

Members of the LCCMR

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Room 65 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Project 2022-165 Ranier Safe Harbor/Transient Dock Phase 2

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this email in strong support of the Ranier Dock Project not only as a business owner in the area but also as a life-long resident and proponent for Rainy Lake and Voyageurs National Park. I realize how busy you all are so I will try to be as brief and to the point as I possibly can.

First of all, from a business and economic development standpoint this project would help bolster our important tourism industry not only in Ranier but across the greater Voyageurs National Park area. This dock would help to bring in a more diverse group of visitors by offering amenities that are not currently offered on Rainy Lake and allow those visitors to stay longer and in turn spend more money. My business, Voyageurs Outfitters, would be able to offer tour charters and rentals that we currently are unable to offer due to lack of dockage in the Ranier area.

Next, as a life long resident of Koochiching County, this dock would help open up opportunities for those not fortunate enough to have access to a watercraft by providing a unique experience of "getting out on the water" without getting in a boat. I can already hear the children and grandparents enjoying their time watching the gulls on a warm summer day. This dock would also help connect people to the water and the rich water resource that is so important to us as Minnesotans. As we all know it is those connections are so important for the future of conservation, license sales, and the overall protection of our Natural Resources here in Minnesota.

Lastly, this dock would help provide greater access and a renewed connection with Voyageurs National Park by allowing the National Park Service Tour boat "Voyageur" to dock and do park tours that originate from Ranier. Again, the connections made between people and the outdoors are paramount to our future.

I appreciate your consideration for Project 2022-165 and I ask that you fund it fully.

Thank you for your time and enjoy the day,



Township of Eagles Nest

1552 Bear Head State Park Rd., Ely, Minnesota 55731-8012

Sheryl Duke

July 26, 2021

Director Becca Nash
Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Director Nash:

I am the Chairman of the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors in St. Louis County. I understand that among other tasks carried out by the LCCMR, it funnels funds through the Minnesota DNR for the creation of ATV trails.

I am writing to voice our strong opposition to a prospective ATV trail routed on roads through our township. The Trail Prospectors Alliance, Prospector ATV Club, and the ATV Association of Minnesota have been working to establish the route for several years, but the Town Board has been left out of the conversation. Several years ago, we were informed of plans for a trail through our township. We voiced our opposition and did not hear of it again until our monthly meeting on May 18, 2021.

Since that meeting, we have been gathering information, forming a position, and now are working to prevent the route from being established. This letter is in support of that task. The enclosed resolution provides more detail on our position. We ask that the LCCMR not provide future funding for the creation of the section of Trail 4 (see enclosure) in our township. Furthermore, we ask that you actively discourage the creation of that section of trail.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Floyd

Richard P. Floyd, Chairman
Enclosures

Resolution on ATV Routing Through Eagles Nest Township

Resolution NO. 07-21-13

Whereas: the Trail Prospectors Alliance, AKA Prospectors Loop Alliance, plans to open an official trail known as Trail 4, which is a segment of a route running between the cities of Ely and Tower (see attached map);

And whereas: a good portion of Trail 4 lies in Eagles Nest Township, following Bear Head State Park Road, Walsh Road, and part of Swansons Shores Road;

And whereas: there exists another, nearly-complete route, known as Trails 5 and 3 on which to ride ATV's between Ely and Tower, which is about the same length as the proposed Trail 4;

And whereas: sections of Walsh Road are narrow and windy, with vegetation growing close to the edge and shoulders that are severely lacking, resulting in sight distances that are 100 feet or less;

And whereas: people frequently walk Trail 4 roads in groups, and a number of cabins are located close to the roads, instigating activities at the roads' edges by children as well as adults;

And whereas: the general peace and quiet of the Township is what many of the residents enjoy about living here;

And whereas: ATV traffic will increase significantly if this trail route is established;

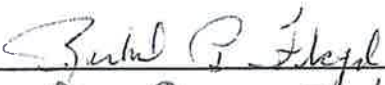

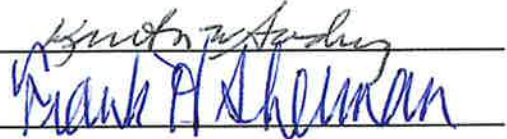
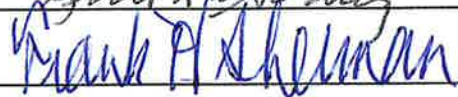
And whereas: increased traffic will result in an increase in the adverse effects of traffic, such as safety hazard, noise, litter, and potential for crime;

Now, therefore, be it resolved: that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors opposes the adoption, both temporarily and permanently, of Trail 4 utilizing roads in the Township;

And be it further resolved: that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors opposes use of the Taconite Trail through Bear Head Lake State Park as an ATV trail;

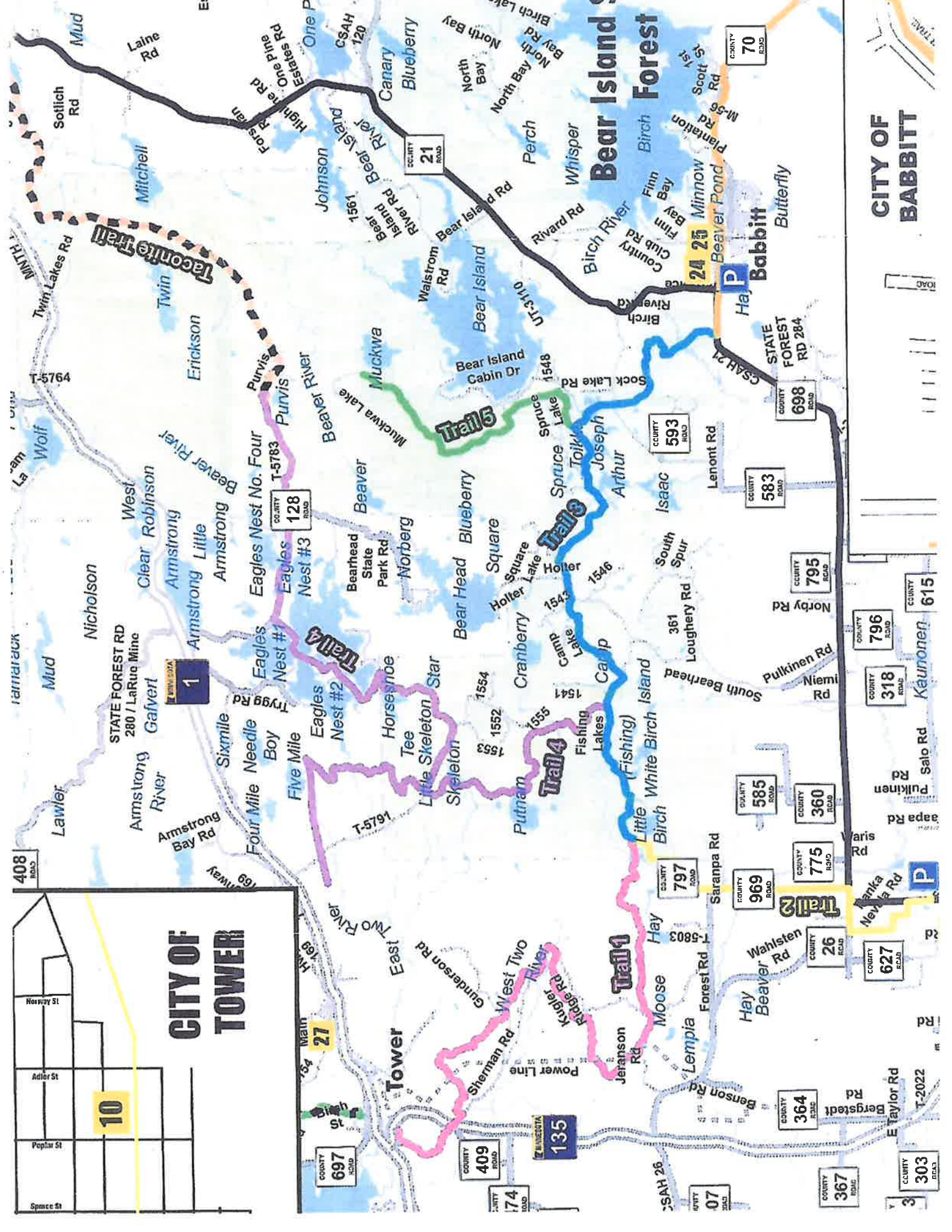
And be it finally resolved: that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors supports construction of an ATV bridge across the Beaver River and surrounding wetland, providing a route from Ely to Tower following the Taconite Trail, Trail 5, Trail 3, and Trail 1.

Passed this 20th day of July 2021.

Chairman Floyd	Aye	
Supervisor Schatz	Aye	
Supervisor Soderberg	Aye	
Supervisor Sherman	Aye	


Keely Drange, Clerk





CITY OF TOWER

10	Adler St	1st Ave N
	Poplar St	
	Spence St	

CITY OF BABBITT

- COUNTY ROAD 3
- COUNTY ROAD 7
- COUNTY ROAD 174
- COUNTY ROAD 135
- COUNTY ROAD 697
- COUNTY ROAD 27
- COUNTY ROAD 303
- COUNTY ROAD 367
- COUNTY ROAD 364
- COUNTY ROAD 26
- COUNTY ROAD 627
- COUNTY ROAD 775
- COUNTY ROAD 969
- COUNTY ROAD 360
- COUNTY ROAD 585
- COUNTY ROAD 318
- COUNTY ROAD 796
- COUNTY ROAD 615
- COUNTY ROAD 795
- COUNTY ROAD 583
- COUNTY ROAD 593
- COUNTY ROAD 698
- COUNTY ROAD 70