



**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 9:30 A.M.**

**Proctor City Hall  
100 Pionk Drive  
Proctor, Minnesota**

**FRANK JEWELL**  
**First District**

**PATRICK BOYLE**  
**Second District**

**ASHLEY GRIMM**  
**Third District**

**PAUL McDONALD –**  
**VICE-CHAIR**  
**Fourth District**

**KEITH MUSOLF**  
**Fifth District**

**KEITH NELSON**  
**Sixth District**

**MIKE JUGOVICH -**  
**CHAIR**  
**Seventh District**

County Auditor  
Nancy Nilsen

County Administrator  
Kevin Gray

County Attorney  
Mark Rubin

Clerk of the Board  
Phil Chapman

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. The Board encourages your participation. Citizens can either appear at the meeting in person or submit comments for the public comment portion or for specific Board agenda items prior to the meeting by e-mailing them to [publiccomment@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@stlouiscountymn.gov). Except as otherwise provided by the Standing Rules of the County Board, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda.

Comments to individual Commissioners or staff are not permitted. The St. Louis County Board promotes adherence to civility in conducting the business of the County. Civility will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issue before the Board. Tools of civility include: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, do not gossip, show respect, be agreeable, apologize, give constructive criticism and take responsibility [County Board Resolution No. 560, adopted on September 9, 2003]. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes.

**\*\*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Administration Department 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218)726-2450.\*\***

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Auditor's Office, 100 North 5th Avenue West - Room No. 214, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Agenda is also available on our website at <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/BoardofCommissioners.aspx>

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9:30 A.M.      Moment of Silence  
                    Pledge of Allegiance  
                    Roll Call

***Proclamation: St. Louis County Staff Appreciation Day***

AT THIS TIME CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. [Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.]

FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE BOARD AGENDA OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA, CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT THE TIME A MOTION IS ON THE FLOOR.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of business submitted on the consent agenda.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Public Works & Transportation Committee – Commissioner McDonald, Chair**

1.      Transfer of Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenue Funds to the City of Biwabik. {21-314} [**Has not been to committee; requires consent of the Board for consideration.**]
  
2.      Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application by Voyageur Country ATV Club. {21-315} [**Has not been to committee; requires consent of the Board for consideration.**]

**ADJOURNED:**





S A I N T  
**LOUIS**  
**COUNTY**  
M I N N E S O T A

## **-Proclamation-**

### **St. Louis County Staff Appreciation Day July 27, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, County staff serve as the cornerstone of this community, dedicating their time, skills, and expertise for the benefit of our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, County staff in all departments repeatedly went above and beyond expectations during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue delivering essential services to the citizens of our county; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to their regular duties, County staff took on new and challenging responsibilities during the pandemic such as retooling local public health education outreach to flatten the curve; expediting the distribution of millions of dollars in economic recovery appropriations to help our businesses, community partners and citizens; and successfully managing a deluge of mail-in ballots in an unprecedented federal election; and

**WHEREAS**, County staff continue their exemplary work as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting with vaccination roll outs and preparing for the American Rescue Plan's multi-year recovery effort; and

**WHEREAS**, The work of County staff over the past year and a half have kept county operations running smoothly and our community safer, healthier, and productive throughout months of unprecedented global transition; and

**WHEREAS**, The Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan has proclaimed July 27, 2021 as County Staff Appreciation Day in Minnesota;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the St. Louis County Board extends thanks and genuine appreciation to the staff of our County and expresses deep gratitude for their commitment to excellence in public service during the COVID-19 pandemic and proclaims July 27, 2021, as **St. Louis County Staff Appreciation Day**.

# BOARD LETTER NO. 21 – 314

## PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

JULY 27, 2021 BOARD AGENDA NO. 1

**DATE:** July 27, 2021

**RE:** Transfer of Nickel and  
Escalator Taconite Production  
Tax Revenue Funds to City of  
Biwabik

**FROM:** Kevin Z. Gray  
County Administrator

James T. Foldesi  
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer

### **RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:**

To provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to authorize a transfer of \$1,500,000.00 of previously received Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenues to the City of Biwabik.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2008, per County Board Resolution No. 08-541, dated October 14, 2008, St. Louis County received \$2,000,000.00 of Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenues for the purpose of the relocation of St. Louis County Road 715, commonly known as the Pike River Road located in the City of Biwabik. The original County Road 715 alignment was removed by taconite mining operations. This project is known as County Project (CP) 0715-3758.

Due to a combination of factors including increased project cost, project scope, environmental and cultural resource impacts and the unsustainability of adding new road mileage to the county road system, after thorough engineering and environmental review it was determined that the project should not move forward to construction under the direction of St. Louis County. Through discussions with the City of Biwabik and State legislators, it was determined that the best course of action was to transfer a portion of the proceeds to the City of Biwabik for street improvement projects with the remainder dedicated to improvements to County State Aid Highway 138 north of Giant's Ridge.



During the 2021 Special Legislative Session, the State of Minnesota passed the following via 2021 Laws of MN, First Special Session, Chapter 14, Article 11, Sec. 40:

**2008 DISTRIBUTION TRANSFER; CITY OF BIWABIK STREET AND  
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

“Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, by July 1, 2021, St. Louis County shall transfer \$1,500,000 from the appropriation in Laws 2006, chapter 259, article 12, section 12, subdivision 4, to the city of Biwabik for deposit in its general fund account to be used for the preservation and reconstruction of existing streets and highways in the city of Biwabik or the construction of new streets in the city of Biwabik. Any remaining unspent money from the appropriation in Laws 2006, chapter 259, article 12, section 12, subdivision 4, shall be retained by St. Louis County for road improvements to County Road 138, north of Giants Ridge.”

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the St. Louis County Board authorize a transfer of \$1,500,000.00 of previously received Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenues to the City of Biwabik related to CP 0715-3758, payable from Fund 220, Agency 220219, Object 532202.

**Transfer of Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenue Funds to  
City of Biwabik**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Per County Board Resolution No. 08-541, dated October 14, 2008, St. Louis County received \$2,000,000.00 of Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenues for the purpose of the relocation of St. Louis County Road 715, commonly known as the Pike River Road located in the City of Biwabik; and

WHEREAS, This project is further known as CP 0715-3758; and

WHEREAS, Due to a combination of factors including increased project cost, project scope, environmental and cultural resource impacts and the unsustainability of adding new road mileage to the county road system, after thorough engineering and environmental review it was determined that the project should not move forward to construction under the direction of St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, Through discussions with the City of Biwabik and State legislators, it was determined that the best course of action was to transfer a portion of the proceeds to the City of Biwabik for street improvement projects with the remainder dedicated to improvements to County State Aid Highway 138 north of Giant's Ridge; and

WHEREAS, During the 2021 Special Legislative Session, the State of Minnesota passed the following via 2021 Laws of MN, First Special Session, Chapter 14, Article 11, Sec. 40:

**2008 DISTRIBUTION TRANSFER; CITY OF BIWABIK STREET AND  
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

"Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, by July 1, 2021, St. Louis County shall transfer \$1,500,000 from the appropriation in Laws 2006, chapter 259, article 12, section 12, subdivision 4, to the City of Biwabik for deposit in its general fund account to be used for the preservation and reconstruction of existing streets and highways in the City of Biwabik or the construction of new streets in the city of Biwabik. Any remaining unspent money from the appropriation in Laws 2006, chapter 259, article 12, section 12, subdivision 4, shall be retained by St. Louis County for road improvements to County Road 138, north of Giants Ridge."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board authorizes the appropriate county officials to facilitate a transfer of \$1,500,000.00 of previously received Nickel and Escalator Taconite Production Tax Revenues to the City of Biwabik related to CP 0715-3758, payable from Fund 220, Agency 220219, Object 532202.

# BOARD LETTER NO. 21 – 315

## PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

JULY 27, 2021 BOARD AGENDA NO. 2

**DATE:** July 27, 2021

**RE: Iron Range Resources &  
Rehabilitation (IRRR) FY 2022  
Regional Trails Grant  
Application – Voyageur  
Country ATV Club Trail  
Improvements to Various  
Segments**

**FROM: Kevin Z. Gray  
County Administrator**

**James T. Foldesi  
Public Works Director/Highway Engineer**

### **RELATED DEPARTMENT GOAL:**

To provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to act as the sponsoring agency for the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) for improvements to various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV (VCATV) Club trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation has funded their FY 2022 Regional Trails program in the amount of \$3,500,000. The IRRR Regional Trails grants are available to provide funding to assist with design, engineering and construction of various types of trails.

The Voyageur Country ATV Club has several active projects to improve the VCATV Club Trail system throughout St. Louis County. St. Louis County is currently acting as the fiscal agent and contract administrator for these VCATV Club design and construction projects.

The VCATV Club intends to complete a FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the IRRR in the amount of \$250,000 for the Project. The VCATV Club has identified the following needs to be included in the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application:

1. Overlooks on the elevated Boardwalk on the Vermilion Falls to Gold Coast Road segment of the VCATV Club trail.
2. Improvements on the USFS 601DI segment between USFS 601D (Cabin Road) and Wandering Pines which serves the Vermilion River Bridge Trail segment.
3. Construction of the Buyck to Shuster Road segment to supplement the \$500,000 State grant.
4. Permitting and wetland credits for various segments included in the Phase I Trail connections.

As such, St. Louis County is required to act the sponsoring agency for the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to IRRR.

The VCATV Club will be responsible for 100 percent of the costs of the improvements in excess of the IRRR funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The St. Louis County Board is requested to act as the sponsoring agency for the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for improvements to various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV Club trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota.



**Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) FY 2022 Regional Trails Grant  
Application – Voyageur Country ATV Club Trail Improvements to  
Various Segments**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The Voyageur Country ATV (VCATV) Club intends to complete a FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) in the amount of \$250,000 for improvements to various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV Club trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota, hereafter referred to as the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis County is requested to act as the sponsoring agency for the Project grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The VCATV Club will be responsible for all costs not covered by the IRRR grant for the Project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the St. Louis County Board agrees to act as the sponsoring agency for the FY 2022 Regional Trails grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for improvements to various segments of the Voyageur Country ATV Club trail system located in northern St. Louis County, Minnesota.