partnership Performance

3/10/26

March 2nd 2026 Post Performance- Waste on the Ice

DNR

Facebook:

- Views: 4,731 (75.9% followers, 24.1% non-followers)
- Viewers: 3,897
- Interactions: 50 (44 reactions, 3 comments, 3 shares)
- 3-second views: 1,945
- Link clicks: 2

Instagram:

- Views: 5,472 (49.7% followers, 50.3% non-followers)
- Accounts reached: 3,732
- Interactions: 103 (94 likes, 2 saves, 6 shares)
- Profile activity: 2 follows

MHB

Facebook:

- Views: 1,188
- Viewers: 995
- Interactions: 19 (13 Likes/reactions, 4 comments, 2 shares, 0 saves)
- Watch Time: 8.8 Min

Instagram:

- Views: 154 (29 followers, 124 non-followers)
- Reach: 132
- Interactions: 2 (2 likes/reactions)
- Watch Tme: 7m 47sec

Mississippi Headwaters Board Work Plan July 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2027 SFY 2027

This Work Plan is submitted as required by Minnesota Statute 103F.361 to 103F.377 and the MNDNR. The Work Plan is to be implemented by the joint powers board member counties of Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca and Morrison in conjunction with the attached budget. This proposed work plan looks forward to full funding of what we can accomplish with ever increasing responsibility to protect the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River.

WORK PLAN:

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) participates with and provides leadership and staff support to citizens and partners within the Upper 400 mile Mississippi River corridor, as funding permits, in four program areas:

- A.1. Protect and Enhance Scientific Values
- A.2. Protect and Enhance Natural Values
- A.3. Protect and Enhance Historic/Cultural Values
- A.4. Protect and Enhance Recreational Values

The Mississippi Headwaters Board has made river protection a priority, and remains ready to champion the development of this cause. The funding necessary to complete this will require utilizing many revenue streams such as: Clean Water Legacy, general appropriation, Outdoor Heritage funding, and private funding opportunities. The work plan and budget constitute an effective plan to coordinate Mississippi Headwaters Board efforts with the Minnesota's water protection initiatives. This organization is up to the challenge with and through the on-going support of the state of Minnesota, our eight member counties, various local agencies, and private partners. Below are key initiatives that the Mississippi Headwaters Board plans to execute, followed by the four program area details as mentioned above.

SFY 2027 INITIATIVES

I. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Implement funding received for Social Media campaign to achieve 1 million views and 2,000 content interactions.

Result: Send out monthly reports on the progress of our social media campaign.

II. Natural Resource Protection

The MHB will continue to implement previous appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, including a new appropriation to begin on July 1, 2026.

Result: acquire 3 easements and 1 fee-title acquisition.

III. Recreational signage

Implement signage on three different stretches of the Mississippi river.

Result: Aitkin: Aitkin Campground to Pine Knoll

Aitkin: Verdon Canoe water Access to Lee Ferry

Aitkin: Jacobson Campground to Verdon

IV. Resourcetaintment Events

Hold 5 paddling events to promote the use of the Mississippi river and have calendar of events webpage available to promote events.

Result: Aitkin, Cohasset, Brainerd, Bemidji and Itasca State Park will hold events.

V. High School Visits

Meet with high school students in the eight MHB counties and provide them with information about the formation and programs of the MHB and other natural resource careers agencies offer. Have board members review Teacher Survey.

Result: Reach out to 9 high schools

Bemidji High School Career day 4

Deer River High School

Brainerd High school

Crosby Ironton

Aitkin High School

Royalton High School

Park Rapids High

Bagley Senior High

Faith,Hope, Love Christian academy

Internal Working budget

Expenses (Office Operation)	Budgeted Annually	actual expenses 7/24-6/25	actual expenses 7/23-6/24
Salary (Insur,active insur, Exec. Director PERA&FICA)	\$ 133,108.00	119,323	113,683
Insurance Liability (Work Comp)	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,795	\$ 2,563
Hotels & Meals*	\$ 500.00	\$ 228	\$ 348
MHB Operating Expenses Per Diem	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,750
MHB Mileage CM (IRS rate)*	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,217	\$ 2,921
Staff Mileage *	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,355	\$ 4,268
Office Operations+Tele:	\$3,000.00	\$ 1,132	\$ 2,689
ED/Training and Registration Fees	\$ 800.00		\$ 400
400	\$152,108.00	\$ 132,450	\$ 129,622
	planned		planned
Prof. Service	\$ 88,879.00	\$ 123,417.00	\$ 144,001.00
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$240,987.00	\$255,866.67	\$273,623.00

* Only \$19K allowed over a two year biennium. 26- 27 is last year of biennium and then might want to increase these line items.

Revenue	Income	planned revenue 7/24-6/25	planned revenue 7/23-6/24
State/DNR	\$ 124,000.00	\$ 124,000.00	\$ 124,000.00
Grant Revenue	\$ 52,879.00	\$ 97,959.00	\$ 122,178.00
County Appropriations	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Reserve Funding			
Misc. Revenue	\$ 15,008.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,686.00
Guidebook Sales	\$ 100.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 126.00

Sub-total	\$ 203,987.00	\$ 236,677	263,990
Grants/Other	Approximate Admin. Revenue	actual	actual
LSOHC Program	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,547	\$ 7,506
AIS MN Traditions	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,390	\$ 3,907
Miss. River signage & Resourcetainment	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,021	\$ 10,410
MN Traditions Resourcetainment marketing	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ -
Sub-total	\$37,000	\$25,458.00	\$21,823.00
REVENUE TOTAL	\$ 240,987.00	\$ 262,135	\$ 285,813.00

verify

Current Fund Balance is \$247,507. Planning to use \$7,000 of that in SFY2027

MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
TABLE OF CONTENTS
JUNE 30, 2025**

	Page
INTRODUCTORY SECTION	
Organization	1
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report	2
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
General Fund Balance Sheet and Governmental Activities - Statement of Net Position	5
General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance and Governmental Activities - Statement of Activities	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund	11
Note to the Required Supplementary Information	12
REPORTS RELATED TO <i>GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS</i>	
Independent Auditor's Report on Minnesota Legal Compliance	13
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	14
Schedule of Finding and Response	16

MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
ORGANIZATION
JUNE 30, 2025

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Chair	Ted Van Kempen	January 2026
Vice-Chair	Craig Gaasvig	January 2026
Secretary/Treasurer	Steve Barrows	January 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Managers
Mississippi Headwaters Board
Brainerd, Minnesota

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mississippi Headwaters Board, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Mississippi Headwaters Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mississippi Headwaters Board, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Mississippi Headwaters Board and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Mississippi Headwaters Board's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Mississippi Headwaters Board's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison schedule on page 11 and the note to the required supplementary information on page 12 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the JPB's organizational information under the introductory section but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 10, 2025, on our consideration of Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

December 10, 2025

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
 BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
 GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES -
 STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 JUNE 30, 2025**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Governmental Activities
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 222,790	\$ -	\$ 222,790
Accounts Receivables	49,485	-	49,485
Prepaid Expenses	1,398	-	1,398
Total Assets	\$ 273,673	\$ -	\$ 273,673
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,959	\$ -	\$ 6,959
Long-term Liabilities:			
Compensated Absences	-	19,207	19,207
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,959	\$ 19,207	\$ 26,166
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION			
Fund Balance:			
Non-spendable - Prepaid Expenses	\$ 1,398	\$ (1,398)	\$ -
Unassigned	265,316	(265,316)	-
Total Fund Balance	\$ 266,714	\$ (266,714)	\$ -
Net Position:			
Unrestricted		\$ 247,507	\$ 247,507
Total Net Position		\$ 247,507	\$ 247,507

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
 BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
 GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
 IN FUND BALANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	General Fund	Adjustments	Governmental Activities
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	\$ 170,938	\$ -	\$ 170,938
Charges for Services	67,337	-	67,337
Miscellaneous	460	-	460
Total Revenues	<u>238,735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>238,735</u>
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES			
Conservation:			
Current	<u>254,077</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>254,005</u>
Total Expenditures/Expenses	<u>254,077</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>254,005</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/UNDER EXPENDITURES	(15,342)	72	(15,270)
Fund Balance/Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>282,056</u>	<u>(19,279)</u>	<u>262,777</u>
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 266,714</u>	<u>\$ (19,207)</u>	<u>\$ 247,507</u>

See accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Mississippi Headwaters Board (the JPB) have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for the year ended June 30, 2025. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). The significant accounting policies used by the JPB are discussed below.

Financial Reporting Entity

The Mississippi Headwaters Board was formed in 1980 as an alternative to designation of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River System and works to protect and preserve the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. The Mississippi Headwaters Board is organized as a joint powers board of Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, and Morrison Counties and is mandated by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103F to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific and recreational values of the headwaters region.

The JPB is governed by a Board of Managers composed of eight members, each appointed by the County Board of Commissioners of their respective County for a one-year term.

The mission of the JPB is to enhance and protect outstanding and unique natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values in the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River from its source at Lake Itasca in Clearwater County to the southerly boundary of Morrison County, Minnesota.

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, consideration has been given to other organizations that should be included in the JPB's financial statements for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the JPB are such that exclusion would cause the JPB's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. There are no organizations that should be presented with the JPB.

Basic Financial Statements

Basic financial statements include information on the JPB's activities as a whole and information on the individual fund of the JPB. These separate presentations are reported in different columns. Each of the statements starts with a column of information based on activities of the General Fund and reconciles it to a column that reports the "governmental activities" of the JPB as a whole.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The governmental activities are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. The JPB's net position is reported as restricted and unrestricted. The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the expenses of the JPB are offset by revenues.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available. The JPB considers all revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current period. Charges for services and interest are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources, when applicable.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the JPB's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position or Fund Balance

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is stated at fair value, except for non-negotiable Certificates of Deposit, which are on a cost basis, and short-term money market investments, which are stated at amortized cost.

Accounts Receivables

Receivables are collectible within one year. The financial statements contain no allowance for uncollectible accounts. Uncollectible accounts due for receivables are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available that indicates the particular receivable is uncollectible. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operations of the fund.

Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses are for items that will provide future benefit over the next twelve months.

Compensated Absences

The JPB's only employee, the Executive Director, is employed directly by Crow Wing County which then charges the JPB for all actual employment costs. As an employee of Crow Wing County, the Executive Director follows Crow Wing County's employee benefit plans.

All paid time off (PTO) is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for this amount is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations or retirements, and are payable with expendable available resources.

Payments for PTO will be made at rates in effect when the benefits are used. Accumulated PTO at June 30, 2025 are determined on the basis of current salary rates and include salary related payments.

Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report components of fund balance to provide information about fund balance availability for appropriation. Non-spendable fund balance represents amounts that are inherently non-spendable or assets that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Restricted fund balance represents amounts available for appropriation but intended for a specific use and is legally restricted by outside parties (statute, grantors, bond agreements, etc.). Committed fund balance represents constraints on spending that the government imposes upon itself by a high-level formal action prior to the close of the fiscal period. Assigned fund balance represents resources intended for spending for a purpose set by the government body itself or by some person or government body delegated to exercise such authority in accordance with the policy established by the Board. Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the JPB's General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, it is the JPB's policy to use restricted first, then the unrestricted fund balance. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance amounts are available, it is the JPB's policy to use committed first, then assigned, and finally unassigned fund balance amounts.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position or Fund Balance (Continued)

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities in the government-wide statement of net position. Net position is reported as restricted in the government-wide financial statements when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws, or regulations of other governments. Unrestricted net position is the residual classification for the Governmental Activities Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Explanation of Adjustments Column in Statements

Long-Term Liabilities: In the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet, an adjustment is made to reflect the total Compensated Absences the JPB has as of the report date. See Note 3 on Long-Term Liabilities.

Change in Compensated Absences for the year: In the Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance, the adjustment equals the change in compensated absences between the reporting year and the previous year.

Change in Accounting Principle

Effective July 1, 2024, the JPB adopted GASB 101, *Compensated Absences*. The new standard aligns the recognition and measurement under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The JPB already had a policy in place for this; therefore, this has no affect on them.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS

All JPB funds are on deposit with Crow Wing County. Crow Wing County shall serve as the fiscal agent for the JPB and maintain all funds in segregated accounts. Crow Wing County's cash and investment policies are followed. Minnesota Statutes require that all County deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral.

NOTE 3 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The following is a summary of changes in the JPB's long-term liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2025:

	<u>July 1, 2024</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>June 30, 2025</u>
Compensated Absences*	<u>\$ 19,279</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 72</u>	<u>\$ 19,207</u>

*The change in the compensated absences liability is presented as a net change.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 3 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

Paid Time Off (PTO)

The Executive Director earns paid time off (PTO) at varying amounts based on length of service. PTO accrual varies from 21 to 34 days per year. Maximum PTO accrual is 480 hours.

The Executive Director shall be entitled to all accrued personal time off benefits up to a maximum of four hundred eighty hours (480) as severance pay upon retirement, death, resignation in good standing or layoff. In the event of the death of the employee, the severance pay shall be paid to the designated beneficiary or to the employee's estate.

Compensated Absences Payable

The amount of the estimated obligation at June 30, 2025 was \$19,207.

NOTE 4 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The JPB is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; workers' compensation claims; or natural disasters. The JPB has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) to cover its liabilities for workers compensation and property and casualty. There were no significant reductions of insurance coverage from the prior year. There have been no settlements in excess of the JPB's insurance coverage for any of the past three years.

NOTE 5 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The JPB is not aware of any existing or pending lawsuits, claims or other actions in which the JPB is a defendant.

NOTE 6 – RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCE TO NET POSITION

Governmental Fund Balance, July 1	\$	282,056
Less: Excess of Expenditures over Revenues		(15,342)
Governmental Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$</u>	<u>266,714</u>
Adjustments from Fund Balance to Net Position:		
Less: Long-Term Liabilities	<u>\$</u>	<u>(19,207)</u>
Net Position	<u>\$</u>	<u>247,507</u>

NOTE 7– RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE TO CHANGE IN NET POSITION

Change in Fund Balance	\$	(15,342)
In the statement of activities certain operating expenses including compensated absences are measured by the amounts earned.		<u>72</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$</u>	<u>(15,270)</u>

NOTE 8 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The JPB has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through December 10, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

	Original/ Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental:			
County	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -
State Grants	275,000	158,938	(116,062)
Total Intergovernmental	<u>287,000</u>	<u>170,938</u>	<u>(116,062)</u>
Charges for Services	33,900	67,337	33,437
Miscellaneous	<u>665</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>(205)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>321,565</u>	<u>238,735</u>	<u>(82,830)</u>
EXPENDITURES			
District Operations:			
Contracted Personnel Services	117,860	119,646	(1,786)
Other Services and Charges	14,082	13,420	662
Supplies	<u>1,400</u>	<u>682</u>	<u>718</u>
Total District Operations	133,342	133,748	(406)
Project Expenditures:			
State	<u>188,223</u>	<u>120,329</u>	<u>67,894</u>
Total Project Expenditures	<u>188,223</u>	<u>120,329</u>	<u>67,894</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>321,565</u>	<u>254,077</u>	<u>67,488</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/UNDER EXPENDITURES	-	(15,342)	(15,342)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>153,658</u>	<u>282,056</u>	<u>(128,398)</u>
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 153,658</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 266,714</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (143,740)</u></u>

See accompanying Note to the Required Supplementary Information.

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
NOTE TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Each fall, the Board of Managers adopts an annual budget for the following year for the General Fund. Any modifications in the adopted budget can be made upon request of and approval by the Board of Managers. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end. Legal budgetary control is at the fund level.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

To the Board of Managers
Mississippi Headwaters Board
Brainerd, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mississippi Headwaters Board as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Mississippi Headwaters Board's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 10, 2025.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Mississippi Headwaters Board failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting – bid laws, depositories of public funds and public investments, conflicts of interest, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures; other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Mississippi Headwaters Board's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

December 10, 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Managers
Mississippi Headwaters Board
Brainerd, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Mississippi Headwaters Board as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Mississippi Headwaters Board's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 10, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Mississippi Headwaters Board's internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying Schedule of Finding and Response as item 2025-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Mississippi Headwaters Board's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Mississippi Headwaters Board's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the JPB's response to the internal control finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Finding and Response. The Mississippi Headwaters Board's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
Waconia, Minnesota

December 10, 2025

**MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS BOARD
SCHEDULE OF FINDING AND RESPONSE
JUNE 30, 2025**

2025-001: Financial Statement Presentation

Criteria: The JPB's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring, and for the fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition and Context: As part of the audit, management requested us to prepare a draft of the financial statements, including the related notes to the financial statements. Management has accepted responsibility for the financial statements and reviewed them.

Cause: The JPB has a limited number of personnel with financial reporting experience.

Effect: The design of the controls over the financial reporting process would affect the ability of the JPB to report its financial data consistently with the assertions of the management in the financial statements.

Prior Year Finding: Yes, 2024-001.

Recommendation: We recommend that the JPB be aware of the requirements for fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. Should the JPB elect, based upon an analysis of costs and benefits, to establish the full oversight of the financial statement preparation of an appropriate level, we suggest management establish effective review policies and procedures including but not limited to the following: reconciling general ledger amounts to the draft financial statements; review of all supporting documentation and explanations for journal entries proposed by us; complete the disclosure checklist; review and approval of schedules and calculations supporting the amounts included in the notes to the financial statements; apply analytic procedures to the draft financial statements; and perform other procedures considered necessary by management.

Management Response: The JPB understands that this is required communications for the preparation of the financial statements.

**A Phase I Reconnaissance Survey for the Proposed Heig Land Swap,
Itasca County, Minnesota
Township 146N, Range 27W, Section 3**

**BC Project Number: 2025-051
LLBO THPO Phase I Archaeological Activity Permit: 2025-007
USFS ARPA Permit: 0041**

**by
Steven J. Blondo, MA
Principal Investigator,
Andrew Domine, MS,
and
Hannah Hensley-Lichter
Blondo Consulting, LLC**

**February 6, 2026
DRAFT REPORT**



STEVEN J. BLONDO, MA
3939 SAND HILL RD., KETTLE RIVER, MN 55757
218-273-0074 • STEVEN@BLONDOCONSULTING.COM
WWW.BLONDOCONSULTING.COM

Management Summary/Abstract

Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) was retained by Bill Heig, Owner of Bowen Lodge, to complete a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey for the proposed Heig Land Swap in Itasca County, Minnesota, Township 146N, Range 27W, Section 3. The proposed project involves a land exchange between Bill Heig and the United States Forest Service—Chippewa National Forest (USFS-CNF). The project area is located on Cut Foot Sioux Lake and Minnow Lake. The proposed project is located within boundary of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) Reservation but is located on a parcel currently owned by USFS-CNF.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) was defined as the approximately 17.5-acre parcel currently owned by USFS-CNF that will be part of the proposed land exchange. (See Attachment 1: Maps).

To establish site context and previously recorded sites, background research was done through the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal (MnSHIP), the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) Online Portal, LLBO Tribal Historic Preservation Office (LLBO THPO) and Chippewa National Forest Heritage Program. Archaeological site 211C0021 (09030300105), Sugarbush Point, crosses the APE. Additionally, archaeological alpha sites 211Cpu (09030300108), 211Cpx (09030300641), and 211Cpy (09030300102) are located within 100 feet of the APE.

Fieldwork was completed in October 2025. Fieldwork consisted of pedestrian survey and 44 intuitively placed shovel tests within the APE. Archaeological site 211C0021, Sugarbush Point, crosses the APE and was visited during the survey. The previous recording of the site noted that artifacts were recovered from the shoreline and shallow water of Cut Foot Sioux Lake. The portion of the site that crosses the APE is located approximately 40 meters from the shoreline. During the survey, no cultural materials were identified within the portion of the site boundary that crosses the APE.

Shovel testing identified one new archaeological site, **BC2025-051-Site I**. The site surrounds four positive shovel tests that revealed pre-contact ceramics and lithic debitage. Artifacts were concentrated within the upper soil horizon. Radial shovel tests were negative for cultural material. The site appears to be both vertically and horizontally confined. Blondo Consulting recommends the site as unevaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. Site **BC2025-051-Site I** has been recorded with OSA.

The proposed project scope involves the transfer of land between Bill Heig and USFS-CNF. No ground disturbance is proposed at this time; therefore, no impact to Site **BC2025-051-Site I** is anticipated. However, Blondo Consulting recommends that Site **BC2025-051-Site I** is evaluated for National Register of Historic Places eligibility prior to changing ownership.

Should buried artifacts, cultural sites, or surface features be unexpectedly encountered, the appropriate authorities, including the LLBO THPO, USFS-CNF Heritage Program Manager and/or

OSA, must be notified. Should human remains be encountered, all work must immediately cease and the Itasca Sheriff, LLBO THPO, OSA and MIAC must be notified.

Table of Contents

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT	II
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	I
2.0 COMPLIANCE AND PROJECT REVIEW.....	I
3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT	I
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	I
4.1 PRE-CONTACT FLORA AND FAUNA	2
4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPE.....	2
4.3 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.4 SOILS	2
5.0 CULTURAL HISTORY.....	4
5.1 PRE-CONTACT PERIOD	4
5.1.1 Paleoindian Period (11,200 to 7,500 BCE).....	4
5.1.2 Archaic Period (10,500 to 500 BCE).....	4
5.1.3 Woodland Period (500 BCE to 1750 CE).....	6
5.1.4 Mississippian Adaptations (950- 1700 CE).....	7
5.2 CONTACT/POST-CONTACT PERIOD (1650 CE TO PRESENT)	8
5.2.1 Before Contact.....	8
5.2.2 Early Exploration and Treaties.....	9
5.2.3 Reservation Establishment.....	11
5.2.4 Minnesota Statehood and Industry Development	11
5.2.5 The Great Depression and World War II.....	12
5.2.6 Post-War Economic Boom and Social Change	13
5.2.7 Minnesota Today	13
5.3 LOCAL HISTORY	13
5.3.1 Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation).....	14
5.3.2 United States Forest Service-Chippewa National Forest.....	14
6.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH	15
6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.....	15
6.1.1 211C0021 (09030300105) Sugarbush Point.....	17
6.1.2 211Cpu (09030300108) Lake Winnipeg House Afc.....	17
6.1.3 211Cpx (09030300641) Sugarbush Point Village.....	17
6.1.4 211Cpy (09030300102) Winnibigoshish Agency.....	17
6.2 HISTORIC RESOURCES.....	17
6.3 PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED SURVEYS.....	17
6.3.1 Matson, 1991	18
7.0 SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS	18
7.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY	18
7.1.1 BC2025-051-Site1	21
8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS	22
REFERENCES CITED/BIBLIOGRAPHY	23
ATTACHMENT 1: MAPS.....	28
ATTACHMENT 2: PHOTOS.....	35

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) was retained by Bill Heig, Owner of Bowen Lodge, to complete a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey for the proposed Heig Land Swap project in Itasca County, Minnesota, Township 146N, Range 27W, Section 3. The proposed project is located within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation (LLBO) but is located on a parcel currently owned by the United States Forest Service—Chippewa National Forest (USFS-CNF). The project area is located in Minnesota SHPO Archaeological Region 5: Central Lakes Coniferous (Anfinson, 1990).

Steven J. Blondo, MA was Principal Investigator and received a permit from the LLBO Tribal Historic Preservation Office (LLBO THPO) and USFS-CNF. The project was completed under LLBO THPO Phase I Archaeological Activity Permit No. 2025-007 and USFS-CNF Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Permit Number 0041.

A background literature review and field survey were completed as part of this project. The results of the investigation and recommendations are included in this report.

2.0 COMPLIANCE AND PROJECT REVIEW

The project is subject to review and compliance at federal and tribal levels. As one of the exchange parcels is currently owned by USFS-CNF, the proposed project has triggered review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires federal agencies to review and assess a project's effects on historic properties (archaeological sites and historic structures that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Review and comment by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be completed by LLBO THPO. Additional compliance with the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) will require procurement of a permit from the USFS-CNF. Lastly, as the parcel lies within the exterior boundaries of the LLBO Reservation, part of the review process will involve licensure and project review by the LLBO THPO under responsibilities given by the LLBO THPO by the Leech Lake Tribal Council Resolution 96-03 Cultural Resources Protection Ordinance, 78-2 Burial Grounds and Artifacts Ordinance, and the 2015-58 Resolution. This survey answers the above requirements.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The project will involve a land exchange between Bill Heig and the USFS-CNF. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the approximately 17.5-acre parcel currently owned by USFS-CNF. At this time, no ground disturbing activities are proposed within the APE.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies within Minnesota SHPO Archaeological Region 5: Central Lakes Coniferous. Dr. Scott Anfinson (1990) first described these archaeological regions which help us to understand the prehistoric environment and better understand where archaeological sites may be located. The region is located in central and northeastern Minnesota. Its topography consists

of hilly moraines throughout the region's center, with glacial terrain covering the rest. The glacial terrain consists of ground moraines, outwash plains and lake plains (Anfinson, 1990).

4.1 Pre-contact Flora and Fauna

Early prehistoric subsistence resources of the area may have included tundra species such as musk ox, and barren ground caribou. As much of the area was covered by pine forests, large herds of megafauna were rare. As prairies began to enter the southwestern portion of the region, large bison herds followed. Bison were common in all but the northeastern third of the region by about 7,000 years ago. As prairie retreated in the late Middle Prehistoric, faunal resources including beaver, moose, and black bear became abundant. Fish and waterfowl became common in the region's numerous lakes and rivers. Wild Rice was an important food source and economic resource during the Late Prehistoric and Early Historic periods (Anfinson, 1990).

4.2 Environmental Landscape

The project area is in the Chippewa Plains subsection (212Na) of the Northern Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains section (212N). Landforms in the subsection consist of ground and stagnation moraines, a lake plain, and an outwash plain. Glacial drift ranges from 200 to 600 feet above a Precambrian rock. The Chippewa Plains subsection was host to a mixture of deciduous and conifer forests prior to Euro-American settlement. Pine grew in moraines and outwash planes while hardwoods were more common in sheltered areas closer to large lakes. Much of the area remains forested to this day as forestry is one of the main land uses, yet agriculture is important in the western portion of the subsection. The Mississippi River is the major waterway with Lake Winnibigoshish and Cass Lake as the largest bodies of standing water. The drainage network overall is poorly developed (DNR, n.d.-a).

The project area is located on Cut Foot Sioux Lake, which is connected to Lake Winnibigoshish. Lake Winnibigoshish is a large glacial kettle lake. Kettle lakes form when isolated blocks of stagnant glacial ice become buried by outwash and later melt, causing the overlying sediments to collapse into a depression that fills with water (NPS, n.d.).

4.3 Geological Background

H.E. Wright (1972) identifies the physiographic regions overlaying the state. Overlaying the project area is the Bemidji Area (15), which is a heavily forested region comprises a portion of what was once Glacial Lake Agassiz. The Bemidji Area consists predominantly of moraines and outwash plains. Deep troughs cross the region from north to south. Some contain sand, while others are filled with bogs or lakes. One of the bog-filled troughs overlays the submerged Mississippi River as it flows northward. The troughs were likely formed by glacial movement, and powerful subglacial streams (Wright, 1972).

4.4 Soils

Within Region 5, soils range from coarse to medium textured forest soils. The north-eastern part of the region is home to the finer textured soils and peat deposits on the Glacial Lakes

Upham-Aitkin lakebed (Anfinson, 1990). The Natural Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Web Soil Survey was used to identify soils present within the APE (Table 1).

Table 1: Soil Descriptions				
Name	Percent of APE	Typical Profile		
		Horizon	Depth	Soil Type
Zimmerman-Guida	41%	Oe	0-2 inches	Moderately decomposed plant material
		A	2-5 inches	Loamy fine sand
		E	5-18 inches	Loamy fine sand
		Bw	18-41 inches	Fine sand
		Bt	41-42 inches	Loamy fine sand
		E and Bt	42-61 inches	Fine sand
		C	61-79 inches	Fine sand
Eagleview and Menahga	40%	A	0-4 inches	Loamy sand
		E	4-23 inches	Sand
		E and Bt	23-37 inches	Sand
		C	37-79 inches	Sand
Guida-Zimmerman-Redby	19%	Oe	0-2 inches	Moderately decomposed plant material
		A	2-6 inches	Loamy fine sand
		E	6-17 inches	Loamy fine sand
		Bw	17-43 inches	Fine sand
		Bt	43-44 inches	Loamy fine sand
		E and Bt	44-59 inches	Fine sand
		C	59-79 inches	Fine sand

The Zimmerman-Guida complex (found on 1 to 18 percent slopes) and the Guida-Zimmerman-Redby complex (found on 0 to 8 percent slopes) are typically located on dunes. Both complexes are comprised of eolian sand parent material. The Eagleview and Menahga complex (found on 1 to 8 percent slopes) are typically located on flats. The complex is comprised of sandy outwash parent material. The Zimmerman-Guida and Eagleview and Menahga complexes are somewhat excessively drained, while the Guida-Zimmerman-Redby complex is moderately well drained (NRCS, 2026).

5.0 CULTURAL HISTORY

Archaeologists use historic contexts to interpret and understand past cultures and groups who lived in a specific region. These contexts are based on artifacts and supplemented with primary and secondary sources. Historic contexts can reflect differing lifeways, resulting in variation of the cultural materials groups leave behind. Archaeological eras are divided into the precontact, contact, and post-contact periods. Evidence of Minnesota's first known residents appeared approximately 11,200 Before Common Era (BCE). Since then, the environment and landscape of the state has continued to change, influencing the lifeways of the people who inhabit the land. Minnesota archaeologists consider those lifeways to have changed significantly after European contact around 1650 Common Era (CE) (Gibbon, 2012).

5.1 Pre-Contact Period

Prior to European contact, Native American historic contexts are organized temporally into four major archaeological designations: the Paleoindian period, the Archaic period, the Woodland period, and Mississippian adaptations. Based on different cultural materials, archaeologists further divide these designations with what was preserved in the ground, most notably stone (lithic) tool types and ceramic types, unique to each cultural adaptation.

5.1.1 Paleoindian Period (11,200 to 7,500 BCE)

The Paleoindian period is comprised of Early and Late Paleoindian designations. Minnesota's earliest known residents, the Early Paleoindians, were small groups of highly mobile big game hunters who followed migrating megafauna (i.e., mastodon and woolly mammoth) into the state's glacially dominated landscape. Minnesota's Early Paleoindian sites range in date from 11,200 to 10,500 BCE and are found in areas that were not underwater or glaciated, such as lake edges and rivers. These sites contain stone projectile points with fluted bases that could be hafted to spear shafts for big game hunting.

Over time, the warming climate changed the environment and influenced Paleoindian technology. Archaeologically, these changes are demonstrated by the replacement of fluted points with stemmed projectile points and the utilization of new raw materials. The new materials and point types mark the transition to Minnesota's Late Paleoindian period, ranging from 10,500 to 7,500 BCE (Gibbon, 2012). This tool technology transition is represented by the Browns Valley site (21TR0005), located in west-central Minnesota. This site contained the remains of one individual in association with a lanceolate point (blade) with radiocarbon dates clustering around 7,500 BCE (Johnson, 1970). People's lifeways started to change as the climate shifted (Gibbon, 2012).

5.1.2 Archaic Period (10,500 to 500 BCE)

Minnesota's Archaic period is comprised of three designations, the Eastern Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, and Late Archaic periods. The transition between Late Paleoindian and the Early Eastern Archaic periods begins around 12,700 years ago. It coincides with major climate and vegetation shifts in the post-glacial landscape, resulting in dominant deciduous forests to the south and coniferous forests to the north. In the archaeological record of Minnesota's Upper Mississippi

River Valley, the transition into the Early Eastern Archaic period is seen through lanceolate projectile points with concave bases and occasional fluting. This blends Late Paleoindian point types with new technological developments. Around 10,000 years ago, tallgrass prairie began spreading across the state from the southwest towards the northeast. During this time, populations in the emerging prairie regions began hunting bison herds that had migrated there. Groups of people that lived during this period were sparse, highly mobile hunters. Later adaptations in technology of the Early Eastern Archaic included stemmed and notched projectile points. Gibbon notes “most of these tools seem a technological elaboration for woodworking in forested environments” (Gibbon, 2012, p. 55). Minnesota’s Early Eastern Archaic period is likely the time when the spear thrower, or atlatl was implemented. Atlatls are tools to project spears, making hunting safer and more effective. They are thought to appear during this time and are associated with notched projectile points and weighted stones (bannerstones) (Marrow, n.d.). Minnesota’s Early Eastern Archaic sites have been radiocarbon dated from 10,500 to 7,500 BCE (Gibbon, 2012). An example from southcentral Minnesota is the Goodrich site (21FA0036), which is located on the bottom of the dry lakebed of former Lake Oza Tanka. This site contained a cache of stone tools (OSA site files, n.d.).

Minnesota’s Middle Archaic period (7,500 to 3,000 BCE) coincided with a fluctuating climate, resulting in a changing prairie habitat over time. The shifting landscape is reflected in the Middle Archaic archaeological record by adaptations in subsistence hunting. Small game subsistence hunters thrived in the northern and southern portions of the state, while southwestern populations continued exploiting migrating bison herds in prairie habitats (Gibbon, 2012). The Itasca Bison site (21CE0001) in northwest Minnesota is an example of an Archaic period bison kill site. It is a bison kill site that contained remains of the extinct bison species *B. occidentalis*, which has radiocarbon dates clustering around 6,000 BCE (Shay, 1963).

During the Late Archaic period (3,000 to 500 BCE), Minnesota’s climate shifted from the post-glacial landscape towards the environment encountered by Europeans in the 1600s. The more stable climate allowed for groups to have defined home ranges, resulting in horticulturalist practices and the increased use of secondary resources (such as wild rice which require additional processing). Populations in the northern coniferous forests exploited secondary resources, while populations in the western prairie regions continued to hunt bison and gather food resources. Specialized resource extraction like wild rice harvesting would have resulted in variation of social structure among Late Archaic populations, which is reflected by the changing artifact types. Late Archaic groups in southern Minnesota domesticated sunflower, amaranth, and squash (Gibbon, 2012). The defining trait of the Late Archaic period archaeological assemblage is the presence of new artifact types, such as large stone blades, exotic (not found in the area) raw lithic materials, and marine shell. Other characteristics of Minnesota’s Late Archaic period include the presence of communal burial sites, as well as an increased use of cold hammered copper and ground stone technologies. Archaeologists theorize that Late Archaic hunters lived in small groups within defined home ranges. The King Coulee site (21WB0056) in southeast Minnesota is an example

of Late Archaic horticultural village. This site contained domesticated squash remains with radiocarbon dates clustering between circa 1,500 BCE and 750 CE (Streiff, 1970).

The archaeological record suggests rapid population growth which placed pressure on Minnesota's Late Archaic populations, leading to resource intensification. As groups began specializing in the available resources in the area, social structures accommodated for different classes. Around 500 BCE, ceramics appeared in Minnesota's archaeological record, which archaeologists define as the beginning of the Woodland period (Gibbon, 2012).

5.1.3 Woodland Period (500 BCE to 1750 CE)

The Woodland period is divided into the Initial and Terminal Woodland eras. The Woodland period in Minnesota is thought to coincide with growing populations leading to the need for secondary food exploitation, further stratifying social roles. Minnesota's Woodland period marks the first appearance of ceramics and burial mounds in the archaeological record. In Western Minnesota, populations continued to practice bison hunting and subsistence gathering, resulting in a more gradual transition from Archaic to Woodland.

Initial Woodland sites are associated with straight-stemmed projectile points and thick-walled ceramic vessels. Southern Minnesota Initial Woodland sites usually date between 500 BCE to 500 CE (Gibbon, 2012). An example is the LaMoille Rockshelter site (21WN0001). At this site the ceramics are thick and feature vertical to oblique exterior cordmarking and horizontal to oblique interior cordmarking. These ceramics are often found with straight stemmed projectile points (Gibbon, 2012). The Initial Woodland period in central Minnesota dates between 500 BCE and 200 CE and includes sites with thick-walled grit tempered ceramics and burial mounds. Central Minnesota Initial Woodland sites have lithic materials not naturally found in the region, suggesting trade. Initial Woodland sites in Northern Minnesota are found in the Rainy River Region of Northwestern Minnesota. These sites are related to the widespread Laurel culture. Archaeologically, these groups were known to have constructed thick-walled/straight-rimmed grit tempered jars with rounded bases and buried their dead in conical earthworks. The NRHP listed Grand Mound site (21KC0003) is an example in northern Minnesota where Laurel ceramics and earthworks are found (Gibbon, 2012; NRHP, n.d.). This is the largest earthworks site in the state.

Later Woodland adaptations in Minnesota (referred to as the Terminal Woodland) are thought to be a reaction to the appearance of large-scale agricultural societies in bordering states. Archaeologically, Terminal Woodland in Minnesota is represented by new stone tool and ceramic technologies, such as true arrow points for bow and arrow technology and thinner/finer tempered ceramics. These adaptations reached southern Minnesota between 700 to 1100 CE. During this time, agricultural societies with large, defended villages occur. By 700 CE burial mounds become widespread in southwestern Minnesota. These burial mound sites had small groups of circular burial mounds usually associated with lakes and smoothed, grit tempered ceramics and side-notched projectile points were present (Gibbon, 2012). For example, the

Pedersen site (21LN0002) radiocarbon dates to around 1245 CE and contained Onamia ceramics. These are described as finely grit-tempered vessels with cord-impressed decorations and other surface treatments (Hudak, 1976).

The Terminal Woodland period in northern and central Minnesota occurs circa 500 to 1750 CE. This period is influenced by a substantial increase in population and newly emerging palisaded villages (though some areas remained largely unchanged) (Gibbon, 2012). The Hannaford site (21KC0025) is an example in northern Minnesota, with radiocarbon dates clustering between 690 and 1000 CE. The Hannaford site assemblage includes a sequence of early, middle, and late Blackduck series ceramics, which are described as globular in shape and feature rim alterations (Mulholland and Rapp, 1996; Gibbon, 2012).

Population growth in southern Minnesota during the Terminal Woodland period resulted in an increased need for agricultural production. Agricultural intensification in this region created the need for specialized classes, causing variation in roles and skill sets. These new lifeways resulted in new sets of tools, which archaeologists define as Mississippian (Gibbon, 2012).

5.1.4 Mississippian Adaptations (950- 1700 CE)

Mississippian cultural adaptations are often subdivided spatially and temporally; for the sake of simplification, we will use “Mississippian adaptations” as an umbrella term. Maize agricultural societies with large, defended villages and new sets of ceramic and stone tool types occurred, marking a shift from Woodland to Mississippian lifeways. Terminal Woodland groups in northern Minnesota transitioned into tribal societies prior to European contact. Southern Minnesota’s Terminal Woodland transitioned into the Mississippian lifeways between 950 to 1100 CE. Whereas Woodland ceramics were commonly grit and grog tempered with decorated rims, cordmarked exterior surfaces, and collared necks, Mississippian ceramics tend to be shell tempered, with handles, decorated shoulders, and smoother exteriors. Mississippian stone tools were smaller, and typically notched or triangular, whereas straight stemmed points were more common in later Woodland assemblages. The use of tools associated with Mississippian adaptations continued through European contact (Gibbon, 2012).

Early Mississippian sites, dating from 950 to 1100 CE, occurred along small streams and lakes within Southwestern Minnesota, as well as along the Minnesota River. These sites are recognized archaeologically by their ceramics which have fine grit or grog-tempered globular jars with rounded shoulders and bottoms (Gibbon, 2012). The Great Oasis site (21MU0002) has examples of these ceramics with radiocarbon dates clustering around 960 CE (OSA site files, n.d.; Gibbon, 2012). Subsequent Mississippian adaptations included sites along the Minnesota River dating from 1000 to 1200 CE (Gibbon, 2012). The Cambria/Jones Village site (21BE0002) contains radiocarbon dates clustering between 1000 to 1150 CE. These sites are associated with earthen burial mounds and grit tempered globular jars with constricted necks and smooth surfaces (OSA site files, n.d.). Mississippian sites near the head of the Minnesota River which date between 1200

to 1300 CE are known for their fortified villages and high percentages of North Dakota sourced Knife River Flint (Gibbon 2012).

Around 1225 CE, the Oneota (a culture within Mississippian adaptations) appear in Minnesota. Oneota village sites dating between 1225 and 1500 CE are recognized archaeologically by their ceramics. Additionally, expedient stone tools (such as Madison triangular points and scrapers) were common among Oneota sites. Settlement sites consisted of open village farming communities which primarily grew maize, beans, and squash but also hunted and gathered (Gibbon, 2012). An early Oneota example is the Fort Ridgley site (21NL0008), with radiocarbon dates between 1220 to 1350 CE. Site 21NL0008 is in south-central Minnesota along the Minnesota River associated with shell-tempered ceramics in the shape of round bottom globular jars (OSA site files, n.d.). Oneota sites dating between 1600 to 1700 CE occurred during the era of European contact within the Mille Lacs Region and along Riceford Creek. Contact era Oneota sites are distinguished by the presence of shell-tempered, globular jars with stop handles, interspersed with European trade goods such as glass beads, iron knives, and brass ornaments (Gibbon, 2012).

5.2 Contact/Post-Contact Period (1650 CE to Present)

By about 1650 CE, European contact in Minnesota completely changed the lifeways of Native American populations. Archaeologists define this as the contact period followed by the post-contact period. Early European influence can be identified through the introduction and use of trade goods. As diseases were introduced, native populations saw unprecedented losses. Despite its name, the early contact era was defined by a series of indirect events leading to early European exploration and changes to a native lifestyle thousands of years in the making (Gibbon, 2012).

5.2.1 Before Contact

The land containing modern day Minnesota has been an important part of the tribal histories of the Dakota, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Cheyenne, Oto, Iowa, and the Sac and Fox tribes (MNHS, n.d.-c). The Dakota and Ojibwe were the primary groups living in Minnesota by the 1600s. Within this context, Dakota language spellings come from the language dictionary mobile app, *Dakhód lápi Wičhóie Wówapi*, made by the nonprofit organization, Dakhóta íápi Okhódakičhiye.

Dakota creation stories are centered in Mnísota (Minnesota). The lifestyles of the Dakota changed with the seasons, and they moved between summer and winter camps. The spring and summers were spent gathering natural foods and medicines, processing maple sugar, farming, and fishing. By the fall, they moved to hunting grounds to gather meat and fish for the following winter. The Dakota's lifestyle was formed around a communal kinship structure (Gibbon, 2003). Around 1,500 years ago, the Ojibwe came to Minnesota from northeastern North America following prophecies advising them to head west to where food grows on water. As they found wild rice, many bands of Ojibwe settled in Minnesota. Hunting, fishing, maple sugar processing, and wild rice harvesting were important to their lifeways and were done seasonally. Travel between communities was done primarily in birch bark canoes. Ojibwe communities were differentiated

into clans, with each clan having its own role to serve the community. This mutual assistance was integral in Ojibwe culture (Wingerd, 2010; MNHS, n.d.-c).

5.2.2 Early Exploration and Treaties

Lands containing modern-day Minnesota were claimed at times by France (1663), Spain (1763), Great Britain (1763), and the United States (1795) (Wingerd, 2010). The first European explorers reached Minnesota in 1656 when Frenchmen Pierre-Espirit Radisson and Medard Chouart entered the Lake Superior region. Likewise, Father Louis Hennepin, a French Catholic priest and explorer, was the first European to publish a description of Southern Minnesota, after exploring the Mississippi River in the 1660s. Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut, followed suit in 1679, where he claimed lands along Lake Superior for the French, and established the first permanent trade posts. This was the beginning of the French fur trade (Gibbon, 2003). The Grand Portage National Monument site (21CK0006) was a North West Company fur post along the Minnesota/Canadian border in the 1700s, which allowed for trade between regions. Grand Portage National Monument was designated as a historic site in 1936 and listed in the NRHP in 1966. The monument consists of Fort Charlotte, the 8.5 mile long Grand Portage Trail complex (multiple structures), and a variety of pre-contact artifact scatters (Birk, 2005).

The fur trade drove much of the European exploration and settlement in Minnesota through the mid-1800s. Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike lead the first United States expedition through Minnesota in 1805. Pike Island, at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, was chosen as a treaty site to purchase several hundred acres of land from the Dakota where Fort Snelling would be built between 1819 and 1824 (Wingerd, 2010). Minnesota became a territory in 1849 and became a state in 1858. As the fur trade declined, worldwide missionary work in the first half of the 19th century (1830s and 1850s) boomed with missions reaching Asia, Africa, and Native American communities in North America. In 1834, Samuel and Gideon Pond arrived at Fort Snelling, later setting up a mission at Mapiya Wičhášta's (Cloudman's) village, Heyáta Othúnwe (the Village Set Back from the Mississippi River), at Bdé Makhá Ská. Samuel and Gideon Pond entered missionary work with the Dakota with a greater appreciation for the culture and lived twenty years among them. In 1835, Dr. Thomas Williamson arrived in Minnesota and set up a mission in Lac qui Parle. Jedediah D. Stevens also arrived in 1835 and settled a mile from the Ponds' mission site. By 1837, Stephen R. Riggs, who would later publish the first Dakota dictionary, joined Williamson at Lac qui Parle. The Ponds left their original mission site in 1839 and Gideon established a second mission at Oak Grove, in current Bloomington, in 1842 (Pond, 1986; Wingerd, 2010). Gideon Pond's house (NRHP listed in 1970) was recorded as a multicomponent archaeological site (21HE0244) with pre-contact artifacts and historic artifacts associated with Pond (OSA files, n.d.; NPS, 2014).

In 1827, United States government officials met with Ojibwe and Dakota in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin to negotiate a treaty dividing land in the Upper Mississippi region. The treaty divided the Dakota to the south and Ojibwe to the north. In 1837, treaties were signed by the Ojibwe, Dakota, and Ho Chunk which ceded all land east of the Mississippi River (Gibbon, 2003). By the

1850s, intensive Euro-American settlement and agriculture dramatically transformed the landscape, displacing many Dakota and Ojibwe. Former fur traders were hired as government agents to negotiate land cessions. Several treaties were signed in the 1850s leading to the removal of the Dakota and Ojibwe people from most of the Minnesota territory (Wingerd, 2010).

Due to the overhunting of bison by white settlers, groups of Dakota struggled to survive, and some saw the need for land cession to gain vital resources needed to sustain themselves. The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux of July 1851 promised payments that would provide a way to rebuild native communities. The treaty involved the surrender of most of the southern and western portion of Minnesota, the formation of a Dakota reservation of land along the Minnesota River, and the payment to the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands for the ceded land. While the treaty had been read to the Dakota leaders signing it, an additional document that had not been properly explained was also signed. This additional document prioritized government payments to traders to pay off debts over payments to the Dakota (Wingerd, 2010).

The Treaty of Mendota of August 1851 occurred between the United States government and the Mdewakanton and Wahpekute Dakota bands. This involved the relocation of the bands to the Lower Sioux Agency and ceding much of the remaining Dakota territory in southwestern Minnesota. Additionally, the bands were to receive payment for agricultural implements, provisions, education, and annuities. The treaty was ratified by Congress, but the United States did not fulfill payments. The Treaty of Mendota and the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux opened twenty-four million acres of land for settler-colonists which led to over 100,000 white settlers to move to Minnesota (MNHS, n.d.-d).

White settlers preferred to reside in the river valleys and plains regions in southern Minnesota. Additional, treaties took place in the Ojibwe territories to the north in the 1850s focused on gaining resource rights to timber and mineral deposits. In 1854, a group of Ojibwe people met at La Pointe, Wisconsin to receive annuity payments from a prior treaty where they were met with a proposition to cede land north and west of Lake Superior where mineral deposits were located. The treaty included a reservation within the ceded land that could not be intruded on as well as hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. Expansive lumbering operations followed the treaty destroying wild rice crops as dams were built and logs were floated down river. Dwindling resources and increased tensions caused Minnesota lawmakers to push for the surrender of Ojibwe land to accommodate the growing lumber industry (Wingerd, 2010).

On June 19th, 1858, the Dakota Indian Treaty relinquished half of the established Dakota reservation land, which included a large portion of hunting land. White settlers soon moved into these lands which drove away the remaining game. As a result, many Dakota shifted to a Euro-American style of farming, which did not align with their traditional ways of life. Government agents began rewarding those who farmed and assimilated to a western lifestyle. Some Dakota men retaliated by trampling fields and killing livestock of white settlers. As the U.S. government failed to fulfill treaty obligations, tensions between white settlers and the Dakota escalated,

resulting in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862 (August 1862 to December 1862). The Dakota surrendered at Camp Release on September 26, 1862, which was followed by military trials (DeCarlo, 2022). This concluded with the hanging of 38 Dakota in Mankato, and the incarceration of many Dakota people at Fort Snelling. Congress abolished the Dakota, as well as the Ho-Chunk, who were not involved in the war, and nullified land treaties, causing Native Americans to be exiled (DeCarlo, 2022; MNHS, n.d.).

5.2.3 Reservation Establishment

By 1863, all remaining Dakota land was taken by the United States with the Forfeiture Act of 1863. Some Dakota were allowed to remain in the state but due to fear of retribution, few remained. The Dakota ultimately returned to Minnesota in the 1870s. Government programs purchased parcels of land or allocated lands for purchase to exiled Dakota returning to Minnesota which became tribal land (MIAC, n.d.). Between 1863 and 1867, the Ojibwe ceded much of their remaining land in northern Minnesota (MNHS, n.d.-b). By the mid 1880s, the majority of the Dakota and Ojibwe in Minnesota had been displaced from their ancestral homelands and living on reservations established through treaties. Today, there are eleven federally recognized Native American tribes which are independent governments within the state (MIAC, n.d.).

5.2.4 Minnesota Statehood and Industry Development

Following the Homestead Act of 1862, European immigrants began settling in Minnesota to join the growing lumber, farming, and mining industries. Americans of British descent were the first to reach Minnesota in the 1850s, followed by Swedish, Norwegian, and German immigrants in the 1860s and 1870s. Ethnic communities arose as immigrants moved to areas where others from their homeland had settled. Minnesota's population by the 1890s was 40 percent of people born outside the U.S., much higher than the overall U.S. population. Minnesota's ethnic diversity was not limited to European immigrants. In the 1880s, Chinese immigration rose in Minnesota, as they moved away from racial hostility on the West Coast and many opened small businesses. Latin American people immigrated to Minnesota in the early 1900s in hopes of financial opportunities, commonly in sugar beet farming in the Red River and Minnesota River Valleys (Granger and Kelly, 2005).

Farming became the predominate industry in Minnesota with wheat being the dominant cash crop until the 1930s. Mills sprang up along major waterways across the state, notably in Minneapolis. Industrial archaeology in Minneapolis is exhibited within the St. Anthony Falls Historic District which includes eight archaeological sites consisting of mill ruins, canals, and railroad trestles (OSA files, n.d.). In addition to milling, Minnesota was also a leader in lumbering and iron mining. Lumbering played a significant role in the development of northern Minnesota, with the industry peaking between 1899 and 1905. Multiple short-use lumber camps, lumber mills, and railroad stations were established during this time across northern Minnesota (Birk, 1998). Over the next two decades, mines sprang up across the northern and central portions of the state centralized in the Cuyuna, Mesabi, and Vermillion iron ranges (MN DNR, n.d.).

The growing railroad system in the mid 1800s allowed Minnesota based industries to sell goods across the country and granted residents access to travel, mail, and commodities produced outside of their vicinity. Minnesota's first railroad was constructed in 1862 by the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company which was purchased by James J. Hill in 1878. By the late 1870s, railroad lines had connected most of the state (Schmidt, Vermeer, and Pratt, 2013). James J. Hill, sometimes referred to as "The Empire Builder", led many efforts in railroad expansion in the late nineteenth century. Throughout the next decade, Hill extended railroad lines to the Pacific Ocean and created a network throughout the Northwest. In 1890, Hill's lines were merged into the Great Northern Railway Company (McKithan, 1977). The James J. Hill's mansion in St. Paul was listed on the NRHP in 1961 (NPS, 2014). The mansion is also an archaeological site, 21RA0021, which includes the backyard garden (OSA files, n.d; NPS, 2014.).

Tourism became the third major industry in Minnesota. The Lake Minnetonka region developed in the 1870s as a major tourist destination resulting in resort towns with grand hotels and plenty of recreational activities. Northern Minnesota followed, with a growing tourism industry in the early twentieth century from anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. The growth of tourism was associated with a growing infrastructure network within the state, first with the development and expansion of railroads, then through the advancement of the automobile and highway network (Sanford and Graves, 1999). Site 21CR0164, Coney Island of the West, exemplifies the impact railroad and highway expansion had on tourism. Coney Island of the West was a resort complex developed in the 1880s as railroads reached Lake Waconia. The resort had accommodations including fine dining, concerts, and a bowling alley, attracting tourists for the following seven decades (OSA files, n.d.). The site was listed on the NRHP in 1976 (NPS, 2014). Tourism in Minnesota continues to thrive with outdoor destinations including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Lake Superior, and 66 state parks. Additionally, Minnesota today hosts many museums, fine arts theaters, and historic and heritage sites (Explore Minnesota Tourism, n.d.).

5.2.5 The Great Depression and World War II

Following the stock market crash of 1929, the average American household income dropped by a third. By 1933, unemployment rates reached an average of twenty-five percent in Minnesota with some areas reaching as high as seventy percent. Soon after, with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt taking office in 1933, federal programs, known as the New Deal, were introduced to boost the economy. These included the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (MNHS, n.d.-a). A total of 666 public works projects were completed by the WPA and CCC across the state with many of them listed on the NRHP (Granger, et. al., 2001).

The United States entered World War II after the invasion of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. At the time, the United States was still recovering from the Great Depression with federal programs still in place. Soon after Fort Snelling transitioned to the state's largest army recruitment center. Munition plants and other factories related to war industry took a strong hold over the economy. The United States involvement in European and Pacific conflict ceased

in 1945. Upon their release from American concentration camps, many Japanese Americans were resettled in Minnesota in 1942. In 1948, the United States increased resources and assistance available to immigrants and refugees with the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 (MNHS, n.d.-a).

5.2.6 Post-War Economic Boom and Social Change

After World War II, Minnesotans experienced an economic boost, and the population of Minnesota began to grow rapidly along with suburban communities. The economy in Minnesota was dominated by tourism and industrial activities. This supplied working class families with the opportunity to own a home, automobile, and have vacation time. Social politics were not in favor of racial minorities, however, furthering the economic gap between white and non-white Minnesotans. Following the Korean War, Korean adoption rose in the mid 1950s. Between the 1950s and 1970s, Minnesota experienced a huge influx of Black families fleeing Jim Crow era laws in the southern part of the U.S. During this time, the Civil Rights Movement began to spread throughout communities of color as Minnesotans rallied for equal economic and social rights, which were not legally recognized until the passing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 (MNHS, n.d.-a).

Although the Fourteenth Amendment, signed in 1868, defined anyone born in the U.S. as a citizen, Native Americans were excluded from citizenship until 1924 with the passing of the Indian Citizenship Act. The right to vote for Native Americans however was not legally recognized until 1965 with the passing of the Voting Rights Act. The twentieth century Civil Rights movement sparked the rally for social equity. The American Indian Movement (AIM) was founded in Minneapolis by Russell Means and Dennis Banks (Lakota) and Vernon and Clyde Bellecourt (Ojibwe) in 1968. Throughout the 1970s AIM was centered in Minnesota, inspiring the rest of the country to call for equal rights for indigenous peoples. Minnesota continues to be a center for social change highlighted by recent environmental protection and racial justice movements (Gibbon, 2003).

5.2.7 Minnesota Today

As a result of employment opportunities, Minnesota's population has continued to grow. Mining, lumber, agriculture, and food production industries form the backbone of today's state economy. These original industries have been joined by new sectors that reach national and international markets. Major retailers including Target Corporation and Best Buy are both based in Minnesota. Technology and manufacturing boomed with companies such as 3M, IBM, and Medtronic. Mayo Clinic in Rochester, which is known for their world-renowned medical care and is a major Minnesota employer. As of 2020, the population has reached over 5.7 million concentrated in the Twin Cities and Duluth (United States Census Bureau, 2021).

5.3 Local History

The proposed project is located within the LLBO reservation that also includes the USFS-Chippewa National Forest.

5.3.1 *Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation)*

In the mid-to-late 1700s, Ojibwe groups settled on small islands on Leech Lake. Treaties in 1847 removed lands to the southwest and in 1855, much of the remaining land was ceded leading to the establishment of the reservation. The reservation was expanded in 1867, 1873, and 1874 to include areas around Leech Lake, Cass Lake, and Lake Winnibigoshish. Eleven communities make up the reservation with Cass Lake being the largest. The reservation is drained by the headwaters of the Mississippi, making a swampy environment for wild rice production. Over 40 lakes within the reservation produce wild rice making it the largest natural wild rice source in Minnesota. Today, the LLBO reservation is located within Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, and Hubbard Counties (MIAC, n.d.).

5.3.2 *United States Forest Service-Chippewa National Forest*

Establishment of the Chippewa National Forest is a product of Minnesota's Native America, Logging, and political histories. On January 14, 1889, Congress approved the Nelson Act (the Minnesota equivalent of the Dawes Act of 1887) which was another law in a series of Government strategies aimed at "civilizing" Native Americans. Under the Nelson Act, Natives Americans were provided with an 80-acre land claim, or 160 acres for families. The act was effectively a means to disrupt the traditional Native community and force them into a Euro-American lifestyle. The Nelson Act of 1889 provided the opportunity for the surplus land parcels of the LLBO Reservation (those not claimed by Ojibwe peoples) to become available for public sale. There were supporters of the act that genuinely believed the change in lifeways would benefit the Native population, but others, particularly lumbermen, had their sights on the surplus land left over after the Native land claims had been made. (Steinson, 2018).

What followed was a debate over what to do with the surplus land. Those who sought to preserve some portion of wilderness included Maria Sanford of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Club and Forestry Board member Christopher Andrews. This group wished to create a 4-million-acre national park, but after several failed attempts a new approach was developed. Joining with the head of the agricultural experimentation station in Grand Rapids, Herman Chapman, the group put forth a plan for a much smaller forest reserve (Brady 2004; Searle 1971). In 1903 Chapman got the final blessing from the Chief of the newly formed Division of Forestry - Gifford Pinchot. Under his direction, the Minnesota Forest Reserve served as a test site for the first comprehensive forest management plan undertaken by a federal agency. Congressman Robert Page Morris created a 225,000-acre forest reserve out of the LLBO Reservation with the Morris Act of 1902 which replaced the Nelson Act. Under the Morris Act, 225,000 acres of forest were placed under the supervision of the Bureau of Forestry as a forest preserve. Also under the Morris Act, clear-cut lands were set aside for Indian allotments and public sale while 218,600 acres were to be managed with sustainable lumber practices and the remaining 6,400 acres were set aside for preservation (Brady 2004; Searle 1971). In 1908, the Minnesota Forest Reserve was rebranded as the Minnesota National Forest (the first national forest to be established east of the Mississippi River) and then renamed the Chippewa National Forest in 1928.

Today, the Chippewa National Forest encompasses 660,000 acres with about 90% of it located within the LLBO Reservation. The forest contains over 3,000 archaeological and historic sites from the pre-contact period, logging era, and Civilian Conservation Corp projects. Several of these are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Within the forest, there are over 1,300 lakes, 925 miles of streams, and 400,000 acres of wetlands (USFS, n.d.).

6.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

A literature search through SHPO's Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal (MnSHIP), and the OSA Online Portal was completed September 30, 2025 by Blondo Consulting staff Hannah Hensley-Lichter. Additionally, literature review requests were also emailed to Colleen Wells, LLBO Tribal Archaeologist and USFS-CNF Heritage Program Manager Sean Dunham, PhD. Not all information is shared between the agencies, so in some cases a site only has one site ID number or a combination of ID numbers which means that sites could be recorded differently with each agency. For example, LLBO THPO uses the same ID numbers for structures and archaeological sites. The National Historic Landmark Database was also consulted. To complete the background research and develop historic context of the project area two research radii were used; a one-mile radius was used for archaeological sites and a half-mile radius was used for historic resources.

6.1 Archaeological Sites

Within Archaeological Region 5, early pre-contact archaeological sites are concentrated around major lakes and rivers and former channels of the Mississippi River. Towards the late pre-contact period, sites are often found near wild rice beds on large lakes (Gibbon et al., 2002).

During the current search, fifteen archaeological sites were identified within a one-mile radius of the proposed APE (Table 2). Archaeological site 21IC0021 (09030300105), Sugarbush Point, crosses the APE. Additionally, archaeological alpha sites 21ICpu (09030300108), 21ICpx (09030300641), and 21ICpy (09030300102) are located within 100 feet of the APE.

Sites 21ICaz, 21ICbo, 21ICbp, 21ICl, 21ICpt, 21ICpu, 21ICpv, 21ICpw, 21ICpx, 21ICpy, and 21ICu are archaeological alpha sites. Archaeological alpha sites include site files that “contain sites that either have not been confirmed by formal archaeological survey or have no official site form completed. Folders for these sites have information contained in survey reports, maps, historic documents, or correspondence” (Anfinson, 2005, p. 6).

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites Within One Mile

OSA ID	THPO & USFS ID	Site Name	Cultural Affiliation	Description	NRHP Status	Distance
211C0021	09030300105	Sugarbush Point	Pre-Contact	Artifact Scatter, Habitation	Unevaluated	In APE
211C0242	09030301030	McAvity Bay Isolated Find	Pre-Contact	Isolated Find	Unevaluated	0.71 miles
211Caz	--	McAvity Bay	--	Artifact Scatter	Unevaluated	0.37 miles
211Cbo	09030300103	Winnibigoshish Village, Field, and Burials	Historic	Burial, Village	Unevaluated	0.39 miles
211Cbp	09030300106	Roy's Independent Fur Post	Historic	Trading Post	Unevaluated	0.22 miles
211CI	--	--	Pre-Contact	Artifact Scatter	Unevaluated	0.75 miles
211Cpt	09030300798	Bowen's Resort	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	0.13 miles
211Cpu	09030300108	Lake Winnipeg House Afc	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	Adjacent to APE
211Cpv	09030300782	Minnow Lake Cabin	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	0.16 miles
211Cpw	09030300781	Sugarbush Point Summer House	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	0.12 miles
211Cpx	09030300641	Sugarbush Point Village	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	Adjacent to APE
211Cpy	09030300102	Winnibigoshish Agency	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	Adjacent to APE
211Cu	--	Afc Fur Trading Post	Historic	Trading Post	Unevaluated	0.77 miles
--	09030300104	Sugarbush	Historic	Sugarbush	Unevaluated	0.31 miles
--	09030300783	Minnow Lake Habitation	Historic	Habitation	Unevaluated	0.27 miles

6.1.1 21IC0021 (09030300105) Sugarbush Point

The Sugarbush Point site crosses the APE. The site was recorded in 1976 following an informant report of lithic and copper artifacts along the beachline and shallow water on a peninsula on Cut Foot Sioux Lake. The survey consisted of surface survey and 50x50 centimeter test units. Artifacts recovered from the surface survey of the beachline and shallow water included lithic flakes, scrapers, a biface, faunal bones, and a historic ceramic sherd. No cultural materials were identified in the test units. The Sugarbush Point site is unevaluated for listing in the NRHP (OSA files, n.d.; USFS files, n.d.).

6.1.2 21ICpu (09030300108) Lake Winnipeg House Afc

The Lake Winnipeg House Afc site is located adjacent to the APE to the west. The alpha site is the reported location a log house, small store, and stable described in an 1832 journal by Rev. Boutwell. The Lake Winnipeg House Afc site is unevaluated for listing in the NRHP (USFS files, n.d.).

6.1.3 21ICpx (09030300641) Sugarbush Point Village

The Sugarbush Point Village site is located adjacent to the APE to the west. The alpha site was documented in 1983 and consists of circular depressions, earthen foundation berms, rectangular depressions, and a possible structure site. A survey map by the Mississippi River Commission from 1900 shows four buildings on the site. The Sugarbush Point Village site is unevaluated for listing in the NRHP (USFS files, n.d.).

6.1.4 21ICpy (09030300102) Winnibigoshish Agency

The Winnibigoshish Agency site is located adjacent to the APE to the west. The alpha site is the reported location of two government buildings from an 1874 survey. The Winnibigoshish Agency site is unevaluated for listing in the NRHP (USFS files, n.d.).

6.2 Historic Resources

During the current search, no previously recorded historic resources were identified within a half-mile radius of the proposed APE.

6.3 Previously Completed Surveys

During the current search, three surveys were completed within Township 146N, Range 27W, Section 3 where the proposed project is located (Table 2). Survey R3-117 crosses the APE.

Table 3. Previously Completed Reports			
Report Number	Date Published	Author	Report Title
MULT-1976-04	1976	E. Johnson	Preliminary Field Report, Lake Winnibigoshish Archaeological Survey
MULT-1977-01	1977	E. Johnson, C. Harrison, and J. Schaaf	Cultural Resources Inventory of Lands Adjacent to Lake Winnibigoshish

Table 3. Previously Completed Reports			
Report Number	Date Published	Author	Report Title
R3-117	1991	K. Matson	Bowen's Lodge Marina Survey

6.3.1 Matson, 1991

In 1991, USFS-CNF Forestry Technician Keith Matson conducted a survey along the shoreline of Cut Foot Sioux Lake for marina improvements. The survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing. Shovel testing revealed natural sandy soil profiles. No cultural material was identified during the survey (USFS files, n.d.).

7.0 SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

On October 21-23, 2025, Blondo Consulting Principal Investigator Steven J. Blondo, MA, assisted by Blondo Consulting staff Andrew Domine, MS and Hannah Hensley-Lichter conducted a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey. Field survey techniques were based on the *SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*. Additionally, field survey techniques were based on the *Historic and Architectural Survey Manual*, which states, “The intention of a reconnaissance level survey, sometimes called a windshield survey, is to collect enough data to provide a general understanding of the built environment of an area and to answer any questions posed in the survey scope of work or research design” (MNHS HPD, 2017, p. 9). This includes planning and research prior to fieldwork to identify any possible standing structures or other non-archaeological historic resources. No standing structures were identified during pre-fieldwork research or during the field survey.

7.1 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey

Research designs for a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey consist of a literature search (previously discussed), field procedures, and reporting. The most common field methods include, but are not limited to, surface reconnaissance and shovel tests. SHPO provides the following guidelines for these methods. Surface Reconnaissance (i.e., pedestrian survey) is an attempt to locate exposed artifacts and surface features. Transects should scan any exposed surfaces. Transects spaced at 5-meter intervals are recommended for high potential areas with limited visibility, while 10 to 15 meters is appropriate for low probability areas. Shovel tests are often used when the soil exposure is less than 25% or when there is a high potential for buried archaeological deposits. Shovel tests include digging a 30- to 40-centimeter-wide hole with vertical sides. The depth varies but should pass post-glacial soil. Shovel tests are usually spaced between 5 and 15 meters apart. Other, less common, Phase I methods include deep testing, remote sensing, and underwater surveys. Ultimately, it is up to the Principal Investigator to determine the methods used and “reasonably ensure that sites were not missed” (Anfinson, 2005, p. 28).

The proposed project area is situated between Cut Foot Sioux Lake (connected to Lake Winnibigoshish) and Minnow Lake and encompasses a mix of upland and lowland landforms. The southern portion of the project area consists of uplands that slope northward toward the shoreline of Cut Foot Sioux Lake. A maintained driveway runs through the center of the project area. To the southeast, the terrain transitions into lowlands towards Minnow Lake.

As described in 4.2 Environmental Setting, Lake Winnibigoshish is a kettle lake. The same depositional and melting processes that produced the lake also shaped the surrounding landscape. Numerous smaller ice blocks were left behind by glaciers. As these smaller blocks melted, they created a pitted topography consisting of dry kettle holes, shallow depressions, and irregular low areas. In addition to kettle-related landforms, the uplands surrounding the project area contain pit-and-mound microtopography as a result of historic and recent tree throws. When mature trees fall and are uprooted, the root mass lifts soils, creating an elevated mound. The resulting root pit forms an adjacent depression once the root mass decays and the soil settles. Over time, repeated episodes of tree fall produce a pattern of alternating pits and mounds across forested uplands.

Pedestrian survey was conducted at 15-meter intervals throughout the APE. No cultural material was identified during the pedestrian survey. Archaeological site 2IIC0021, Sugarbush Point, crosses the APE. The site was visited during the survey. The previous recording of the site noted that artifacts were located along the shoreline and shallow water of Cut Foot Sioux Lake. The portion of the site boundary that crosses the APE is located approximately 40 meters from the shore of the lake. No cultural materials or features of the site were observed within the APE. Within the APE, a total of 44 intuitively placed shovel tests were excavated (Table 4).

Table 4. Shovel Test Results				
Shovel Test	Width (cm)	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Results
1	40	0-16	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		16-48	10YR6/4 Sand	
2	40	0-18	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		18-40	10YR6/4 Sand	
3	40	0-17	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		17-44	10YR6/4 Sand	
4	40	0-19	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		19-50	10YR6/4 Sand with redox	
5	40	0-20	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		20-46	10YR6/4 Sand	
6	40	0-22	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		22-55	10YR6/4 Sand	
7	40	0-18	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	128 ceramic sherds
		18-44	10YR6/3 Sand	
8	40	0-16	10YR2/1 Loam	No cultural materials
		16-34	10YR5/3 Sandy loam	

Table 4. Shovel Test Results				
Shovel Test	Width (cm)	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Results
9	40	0-16	10YR2/1 Loam	No cultural materials
		16-52	10YR5/3 Sandy loam	
10	40	0-22	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		22-45	10YR6/3 Sand	
11	40	0-16	10YR4/1 Sand	No cultural materials
		16-45	10YR6/4 Sand	
12	40	0-13	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		13-44	10YR6/4 Sand	
13	40	0-13	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		13-34	10YR6/4 Sand	
14	40	0-23	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		23-46	10YR5/4 Sand	
15	40	0-15	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		15-27	10YR5/4 Sand	
16	40	0-21	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		21-34	10YR5/4 Sand	
17	40	0-14	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		14-25	10YR5/4 Sand	
18	40	0-22	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		22-45	10YR5/4 Sand	
19	40	0-16	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		16-34	10YR5/4 Sand	
20	40	0-15	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		15-38	10YR5/4 Sand	
21	40	0-17	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		17-51	10YR5/4 Sand	
22	40	0-19	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		19-30	10YR5/4 Sand	
23	40	0-18	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		18-29	10YR5/4 Sand	
24	40	0-15	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		15-31	10YR5/4 Sand	
25	40	0-17	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		17-31	10YR5/4 Sand	
26	40	0-12	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		12-24	10YR5/4 Sand	
27	40	0-16	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		16-34	10YR6/4 Sand	
28	40	0-19	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	2 ceramic sherds
		19-41	10YR6/3 Sand	
29	40	0-14	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		14-54	10YR6/3 Sand	
30	40	0-16	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		16-42	10YR6/3 Sand	
31	40	0-34	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	2 quartz flakes

Table 4. Shovel Test Results				
Shovel Test	Width (cm)	Depth (cmbs)	Soil Description	Results
		34-59	10YR6/3 Sand	
32	40	0-18	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		18-49	10YR6/3 Sand	
33	40	0-18	10YR4/2 Loamy sand	1 ceramic sherd
		18-48	10YR6/3 Sand	
34	40	0-9	10YR4/1 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		9-34	10YR6/4 Sand with redox	
35	40	0-15	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		15-36	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
36	40	0-13	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		13-40	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
37	40	0-12	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		12-44	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
38	40	0-10	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		10-33	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
39	40	0-9	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		9-27	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
40	40	0-10	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		10-34	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
41	40	0-14	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		14-32	10YR6/4 Sand with small gravels	
42	40	0-20	10YR2/2 Loamy sand	No cultural materials
		20-34	10YR6/4 Sand	
43	40	0-9	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		9-28	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	
44	40	0-10	10YR2/2 Sandy loam	No cultural materials
		10-32	10YR7/2 Sandy loam	

As described in section 4.4 Soils, the expected soil profile for the area would consist of loamy fine sand to fine sand. The shovel test profiles aligned with the expected profile. Shovel Test 7 contained pre-contact ceramics; therefore, radial shovel tests were conducted at 10- and 15-meter intervals to the north, south, east, and west. Cultural material was recovered from the radial Shovel Tests 28, 31, and 33. The positive shovel tests were recorded as site **BC2025-051-Site I** (Table 5). The site has been recorded with OSA.

Table 5. Archaeological Sites Identified					
Site Number	Site Name	Cultural Affiliation	Description	NRHP Status	Distance from APE
BC2025-051-Site I	--	Pre-Contact	Artifact Scatter	Unevaluated	In APE

7.1.1 **BC2025-051-Site I**

Site **BC2025-051-Site I** was identified during shovel testing and is located approximately 35

meters north of the shoreline of Minnow Lake. The site encompasses four positive shovel tests (7, 28, 31, and 33) that revealed pre-contact grit-tempered ceramics and two quartz debitage from the upper soil horizon. The soil profiles of the shovel tests were consistent with the surrounding area. Ceramic surface treatments included cord-marking and smoothed-over-cordmarking. Dentate stamping was observed on seven sherds and two sherds had incised lines. Radial shovel tests were conducted and were negative for cultural material. Soils of the radials to the east became more wet as testing neared Minnow Lake. The site appears to be confined both horizontally and vertically as radial shovel tests were negative, and artifacts were only recovered from the upper soil horizon. The site recommended as unevaluated for inclusion in the NRHP. Artifacts will be returned to and curated by USFS.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Blondo Consulting was retained by Bill Heig to complete a Phase I Reconnaissance Survey for the proposed Heig Land Swap project in Itasca County Minnesota. The APE was defined as the 17.5-acre parcel currently owned by USFS-CNF that will be part of the land swap.

Fieldwork was conducted in October 2025 and consisted of pedestrian survey and intuitive shovel testing within the APE. One archaeological site, **BC2025-051-Site I** was identified during the survey. Site **BC2025-051-Site I** is an artifact scatter consisting of pre-contact ceramics and lithic debitage. The site is recommended as unevaluated for inclusion in the NRHP.

Additionally, archaeological site 211C0021, Sugarbush Point, crosses the APE. The previous recording of the site form described cultural materials being present along the shoreline and shallow water of Cut Foot Sioux Lake. The portion of the site that crosses the APE is approximately 40 meters from the shoreline. No cultural materials or features of the site were observed within the APE.

The proposed project scope involves the transfer of land between Bill Heig and USFS-CNF. No ground disturbance is proposed at this time; therefore, no impact to Site **BC2025-051-Site I** is anticipated. However, Blondo Consulting recommends that Site **BC2025-051-Site I** is evaluated for NRHP eligibility prior to changing ownership.

Should buried artifacts, cultural sites, or surface features be unexpectedly encountered, the appropriate authorities, including the LLBO THPO, USFS-CNF Heritage Program Manager and/or OSA, must be notified. Should human remains be encountered, all work must immediately cease and the Itasca Sheriff, LLBO THPO, OSA and MIAC must be notified.

References Cited/Bibliography

- Anfinson, John O. (2003). *River of History: A Historic Resources Study of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area*. National Park Service. Retrieved from https://www.nps.gov/miss/learn/historyculture/historic_resources.htm.
- Anfinson, Scott. (1990). Archaeological Regions in Minnesota and the Woodland Period. In, *The Woodland Tradition in the Western Great Lakes: Papers Presented to Elden Johnson*, edited by Guy Gibbon, pp. 135-166. University of Minnesota Publications in Anthropology No. 4, Minneapolis.
- Anfinson, Scott. (2005). *SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*. St. Paul: State Historic Preservation Office.
- Birk, Douglas A. (1998). *Commercial Logging in Minnesota (1837-1940s)*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.
- Birk, Douglas A. (2005). *Grand Portage National Monument*. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.
- Cummings, Linda Scott. (2017). *Investigating Poorly Known Historic Context: Dating Minnesota's Prehistory*. PaleoResearch Institute, Inc. Technical Report. Golden, Colorado: PaleoResearch Institute, Inc.
- Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičhiye. (2023). *Dakhód lápi Wičhóie Wówapi* (Version 1.1.) [Mobile app]. App Store. Retrieved from <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/dakh%C3%B3d-i%C3%A1pi-wi%C4%8Dh%C3%B3ie-w%C3%B3wapi/id1570514400>.
- DeCarlo, Peter. (2016). *Fort Snelling at Bdote: A Brief History*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press.
- DeCarlo, Peter. (2022). The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 Lasted Just Six Weeks, But its Effects Are Still Felt Today. *MinnPost*. Retrieved from: <https://www.minnpost.com/mnopedia/2022/03/the-u-s-dakota-war-of-1862-lasting-just-six-weeks-but-its-effects-are-still-felt-today>.
- Explore Minnesota Tourism. (n.d.). *Explore Minnesota*. Retrieved from <https://www.exploreminnesota.com/>
- Gibbon, Guy. (2003). *The Sioux: The Dakota and Lakota Nations*. Maiden, MA: Blackwell

Publishing.

Gibbon, Guy. (2012). *Archaeology of Minnesota: The Prehistory of the Upper Mississippi River Region*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press.

Gibbon, Guy E., Craig M. Johnson, and Elizabeth Hobbs. (2002). Chapter 3: Minnesota's Environment and Native American Culture History. In, *Minnesota Department of Transportation, Mn/Model: Minnesota Statewide Archaeological Predictive Model*. Retrieved from <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnmodel/P3FinalReport/chapter3.html>.

Gonsior, Leroy. (1985). *21KC027 Minnesota State Site File Form*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society.

Granger, Susan, Kay Grossman, and Scott Kelly. (2001). *Federal Relief Program in Minnesota, 1933-1941*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.

Granger, Susan and Scott Kelly. (2005). *Historic Context Study of Minnesota Farms, 1820-1960*. Morris, Minnesota: Gemini Research.

Hudak, Joseph G. (1976). Woodland Ceramics from the Pedersen Site. In, *Scientific Publications of the Science Museum of Minnesota*. New Series, Vol. 3, No. 2. St. Paul, Minnesota: The Science Museum of Minnesota.

Johnson, Elden. (1970). *Browns Valley Man Site 21 TR 5* National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Johnson, Elden. (1988). *Prehistoric Peoples of Minnesota* (third edition). St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society.

Link, Adolph W. (1975). A Bird Motif On A Mississippi Pot From the Bryan Site. In, *Plains Anthropologist: Journal of the Plains Conference*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Minnesota Archaeological Society.

Marrow, Toby. (n.d.). *Stone Tools of Minnesota*. Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Incorporated. Retrieved from: https://mn.gov/admin/assets/stone-tools-of-minnesota-part1_tcm36-247478.pdf.

McKithan, Cecil. (1977). *James J. Hill House*. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.

- Minnesota DNR (DNR ECS). (n.d.). *Ecological Classification System*. Retrieved from <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecs/index.html>.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). (n.d.). *Mining in Minnesota*. Retrieved From <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/geology/digging/mining.html>.
- Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). (n.d.-a). *Minnesota's Greatest Generation*. Retrieved from <https://www.mnhs.org/mgg/depression/learn-more>.
- Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). (n.d.-b). *Minnesota Treaties*. Retrieved from <https://www.usdakotawar.org/history/treaties/minnesota-treaties>.
- Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). (n.d.-c). *Native Americans*. Retrieved from <https://www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling/learn/native-americans>.
- Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). (n.d.-d). *The Treaty of Mendota*. Retrieved from <https://www.usdakotawar.org/history/treaty-mendota>.
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). (n.d.) *MN Tribal Nations*. Retrieved from <https://mn.gov/indianaffairs/index.html>.
- Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist Files (OSA files). (n.d.). Various files for recorded sites and surveys conducted within the state.
- Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office Files (SHPO files). (n.d.). Various files for recorded sites and surveys conducted within the state.
- Mn.gov. (n.d.). *Minnesota Indian Tribes*. Retrieved from: <https://mn.gov/portal/government/tribal/mn-indian-tribes/>.
- Mulholland, Susan and G. Rapp Jr. (1996). *Minnesota Archaeological Site Form: Hannaford Site 21-KC-25 site form*. St. Paul: Office of the State Archaeologist.
- National Park Service (NPS). (2014). *National Register of Historic Places*. Retrieved from www.nps.gov/nr/.
- National Park Service (NPS). (n.d.). *Kettles*. Retrieved from <https://www.nps.gov/articles/kettles.htm>
- National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). (2026). *Web Soil Survey*. United States Department of Agriculture. Retrieved from www.nrcs.usda.gov.

- Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). (n.d.). *Prehistoric Period: An Overview of Prehistoric Archaeology in Minnesota (12,000 BC – AD 1650)*. Retrieved from: <https://mn.gov/admin/archaeologist/the-public/mn-archaeology/prehistoric-period/>.
- Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). (2011). *State Archaeologist's Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*. St Paul: Office of the State Archaeologist.
- Pond, Samuel W. (1986 [1908]). *Dakota Life in the Upper Midwest*. First published in 1908. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press.
- Rainville Jr., Michael. (n.d.) *Early Chinese Immigrants in Minneapolis*. Chinese Heritage Foundation. Retrieved from <https://chineseheritagefoundation.org/early-chinese-immigrants-in-minneapolis/>.
- Sanford, Dena L. and Mary L. Graves. (1999). *Historic Context for Tourism and Recreational Development in the Minnesota Northern Border Lakes from the 1880s through the 1950s*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.
- Schirmer, Ronald C. (2005). *Minnesota Archaeological Site Form: Silverdale Site 21-GD-0003 site form*. St. Paul: Office of the State Archaeologist.
- Schmidt, Andrew J., Andrea C. Vermeer, and Daniel R. Pratt. (2013). *Railroads in Minnesota, 1862-1956*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. St. Paul: Minnesota State Preservation Office.
- Shay, Creighton T. (1969). *A Preliminary Report on the Itasca Bison Kill Site*. The Minnesota Academy of Science. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota.
- Streiff, Jan. (1970). *Canning Site NR-9 Archaeological Site Survey Form*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Department of Anthropology.
- United States Census Bureau. (2021). *Minnesota: 2020 Census*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/minnesota-population-change-between-census-decade.html>.
- United States Forest Service Files (USFS files). (n.d.). Various files for recorded sites and surveys conducted within the state.

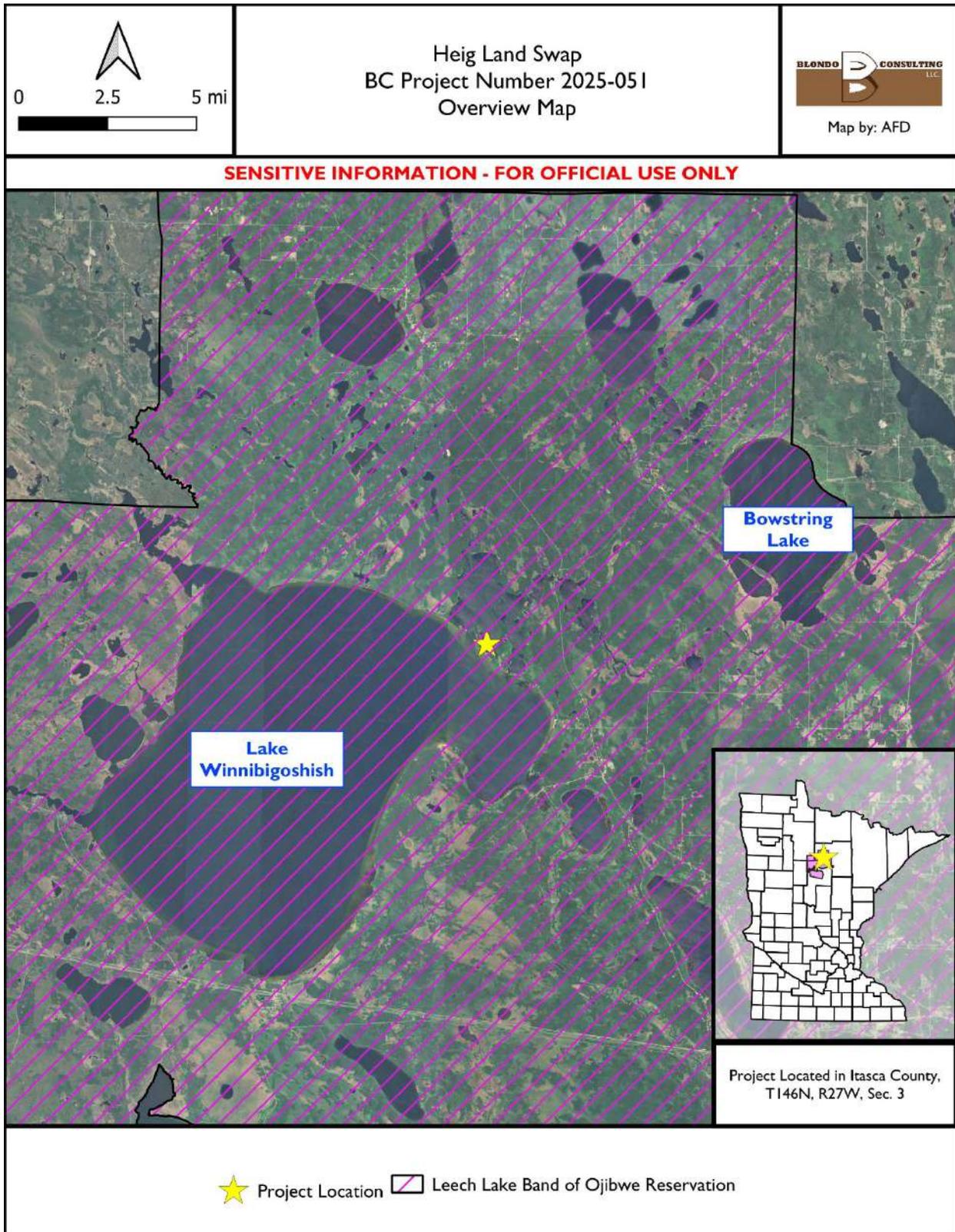
Winchell, N. H. (1888). *The Geology of Minnesota (Vol II)*. Saint Paul: Pioneer Press Company, State Printers.

Winchell, N. H. (1911). *The Aborigines of Minnesota*. St. Paul: The Pioneer Company.

Wingerd, Mary Lethert. (2010). *North Country: The Making of Minnesota*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Wright, H. E. (1972). Quaternary History of Minnesota. In, *Geology of Minnesota: A Centennial Volume*, edited by P.K. Sims and G. B. Morey. Minnesota Geological Survey. St. Paul: University of Minnesota.

Attachment I: Maps





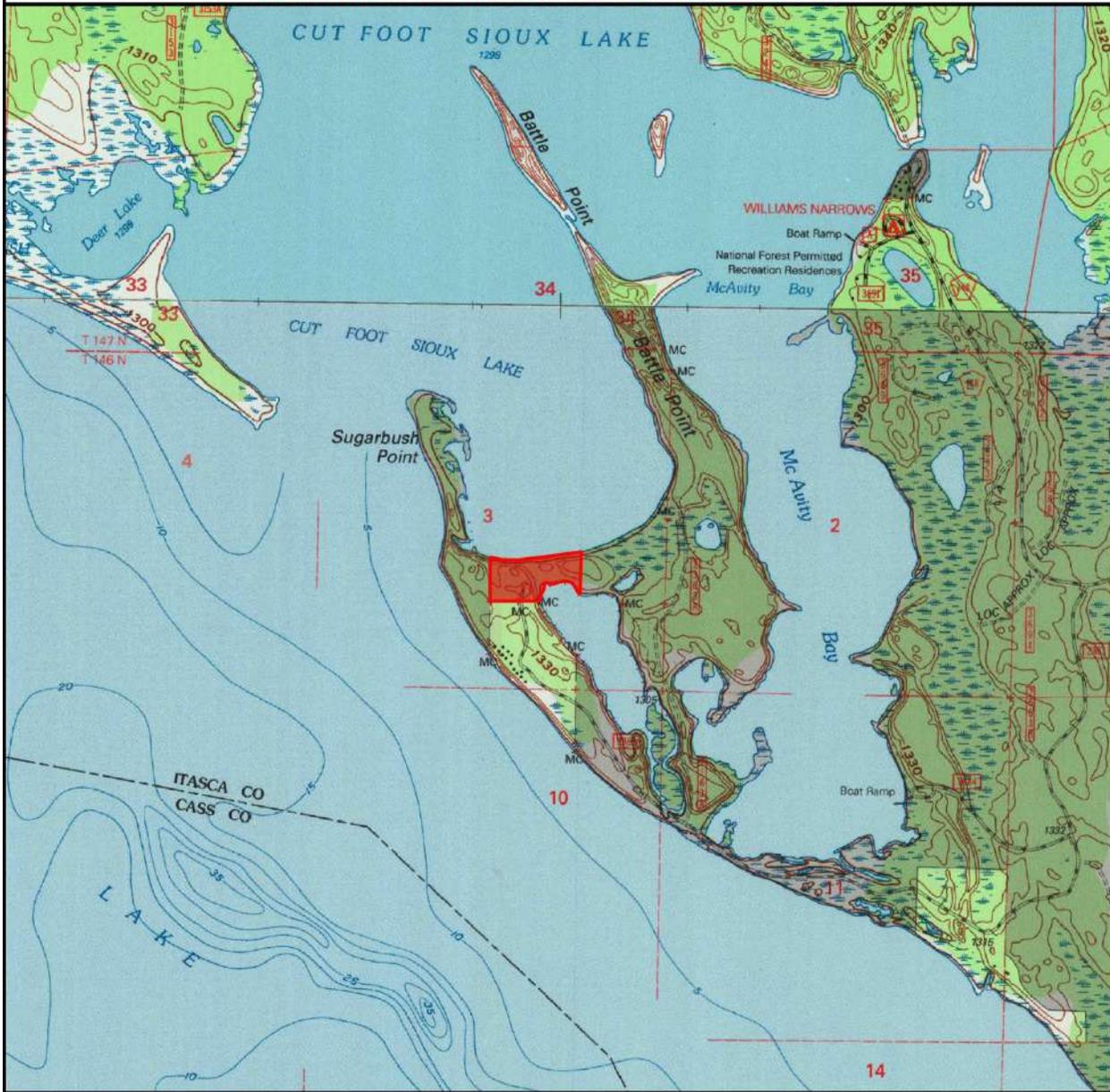
1:24,000

Heig Land Swap BC Project Number 2025-051 Topographic Map

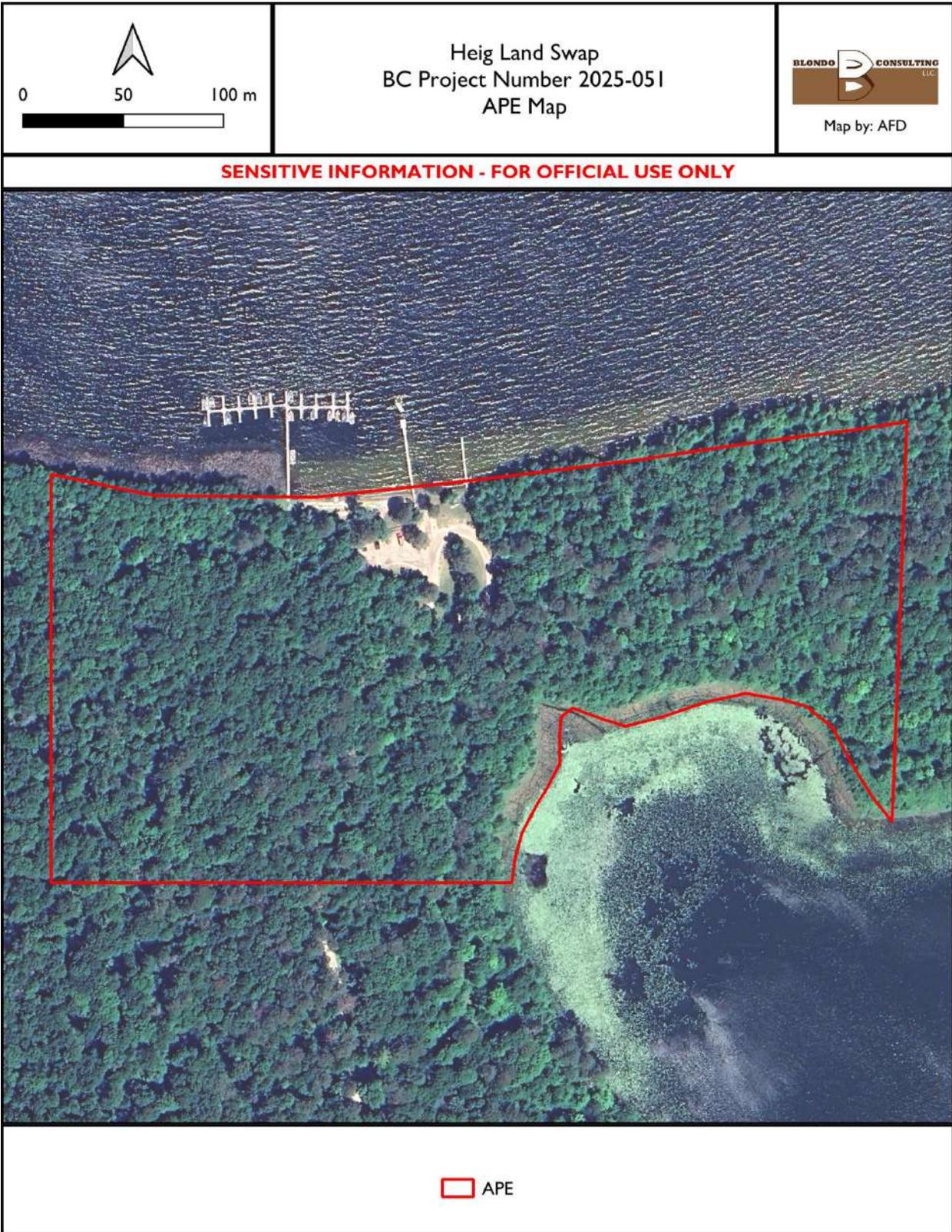


Map by: AFD

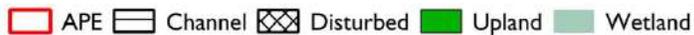
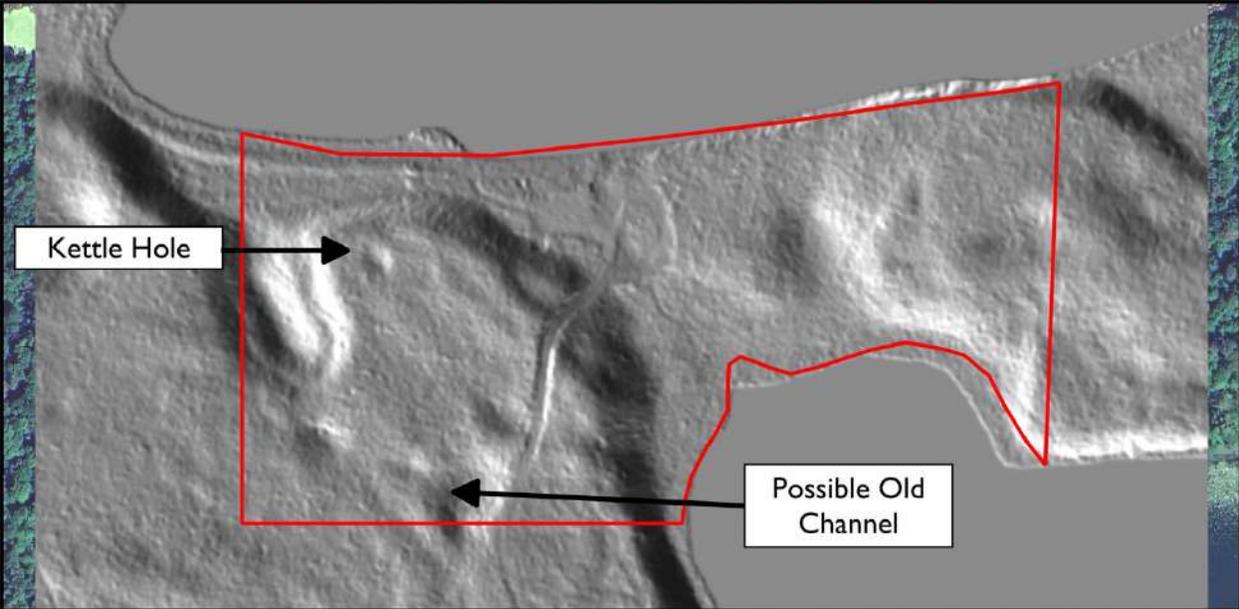
SENSITIVE INFORMATION - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



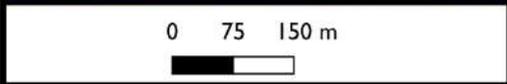
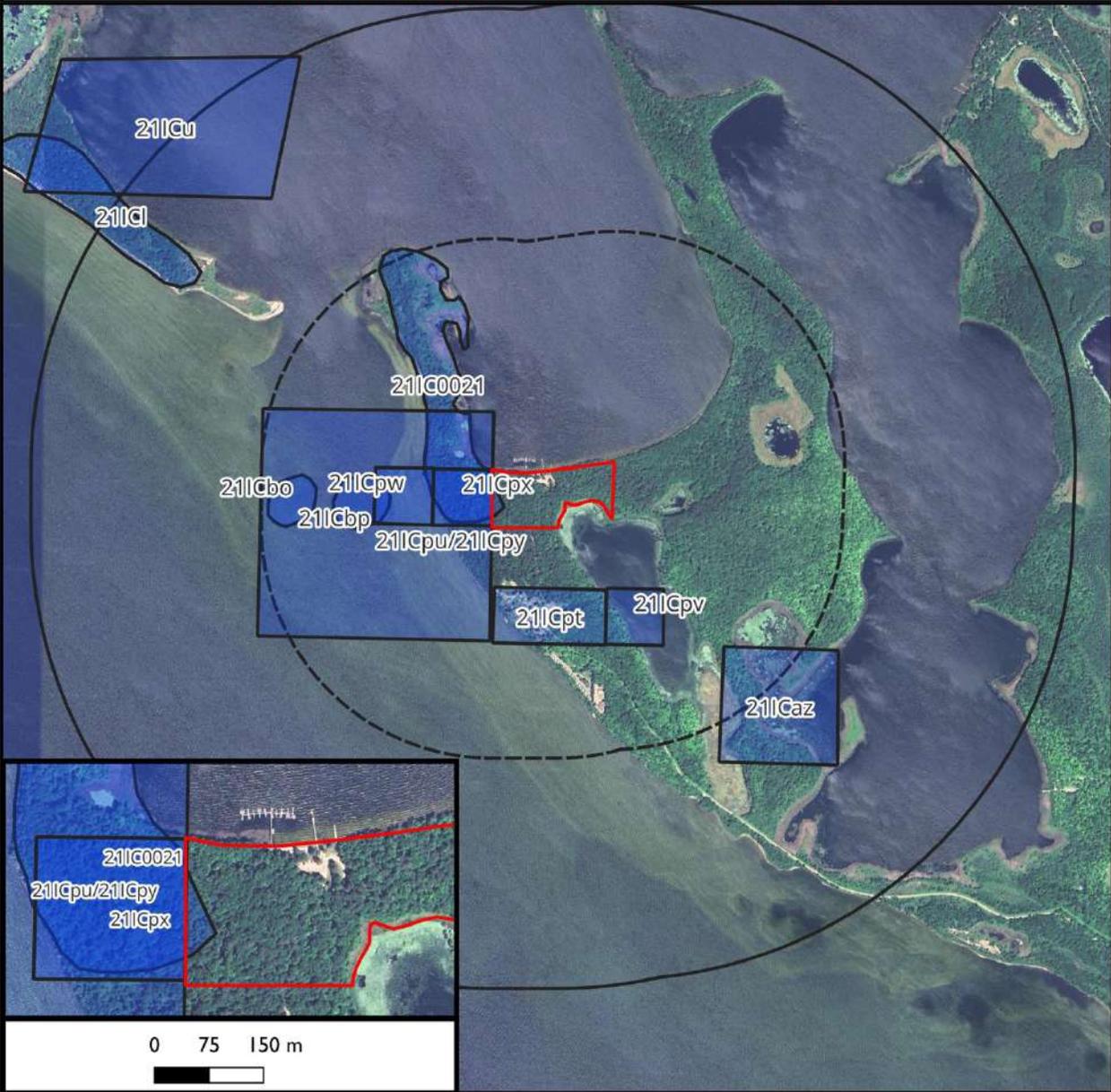
 APE



SENSITIVE INFORMATION - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

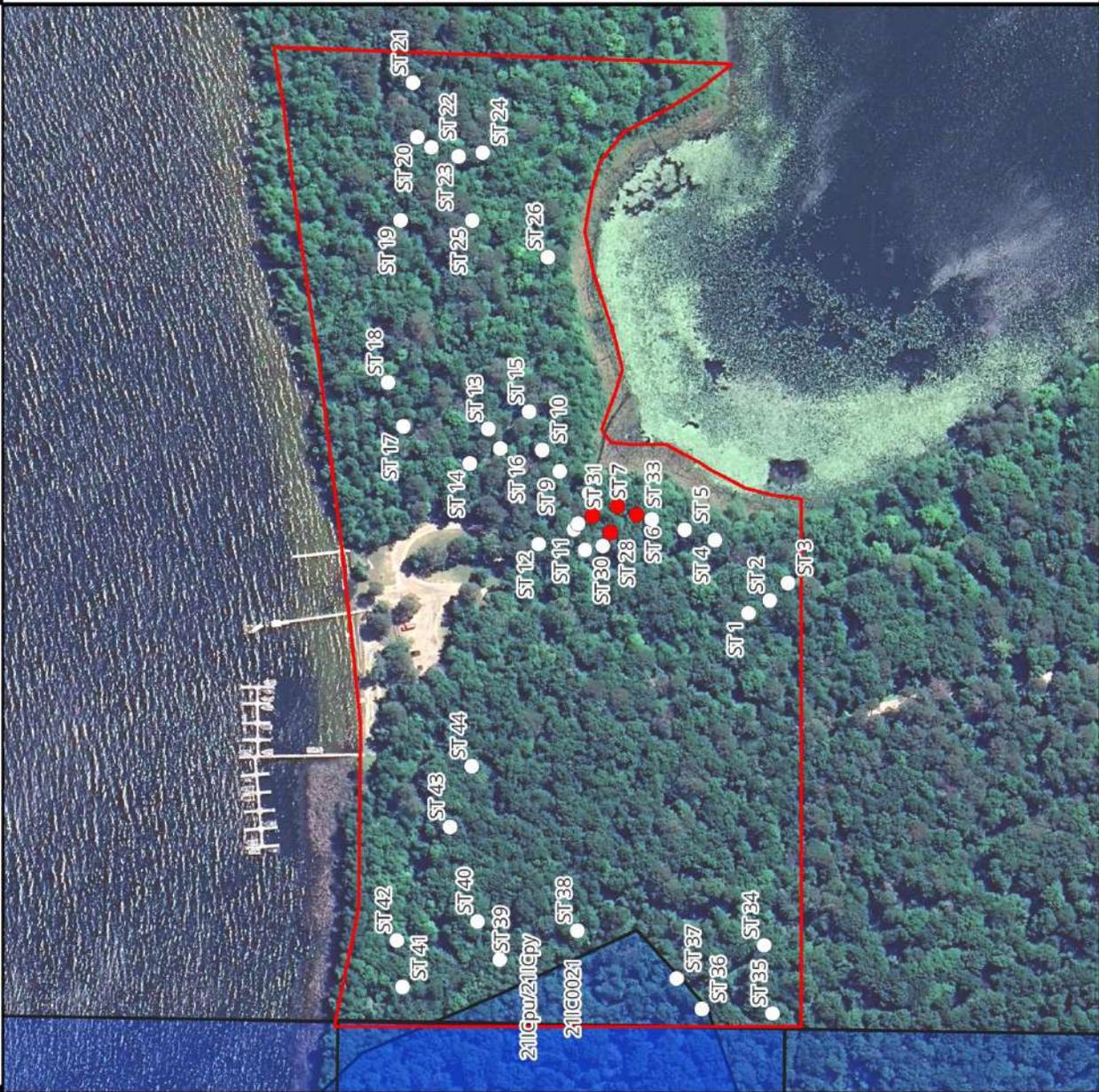


SENSITIVE INFORMATION - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

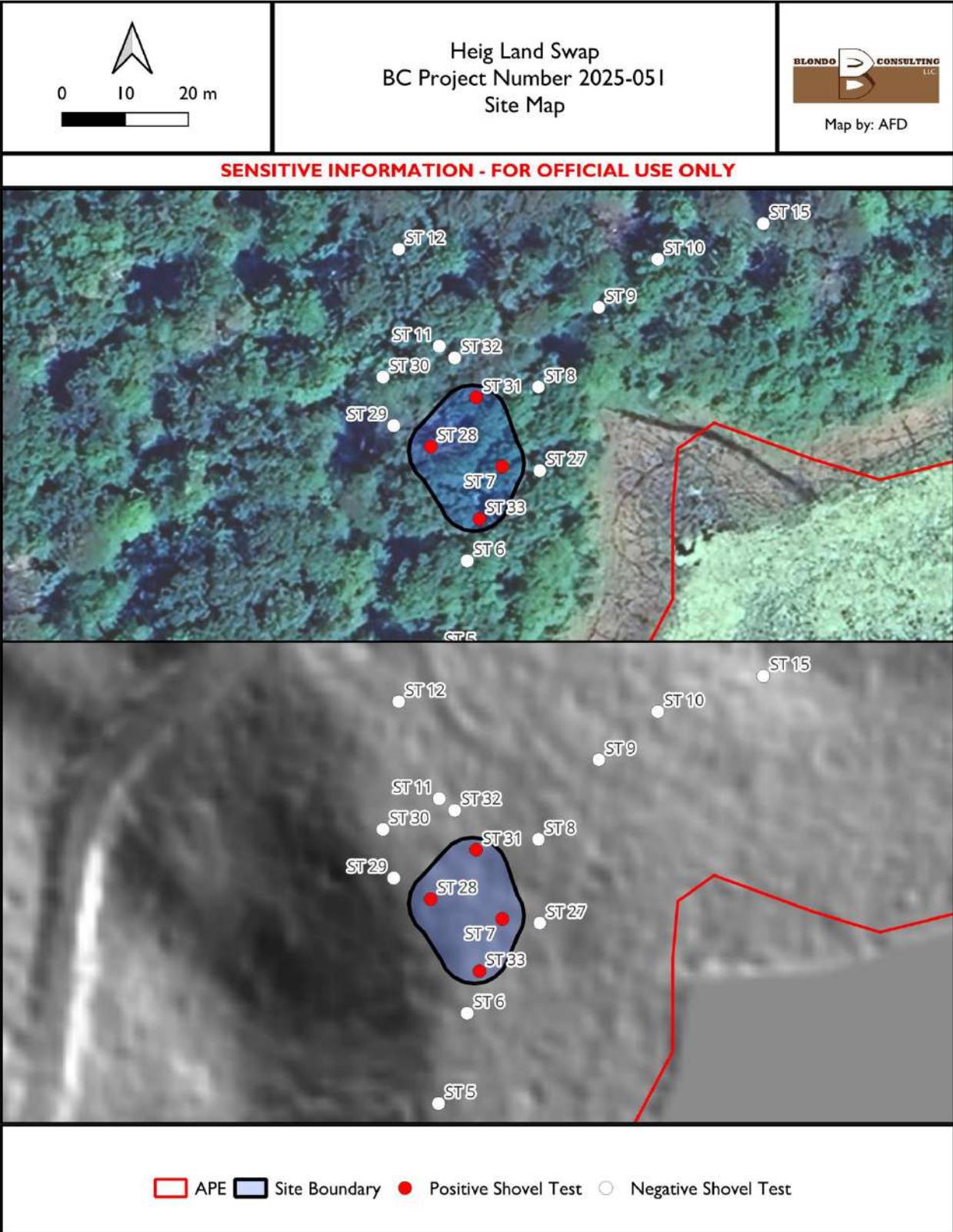


APE

SENSITIVE INFORMATION - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



APE
 ● Positive Shovel Test
 ○ Negative Shovel Test



Attachment 2: Photos



Photo 1: APE overview along the edge of the central driveway facing north.



Photo 2: Overview of the western portion of the APE facing south.

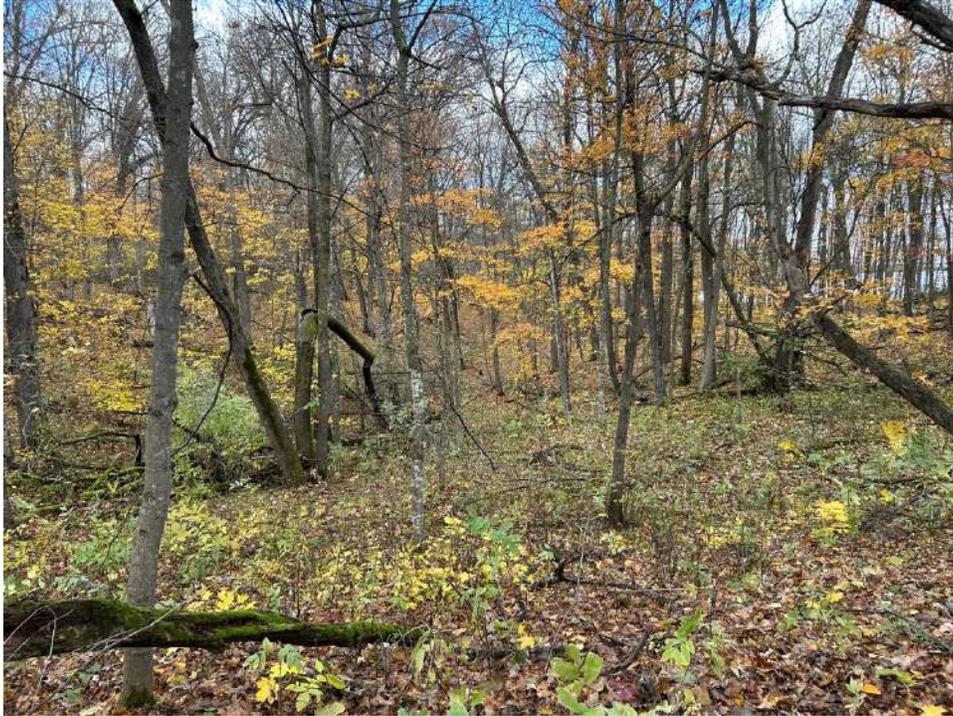


Photo 3: Overview of the western portion of the APE facing northwest.



Photo 4: Example of a tree throw within the western portion of the APE facing northwest.



Photo 5: Overview of the western portion of the APE towards Cut Foot Sioux Lake facing north.



Photo 6: Overview of the western portion of the APE along Cut Foot Sioux Lake facing east.



Photo 7: Overview of the eastern portion of the APE facing northwest.

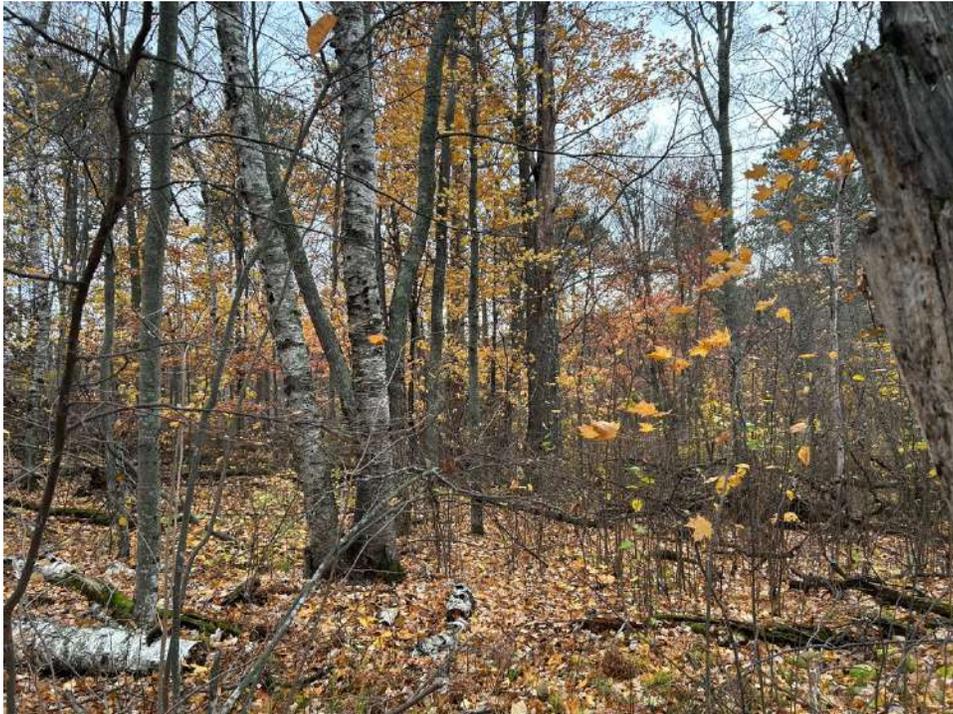


Photo 8: Overview of the eastern portion of the APE facing southwest.



Photo 9: Overview of the eastern portion of the APE towards Cut Foot Sioux Lake facing northeast.

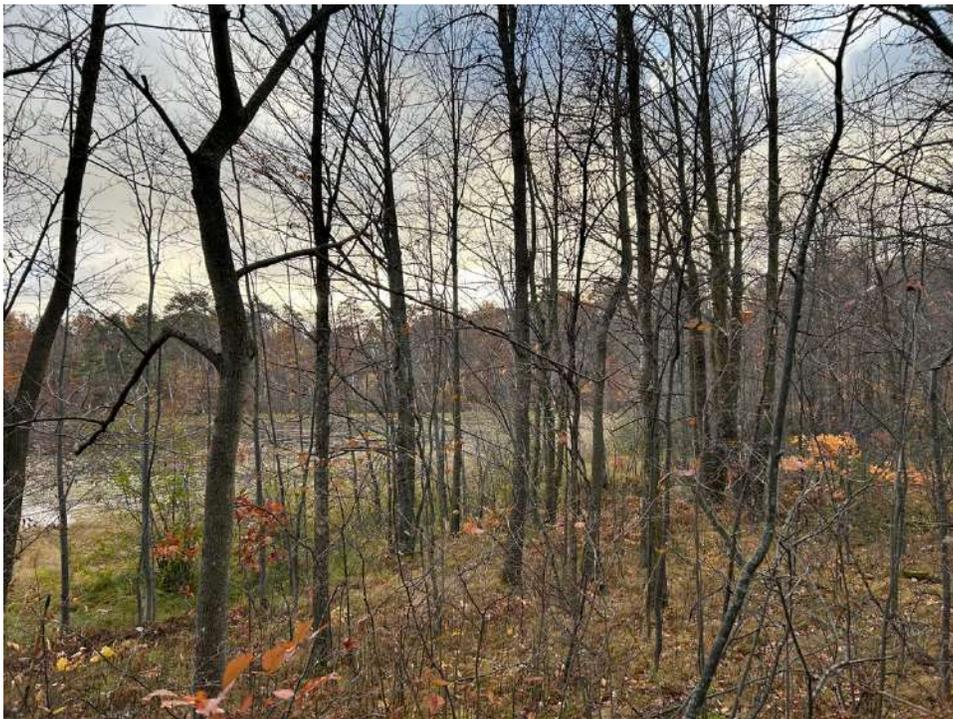


Photo 10: Overview of the eastern portion of the APE towards Minnow Lake facing southwest.



Photo 11: Overview of 211C0021 (Sugarbush Point) facing northwest.

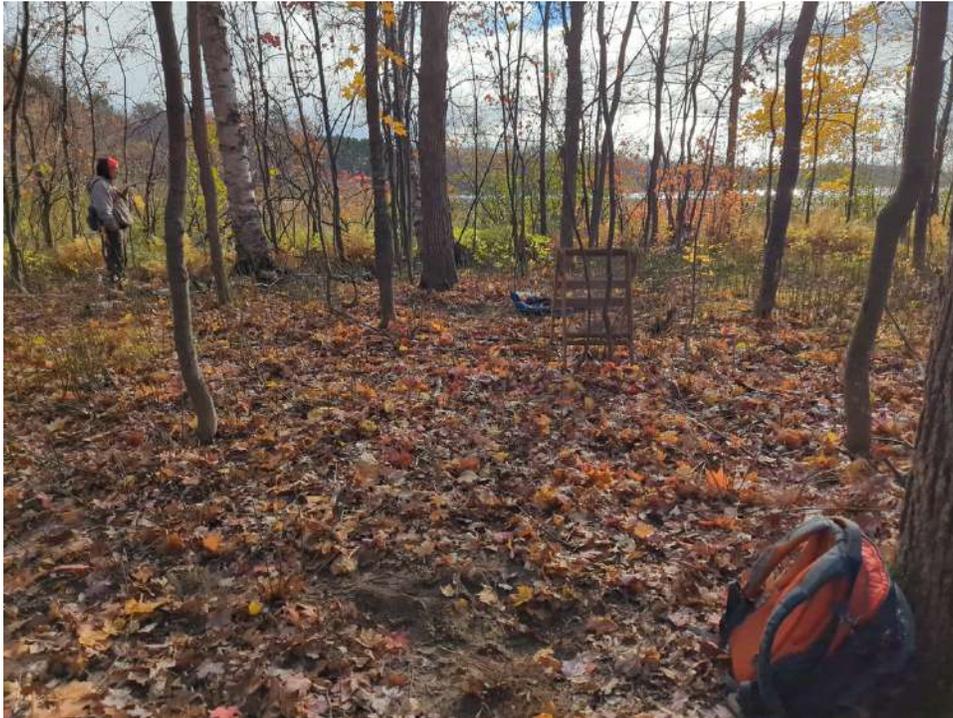


Photo 12: Overview of **BC2025-051-Site I** facing east.



Photo I3: Overview of **BC2025-051-Site I** facing north.



Photo I4: Shovel Test 7.



Photo 15: Shovel Test 28.



Photo 16: Shovel Test 31.



Photo 17: Shovel Test 33.



Photo 18: Smoothed-over-cordmarked ceramic sherds from Shovel Test 7.



Photo 19: Cord-marked ceramic sherds from Shovel Test 7.



Photo 20: Dentate stamped ceramic sherds from Shovel Test 7.



Photo 21: Dentate stamped and burned ceramic sherds from Shovel Test 7.



Photo 22: Incised ceramic sherds from Shovel Test 28.



Photo 23: Quartz debitage from Shovel Test 31.



Photo 24: Ceramic sherd from Shovel Test 33.

Stormwater Retrofit Report

32 BMP options with 16 implemented, and 5 maybe being implemented down the road in Aitkin and Itasca

NOT Completed	Completed	Potential future
---------------	-----------	------------------

City	BMP	BMP Option	Drainage Area (acres)	Comments
Aitkin	PMA 1 (51%)	Bioretention Cell	10.2	
Aitkin	PMA 2-P (52%)	Extended Detention Basin	10.2	interested in implementing or doing a new study? She will check to see if there is funding through 1W1P, and then see if the city wants to participate.
Aitkin	PMA 2-I (72%)	Bioretention Cell	10.2	
Cass Lake	PMA 11 (50%)	Bioretention Cell	5.5	
Cass Lake	PMA 11 (70%)	Bioretention Cell	5.5	
Cass Lake	PMA 12 (71%)	Bioretention Cell	1.6	
LaPrairie	PMA 31-I 90%	Bioretention Cell	5.4	2/4/26- Andy is checking to see if the city has an is interest.
LaPrairie	PMA 31-P 90%	Permeable Pavement	5.4	
Palisade	PMA 41 (33%)	Bioretention Cell	1.5	
Palisade	PMA 41 (44%)	Bioretention Cell	1.5	This was completed as a swail or raingarden here.
Palisade	PMA 41 (67%)	Bioretention Cell	1.5	
Riverton	PMA 51 (30%)	Improved Buffer Strip	6.3	This practice was infeasible due to soils and drainage issues.
Riverton	PMA 51 (51%)	Improved Buffer Strip	6.3	
Riverton	PMA 52	Existing Extended Detention Basin		Natural ditch area was cleaned out and flowage restored
Walker	PMA 61 (30%)	Bioretention Cell	3.5	
Walker	PMA 61 (50%)	Bioretention Cell	3.5	placed a separator before the water gets to the marina
Walker	PMA 61 (70%)	Bioretention Cell	3.5	
Walker	PMA 62 (70%)	Bioretention Cell	1.5	Rock Garden installed to retain and slow water
Walker	PMA 63 (50%)	Vegetated Swale	4.6	Storm separator near boat landing and some rip rap basking before a culvert to the lake.
Walker	PMA 63 (70%)	Vegetated Swale	4.6	
Walker	PMA 64 (32%)	Permeable Pavement	1.4	
Walker	PMA 64 (52%)	Permeable Pavement	1.4	Not completed because PMA 65 took care of the issue.
Walker	PMA 64 (72%)	Permeable Pavement	1.4	

Walker	PMA 64 (88%)	Permeable Pavement	1.4
Walker	PMA 65	Bioretention Cell	
Walker	NEW	Rock Garden	
Bemidji	PMA 6-PP (27% TP R	Permeable Pavement	3.6
Bemidji	PMA 6-BR (30% TP R	Curb-Contained Bioretention	4.4
Bemidji	PMA 7-I (0% TP Rem	Stormwater capture and subsurface storage for irrigation	50.1
Bemidji	PMA 7-P (30% TP Re	Extended Detention Basin	131.3
Bemidji	PMA 7-P (40% TP Re	Extended Detention Basin	131.3
Bemidji	PMA 25 (27% TP Ren	FeCl Treatment	501.4
Grand Rapi	PMA 11 (50% TP Ren	Extended Detention Basin	9.1
Grand Rapi	PMA 24 (30% TP Ren	Extended Detention Basin	98
Grand Rapi	PMA 24 (50% TP Ren	Extended Detention Basin	98
Grand Rapi	PMA 41 (30% TP Ren	Stormwater capture and subsurfa	5.4
Grand Rapi	PMA 42 (30% TP Ren	Regional Bioretention	35.4
Grand Rapi	PMA 42 (50% TP Ren	Regional Bioretention	35.4
Grand Rapi	PMA 42 (70% TP Ren	Regional Bioretention	35.4
Grand Rapi	PMA 45 (67% TP Ren	Extended Detention Basin Retrofi	444.6
Grand Rapids		NEW	
Little Falls	PMA 30/31 (20% TP	Curb-Contained Bioretention	286.6
Little Falls	PMA 30/31 (10% TP	Curb-Contained Bioretention	286.6
Little Falls	PMA 30/31 (5% TP R	Curb-Contained Bioretention	286.6
Little Falls	PMA 10 (22% TP Ren	Stormwater capture and subsurfa	77.3
Baxter	Original Concept	Extended Detention Basin - 5 acre	200
Baxter	Concept 1	Extended Detention Basin - 12.5 a	386.5
Baxter	Concept 2	Extended Detention Basin - 12.5 a	386.5
Brainerd	7-IESF, 60%	Iron Enchanced Sand Filter	
Brainerd	7-IESF, 50%	Iron Enchanced Sand Filter	

This was completed around 2018

Near Super One to catch sediment from 6th St.

Solar basin added on South side of parking lot

Solar basin added on South side of parking lot

subsurface infiltration basin completed.

2016- Diamond Point Park BMP added around here.

Completed

completed with series of detention areas near Taco Bell.

2/9/26- City looking at doing this down the road- compost site is moving so that takes priority.

not feasible- Area changed from field to homes.

Blandin completed this project

in 2017 Not really feasible because of dominance of wetlands in geography along with land ownership, and grade.

New project- Completed Library parking lot.

Little Falls stated that they are doing good with stormwater requirements and have installed 3 regional ponds to handle the majority of their stormwater runoff.

Whiskey Creek behind Fleet Farm

Brainerd	7-IESF, 70%	Iron Enhanced Sand Filter	
Brainerd	WC Pond, 28%	Stormwater Wetland	
Brainerd	WC Pond, 26%	Stormwater Wetland	
Brainerd	WC Pond, 30%	Stormwater Wetland	
Brainerd	3-Porous Asphalt, 30%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	2-Porous Asphalt, 30%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	2-Porous Asphalt, 50%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	3-Porous Asphalt, 40%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	2-Porous Asphalt, 40%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	3-Porous Asphalt, 50%	Permeable Asphalt	
Brainerd	3-Bioretention, 30%	Bioretention Cell	
Brainerd	3-Bioretention, 40%	Bioretention Cell	
Brainerd	3-Bioretention, 50%	Bioretention Cell	

Not implemented. A 2020 SRA plan was developed for Brainerd and they will consider implementing in 2029 after Hwy 371 construction is finished.

Boswell Solar Tree Replacement Plan

Kickoff / Planning Call

January 22, 2026

Proposed Agenda

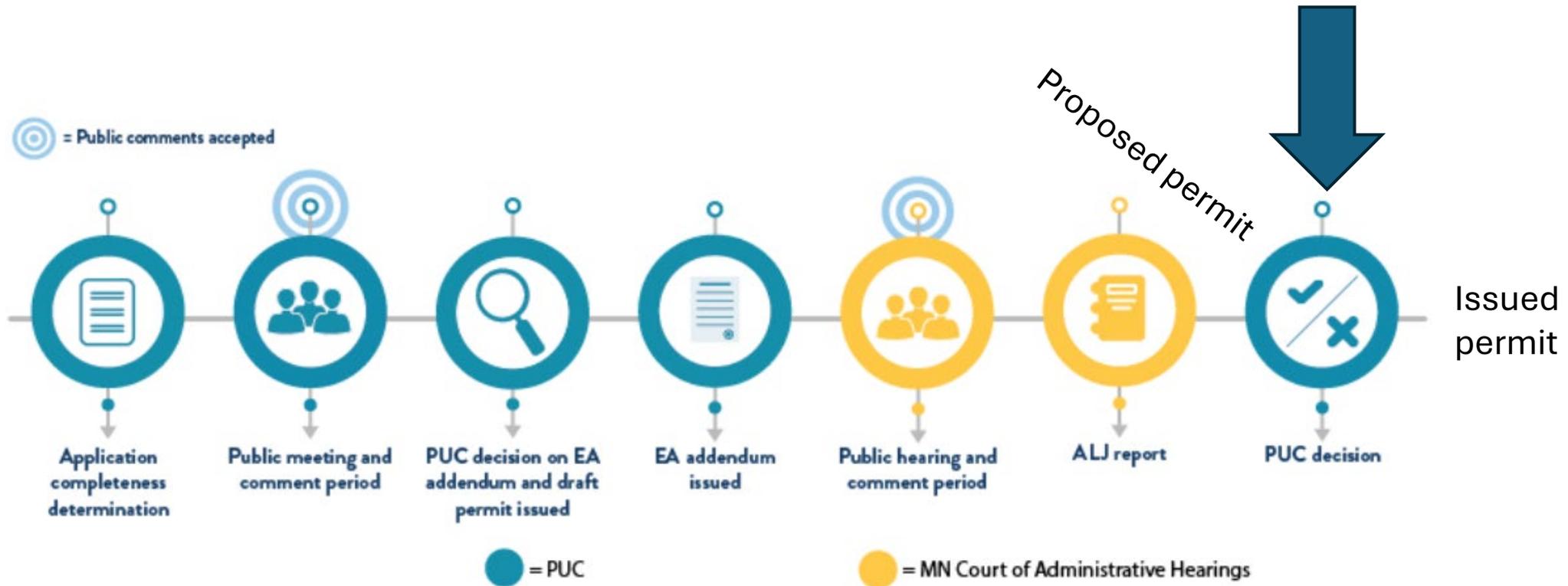
- **Introductions** (5 mins)
- **Project Overview** (MN Power, 10 mins)
 - Permit Condition: Tree Replacement Plan
 - Site Overview
 - Project Timelines
- **Group Discussion** (all, 40 mins)
 - Replacement Approach
 - Potential Planting Locations
 - Additional topics for follow-up discussions
- **Next Steps** (5 mins)

Goals:

- Provide initial guidance on tree replacement approach for development of Draft Plan
- Details eg (where, when) continue to be refined.

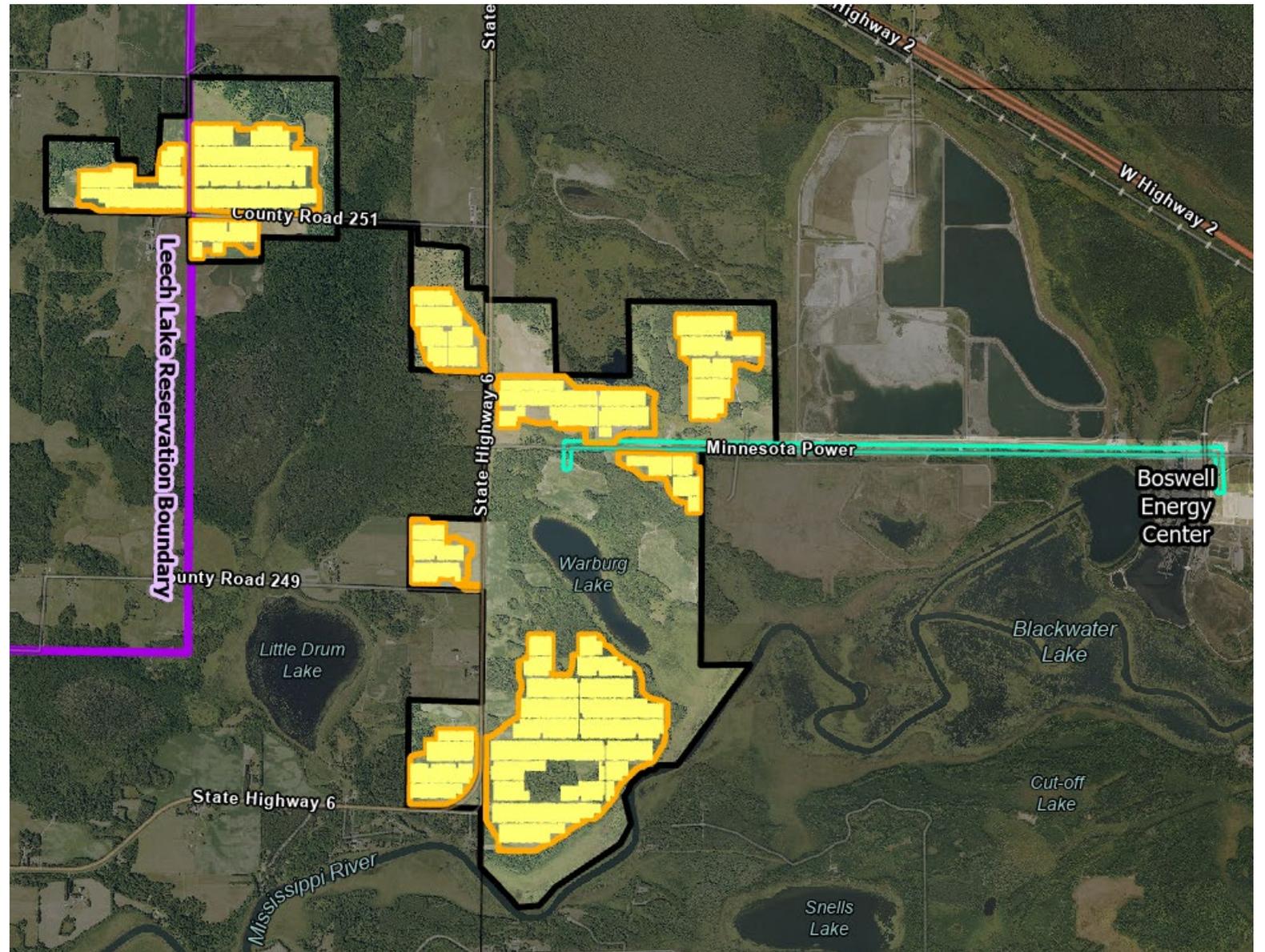
Boswell Solar - PUC Permitting Process

Here
January 15, 2026



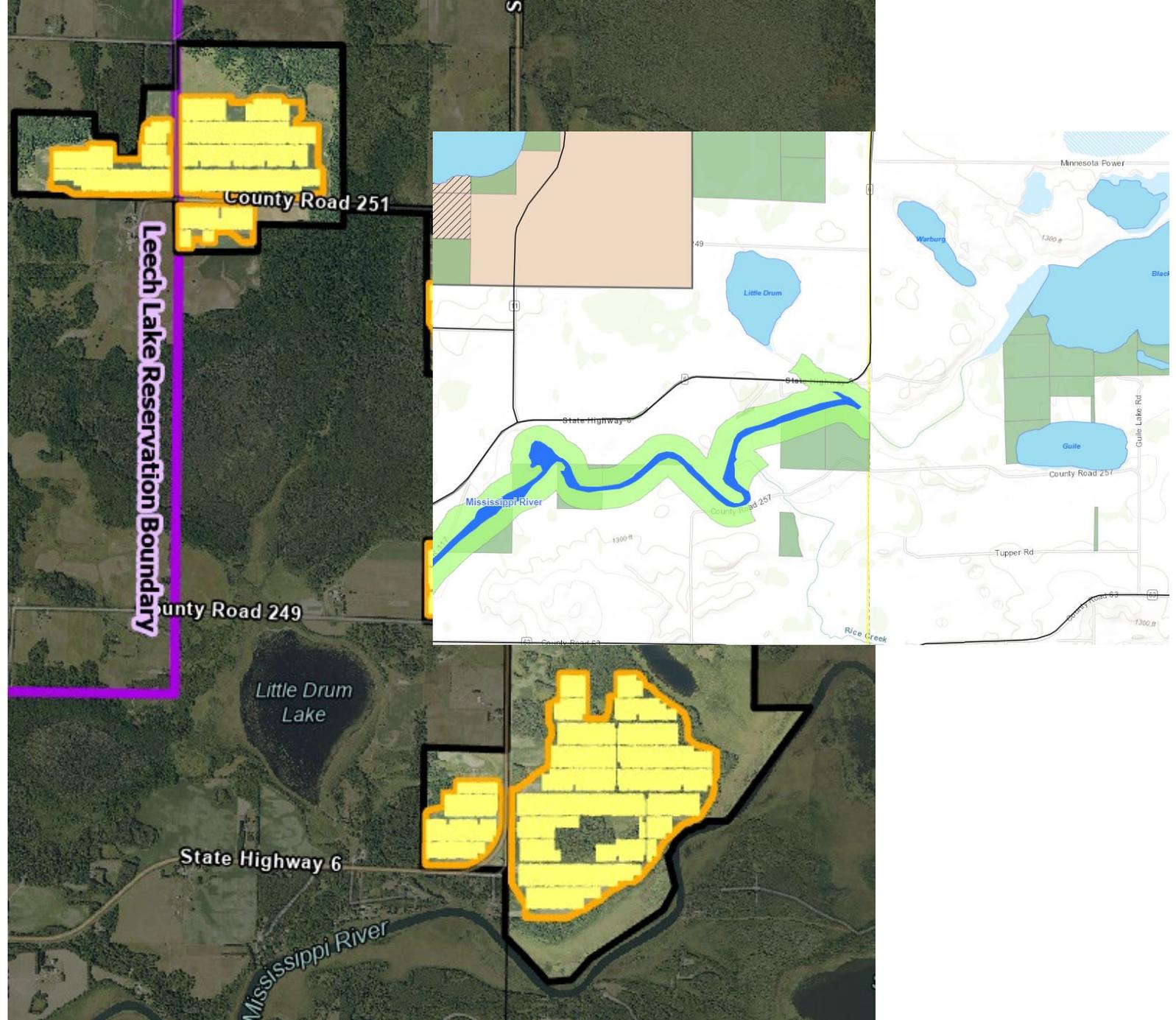
Site Layout

- 1,108 acres
- 570 acres of solar panels and associated infrastructure
 - 35 acres Leech Lake



Site Layout

- 1,108 acres
- 570 acres of solar panels and associated infrastructure
 - 35 acres Leech Lake

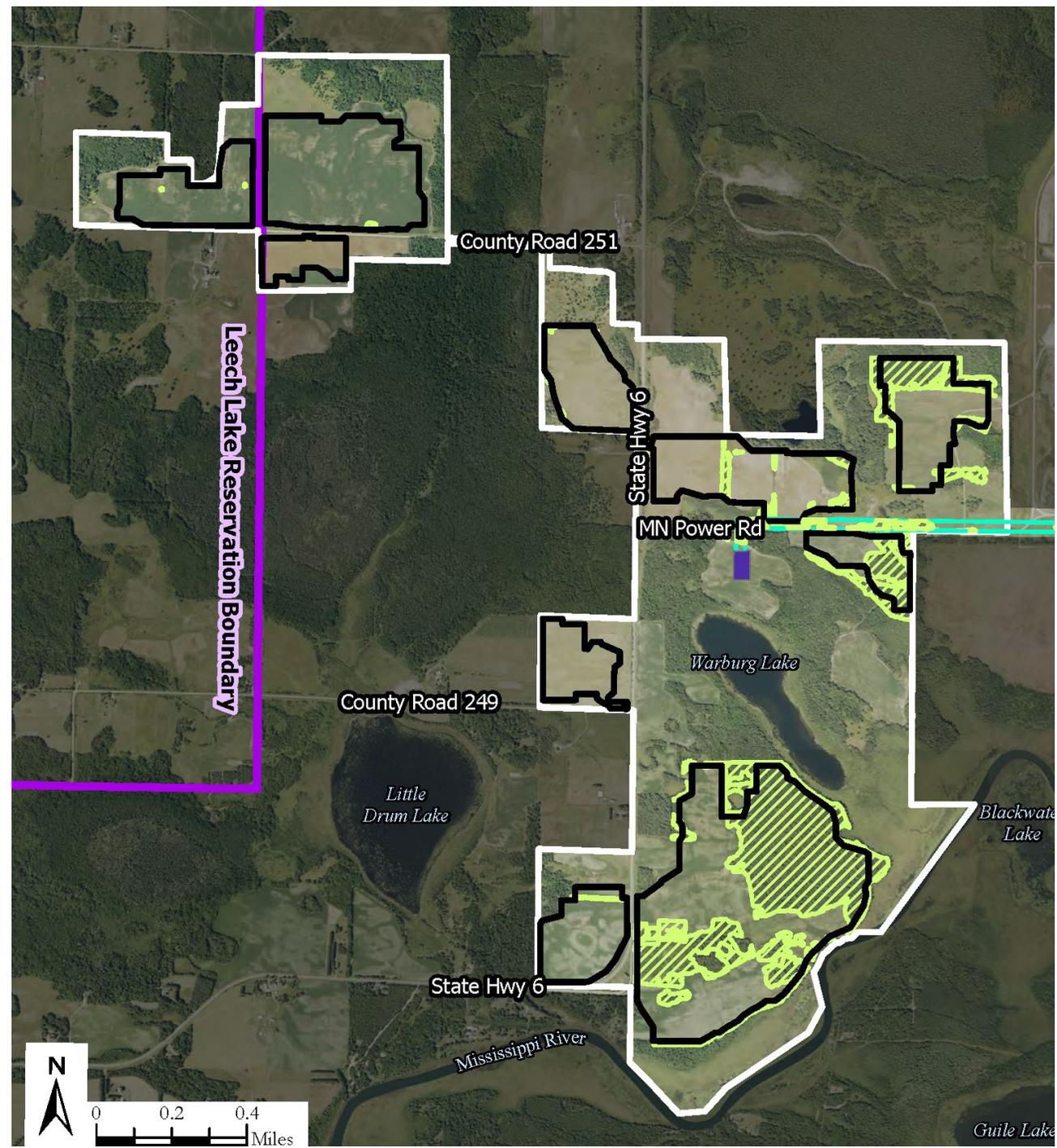


Tree Clearing

- Solar Array Site= 144.4 ac
- Transmission Line ROW = 8.3 ac
- Total = 152.7

Mixed Forest

- Black ash
- Black spruce
- Balsam fir
- Quaking aspen
- American elm
- Willow spp
- Balsam poplar
- Red maple



Project Timeline

- **End of Month** = File Draft Tree Replacement Plan with the Commission
- **April 15** = Complete Tree Clearing in Federally Jurisdictional Wetlands
- **June 1** = Complete Tree clearing project wide

Permit Condition

- “develop a plan to replace any trees that are removed for construction by of the project by planting new trees in in **Itasca County and Leech Lake Indian Reservation**”
- “Trees planted for site screening, as well as any incremental or supplemental plantings beyond prior obligations or commitments, including the commitment to donate approximately 150,000 seedlings to Itasca County over the next two years, **may be used to satisfy this tree replacement requirement.**”

Tuma New 5.o. Tree Replacement. Both the site and route permit should include the following condition related to tree replacement:

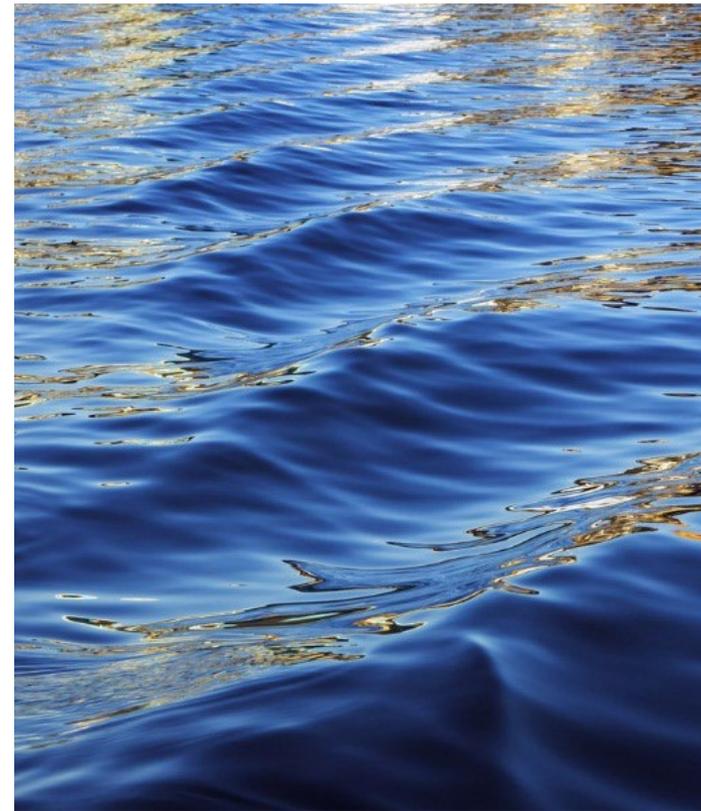
The Permittee in coordination with the DNR, the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Mississippi Headwaters Board, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s Division of Resource Management shall develop a plan to replace any trees that are removed for construction of the project by planting new trees in Itasca County and the Leech Lake Indian Reservation as near the project area as practical, and file the plan with the Commission at least 14 days before the pre-construction meeting. Trees planted for site screening, as well as any incremental or supplemental plantings beyond prior obligations or commitments, including the commitment to donate approximately 150,000 seedlings to Itasca County over the next two years, may be used to satisfy this tree replacement requirement. It is understood that any incremental prudent and reasonable costs for tree replacement not covered in prior project budgets may be recovered in future proceedings, including the Renewable Resources Rider, related to this project subject to the Commission’s review.

Discussion

- 1. Replacement Approach**
- 2. Potential Planting Locations**



Overview of the Biennial Conference Agenda Items

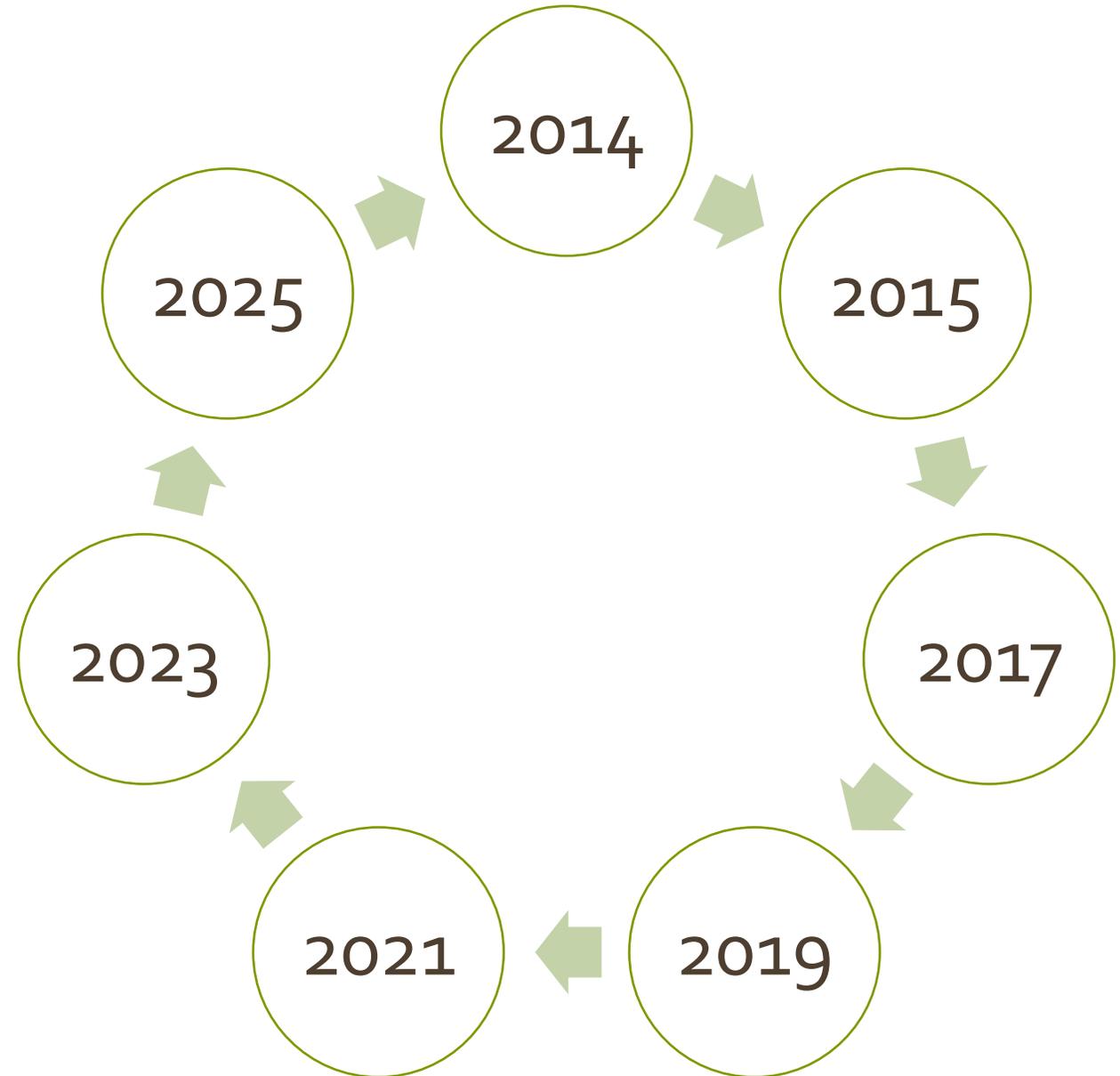


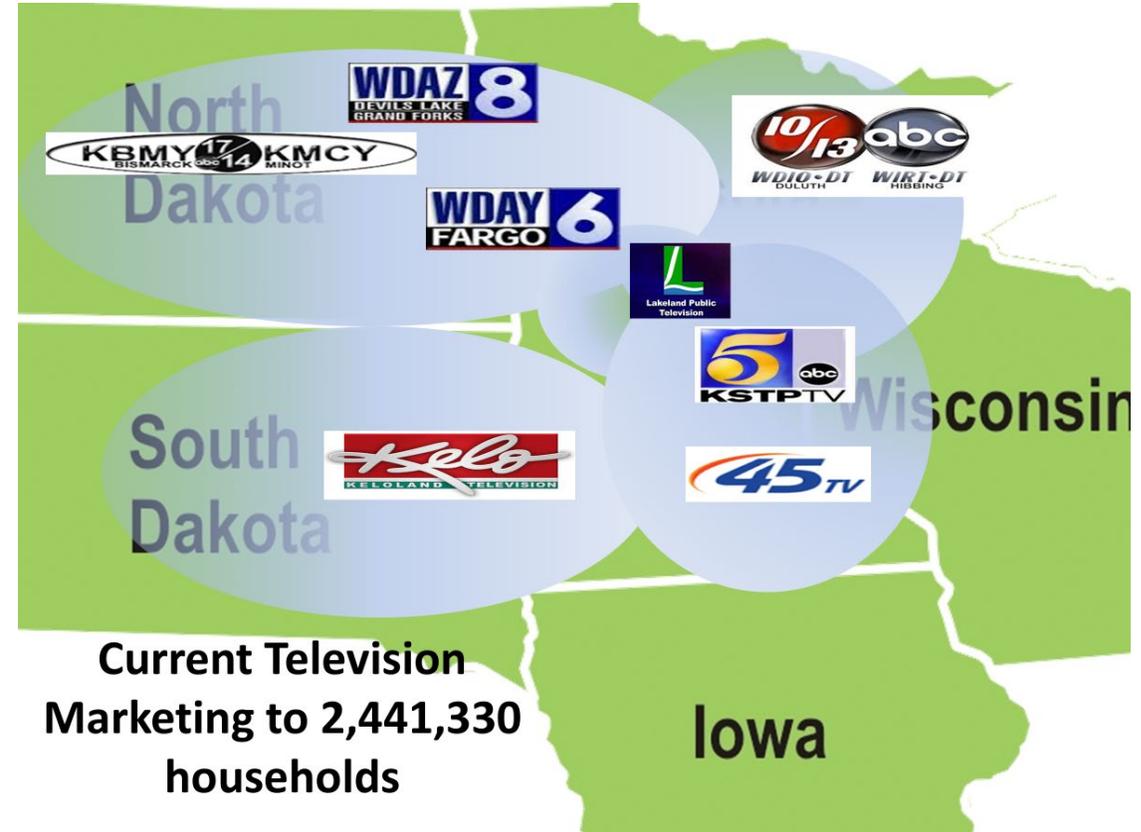
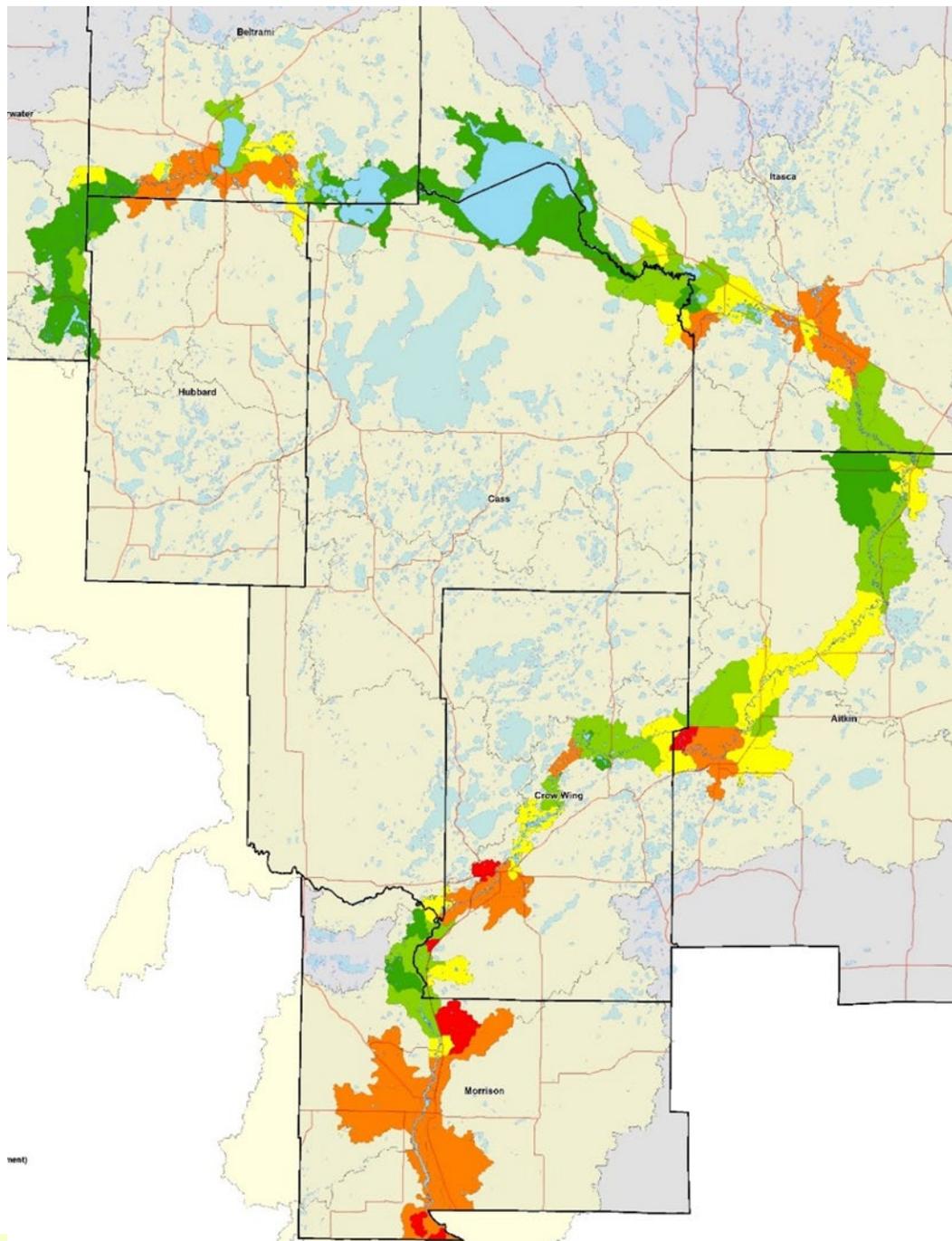
Biennial Conferences Themes:

Relevant, ADD VALUE, Beneficial, Innovative,
Memorable (Make it Stick),

Joint Powers Boards in general

How is topic viewed by public/board? Ma/Mi





**Current Television
 Marketing to 2,441,330
 households**

8. After watching Minnesota Traditions TV infomercials or visiting Minnesota Traditions Social Media.

How likely or unlikely are you to use the following AIS prevention practices in the future?	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat likely	Very likely	N/A
Visual inspections of boats, trailers and equipment	2%	1%	2%	5%	48%	1%
Drain water from boats	1%	1%	2%	5%	46%	1%
Avoid release of unwanted bait into water	2%	1%	4%	5%	41%	1%
Manually remove AIS from boats, trailers and equipment	2%	1%	1%	5%	51%	1%
Flush motor's cooling system with tap water	5%	6%	8%	12%	24%	2%
Rinse boat with high pressure and/or hot water	5%	5%	7%	13%	26%	1%
Dry boat with a towel or allow boat to dry for at least five days	6%	7%	7%	13%	22%	1%
Set traps to catch and dispose of AIS following state regulations	16%	9%	11%	5%	14%	1%
Physically remove AIS from my boat or trailer	1%	1%	3%	7%	44%	1%
Avoid boating in AIS infested water bodies	10%	7%	13%	8%	16%	1%
Boat or fish only on one lake	26%	8%	9%	4%	8%	1%
Other (please specify): _____						

eEN
Pipeli
Mana



agement

S
Mi

2021 & 2023

October 28, 2021

- MHB Video and Award to Bob Lessard Mi/Mi
- MHHCP Ma/Ma
- MN Traditions Mi/Mi
- Regional SRA- Bemidji Ma/Ma
- Signage and Resource retention Ma/Ma

October 27, 2023

- MHB Video Mi/Mi
- MN Traditions Mi/Mi
- Signage and Resource retention events Mi/Ma surveys+Econ. Dev.+Nat. Better
- MHHCP Ma/Ma
- Regional SRA- Baxter Ma/Ma
- Honorable Mentions- Kiosk, High schools, Mon. Press releases, Increase in PILT, Land Exchange/Smith Testimony, MHB Salt Mi

2025

October 31, 2025

- MHHCP Ma/Ma
- Land Exchange Ma/Ma
- MN Traditions Mi/Mi
- Signage, events, Economic development Mi/Ma pilot project- MN Trad made events successful
- Honorable Mentions- Testify before Legacy Finance committee, Aitkin Campground move, High Schools, Archaeological example Mi/Mi

2027 Agenda Subjects

- Crow Wing Deason gully Project- Mi/Mi
- Peter Jacobson - land protection required to maintain wildlife habitat- Ma/Ma
- MHHCP- Ma/Ma
- Morrison weyerhaeuser museum Streambank Stabilization- Ma/Ma
- MHB Funding increase- Mi/Ma
- Bowen Lodge easement?- developing Ma/Ma
- Boswell Tree replacement plan- Mi/Mi
- Northern township sewer project- Ma 80% of Lake Bemidji protected
- BSU Stormwater Basin completed Fall '25 based off MHB stormwater retrofit analysis- Ma
- Boswell Solar Project- Kim Oldenborg- Mi
- DNR Keep it clean videos- Mi
- MN Traditions, Resourcetaintment event- Mi/Ma- Outdoor Rec is 2.7% (\$13.9B)of MN GDP.
- Natural Resource Economic development media Mi/Ma- Influencer is a private sector trend

2029 Agenda Subjects

- Strategic Patience
- MHB funding increase from legislature
- BWSR and DNR use of Habitat model
- Bowen Lodge easement
- SWCD and county natural resource promotion-This will be the future news source for conservation and economic development.

TASK	Progress	Start	End	Comments
Send Out letters to MHB co-chairs, ENRPF committee, and MHB Commissioners	100%	1/29/26	1/29/26	Completed
Follow up Call to Co-Chairs (legislative Assistants) to ask if they received letter and next steps.	100%	2/4/26	2/4/26	Heintzeman's aid Yang provided me with a process. Rep. Fischer called me directly and asked me to work through Heintzeman as this is the best way to do it and Heintzeman will need to work to gain bipartisan support.
Hold video meeting with Heintzeman and MHB Chair to discuss bill.	100%	2/19/26	2/19/26	Chair and I held meeting with Rep. Heintzeman and discussed bill. I believe he will use current bill that was already written to help gain bipartisan support at the House level.
Work Senate Process	100%	2/27/26	2/27/26	send letters out to Senate committee chair, minority ranking member and Env., Climate, and Legacy committee
Follow process. March 27th is 1st deadline for committee to hear bill.		3/27/26	3/27/26	

TASK	Progress	Start	End	Comments
Technical Committee Meeting	100%	1/20/26	1/20/26	2 easements and 1 fee title acquisition approved by TC to move forward
Produce and administer contract to Jacobson consultant	50%	3/3/26	5/31/26	contract written according to CW county standard contract. Signed by Jacobson consulting, Project started
Write and submit LSOHC proposal		5/27/26	5/27/26	
MHHCP Update to MHB board		6/26/26	6/26/26	
Proposal Testify before LSOHC		8/24/26	8/26/26	
Technical Committee Meeting		9/5/26	9/5/26	
LSOHC Council Meeting for Accomplishment Plan approval		12/8/26	12/8/26	

TASK	Progress	Start	End	Comments
Finalize Funding	75%	4/15/26	4/15/26	Currently raised \$41,500 by calling 87 counties. Possibility of raising \$47K? Average giving /total allocation is 2.3%
Run social media Program		5/1/26	10/31/26	
Provide Report before MHB Board		10/23/26	10/23/26	
Provide Annual Report to AIS				
Coordinators		11/25/26	11/25/26	

TASK	Progress	Start	End	Comments
Morrison Belle Prairie Park Clean Up	65%			date not set. Look at getting partners (Boy/girl scouts complete), funding (complete \$250MHB/\$250 Morrison), and construction season complete- won't be a problem).
Beltrami Paul Bunyan Park Clean up	50%	5/9/26	5/9/26	Date set and website updated.
Miller Black Bear ATV trail content post	25%	5/19/26	5/19/26	date set for content and post
Aitkin PYGO		6/20/26	6/20/26	2/17- called Stephanie to collaborate on social media. Beginning planning meetings.
Great River Road Influencer post	25%			1/15- set up meeting with MRPC board for 2/20 (meeting held) Setting up sub committee)
Paddle & Pint	25%	7/11/26	7/11/26	date confirmed with Steph.
Paddle Stretches of Miss. River	25%	7/1/26	7/31/26	Planned Aitkin Campground to Pine Knoll, Verdon Canoe to Lee Ferry, Jacobson Camp to Verdon
Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival		8/8/26	8/8/26	2/17 talked with Becky and will put me touch with Scott. Scott will connect me with committee.
History Paddle	25%	8/15/26	8/15/26	Date set. Social media promotion with We Are Water (Visit Little Falls) along with display set up. Erika.
ISP Paddle	10%			2/4- held meeting with Aaron. Need to get together and plan date with Heather. 2/17- held conference with Heather.
Bemidji Minn. Canoe Championships	10%	9/5/26	9/5/26	2/13- scheduled meeting in April to set date and process.

TASK	Progress	Start	End	Comments
Visit 12 High Schools		9/1/26	5/22/27	Bemidji High Schools Career Day (4), Deer River, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Aitkin High, Royalton Career, Park Rapids, Bagley High, Faith, Hope, Love Christian Academy
Tabulate Teacher Surveys and present to Board		5/22/27	5/22/27	

Executive Director Report

February - March 2026

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. Created Biennial Conference report to present to board at the March board meeting. It will provide a history of the agenda items we have had over the years.
7. Attended CW DRT meeting and provided MHB policy regarding additions.
8. Scheduled meeting with DNR for annual grants monitoring.

Meetings & Networking

2/23 Scheduled a meeting with Cass Lake Bena HS. I will meet with the class on 3/3

2/24 Held phone meeting with Pete Jacobson and discussed the opportunity of a contract to correlate the 75% water quality metric to habitat. An offer was made to Mike DuVall since he worked on the same project with Pete, but he did not want to take on the project due to being retired.

2/24 Met with Itasca county board to notify them of a proposed MHHCP DNR land acquisition to the Swan River Deer Yard WMA. The partners discussed the location of the proposed 473 acre addition and the percent of upland (60%) to lowland (40%) area. PILT was calculated from the sale price of the property and would be potentially \$1,500 higher than current real estate taxes. While there wasn't much negative talk about the proposal, the Commissioners voiced concern over the need for trails that accommodate an older and aging population and asked if motorized options were available for trails. Currently Itasca county doesn't have a no net gain policy or ordinance concerning land acquisition, but they have brought up board discussion on it in past years and how that would factor into the process. The MHHCP program is working how it should because it was developed to provide county commissioners with notification and comment for the first meeting, and allow them decision-making authority for the second meeting.

2/25 At the request of the DNR Hydrologist, I met with the Brainerd Community Development Director James Kramvik and discussed the orderly annexation of First Assessment Township and how MHB fits into this. I explained our jurisdictional area and the standards in the Comprehensive Plan. I then explained how annexation in the MHB Comprehensive Plan has a moratorium process. James thanked me and then proceeded to discuss another large area South of Brainerd that was annexed in the early 2000's. I explained to him that the area still has a moratorium on it, and that a plan needs to be developed that is at least restrictive as the MHB Comprehensive Plan. Concluding the discussion, James decided to let the Brainerd city council know about the MHB rules and how they will come into the process of an orderly

annexation of First Assessment township. Next he will need to write an overlay district zoning ordinance for any parcels annexed after 1980. Finally he will bring the Area South of Brainerd before the MHB for the moratorium to be lifted by the MHB.

2/25 Held phone conversation with Scott Hunt from the Bemidji Chamber and talked about social media collaboration for the dragon boat races. He said he would refer me to the committee and we could start a conversation about that.

3/3 Met with three classes at Cass Lake Bena High school in which fifteen kids attended the presentation. I plan to meet with three more classes on March 27th.

3/5 Met with budget committee and discussed the Workplan and Budget for SFY 2027. It was agreed that another meeting should be held before the March board meeting to accommodate all the budget committee members.

3/5 After making several unsuccessful attempts to connect by phone or email with Sen. Herr; I called other Legislative Assistants (LA) from other members on the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy committee to find out the process. Jared Zimmerman, LA to Nathan Wesenberg advised me to reach out to the Committee Administrator (CA) or any DFL member to try to make a secondary connection to Sen. Herr. This year only the committee doesn't have a set schedule and meets sporadically. I emailed DFL Hauschild, McEwen, Hoffman and Kunesh requesting a process to connect with the Chair or for them to have a discussion regarding our bill being heard in committee. I also telephoned the CA of the committee. 3/9 tried to connect with Chair again. 3/10- received email from Sen. McEwen LA saying that the best way to reach members is by phone or email, and that to request a bill to be drafted is to reach out to senate members that represent jurisdictions and districts that overlap with the first 400 miles to discuss the priority of MHB and request them to lead author or co-author legislation. He suggested that I connect with Rep. Heintzeman and Sen. Heintzeman to try to get a bill drafted. So I contacted Sen. Heintzeman to start that process because it is a pathway. McEwen's LA also provided me with a website to request a meeting with Hawj so I sent in my availability. 3/13- tried to connect with Sen. Hawj LA and Committee CA via phone and email.

3/5 Attended Boswell Solar Tree Replacement Plan meeting where we discussed finding 153 acres and determining species and densities. I suggested coming up with a decision support tool where we do a GIS exercise and prioritize the Mississippi river, Itasca, Leech Lake Reservation, and public/private land to find the tree replacement acres. The group thought that if we talk with the CNF we could easily find the acres needed and then look for private options. It was decided that we really don't need a decision support tool as the PUC won't ask the process of how we decided on the land and focus more that the committee made a decision. The next step is that partners will talk with CNF and DNR and find available land to plant trees and let the committee decide what land to plant it on. The PUC tree replacement plan is due December 2026, and once approved, tree planting can begin in 2027.

3/6 At the request of Bill Heig, I sent the Klobuchar video played at the MHB biennial conference to Smith's office. This will provide them with the context and the authority of why the land exchange is important to MHB, Minnesota, and Washington DC. There has been a staff turnover at Smith's Washington office so we need to update new staff on context, and reasoning behind the land exchange.

3/6 Held phone conversation with Erika Powers from Great River Arts and discussed the MHB role with We Are Water. Erika will allow the MHB to have their display up at the We Are Water

exhibit from August 12th to October 3rd. We also talked about promoting We Are Water events like (water bar, water testing, etc...) through social media. Right now Visit Little Falls is going through organizational changes, but MHB could be a promoter of Miss. River events and/or Water events in the area using collaboration on social media.

3/11 Attended the Miss. River Sartell 1W1P advisory committee meeting. The Mississippi River from South of Little Falls to Sauk Rapids has a stressor on it for Biology. That means that sampling isn't meeting the macroinvertebrates (bugs) and fish populations that should be there for the resource. It has yet to be determined what is causing this, so it is labeled as a stressor. The Mississippi River which runs through this watershed is its own management area and was prioritized for drinking water protection because of the cities of Sartell and ST. Cloud.

3/12 Presented to the Itasca County Trails committee our MHB signage, paddling events, and marketing opportunities through MN Traditions. The group is trying to promote natural resource opportunities available in the county and want people to stay afterwards so they can spend money there. They liked the event page MHB has to offer, and like that the signage has the hours it takes to travel.

2/13 Talked with Joe St. Onge about the MN Canoe Championships. Mark Walter is trying to grow the race side of things. MHB can help promote the event.