From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 11:44 AM

To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: September 2023 Newsletter



### September 2023 Newsletter

Dear Township Officers,

Happy Autumn! We're in the midst of Clerks and Treasurers trainings held in all corners our state, and we look forward to seeing you at our <u>Annual Conference December 7-9</u> in St. Cloud. (More information and registration are coming very shortly!)

Please check out the updates below, and let us know how we can help support your township and you. Your work is critical. Thank you.

Sincerely, Jeff Krueger, Executive Director Minnesota Association of Townships

# "Township Tuesday" conference calls

Please join MAT staff for a casual update on the most recent township information, with question and answer time on any topic.

1st Tuesday of the month: 10 AM 3rd Tuesday of the month: 10 AM

Participate via Zoom meeting via computer (preferred): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88491131671

Meeting ID: 884 9113 1671

OR participate via phone, (646) 558-8656 passcode 88-49-113-16-71#

Recordings and details of past calls can be found on the MAT website here.

## **Message from your Training Team**



Greetings fellow township officers. Where did the summer go? We just want to inform you of a couple of things that may help you in getting in touch with your training team:

#### **Contacting Us**

We now have <u>our trainers' direct phone lines listed on</u> <u>our website</u>. This will alleviate going through the

answering service and getting direct contact with a trainer. Remember that our trainers do not work in the office so please leave a message so we can get back to you. Also, please do not leave a message with all the trainers. If you do not hear back from someone in 1-2 days, please try again. Emails work the best for Lori Stalker as she is in and out of the St. Michael office a lot.

#### **UEI Number**

We have <u>step-by-step instructions for Sam.gov to get a UEI number</u>. Scroll through or print this PDF Document which has 21 pages of detailed instructions and images. You can always find it on our website's resources: on the ARPA page you will find this same instructions document linked.

Remember to sign up for MAT U for training videos to watch on your time.

The Annual Conference is right around the corner, and I hope to see many of you there. We have some very interesting information to present throughout the entire 3 days.

As always, call if you have any questions.

-Lori Stalker, MAT Training Manager

# Legislative & Research Committee: October 4

The 2023 Fall Legislative & Research Committee meeting will be held via virtual Zoom on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 9 to 11:00 AM.



**REGISTRATION:** All township officers are welcome but registration is required for all participants here: <a href="https://bit.ly/LRFall2023">https://bit.ly/LRFall2023</a>. Participation Zoom links will automatically be sent. There is no cost to attend.

**AGENDA:** A full agenda will be sent in coming days. It will include discussing several resolutions brought forward by townships.

### **MAT-U Update: Now Free for 2024!**



MAT is excited to announce that our new <u>online</u> training model: MAT-U, will continue to be free in 2024, as it has been in 2023. These online training videos give our officers greater access

to all training materials at any time!

The content is geared towards new MATIT systems, clerk and treasurer duties, and general township operations. All officers are welcome to submit suggestions and requests for specific or specialized training, as we will continually be creating and uploading new content. Videos, zoom recordings, PowerPoints, and handouts will all be available.

MAT-U is an annual subscription model with one master account for each township that allows all of your township officers to access the content library. After you sign up, your township's login credentials will be sent to the email provided, along with a link you can use to access MAT-U. It is best to use a township email when signing up, if possible. All officers in your township will use the same email for their usernames when accessing MAT-U. If you haven't already signed up for MAT-U, please register for MAT-U online here.



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News from MATIT: New Workers' Compensation Legislation Requires Employers To Be Better Listeners



Effective August 1, 2023 an employee may now verbally request or notify their employer of their plans to obtain nonemergency surgical treatment for a work-related injury. If the employer or their workers' compensation provider fails to respond in writing within seven calendar days of the request or notification the employer or their workers' compensation provider may be responsible for the cost of the treatment regardless of its necessity.

Previously an injured employee, their treating physician or legal representative were required to submit a written request and secure approval before undergoing nonemergency surgery. This requirement allowed the employer or their workers' compensation provider the opportunity to evaluate the request and when appropriate seek a second opinion before agreeing to pay for the treatment.

With this change, it is critical that the township **IMMEDIATELY** contact MATIT's workers' compensation provider, SFM Risk Solutions (SFM), when an employee tells you they are planning on seeking any kind of surgery for an injury sustained while working for the township.

If the injury has already been reported to MATIT/SFM contact Adjuster Julie Peterson at **Julie.peterson@sfmic.com** or 952-838-4234.

If this request arises from a new injury report the claim by going to the MATIT website at www.matit.org:

- 1. Click on Claims
- 2. Click on Workers' Compensation
- 3. You will be taken to the SFM site.
- 4. Enter Policy Number 16204.
- 5. Enter the required information. SFM will use this information to set up a claim file and make the necessary reports to the State of Minnesota.

If you cannot report online, you have two other ways to report injuries to SFM:

**Report by fax**: Complete Minnesota 's First Report of Injury (FROI) and fax it to (800) 944-1169. Keep your fax confirmation sheet as evidence that you reported on time. You can find the Minnesota FROI at <a href="https://www.matit.org">www.matit.org</a>. Click Claims. Then Work Comp.

**Report by phone**: Call (800) WC-CLAIM [922-5246] to report an injury by phone. Regardless of how you report the claim, SFM will contact you within 24 hours of reporting a claim.

### Update on Signature Broadband Investment Program

MAT joined a coalition of 300 broadband experts, internet service providers (ISPs), community leaders, nonprofits, consumer advocates, and business groups to highlight concerns about the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. In <u>a letter to NTIA</u> head Alan Davidson and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, the group warns that the program's letter of credit requirement will block the vast majority of smaller operators, community-centered ISPs, and city-owned networks from securing grants.

### Comments Requested for Administrative Rules regarding Elections

The Minnesota Office of the <u>Secretary of State is requesting comments</u> on possible rules governing election administration, voter registration, petitions, absentee ballots, Presidential Nomination Primary, voting system testing, optical scan voting systems, recounts, election judge training program, ballot preparation, and redistricting. Please submit any suggestions you or your township may have before October 20, 2023.

### Minnesota LTAP trainings and news



View Minnesota's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP's) online training offerings—including self-paced courses, webinars, and videos— they can be taken anytime and anywhere. Many are eligible for Roads Scholar Program credit, PDHs, and other professional development credits. **Browse the online training library** at your convenience!

Register and view the **full Minnesota LTAP Schedule of** 

<u>Trainings</u> to meet your needs in the coming year to enhance your skills in AutoCAD, leadership, pavement preservation, or other areas.

#### Fall 2023 Schedule

- Transitioning into Leadership: Essential Skills for Supervisors
- Management Operations and Maintenance Fundamentals
- Writing that Works! Communications Skills for Construction
- AutoCAD Software Skills and Construction Concepts
- Minnesota's Best Practices for Traffic Sign Maintenance and Management
- Truck-Weight Education Training

#### Spring 2024 Schedule

- Introduction to Civil 3D Practical Application
- · Asphalt Pavement Rehabilitation: Products, Processes, and Strategies
- Gravel Roads Maintenance and Design
- Work-Zone Safety
- Minnesota Roadway Maintenance Training and Demo Day
- Transitioning into Leadership: Essential Skills for Supervisors
- Management Operations and Maintenance Fundamentals
- Introduction to Surveying and Leveling
- Introduction to Angles and Mapping
- Introduction to Construction Staking
- Truck-Weight Education Training

## **Grant and Funding Opportunities**

#### 2023 LRIP (Road) Funding and Upcoming Webinars

The competitive 2023 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) solicitation opened September 12, 2023. A total of \$102.967 million in LRIP funds are available for funding assistance of construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning projects for counties, state aid cities, non-state aid cities, townships, and federally recognized Indian Tribes. The maximum award amount available is \$1.5 million for each project. Read More: LRIP - State Aid - MnDOT.

#### SALT and Safe Routes to School - Local Transportation Grants

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) State Aid for Local Transportation (SALT) office is kicking off the 2023 Active Transportation (AT) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Solicitations on October 9, 2023. These two solicitations will run concurrently and provide \$13.2 million and \$10.9 million, respectively, for funding eligible bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects across the state. The full application submittal period will begin on Nov. 27, 2023, and continue through Feb. 2, 2024. Pending the number of applications received, awards will be announced in April or May 2024. Learn more and apply for Active Transportation funding.

Learn more and apply for Safe Routes to School funding.

#### Minnesota Highway Freight Program funding

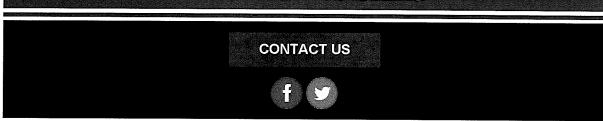
Another transportation funding opportunity. A recording of a public informational webinar will be online. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Central Time Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. For more information or to download an application visit the Minnesota Highway Freight Program website.

Shade tree program bonding grants, 2023-2027 – \$10.063 million in grants for local units of government in Minnesota that are planning to replace trees lost to forest pests, disease, or storm; or to establish a more diverse community forest better able to withstand disease and forest pests. Deadline: October 2, 2023. Read More

#### Historical Society State Capital Grants-in-Aid

Program will be returning in January 2024. Eligible projects must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office. The minimum grant amount is \$10,001 with no request cap. Funds must be matched at least 1 to 1. Read More

## Minnesota Association of Townships <u>www.mntownships.org</u>



Minnesota Association of Townships | 805 Central Ave East, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376

<u>Unsubscribe clerk@breitungtownship.org</u>

<u>Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice</u>

From:

Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:32 PM

To: Subject: clerk@breitungtownship.org October 2023 Newsletter



### October 2023 Newsletter

#### Dear Township Officers,

We hope you are enjoying fall traditions: apple orchards, colorful leaves, haunted houses, Halloween costumes. You may be hosting a local election. You may be getting your snowplows ready to go.

Here's a tradition which we strongly encourage your participation: our <u>Annual Conference December 7-9</u> in St. Cloud. More information is below. It is an opportunity to receive new information on helpful township topics and network with your counterparts from across the state. The conference includes in-person workshops, dinner, exhibitors, and our MAT business meeting.

Sincerely, Jeff Krueger, Executive Director Minnesota Association of Townships

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OR participate via phone, (646) 558-8656 passcode 88-49-113-16-71#

Recordings and details of past calls can be found on the MAT website here.

# MAT Educational Conference and Annual Meeting



DECEMBER 7-9, 2023 I ST. CLOUD

Please join us in St. Cloud for our 2023 Educational Conference and Annual Meeting! We'll (again) be at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center on Thursday, December 7 through Saturday, December 8.

For all details - including registration, hotel information, agenda, and more, please visit the MAT website here:

https://www.mntownships.org/annual-meeting

### **Legislative & Research Committee**

The 2023 Fall L&R committee meeting was held on October 4 on Zoom. <u>Watch</u> <u>Recording</u>. Please Save the Date for our Township Day at the Capitol, April 8 and 9, 2024.





APRIL 8 AND 9, 2024 IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

# TOWNSHIP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Issues that matter



### MAT-U Update: Now Free for 2024!



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**Report by phone**: Call (800) WC-CLAIM [922-5246] to report an injury by phone. Regardless of how you report the claim, SFM will contact you within 24 hours of reporting a claim.

# 2024 Draft Clean Water and Drinking Water Intended Use Plans

The draft 2024 <u>Clean Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (IUP)</u> and <u>Drinking Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP)</u> are out for public comment.

The IUP, prepared by the Public Facilities Authority, identifies the projects and activities eligible to apply for and receive funds from the CWRF in state fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). Projects must be ranked on the PPL, have an approved wastewater facilities plan or stormwater project plan, and be listed in fundable range on the IUP in order to be eligible to apply for CWRF loans in FY 2024. The 2024 CWRF IUP will be used to apply for federal funds appropriated for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL) and the 2024 base Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grant when appropriated by Congress. The currently available IIJA funds for the Clean Water SRF include supplemental funds for the existing program and dedicated emerging contaminant funds. The PPL, prepared by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), identifies wastewater and stormwater projects that are potentially eligible to receive financing through the CWRF within the next five years. Projects on the PPL are listed in priority order based on a priority system established in MPCA rules. The PPL is included as an appendix to the IUP.

Persons wishing to comment on the draft 2024 IUP or PPL should submit comments in writing or by e-mail by **November 13, 2023**.

Submit comments on the CWRF PPL to: Bill Dunn Clean Water Revolving Fund Coordinator Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 651-757-2324 bill.dunn@state.mn.us

Submit comments on the DWRF PPL to: Todd Johnson Drinking Water Revolving Fund Coordinator Minnesota Department of Health Environmental Health Division PO Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164-0973 todd.johnson@state.mn.us 218-308-2110

Submit questions and comments on either the DWRF and CWRF IUP to: Becky Sabie, Program Coordinator, Minnesota Public Facilities Authority 1st National Bank Building, Suite W820 332 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 55101-1378 Rebecca.sabie@state.mn.us More Information

# Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School Grants

Attention all walkers, bikers, and rollers -

The 2023 Active Transportation (AT) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Solicitations are now open! The Letter of Intent (LOI) period will be available now through November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Who needs to submit a LOI?

- · Applicants with limited State Aid process experience are strongly encouraged; however, not required
- Applicants with extensive experience working with State Aid programs may not need to submit a LOI



- · All applicants will receive feedback on their proposed project before completing the full application
- Submittals will be in the same online format as the full application

The following program websites provide the LOI application link and a step-by-step guide to accompany the form to help ensure complete submissions. Additionally, the websites now feature program FAQs, as well as the PowerPoint slide decks from the informational webinars held in September.

AT – <u>Infrastructure - Active Transportation Program - MnDOT (state.mn.us)</u>
SRTS - <u>Infrastructure Grants - Safe Routes to School - MnDOT (state.mn.us)</u>

Please help us spread the word and encourage applications from agencies with any unrealized active transportation infrastructure-related needs! Full application submittal will open Monday, November 27, 2023 and close Friday, February 2, 2024.

### Minnesota LTAP trainings and news



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<u>Trainings</u> to meet your needs in the coming year to enhance your skills in AutoCAD, leadership, pavement preservation, or other areas.

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Sent by info@mntownships.org powered by



From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>

**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 11:44 AM

**To:** clerk@breitungtownship.org

Subject: Invitation: 2023 Annual Meeting of the MN Association of Townships December 7-9 in St. Cloud

# Minnesota Association Townships



EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 7-9, 2023 I ST. CLOUD

Please join fellow township officers from across the state at the Minnesota Association of Townships 2023

Educational Conference and Annual Meeting.

There will be time for networking education, socializing and

There will be time for networking, education, socializing and entertainment.

DATE: Thursday, December 7 to Saturday, December 9, 2023

FORMAT: In-person

LOCATION: River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota

**REGISTRATION:** Pre-registration is now open and ends November 27. Registrations received after this deadline will be held and processed at the on-site rate.

# Information and registration can be found on the MAT website here.

#### AGENDA:

#### Thursday, December 7

5:30 to 8:30 PM: Registration and check-in available

5:30 to 8:30 PM: Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions 5:30 to 8:30 PM: Heavy appetizers provided with Cash Bar

#### Friday, December 8

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Breakfast buffet

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Registration and check-in available

9:00 AM: General Session

Presentations on cybersecurity, and by Minnesota's State Auditor and Secretary of State.

12:00 NOON: Lunch buffet

1:00 to 4:45 PM: Breakout educational sessions

Four (4) rooms and four hours of training presentations which include: CTAS (Auditor's Office), MAT Trainers, MAT Attorneys, Broadband, EMS, LTAP, Kennedy & Graven, MN Fire, MATIT,

Corporate Purchasing Venture, Cannabis, Township websites, and more.

1:00 to 3:00 PM: Spouse/Guest Event

5:00 to 6:00 PM: Social Hour with cash bar

6:00 to 7:00 PM: Banquet with Scholarship presentation

7:00 to 8:30 PM: Entertainment (Game Show Night! Get ready for "Name that Price," Survey

Showdown" and more!)

#### Saturday, December 9

8:00 to 9:00 AM: Breakfast buffet and Saturday on-site registration

9:00 AM: Business Meeting

Introduction of MAT, Directors, Financials – CLA, Proposed resolutions, Bylaw recommended

changes, MAT dues structure, Question and Answer, Legislative Update.

10:45 AM: Door prizes 11:00 AM: Adjourn

**COST:** Pre-registration (open now) cost is \$170/delegate (NO Friday Dinner) or \$200/delegate (WITH Friday Dinner). After November 27 and on-site, costs increase \$30/delegate.

**GUESTS:** Guests are invited to participate in as much or as little as they want. Guest passes include access to both morning activities and food. The Guest event is a fun Friday afternoon getaway!

**LODGING:** Information on overnight accommodations can be found on the MAT website here (Click on the "Hotels" tab). Please book your room directly with the hotel. The event is at the River's Edge Convention Center. Our room block cut-off date is November 7, so please book before then.

From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>

**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 10:02 AM

**To:** clerk@breitungtownship.org

**Subject:** Proposed MAT Bylaw Changes and Available Informational Session



# Proposed MAT Bylaw Changes and Available Informational Session

#### Township officers:

At <u>MAT's Annual Meeting</u> this December, the voting officers will be asked to consider a set of changes to MAT's Bylaws. Your District Director and MAT General Counsel will be hosting a virtual informational and discussion session on these proposals in a few weeks. We request your consideration, questions, and comments on the proposals in advance of the annual meeting.

MAT's Bylaws are a set of rules that guide the operations of MAT while also providing operational flexibility for MAT to provide services to township officers. The Bylaws have been changed 23 times since 1981, with the most recent changes being made in 2016. Changes used to be made regularly, on average every two years.

#### **DOCUMENTS OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES:**

- An overview of the proposed bylaw changes from MAT Board President Gary Burdorf can be found here.
- A redline (which is blue text) version of the proposed bylaw changes
   can be found here showing exactly which changes are proposed to be
   made. (Underlined is new added text and striked is removed text.)
- A clean version of the proposed bylaw changes can be found here.

#### **ZOOM INFORMATIONAL SESSION:**

MAT District 10 (Counties include: Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St Louis) will host an virtual Proposed Bylaw Changes Information Session at the following:

Thursday, November 9, at 10:00 AM

Participate via Zoom on computer (preferred): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86847736638

Participate via Zoom on phone: (301) 715 8592 passcode 968 4773 6638#

Meeting ID: 868 4773 6638

Agenda: A presentation will be made by MAT General Counsel explaining the changes, and then there will be time for discussion and question and answer.

No RSVP is required and participating in this informational session is optional. If you cannot attend this specific time but would like to learn more about the proposed bylaw changes, please consult the <u>MAT annual meeting webpage</u> (bylaw section) for other informational session times available.

Minnesota Association of Townships | 805 Central Ave East, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376

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From: mnpera.activehosted.com@s5.acemsrve.com on behalf of PERA Employer Reps

<employer.reps@mnpera.org>

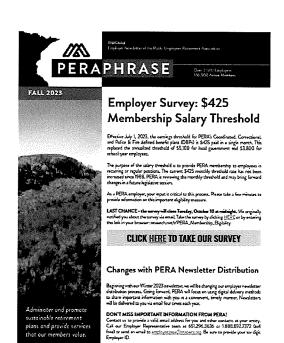
**Sent:** Friday, October 6, 2023 11:35 AM

To: DIANNA SUNSDAHL

**Subject:** PERA Employer Newsletter: Fall Edition

#### View this email in your browser





#### Fall 2023 Newsletter

Our newsletter is now available on our website at:

mnpera.org/employers/peraphrase

#### Articles include:

- Membership Salary Threshold Survey
- Changes with PERA Newsletter Distribution
- Consider Non-Salary Exclusions First
- On-Demand Legislative Webinar Now Available
- Upcoming Employer Webinars
- PERA Virtual Benefit Fair
- ERIS Performance Update
- Ask PERA!



LAST CHANCE - MEMBERSHIP SALARY SURVEY

#### We want to hear from you!

Effective July 1, 2023, the earnings threshold for PERA's Coordinated, Correctional, and Police & Fire defined benefit plans (DBPs) is \$425 paid in a single month. This replaced the annualized threshold of \$5,100 for local government and \$3,800 for school-year employees.

The purpose of the salary threshold is to provide PERA membership to employees in recurring or regular positions. The current \$425 monthly threshold rate has not been increased since 1988. PERA is reviewing the monthly threshold and may bring forward

changes in a future legislative session.

As a PERA employer, your input is critical to this process. Please take a few minutes to

provide information on this important eligibility measure.

LAST CHANCE - the survey will close Tuesday, October 10 at midnight. We originally

notified you about the survey via email. Take the survey by clicking below or by entering this link in your browser: research.net/r/PERA\_Membership Eligibility.

**Take Survey** 

Have an idea for a future article? Send it to PERA at across a reaction across a reaction of the send of the send

Minnesota PERA 60 Empire Drive Suite 200 Saint Paul, MN 55103 United States



Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan

# Notes & News

Public Employees Retirement Association

# **2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Minnesota Legislature passed several provisions that will impact the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan.

#### Changes to Determine Vested Percentage in the SVF Plan

The Minnesota Legislature defined "vesting service credit" as a new term in the SVF Plan that changes how PERA determines the vested percentage of SVF Plan members. In accordance with this new definition, to determine a SVF Plan member's years of service for vesting purposes, PERA must count their non-concurrent volunteer firefighter service rendered at any fire department in the state of Minnesota (regardless of whether the fire department participates in the SVF Plan). The following examples demonstrate how this change will impact vested percentage determination and benefit calculations for SVF Plan members:

#### Vested Percentage Determination Example:

- A volunteer firefighter serves for 3 years at the Green Fire Department and then subsequently serves for 10 years at the Red Fire Department. The Red Fire Department participates in the SVF Plan, and the Green Fire Department does not.
- Upon separating from service with the Red Fire Department, the volunteer firefighter has, for vesting purposes, 13 total years of service:

[3 years at Green Fire Department + 10 years at Red Fire Department] = 13 years

• The Red Fire Department follows the vesting schedule shown below:

Years of Service	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Vested Percentage	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100

 The volunteer firefighter's vested percentage with the Red Fire Department is 72%, which is the vested percentage corresponding to 13 years of service.
 Continued on page 2

#### What's Inside:



Online account access available/Page 3



Service credit tracking explained/Page 4



SVF Plan information available online/Page 4



6,500 firefighters enrolled and \$143.5 million invested.

SVF Notes & News September 2023

# 2023 legislation impact on SVF Plan explained

Continued from front page

#### Benefit Calculation Example with New SVF Plan Vesting Definition

- 50-year old volunteer firefighter separates from service after serving 3 years at the Green Fire Department and subsequently serving 10 years at the Red Fire Department. The Red Fire Department participates in the SVF Plan, and the Green Fire Department does not.
- The Red Fire Department's benefit level at the time the volunteer firefighter separates from service is \$1,000.
- The Red Fire Department has the following vesting schedule:

Years of Service	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Vested Percentage	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100

- The benefit paid by the Red Fire Department is based on:
  - 1. The 10 years of service rendered at the Red Fire Department,
  - 2. The \$1,000 benefit level in effect for the Red Fire Department, and
  - 3. The vested percentage of 72% achieved with 13 years of total service rendered between the Green (3 years) and Red (10 years) Fire Departments.

[10 Years of Service x \$1,000 Benefit Level x 72% Vested] = \$7,200 Benefit

PERA is developing a process to collect and track the service information for members who have rendered volunteer firefighting service at Minnesota fire departments that do not participate in the SVF Plan. Early in 2024, fire chiefs and governing body representatives can expect PERA to provide them with instructions for submitting additional service information for their applicable volunteer firefighters.

# Seeking input on incentive for new SVF Plan enrollees, adding of Defined Contribution Plan

The Minnesota Legislature passed Chapter 45 – House File 3100, Article 6, section 2, which required that PERA (1) prepare a plan for administering a \$5 million incentive program benefiting fire departments enrolling in the SVF Plan effective July 1, 2023 or later and (2) help to prepare legislation to add a defined contribution plan (DCP) option to the SVF Plan.

Please send any feedback or comments about the incentive program or about the addition of a DCP option in the SVF Plan to the following email address: SVFAdvisoryBoard@mnpera.org

# Staffing changes at PERA

Sharyn North, who began administering the SVF Plan in 2017, retired in July of 2023. Sharyn's dedication and enthusiasm for providing high quality service to SVF Plan participants will be missed. With the utmost appreciation, we thank Sharyn for her service and congratulate her on her retirement.

We ask that you email requests and questions about the SVF Plan to PERASVF@mnpera.org

# **SVF Plan Account Performance**

The Volunteer Firefighter Account returned +8.7% for the one-year period ending June 30, 2023, outperforming the composite benchmark return of +8.3% for the same period.

Despite concerns over slowing economic growth and ongoing aggressive policy action by the Federal Reserve, US and Global equities posted strong gains for the year. Fixed income market performance was mixed as aggressive central bank tightening continued to be a headwind for bonds. The Volunteer Firefighter Account has an allocation of 45% Bond Fund, 35% U.S. Equity Index Fund, 15% Broad International Equity Fund, and 5% Cash. The returns for the Account and the underlying asset classes are shown in the table below:

_	PERFORMANCE										
_	As	of June	30, 202	3 (%)¹	Calendar Year Ending (%)						
_	Qtr.	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	2022 2021 2020 2019 2018						
Volunteer Firefighter Account	3.3	8.7	4.7	5.7	-15.2 9.7 14.7 18.3 -3.7						
Volunteer Firefighter Account Composite Bmk²	3.0	8.3	4.3	5.3	-14.7 9.0 13.1 18.0 -3.7						
U.S. Equity Index Fund	8.4	19.0	14.1	11.6	-19.2 26.2 21.2 31.1 -5.3						
Broad International Equity Fund	3.0	14.0	8.8	4.5	-13.7 9.0 11.3 22.4 -14.5						
Bond Fund	-0.5	0.3	-3.3	1.3	-14.1 -1.1 9.7 9.7 0.0						
Money Market Fund	1.3	4.2	1.5	1.8	1.9 0.1 0.7 2.4 2.1						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Returns over one year are annualized.

# Online investment account access available from SBI

If either the fire chief or the fire department's governing body representative do not already have online access to their SVF Plan investment account with the State Board of Investment (SBI), please notify PERA by emailing: PERASVF@mnpera.org.

As the administrator of the SVF Plan investment accounts, PERA is responsible for requesting that the SBI set up online access for fire chiefs and governing body representatives.

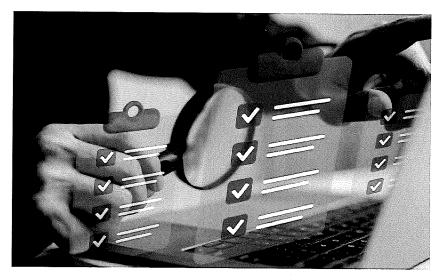


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The composite Bmk (benchmark) represents the returns of the underlying asset class benchmarks to their respective target weights.

# SVF Plan forms and templates available online

SVF Plan forms and templates are available on PERA's website: https://mnpera.org/plan-information/statewide-volunteer-firefighter/forms/

Always refer to PERA's website to retrieve the most current version of the SVF Plan retirement and survivor benefit applications and the benefit level cost analysis request forms. Also available are templates for approving an increase to your fire department's SVF Plan benefit level and for adjusting previously certified service credit.



# Service Credit tracking for SVF Plan members explained

PERA records and tracks service credit for each SVF Plan member according to the service information (start date, termination date, service credits) certified to PERA by the fire department's fire chief. Fire chiefs make service credit determinations

according to the standards and policies applicable to their fire department. PERA does not make service credit determinations or mediate service credit disputes for SVF Plan participants.

If a SVF Plan member disagrees with the service records certified by the fire chief, they may raise that issue with their fire chief. PERA offers an attestation template that fire chiefs may use if they determine it is necessary to adjust service credit previously certified to PERA for a SVF Plan member. PERA will adjust a SVF Plan member's service records according to the adjustments attested to by the applicable fire chief.



# SVF Fire Department fundraising activities

If a fire department engages in fundraising and/or maintains a general fund after enrolling in the SVF Plan, the fire department is responsible for determining and complying with the applicable regulations that govern those activities. PERA does not set or administer the regulations around fundraising or general fund maintenance and does not monitor whether fire departments engage in those activities.

From: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation <IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:35 PM

**To:** clerk@breitungtownship.org

**Subject:** The Ranger - Oct. 4

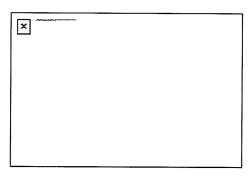
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# The Ranger

Oct. 4, 2023

# Gov. Walz highlights workforce, public safety investments on the Iron Range

Gov. Tim Walz visited Hibbing and Chisholm on Sept. 27 to highlight state investments on the Iron Range. Gov. Walz first visited Detroit Diesel Remanufacturing, a Hibbing company expanding and investing in the electric vehicle industry. He also visited the construction site of the new Chisholm Public Safety Center, a project funded through the infrastructure package signed into law last session.



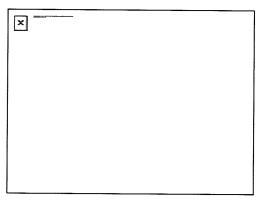
"This year we've invested millions in the safety and economic vitality of communities like the Range," said Gov. Walz. "By supporting business expansion projects and funding local public safety departments, we're creating good-paying, family-sustaining jobs and building strong communities across the state."

X Paint	Detroit Diesel Remanufacturing continues to grow and thrive on the Iron Range. They recently constructed a 60,000-square-foot addition to its Range Regional Airport campus in Hibbing. The added space will be used to remanufacture electric vehicle batteries, repair and upgrade microchips, and manufacture other hybrid-electric products. The expansion is expected to create 18 new
	good-paying jobs. The state supported this
project with a \$500,000 infractructure are	nt and \$10 million loan through Iron Dange

project with a \$500,000 infrastructure grant and \$10 million loan through Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

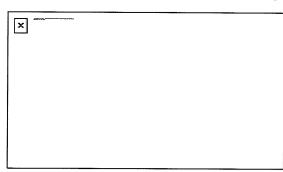
Gov. Walz also invested \$20 million over the next two years in a program that will prepare Minnesotans to enter five of the most critical occupational categories in the state with highgrowth jobs and family-sustaining wages: technology, caring professions, education, manufacturing and trades.

This spring, Governor Walz signed the state's largest-ever <u>infrastructure bill</u> into law, which will create good-paying jobs, invest in the state's



roads and bridges and bring long-term benefits to communities across the state. The infrastructure package included \$3 million for a new Chisholm Public Safety Center, which will house Chisholm's police, fire and ambulance services. The new building is expected to be complete in 2024.

# Commercial Redevelopment grants help private lodging and commercial project in Grand Rapids



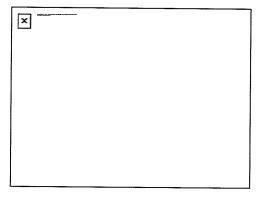
Minnesota-based Rebound Partners purchased the former Sawmill Inn site and an adjacent 15-acre property in Grand Rapids back in January of 2019. The company demolished the vacant hotel and built a new 82-room lodging facility branded as a Best Western Plus, which opened in November 2022.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with \$100,000 in Commercial Redevelopment grants to the city of Grand Rapids for demolition of the former Sawmill Inn to help clear the site for the new hotel development. Total project investment is approximately \$15 million.

Rebound subdivided the Sawmill property into six commercial parcels and utilized one parcel for the Best Western. A retail center opened in November 2022 on another parcel

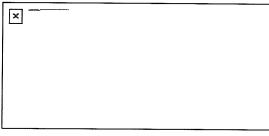
which includes a Starbucks Coffee, a T-Mobile and room for one other tenant. The remaining four parcels are being marketed for additional commercial developments.

"The project began at an extremely difficult time for development, at the onset of the COVID pandemic. Many hotels were shutting down, and supply chains were being interrupted and negatively impacted," said Scott Koester, Development Director of Rebound Real Estate. "We experienced several delays, but we kept pushing forward. The hotel has now been open ten months and is performing very well. Hockey tournaments and outdoor recreation have contributed to the strong occupancy rates."



The Hospitality arm of Rebound owns and operates six lodging properties in Northfield and St. Paul, Minnesota as well as Decorah and Des Moines, Iowa. The company specializes in re-branding, renovating and ground-up developments.

Since 1973 the 124-room, former Sawmill Inn was owned by the Wayne Jacobson family of Grand Rapids. For 44 years the hotel was central to the community's ability to accommodate business travelers, tourists and youth sports teams for events such as hockey tournaments. It had a \$3.4 million annual economic impact to the community and employed 60 people. The family closed the hotel in 2018, and the city began work to fill the hospitality and employment void and prevent the property from sitting vacant.



Grand Rapids Director of Community
Development Rob Mattei connected with
Rebound through a cold call he made. "I ran
an internet search for hotel developers and
learned of Rebound's work in Minnesota,"
said Mattei. "Rebound leadership and I began
discussions about how the Grand Rapids

project could fit their business model."

In 2019, the area surrounding the former Sawmill was officially declared a tax increment financing, or TIF district, which is a public financing method for redevelopment projects. Through the use of TIF, Grand Rapids foregoes future property tax revenue increases within the district for a period of time. This helped close the financing gap for Rebound and met the city's economic development goals.

According to Koester, his company was drawn to the economic vitality of the rural region, along with the partnership opportunities put forth by the city and state. Rebound also undertook the project because one of its partners is Jennifer Rajala Sawyer, a fourthgeneration family member of Itasca County-based Rajala Companies. For over 100 years the Rajala lumber and logging companies have been dedicated to strengthening communities, creating jobs and enhancing rural economic development.

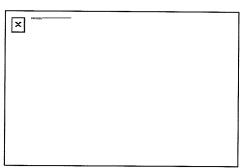
"The TIF and the commercial redevelopment grants helped solidify the project's success. We were very pleased to expand our company into Grand Rapids and northeastern Minnesota," said Koester. "Local banks were used for financing, local people were used for the construction, and local people have been

×		

hired for the hotel operations and the spinoff commercial development."

<u>Email Chris Ismil</u> or call him at 218-735-3010 for more information about Commercial Redevelopment grants.

## October is Manufacturing Month in Minnesota



October is Minnesota Manufacturing Month. The manufacturing industry is an integral part of the region's economy that accounts for direct and indirect jobs, career paths for students and workers and often higher-than-average wages.

There are a large variety of manufacturers in the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation service area that have significant economic impacts to the

region. They manufacture their products here in northeastern Minnesota, and transport them to state, national and international markets. Below is a sampling of the region's manufacturers.

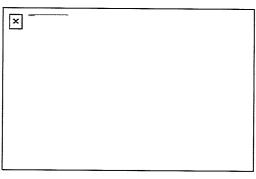
- ASV (Grand Rapids): compact track loaders and skid steers.
- Advanced Machine Guarding Solutions (Hibbing): safety steel wire mesh guarding for the automation industry.
- <u>Detroit Diesel Remanufacturing</u> (Hibbing): electric vehicle batteries, power inverters and HV products. (Pictured.)
- <u>Floe International</u> (Hoyt Lakes): its dock and boat lift systems, utility and recreational trailers, and FLOE CRAFT boats.
- Heliene USA (Mountain Iron): photovoltaic solar modules.
- Range Tool (Gilbert): CNC Precision contract machine products.
- Razor Edge Systems (Ely): industrial knife sharpening systems.

"Innovative people and highly skilled workers throughout northeastern Minnesota's manufacturing industry make products that are used to improve people's lives across America," said Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. "Heavy equipment, metal and plastic parts, electric batteries, solar modules, docks and much more are all part of the region's manufacturing."

The manufacturing sector in Northeast Minnesota is home to over 8,734 jobs at 336 business establishments, operating in 16 different manufacturing subsectors. (Source: Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development)

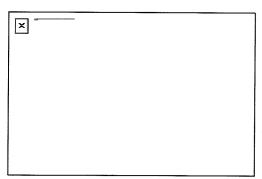
### New pickleball facility opens in Aurora

Existing, vacated tennis courts in the city of Aurora were renovated into a four-court pickleball venue. The new venue is located at the south entrance to Aurora's downtown and in close proximity to Pine Grove Park, Mesabi East School Athletic Complex and a newly developed snowmobile and multi-purpose trail. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$15,000 Culture & Tourism grant to the lim Gillach Memorial Fund



Tourism grant to the Jim Gillach Memorial Fund. Total project investment was \$99,460.

"The new venue greatly enhanced the main street entry and will help increase pedestrian traffic to downtown retailers and businesses," said Curt Anttila, volunteer with the Jim Gillach Memorial Fund. "Adding a new outdoor recreation amenity to our community increases the appeal of Aurora to existing, residents, potential new residents and tourists."

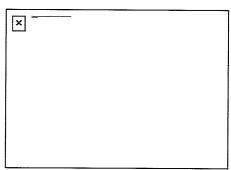


Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. (June 2021 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Report.) A lightweight solid paddle about twice the size of a ping pong paddle is used to hit a wiffle ball over the net on a court smaller than that in traditional tennis. Pickleball combines features of tennis, ping pong and badminton. Pickleball first became popular with seniors, and has since expanded to adults and youth.

Pickleball is taught in school as part of the physical education curriculum throughout the nation, including here in northeastern Minnesota.

Funding for the project was generated entirely through monetary donations and volunteer services. There was no cost to the city of Aurora, and the courts are free to the public. Phase II planning and fundraising is underway which includes landscaping and a sidewalk to the court.

Project partners included Age-Friendly Minnesota, American Legion Post #241, Aurora Electric, city of Aurora, Cleveland Cliffs, East Range Snowmobile Club, Essentia Health, Lakehead Constructors, Mesabi East School District, Mesabi Masonry, Minnesota Power, NewRange Copper Nickel, Red Top Construction and private individuals and businesses throughout the community.

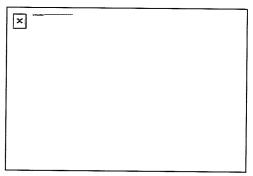


Jim Gillach Memorial Fund is a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 to enhance the community and quality of life in Aurora. The Fund promotes the health and well-being of Aurora's citizens through increased physical activity. Mr. Gillach was born and raised in

Aurora and passed away at age 75 in January 2006. He was a teacher for 32 years at St. Bernard's Catholic School in St. Paul.

<u>Email Danae Beaudette</u> or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.

# Lutsen Township upgrades historic community park

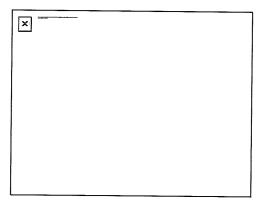


Lutsen Township upgraded a community recreation area with the restoration of existing facilities and addition of new amenities. The area has historical significance to the small township located along Minnesota's North Shore. The decades-old ballfield was resurfaced with new infield dirt, fencing was added, gates were repaired and electrical was installed to support the concession stand, storage area and flag pole.

A gazebo, picnic tables, soccer nets and an engraved historical marker were added. The project also involved brushing of the surrounding area, dead tree removal, landscaping and a refuse station for the existing dog park portion.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$14,770 Culture & Tourism grant to Lutsen Township. Total project investment was \$30,752.

The recreation area is highly visible due to its location adjacent to Highway 61 and Caribou Trail. The new Gitchi Gami State Trail was completed this year, which increases the accessibility to the area by walkers, hikers and other trail users. A town hall is located at the site which hosts a fall festival and other community events.



"There has been a recent increase in young families with children and an increase in area

visitors," said Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Lutsen Township deputy clerk. "The area needed improvements to better serve our township residents and tourists. It was also important for us to recognize the property's interesting history with interpretive signage explaining the significant dates, past uses and property donator's connection to Lutsen."



The property was originally donated by Pheobe Pecore Nelson and Carl Nelson whose father was the first European immigrant settler and started Lutsen Resort in 1885. They donated the property in the early 1900s for a school house to be built there. The ballfield was originally a potato garden, and for one year during a famine it was very significant for the survival of many local people. Later it was used as a

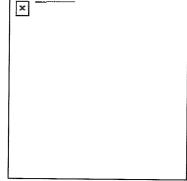
recreation area for the former school and community.

Project partners included Greg Mueller Studio, Isak Hansen True Value, J&B Construction Co., Lutsen Landscaping, McMillan Tree Service, Mike Rose Excavating, Peak Electric Co., Sundew Technical Services, Willow River Woodworks and private individuals throughout the community.

Email Danae Beaudette or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.

# ICYMI: Over \$580,000 in Commercial Redevelopment grants awarded to business projects in Chisholm, Hibbing and Virginia

The cities of Chisholm, Hibbing and Virginia were awarded \$586,030 in Commercial Redevelopment grants by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. The agency invests approximately \$1 million annually into the grant program across its 13,000 square-mile service area. The grants assist with the internal and external demolition of commercial and industrial buildings and clean-up of brownfields to pave the way for new development.



"Our local downtowns are vital to the Iron Range communities and impact both our economy and quality of

life. We rely on them as places we do business and where we engage in cultural and social events," said Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. "We were very pleased to support these three communities as they work to further revitalize their downtowns."

Read about the grant awards.

The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota. The agency's grants and loans are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.



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From:

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation < IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 4:29 PM

To:

clerk@breitungtownship.org

Subject:

The Ranger - Oct. 25



# The Ranger

Oct. 25, 2023

### Broadband expanded near Ash Lake

Paul Bunyan Communications (PBC) is currently extending one of the fastest rural all-fiber optic networks in the United States, the GigaZone™ to approximately 66 unserved households in an area around Ash Lake in rural northwestern St. Louis County (SLC). The locations will soon have access to fiber optic fast broadband with speeds up to 10 Gbps, along with voice telephone services. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$101,000 Broadband Infrastructure grant to PBC. SLC also provided funding. Total project investment is estimated at \$270,000.



The project area is about 15 miles north of Orr and 25 miles south of Ray near US Highway 53. Because the entire project area was considered unserved, it likely would have never received basic broadband service without external assistance. The Ash Lake project has approximately four miles of mainline fiber optic cable and is scheduled to be completed in December.



The 66 locations that will receive new service only had access to internet speeds below 10 Mbps, if any. SLC is Minnesota's largest county at over 6,200 square miles in size and has the highest number of unserved households in the state.

"This project will give the people and homes access to the fastest internet speeds available, both upload and download speeds up to 10 Gig," said Steve Howard, Paul Bunyan Communications' IT & Development Manager. "It will be a huge service improvement for everyone in the project area. In addition to the 66 locations passed, Paul Bunyan Communications was able to leverage the fiber installed to provide services to mobile phone towers. The

expanded mobile phone coverage will greatly improve communications throughout the area."

The GigaZone™ not only provides the capacity to handle current communication technologies quickly and efficiently, but it will also meet the increasing demands of the next generation of broadband innovations. For example, initially the network provided a maximum speed of 1 Gigabit per second, but the technology advanced by 2021 so that the cooperative can now offer speeds up to 10 Gigabits per second.

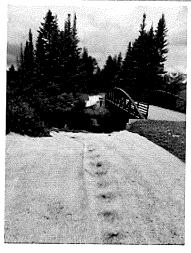
Paul Bunyan Communications started as a telephone cooperative in 1952 and has grown into the largest broadband cooperative in Minnesota serving over



6,000 square miles throughout most of Beltrami County and portions of Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and St. Louis Counties. In addition to fiber optic fast Internet speeds up to 10 Gig powered by the GigaZone<sup>™</sup>, the cooperative offers television services, digital voice services, Residential and Business IT services, and is also the home of northern Minnesota's certified Apple Service Centers in Bemidji and Grand Rapids.

<u>Email Whitney Ridlon</u> or call her at 218-735-3004 for Broadband Infrastructure grant information.

# New snowmobile and ATV bridge constructed on the Seven Beavers Trail in East Range



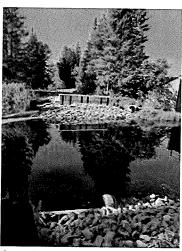
The existing Seven Beavers Trail bridge spanning over the St. Louis River was replaced with a new bridge and foundation. The repairs created safe passage for snowmobilers and ATV riders recreating in the East Iron Range area. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$10,000 Culture & Tourism grant to Ranger Snowmobile & ATV Club. Total project investment was nearly \$220,000.

The Seven Beavers Trail bridge is located near the headwaters of the St. Louis River downstream of Seven Beaver Lake near Hoyt Lakes. The bridge links the Yukon Trail System to the East Range Trail System, which together create a loop that brings riders through the areas of

Virginia, Giants Ridge, Lake Vermilion, Isabella, the North Shore and back again. The new bridge gives riders access to businesses throughout the communities for lodging, gas, food, beverage and entertainment.

Since the 1970s, the Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club has maintained the safety and integrity of trails throughout the East Range communities of Hoyt Lakes, Aurora and Biwabik.

"The safety of the trail users is the primary mission of our club, and the replacement of the bridge was vital to ensure trail safety," said Roy Beauregard, Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club president. "The club has many volunteers with diverse skill sets such as millwrights, machinists, mechanics and other talented individuals. They donated their time and expertise for the bridge to better the trails for tourists and local residents."





Beauregard explained that the network of snowmobile and ATV trails in northeastern Minnesota are important to the local economy. The trails attract snowmobile and ATV enthusiasts to the region who spend money at local hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other establishments.

The trails are also important to local residents who enjoy riding throughout the seasons.

Other project partners included the city of Hoyt Lakes, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Low Impact Excavators, Rock, Snow & Fire and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.

Learn more about Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club.

<u>Email Danae Beaudette</u> or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.

# Iron Range dentists receive loan forgiveness funds

At a time when most rural communities are having a difficult time attracting young dental professionals to their towns, the Iron Range has been successful in getting graduate dentists to set up their practices in small communities within the Taconite Assistance Area in conjunction with the Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program.

The two key tenets of this program are to bring dentists to rural communities that have few or no general dentists and to facilitate the placeme

no general dentists and to facilitate the placement of dental professionals who demonstrate, both personally and professionally, a genuine desire to establish a long-term commitment to a specific rural community.



The program, which is funded by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and administered by the Minnesota Dental Foundation, provides up to \$120,000 of loan forgiveness funds to help mitigate the \$300,000 to \$400,000 of debt student dentists incur during their dental education. Each dental office generates an annual economic impact of approximately \$5 million for the community it serves.

To date the program has successfully placed 10 dentists in Iron Range communities, making dental care accessible to thousands of its residents. Local dental practitioners Dr. Jennifer Enich of Chisholm, Dr. Hannah Hudelson of Hibbing and Dr. Spencer Wihlm of Ely recently received their installment payments from the Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program.

Photos from top to bottom: Dr. Jennifer Enich of Chisholm Dental Service in Chisholm receives an installment payment from the Mordini-Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program. Pictured are Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Dr. Enich and Dr. Michael Zakula, Minnesota Dental Foundation Board chair and Mordini-Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program chair.



Dr. Hannah Hudelson of Mike Enich Dental in Hibbing receives her second installment payment from the Mordini-Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program. Pictured are Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Dr. Hudelson and Dr. Michael Zakula.

Dr. Spencer Wihlm receives his first installment payment from the Mordini-Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program. Originally from Mason City, Iowa, Dr. Wihlm now works at Ely Family Dental in Ely. Pictured are Dr. Crystal Chopp of Ely Family Dental, Dr. Wihlm, Dr. Michael Zakula and Ely Mayor Heidi Omerza.

# Smith receives Friend of the Chamber award in Grand Rapids



Roy Smith of Hibbing received the Friend of the Chamber award at the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 5 in Grand Rapids. Smith is the director of education and talent development for Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and Minnesota North College.

Each year, the chamber staff members honor a person who has consistently supported the chamber organization. Smith was recognized for representing his employer at chamber functions, serving on the board of directors and committees and volunteering hundreds of

hours at various chamber initiatives.

"Roy is a natural connector and trusted partner," said Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Malissa Bahr. "He has shown his dedication to our mission of advocacy for business, connecting us across the region and engaging in opportunities to educate our workforce. Roy is a wonderful member who always goes the extra step to provide leadership for our organization and membership." (Pictured are Malissa Bahr and Roy Smith.)



The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota. The agency's grants and loans are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.



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From:

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation < IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 11:33 AM

To:

clerk@breitungtownship.org

Subject:

IRRR Board Meeting Recap - Oct. 17



Oct. 17, 2023

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sheryl Kochevar, Communications Director

218-735-3021, Sheryl.Kochevar@state.mn.us

# Businesses, communities and outdoor recreation in northeastern Minnesota receive over \$11.5 million in economic development funding

At today's Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board meeting, over \$10 million in loans, \$450,000 in infrastructure grants and \$1 million in trails grants were reviewed to advance projects in northeastern Minnesota. Agency investment for all projects combined is over \$11.5 million. Total project investment is approximately \$74.5 million. The projects are expected to increase the regional tax base, retain and create new jobs, provide essential services, increase the housing inventory and expand outdoor recreation. The loans are anticipated to create about 400 jobs. The infrastructure projects are projected to impact seven jobs and create 17 construction jobs.

Direct Loan: \$10,000,000

Agency Investment \$10,000,000 | Total Investment \$67,759,840

HWY35, LLC, Grand Rapids: \$10,000,000 to establish a state-of-the-art cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility. The indoor cultivation center will be equipped with LED grow lights, HVAC systems and automated nutrient delivery systems. The manufacturing center will have stringent quality control procedures, and labeling will be implemented to meet regulatory standards and deliver exceptional products to the market. With recent legalization of cannabis for adult use in the state of Minnesota, the project aims to capitalize on the burgeoning market by acquiring the necessary equipment and infrastructure to cultivate premium cannabis strains, extract oils and manufacture a diverse range of high-quality cannabis products.

"While launching the cultivation and manufacture of cannabis products as a new industry in the state of Minnesota is exciting, the opportunity to create positive economic impacts in northeastern Minnesota and, in particular the Grand Rapids and greater Iron Range communities, for generations to come is both thrilling and rewarding. We will revitalize the 138-acre former Ainsworth site into a high-tech, state-of-the-art, cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility that our communities will be proud of and that will serve as an industry leader for the state of Minnesota." — John Hyduke, HWY 35 Lead Minnesota Investment Partner.

"On behalf of the city and the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority, I'd like to thank Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for their diligent work and support of this promising new industry. We've witnessed firsthand how the partners at HWY35 have developed and operated similar facilities in other states, and their proposed investment in the former Ainsworth site, which has been dormant since 2008, will further diversify our manufacturing base, fully utilize the public's past and present investments in infrastructure, and substantially contribute to the growth of our regional economy." — Rob Mattei, City of Grand Rapids Director of Community Development.

"The HWY35 project is expected to benefit northeastern Minnesota through the creation of 400 jobs and increased tax revenues that can be reinvested back into the region. Because the project is based in both manufacturing and agriculture, it has the potential to significantly diversify the local economy, which is one of our agency's primary goals." — *Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation*.

Participation Loan: \$95,000

Agency Investment \$95,000 | Total Investment \$210,000

Northern Expanding Industrial dba AREMCO, Grand Rapids: \$95,000 to purchase a large computer numerical control (CNC) mill to meet growing demand and expand production of customer-requested products. AREMCO produces gears and related components, instrumentation, missile guidance and general machining for the aerospace industry, which includes military, commercial and private aircrafts. The new equipment will enable AREMCO to expand its presence in the mining, pipeline machining and manufacturing of automation components industries.

"With the help of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation we are able to achieve our commitment to expanding the machining services we offer to our much-valued customers and needs they have." — Dave Henriksen, AREMCO President.

"Loans for modern equipment are one way the agency supports the strong manufacturing industry in northeastern Minnesota. AREMCO manufactures parts in Grand Rapids that become part of aircrafts transporting people and goods across the nation. The agency was pleased to assist them with an equipment purchase that will help expand their production capability." — Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

#### Development Infrastructure Grants: \$308,000

Agency Investment \$308,000 | Total Investment \$2,043,837

- City of Gilbert: \$200,000 to construct infrastructure, site work and roadways for a new 3,600-square-foot plumbing and heating service center. By extending sewer and water utilities and constructing a highway access point, the city has the potential for additional commercial development on 30 acres of city owned land.
- **City of Ely: \$108,000** to construct infrastructure and site work for housing construction which includes five cabins and three fully electric RV sites. The rental cabins can serve as workforce, tourism or student housing.

#### Community Infrastructure Grants: \$149,000

Agency Investment \$149,000 | Total Investment \$724,417

 City of Hibbing: \$149,000 to install new lining in residential sewer lines between Highway 169 and 37<sup>th</sup> Street which will extend the life of the infrastructure that is currently failing. The sewer lines were constructed between 1948 and 1953 using clay tile pipe which has become very brittle over time.

Regional Trails Grants: \$1,019,650

Agency Investment \$1,019,650 | Total Investment \$3,822,649

- **City of Biwabik: \$28,500** to construct a paved trail connecting a park pavilion to a gazebo located within the Biwabik Park in the center of town.
- City of Chisholm: \$500,000 to create a master plan for the future expansion of Redhead Mountain Bike (MTB) Park and establish Chisholm connectivity; build out and construct Chisholm bike lanes and other intown amenities such as a pump track and bike racks; upgrade Redhead MTB Park; and, establish Chisholm as a destination "biketown."
- Crow Wing County: \$110,000 to expand recreational opportunities at the Milford Mine Memorial Park with an additional 1.25 miles of walking trials, including 1,200+ feet of boardwalk, a pier, two picnic pavilions and numerous benches and tables.
- Iron Range Tourism Bureau (IRTB): \$100,000 to fund the Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force Small Trail Projects grant program. The program is administered by IRTB and provides grants to cover costs related to trails and trail facility/amenity projects in the region.
- Northern Lights Nordic Ski Club: \$31,150 to purchase two snowmobiles, one ATV and a trailer to help groom and maintain various ski trails in Itasca County.
- City of Virginia: \$250,000 to re-route a floating trail on the southeast side of Silver Lake and near the Public Utilities Building. The project is the final piece to complete Silver Lake Trail as a contiguous trail around the lake.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation is funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry. The projects reviewed at today's board meeting support the agency's fiscal year 2024 spending plan which helps to fund projects in business, community and workforce development that retain and create jobs, address customer priorities, leverage investment and improve the quality of life for all residents.



Questions? Contact Us

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#### clerk@breitungtownship.org

From:

St. Louis County MN <stlouiscountymn@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 19, 2023 11:40 AM

To: Subject: clerk@breitungtownship.org Department Reorganization



October 19, 2023



Welcome to the St. Louis County Community Development newsletter. You are receiving this message because you signed up for planning updates with the St. Louis County Economic and Community Development Department. This resource will keep you updated with information about Community Development.

#### **Department Reorganization**

This message is to inform you that we are making some reorganizational changes to better assist our citizens and respond to continued growth and need for services. The department formally known as "Planning and Community Development" has become two separate departments:

- Economic & Community Development: This department's primary function will be to identify
  and administer economic, community and housing development opportunities and programs and
  related services, as well as manage the county's enterprise Geographic Information System
  business services. New webpage link: <a href="Economic & Community Development">Economic & Community Development</a>
  (stlouiscountymn.gov)
- Planning & Zoning: This department's primary function will be to administer On-Site Wastewater (septic) and Land Use (zoning) ordinances and permitting services, as well as facilitating the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid Program and participating in water planning initiatives throughout St. Louis County's watersheds. New webpage link: <a href="Planning & Zoning">Planning & Zoning</a> (stlouiscountymn.gov)

The County's website has been updated to reflect this change. If you have a website that links to one of our pages, please update if needed. We greatly appreciate your patience during this time, and if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. This change will not affect the permitting process, grant applications, financial assistance programs, or their timelines.

Thank you for your time, and from all of us in Planning and Zoning, and Economic and Community Development, we look forward to continuing to serve you.

#### **Contact Us**

St. Louis County Economic and Community Development 201 South 3rd Avenue West
Virginia, MN 55792
218-749-7103
communitydevelopmentinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov

Brad Gustafson, Community Development Manager 218-742-9563
<a href="mailto:gustafsonb@stlouiscountymn.gov">gustafsonb@stlouiscountymn.gov</a>

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This service is provided to you at no charge by St. Louis County MN.

This email was sent to clerk@breitungtownship.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: St. Louis County Minnesota 100 North 5th Avenue West · Duluth, MN 55802





BREITUNG TOWNSHIP CREW -

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK IN MAINTAINING, THE BASEBALL FIELD AGAIN THIS PAST SEASON. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR SUCH A BEAUTIFUL HOME FIELD TO PLAY ON! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU, THANK YOU FOR LETTING, US PLAY!

-2023 T-S LITTLE LEAGUE





### **Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training**

1600 University Avenue, Suite 200, Saint Paul, MN 55104 Main: (651) 643-3060 | www.mn.gov/post/

September 25, 2023

Timothy Tomsich, Chairman Breitung Township PO Box 56 Soudan, MN 55782

Dear Mr. Tomsich,

The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board) is the occupational regulatory agency charged with the vital responsibility of maintaining selection, education and licensing standards for the 415 Minnesota law enforcement agencies that employ over 10,500 peace officers across our state.

While the POST Board performs many functions, a significant portion of the POST's responsibility is dedicated to conducting "compliance reviews" of Minnesota law enforcement agencies to ensure they are meeting legislatively mandated training and department policies on Use of Force/Firearms training, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit Driving training and mandated departmental policies.

On 9/20/2023, a POST Board Standards Coordinator conducted a review at the Breitung Township Police Department. After a comprehensive review of their records concerning mandated employee training and department policies, I am pleased to inform you that your law enforcement agency **passed the review**.

Ensuring all law enforcement agencies around the state are in compliance plays a pivotal role in maintaining the high level of professionalism we have enjoyed in Minnesota for many years and that professionalism translates into quality law enforcement services for the citizens of Minnesota.

Please take a moment to recognize your agency for this important accomplishment.

Sincerely.

Erik Misselt

**Executive Director** 

#### clerk@breitungtownship.org

From:

MnDOT <mndot@public.govdelivery.com>

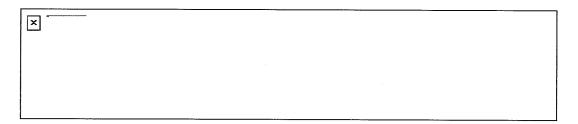
Sent: To: Monday, October 2, 2023 2:45 PM

clerk@breitungtownship.org

Subject:

Comment on the Draft State Highway Investment Plan

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## 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan

## Comment on the Draft State Highway Investment Plan

The draft 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan is available for public comment. During the first two rounds of public engagement for the plan, Minnesota state highway users provided their priorities for spending on the state highway system over the next 20 years and gave their feedback on the draft investment direction. MnDOT used that information to revise the investment direction and develop the draft plan.

Through November 8th, we are inviting public comments on the draft plan. We will also be having a series of regional public hearings on the draft document. Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates, times and locations:

- Baxter Thursday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m.
  - o 7694 Industrial Park Road
- Carlton Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 11:30 a.m.
  - o 1630 County Road 61
- Rochester Friday, Oct. 13, at 11 a.m.

- o 2900 48<sup>th</sup> NW
- Willmar Friday, Oct. 13, at 11 a.m.
  - o 2505 Transportation Road
- Saint Paul Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 2:30 p.m.
  - o 390 Robert St. N.

There are several other ways to participate:

- <u>Comment</u> on the plan at minnesotago.org or email comments to dot@state.mn.us
- Request an engaging presentation for your organization
- Follow MnDOT's social media accounts for posts about MnSHIP and share the posts with your followers
- Sign up for email updates
- and help spread the word!

If you have specific questions about the plan update, please contact:

Brad Utecht Project Director 651-366-4835 Bradley.Utecht@state.mn.us

Stay Connected with Minnesota Department of Transportation:













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#### clerk@breitungtownship.org

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 4:21 PM

To: clerk@breitungtownship.org

**Subject:** Share ideas for climate action funding in your sector!





# Share project ideas for competitive federal climate action funding in your sector

Tune into our webinar series October 16 - 24

The <u>U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program</u> will be offering

\$4.6 billion in competitive grant funds for states, local governments, and Tribal Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.

To be eligible for these competitive funds, projects must be included in a priority climate action plan. We want **your help** to ensure the plan reflects a diverse range of opportunities to reduce climate pollution in communities across the state.

Leaders from Minnesota state government will be hosting a series of 1-hour webinars to discuss how the CPRG grant program could be used to address climate pollution from specific sectors. See dates & times below.

- October 16 (10 a.m.): Climate-smart natural and working lands
- October 23 (11 a.m.): Clean transportation
- October 23 (1 p.m.): Clean energy and efficient buildings
- October 24 (10 a.m.): Clean economy

<u>Share your ideas</u> for climate action projects in your sector. You can also <u>watch a</u> <u>webinar</u> with more information on how the state is identifying priorities for CPRG program funding.

Individuals, organizations, businesses, local governments, Tribal Nations, and others are encouraged to learn more and share their input.

For more information contact MPCA climate and energy coordinator Faith Krogstad at <a href="mailto:faith.krogstad@state.mn.us">faith.krogstad@state.mn.us</a> with questions.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a state agency committed to ensuring that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water, and a better climate.

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