



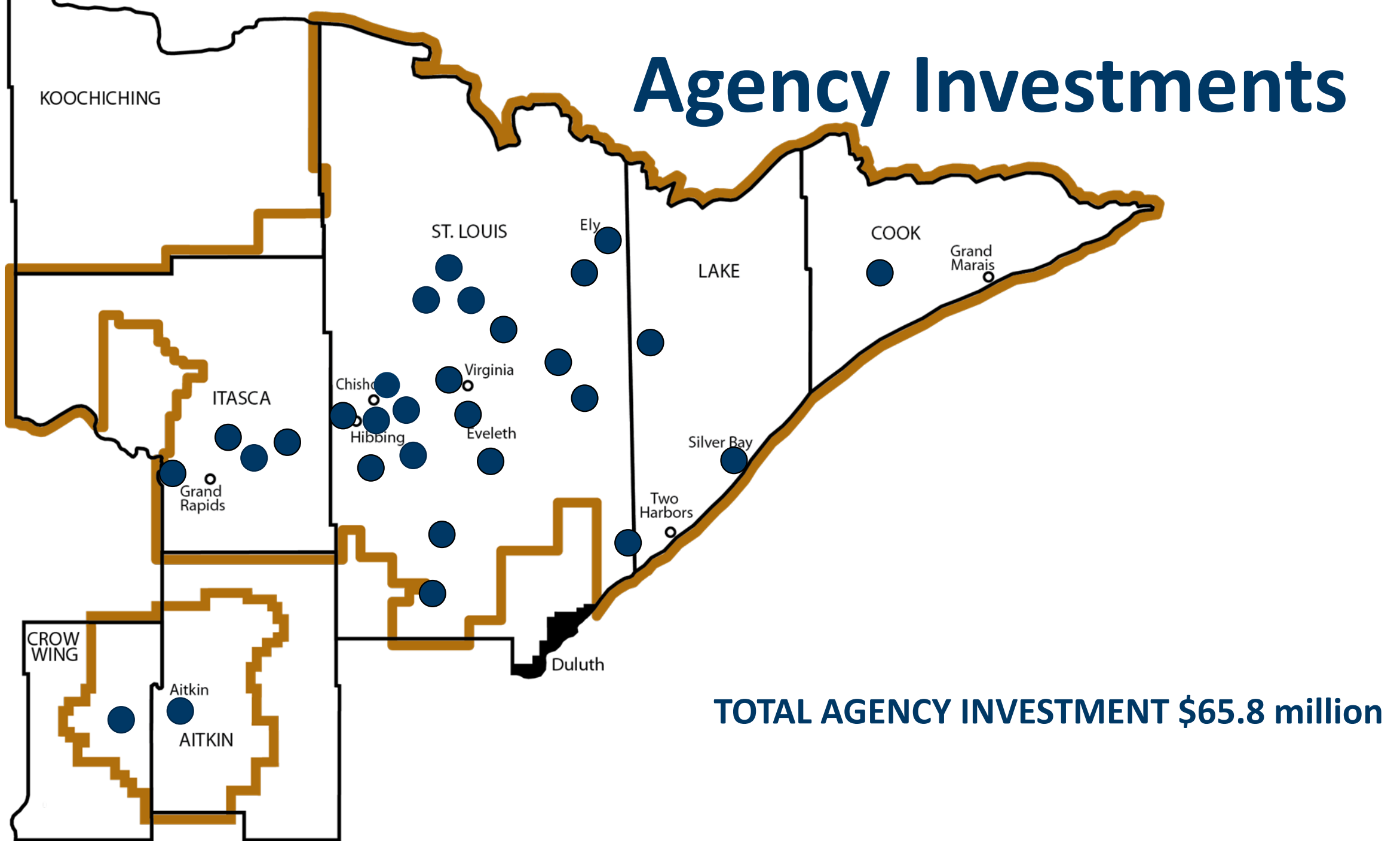
DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
12:00 Noon

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the July 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Commissioner's Comments
- V. Minerals Article/2024 Tax Omnibus Bill Projects
- VI. Minerals Article – Authorize Prior Expenditures
- VII. Flood Impacted Agency Lands
- VIII. Natural Resources Research Institute and the Minnesota Industrial Transformation Initiative – Phase 1
- IX. Taconite Economic Development Fund
- X. Iron Range Higher Education Account
- XI. FY25 Budget Amendment – Regional Trails
- XII. Business Development Projects
- XIII. Broadband Infrastructure Projects
- XIV. Child Care Development Grant
- XV. Public Works Projects
- XVI. Other
- XVII. Adjournment

Agency Investments



TOTAL AGENCY INVESTMENT \$65.8 million

MINERALS ARTICLE/2024 TAX OMNIBUS BILL PROJECTS/AUTHORIZE PRIOR EXPENDITURES

Whitney Ridlon
Community Development Director
(218)735-3004
Whitney.Ridlon@state.mn.us

Jeri Venne
Grants Specialist Coordinator
(218)735-3012
Jeri.Venne@state.mn.us

Minerals Article

Purpose: Under the guidance of Bond Council, IRRR will issue revenue bonds for the financing of up to 81 identified projects in the 2024 legislation that was enacted. (Laws for Minnesota 2024, Chapter 127, Article 69, Sections 15-16). Projects estimated at \$1 million or more are required to submit a project and spending plan to the IRRR Board.

City of Chisholm: \$2,720,000

Mesabi Fit Coalition: \$3,600,000

Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation: \$5,200,000

Minnesota Discovery Center: \$2,420,000

Cook County: \$2,250,000

Northland Learning Center: \$1,000,000

City of Eveleth: \$3,640,000

St. Louis County: \$2,100,000

City of Gilbert: \$1,000,000

City of Silver Bay: \$3,000,000

Hibbing Public Utilities: \$3,000,000

City of Tower: \$3,000,000

Lone Pine Township: \$3,000,000

City of Virginia: \$3,300,000

EMBARRASS DIVERSION CHANNEL UPDATE

Linda Johnson
Director Property Development & Mining
(218)274-7007
Linda.l.Johnson@state.mn.us

Jessica Olson, PE
BARR Engineering - Senior Water Resources Engineer
(218)529-7118
Jolson@barr.com

Agency Request

Flood Impact

Agency Request \$6,180,000

- \$880,000

Slope stabilization, protecting surface flow paths, riprap

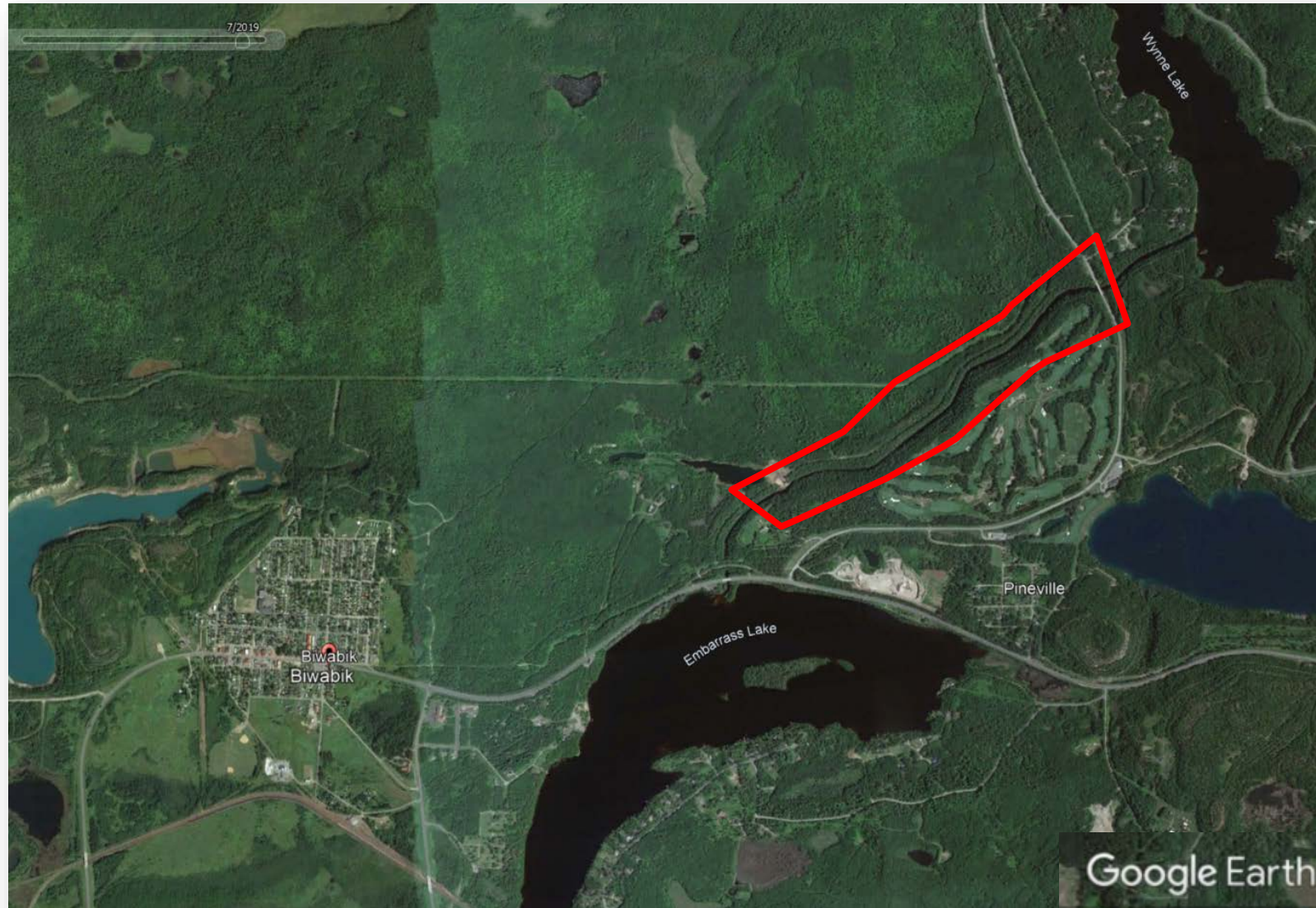
- \$5,300,000

Long-term design, mitigation, restoration, construction and land maintenance



Setting and History

Embarrass Diversion Channel



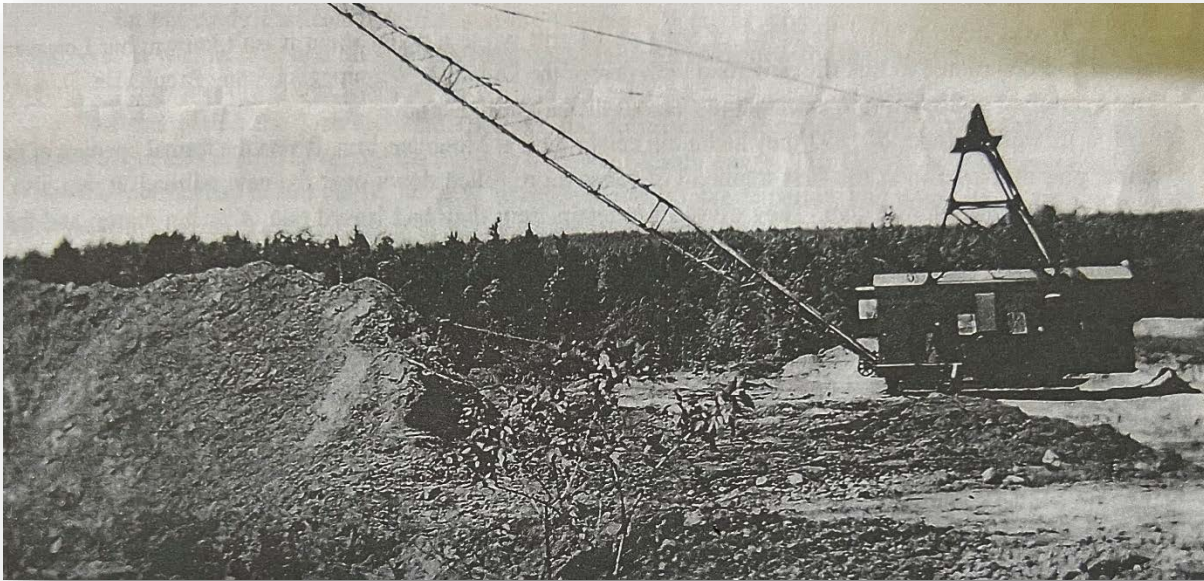
Setting and History

Embarrass Diversion Channel



Constructed by Dragline

History



Terteling Walking Dragline, 1943

Source: Shawn Callahan

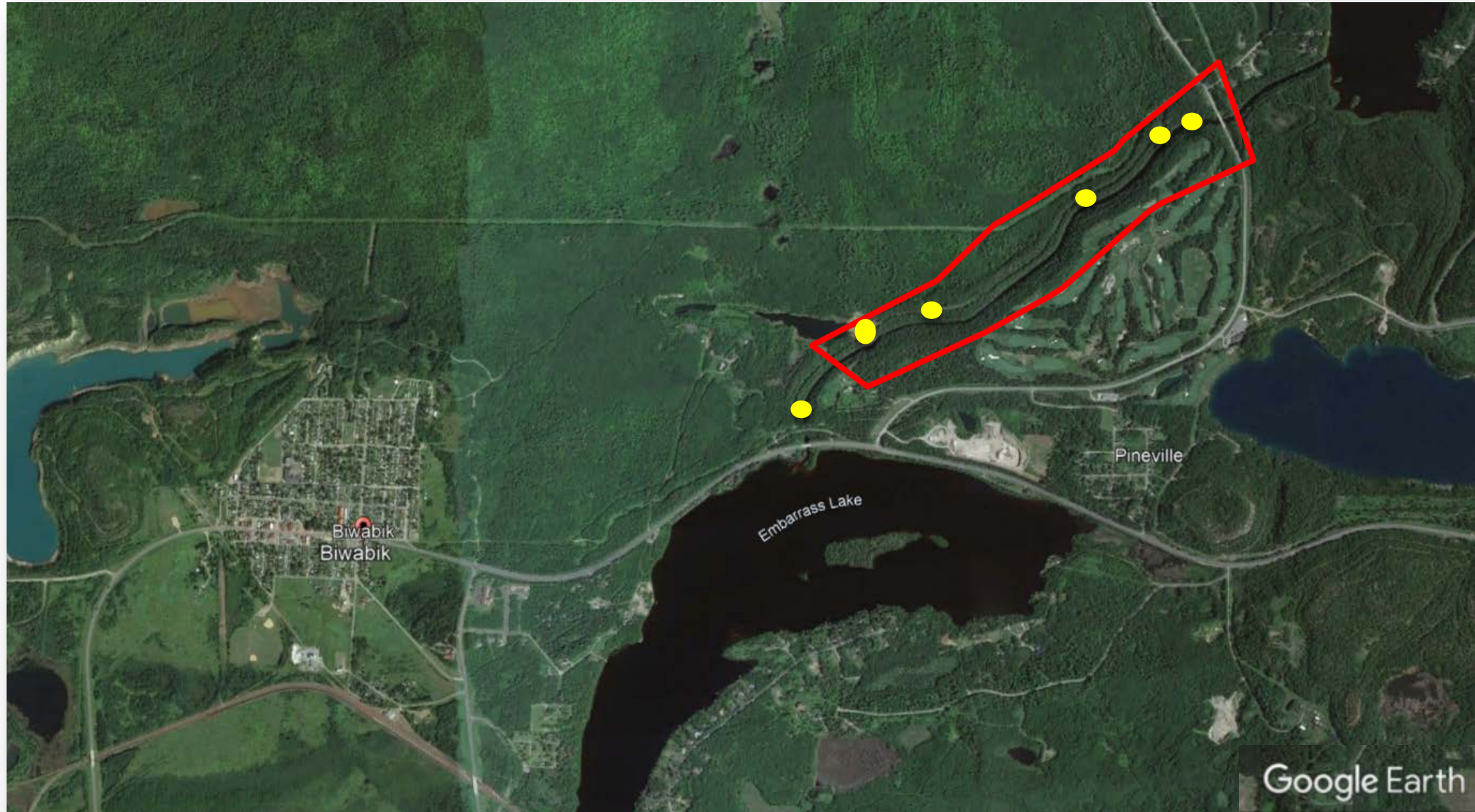


Embarrass River Diversion Channel, 1949

Source: Minnesota DNR

June 18, 2024 Flood Damage

Embarrass Diversion Channel



Sites 1 and 3



Flood Damage



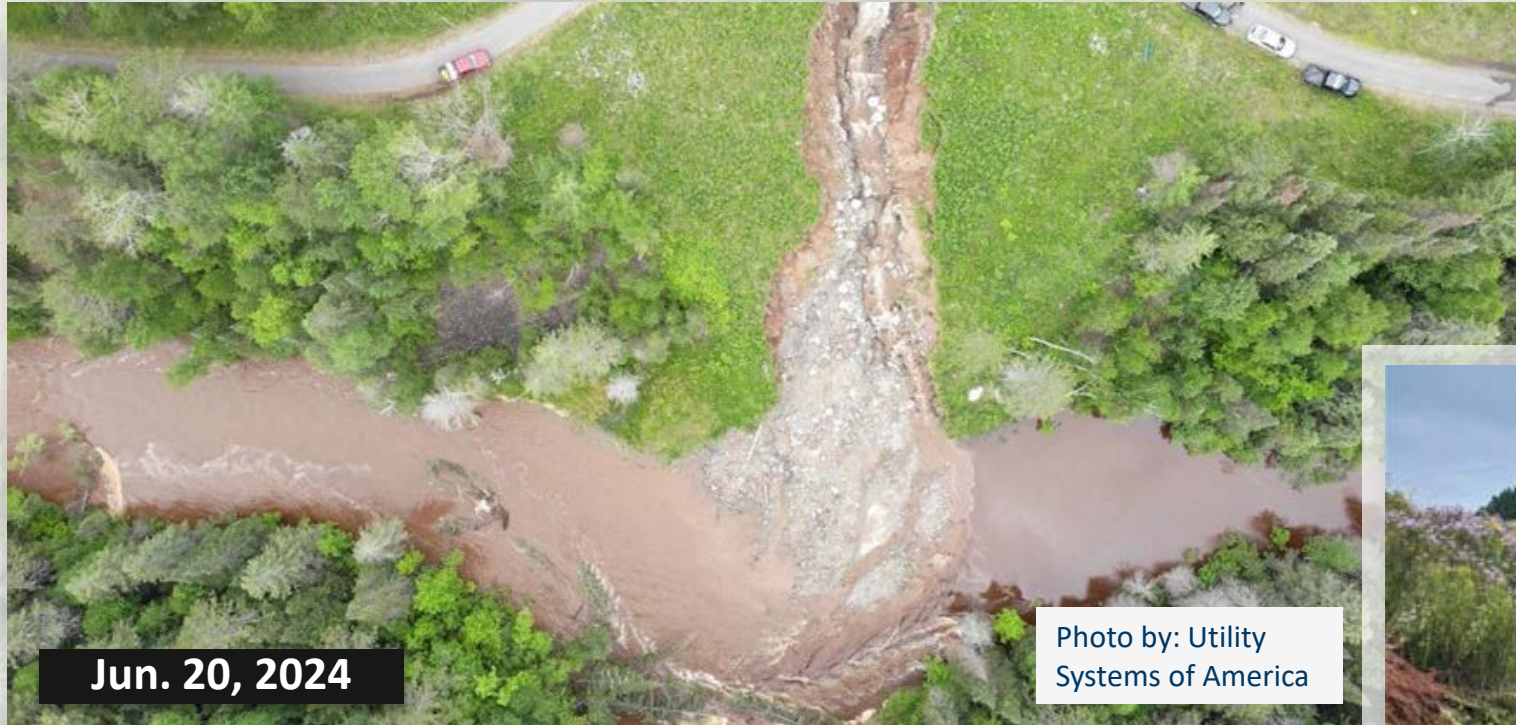
Sites 1 and 2

Flood Damage



Site 4

Flood Damage



Dam with Debris

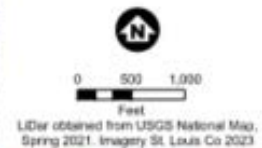


Flood Impact






Subbasin	Acres	Avg Slope
2	250.25	4.7
3	62.16	7.0
4	109.45	9.1
5	121.68	9.3
7	24.86	2.2
8	67.28	3.9
9	51.72	6.7
10	54.22	4.5
11	200.49	6.6
12	376.70	2.2
13	143.22	3.1



**Watershed to
Berm Northside**

Embarras River
Diversion Channel
Watershed Delineation

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road runs vertically through the center of the image. A small, dark, rectangular pond is situated on the left side of the road, partially filled with water. The surrounding forest is lush green, with many trees visible. A small white building is visible in the upper right corner of the image.

Impounded water along
the ATV trail (west of
the Mesabi Trail)

Emergency Dredging

Flood Impact



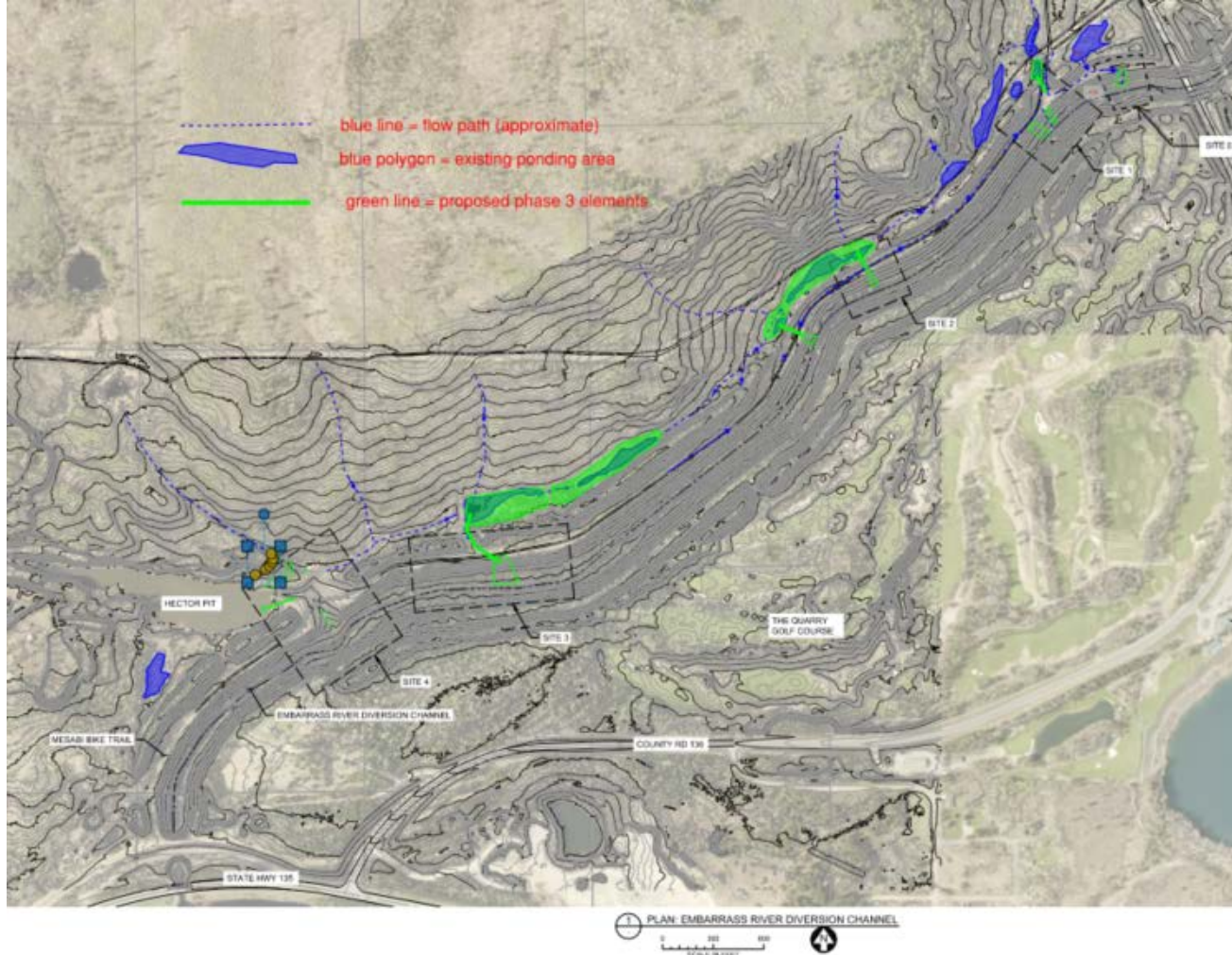
Emergency Slope Stabilization Site 4 (in progress)

Flood Impact



Long Term Mitigation Concept

Flood Mitigation



- Expand temporary storage capacity in watershed
- Enhance basin drainage
- Enhance flow path protection
- Stabilize slopes
- Inspections and maintenance

MINNESOTA INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE PHASE 1 FEASIBILITY STUDY

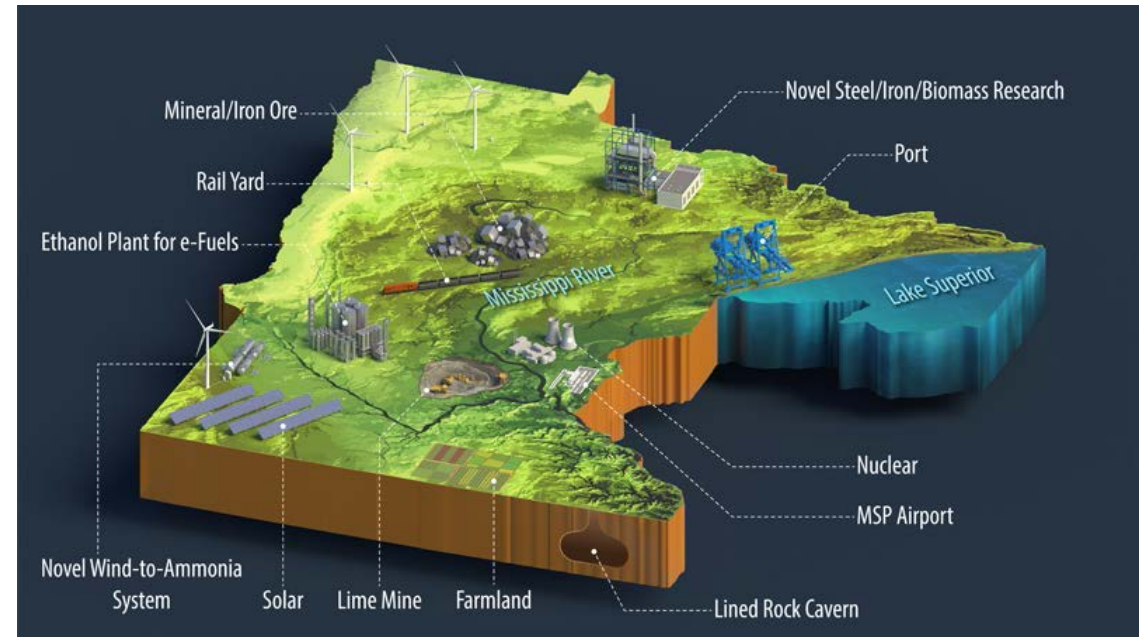
Jason Janisch
Climate & Energy Policy Advisor
(218) 735-3057
Jason.Janisch@state.mn.us

MN Industrial Transformation Initiative Phase 1 Feasibility Study

Minnesota Industrial Transformation Initiative is a collaboration between the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resource Research Institute and the National Renewable Energy Lab focused on researching, de-risking and building an integrated hydrogen-fueled green iron demonstration plant on the Iron Range.

DJJ Investment: \$2,000,000

Total Phase 1 Cost: \$4,100,000



FY24 TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (TEDF) PROJECTS

Linda Johnson
Director Property Development & Mining
(218)274-7007
Linda.L.Johnson@state.mn.us

Jason Janisch
Climate & Energy Policy Advisor
(218)735-3057
Jason.Janisch@state.mn.us

FY24 TEDF Projects

The TEDF authorizes funds to Minnesota's taconite producers for:

- Workforce development.
- Concurrent reclamation.
- Plant and stationary mining equipment.
- Facilities for the producer.
- Research and development in Minnesota on new mining, taconite, iron or steel production technology.

TEDF Rebate: \$8,784,583

Total Project Investment: \$19,488,000

Hibbing Taconite

TEDF Rebate: \$1,601,608

Total Project Investment: \$3,300,000

Project: Tailings Basin Buttressing



Minorca

TEDF Rebate: \$698,171

Total Project Investment: \$1,888,000

Project: Tailings Basin Decant Project



Northshore

TEDF Rebate: \$845,852

Total Project Investment: \$1,900,000

Project #1: Limestone Mill Replacement

Project #2: Filter and Softener Replacement

Project #3: Plant Elevator Modernization



USS Keetac

TEDF Rebate: \$1,291,822

Total Project Investment: \$3,000,000

Project: Keetac DR Grade Pellets – HIG Mill



USS Minntac

TEDF Rebate: \$3,164,996

Total Project Investment: \$7,000,000

Project #1: Crusher Dust Collector Replacement

Project #2: Lines 7 & 8 Pre-Classification



United Taconite

TEDF Rebate: \$1,182,134

Total Project Investment: \$2,400,000

Project #1: Crusher Feed and Screen Upgrade

Project #2: Tailings Pipeline Upgrades



TEDF Projects

Mining Company	TEDF Rebate	Total Project Investment
Hibbing Taconite	\$1,601,608	\$3,300,000
Minorca	\$698,171	\$1,888,000
Northshore	\$845,852	\$1,900,000
USS Keetac	\$1,291,822	\$3,000,000
USS Minntac	\$3,164,996	\$7,000,000
United Taconite	\$1,182,134	\$2,400,000
Total	\$8,784,583	\$19,488,000

Resolution No. 25-005

IRON RANGE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNT

Roy Smith
Director of Education & Talent Development
(218)735-3039
Roy.Smith@state.mn.us

Iron Range Higher Education

Investments	Total
Minnesota North College: Iron Range Engineering	\$400,000
Engineering, Itasca Campus	\$260,000
Welding, Eveleth Campus	\$526,091
Nursing Simulation, Itasca Campus	\$196,628
Total	\$1,382,719



Resolution No. 25-006

REGIONAL TRAILS

Dave Kallio
Accounting Director
(218)735-3018
Dave.Kallio@state.mn.us

Jim Plummer
Economic Development Coordinator
(218)274-7006
Jim.Plummer@state.mn.us

Regional Trails Projects

Purpose

Regional Trails grants assist the design, engineering and construction of various types of trails.

Economic Impact

- Regional Trails Projects: 1
- Agency Investment: \$1,000,000
- Total Investment: \$2,728,240



Regional Trails Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
City of Chisholm	Trailhead expansion: Asphalt pump track, skills course, grand entrance, restrooms, bike wash station, parking, lighting and new trails.	\$1,000,000	\$2,728,240



Regional Trails Projects

Project	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
City of Chisholm	\$1,000,000	\$2,728,240
Total	\$1,000,000	\$2,728,240

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Matt Sjoberg
Executive Director of Development
(218)735-3037
Matt.Sjoberg@state.mn.us

Scott Sundvall
Loan Officer
(218)735-3015
Scott.Sundvall@state.mn.us

Lonely Loon LLC d/b/a Superior Creamery

Agency Investment: \$205,000

Total Project Investment: \$464,000

Number of Jobs: Retained: 2 FT 14 PT
Created: 1 FT 3 PT

Project: Lonely Loon LLC to purchase the building it is currently leasing from Voyageur Brewing.

Resolution No. 25-008



Manufacturing Inc. d/b/a Northland Machine Inc.

Agency Investment: \$442,000

Total Project Investment: \$983,000

Number of Jobs: Retained: 22 FT 1 PT

Project: Purchase of a new Mazak machining station and other fabricating equipment.

Resolution No. 25-009



Trison Solutions LLC

Agency Investment: \$850,000

Total Project Investment: \$3,150,000

Number of Jobs: Retained: 20.75 FTE

Project: Purchase a new modern surface mount electronic production line to supplement the current aging line.

Resolution No. 25-010



Virginia Plastics, LLC

Agency Investment: \$136,000

Total Project Investment: \$380,000

Number of Jobs: Retained: 17
Created: 3

Project: Purchase of three new extruders to replace failing and inefficient pieces of equipment.

Resolution No. 25-011



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Matt Sjoberg
Executive Director of Development
(218)735-3037
Matt.Sjoberg@state.mn.us

Ryan Malich
Loan Officer
(218)735-3041
Ryan.Malich@state.mn.us

FY25 Scope Amendment

Scope Amendment: Board Resolution No. 24-008 would be amended to allow Borrower to lease space at the project facility to tenants that obtain cannabis licenses, and for the employees to be counted toward job creation goals.

Resolution No. 25-012



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Whitney Ridlon
Community Development Director
(218)735-3004
Whitney.Ridlon@state.mn.us

Broadband Infrastructure Projects

Purpose

Broadband Infrastructure grants assist projects that help households and businesses reach the state of Minnesota broadband speed goal.

Economic Impact

- # of Infrastructure Projects: 2
- Agency Investment: \$617,000
- Total Investment: \$6,832,226
- # of Project Decrease: 1
- Agency Investment: <\$162,093>



Paul Bunyan Communications

Agency Investment: \$400,000

Total Project Investment: \$6,023,266

- 420 unserved & Underserved.
- Field, Alango and Sturgeon Townships.
- Construction is planned to be completed in summer 2026.



Paul Bunyan Communications

Agency Investment: \$217,000

Total Project Investment: \$808,960

- 96 unserved and underserved.
- City of Mountain Iron and Great Scott Township.
- Construction is planned to be complete in summer 2026.



CTC Communications

Agency Investment: <\$162,093>

- 350 unserved and underserved.
- The project was reduced in scope.
- Clinton Township Area.
- Construction is planned to be completed by the end of 2025.



Resolution No. 25-013

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT

Whitney Ridlon
Community Development Director
(218)735-3004
Whitney.Ridlon@state.mn.us

Chris Ismil
Community Development Representative
(218)735-3010
Chris.Ismil@state.mn.us

Agency Investment: \$400,000

Total Project Investment: \$4,121,990

Jobs Created: 14

Child Care: 96

Project: Infrastructure and site work for the construction of a new 9,500-square-foot building for the purpose of providing child care learning services.

Resolution No. 25-014

PUBLIC WORKS

Whitney Ridlon
Community Development Director
(218)735-3004
Whitney.Ridlon@state.mn.us

Chris Ismil
Community Development Representative
(218)735-3010
Chris.Ismil@state.mn.us

Public Works Projects

Purpose

Public Works grants support local and Tribal governments with infrastructure funding that provides essential services and promotes economic development. Community Infrastructure grants assist projects that support residential infrastructure and public facility improvements.

Economic Impact

- Number of Projects: **13**
- Agency Investment: **\$4,560,000**
- Total Project Investment: **\$38,635,083**



Public Works Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
City of Aitkin	The project consists of construction of a new municipal water tower.	\$400,000	\$4,600,000
City of Aurora	The project consists of a new water treatment facility in Aurora.	\$500,000	\$9,000,000
City of Aurora	The project consists of sewer line upgrades and new storm sewer construction.	\$200,000	\$980,000
City of Calumet	The project consists of upgrades to city hall.	\$300,000	\$680,000
City of Crosby	The project consists of alley infrastructure upgrades.	\$400,000	\$2,675,428

Public Works Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
City of Ely	The project consists of city-wide street infrastructure upgrades.	\$500,000	\$5,131,000
City of Eveleth	The project consists of watermain line replacement on Miller Truck Road.	\$100,000	\$548,780
City of Eveleth	The project consists of HVAC upgrades to the Eveleth Community Recreation and Office Building.	\$500,000	\$1,062,070
City of Grand Rapids	The project consists of infrastructure upgrades to support the redevelopment of two vacant commercial buildings in downtown.	\$180,000	\$2,048,632
City of Grand Rapids	The project consists of utility construction, relocation and upgrades to support the redevelopment of a vacant downtown office building .	\$130,000	\$1,433,000

Public Works Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
City of Hibbing	The project consists of upgrades to city hall including window and lintel replacement and stone and brick repair.	\$600,000	\$1,743,695
Hibbing Public Utilities Commission	The project consists of construction and upgrades to over 10,800 linear feet of watermain, 56 gate valve replacements and 19 new fire hydrants.	\$500,000	\$6,485,545
City of Hoyt Lakes	The project consists of phase I upgrades to the Hoyt Lakes Arena.	\$250,000	\$2,246,933

Resolution No. 25-015

THANK YOU

Commissioner Ida Rukavina
(218)735-3023
Ida.Rukavina@state.mn.us