

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on April 1, 2026

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

**Project Title:** Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground

**Project Manager:** Jim Janssen

**Affiliation:** Town of Crane Lake

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 402

**City/State/Zip:** Crane Lake, MN 55725

**Phone:** (218) 340-0867

**E-mail:** Jjanssen55725@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://cranelaketwp.com/>

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

**Appropriation Amount:** \$3,100,000

**Amount Spent:** \$3,100,000

**Amount Remaining:** -

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Crane Lake Voyageur RV Campground opened in summer 2025 with continuous reservations during its first season. Providing ADA-accessible sites with water, sewer, and electrical utilities, the project supports sustainable recreation by concentrating use, reducing environmental impacts, protecting water quality, and preserving surrounding land, shoreline, and habitat for future generations.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Crane Lake Voyageur RV Campground project was developed to improve access to Voyageurs National Park while protecting natural resources and supporting sustainable tourism. Prior to this project, there were limited options for accessible, managed camping in Crane Lake, leading to dispersed use and increased pressure on surrounding land, shorelines, and water quality.

The project constructed and opened a new RV campground in summer 2025, offering ADA-accessible campsites with water, sewer, and electrical connections, along with an online reservation system. The campground experienced continuous reservations during its first season, demonstrating strong demand and an immediate positive impact on local

tourism and visitation to the region.

By concentrating visitor use in a planned and managed facility, the project reduces environmental impacts such as unmanaged waste, shoreline degradation, and habitat disturbance. It supports protection of water quality and surrounding natural areas while providing safe, reliable infrastructure for visitors. The campground also enhances day-use access to Voyageurs National Park and creates opportunities for outdoor recreation, education, and appreciation of Minnesota's natural resources.

This project demonstrates how thoughtful infrastructure investment can balance increased visitation with conservation. It provides a model for rural communities to support economic growth while protecting land, water, and wildlife, ensuring long-term sustainability and continued enjoyment of Minnesota's natural resources for future generations.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Project results were shared through a public grand opening held on June 6, 2025, and through the Crane Lake Voyageur RV Campground website, which provides information on amenities, reservations, and access to Voyageurs National Park and the new Visitor Center. The website also features an aerial photo of the campground, detailed site information, and acknowledgment of LCCMR funding (<https://cranelakecampground.com/>). The campground recorded approximately 200 reservations during the 2025 season, reflecting high public interest and the successful use of the new facility.



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** April 13, 2026

**ID Number:** 2020-010

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

**Project Title:** Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground

**Project Budget:** \$3,100,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Jim Janssen

**Organization:** Town of Crane Lake

**Office Telephone:** (218) 340-0867

**Email:** Jjanssen55725@gmail.com

**Web Address:** <https://cranelaketwp.com/>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** April 1, 2026

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** April 1, 2026

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2025

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,100,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the town of Crane Lake to design and construct a new campground and to plan and preliminarily prepare a site for constructing a new Voyageurs National Park visitor center on land acquired for these purposes in Crane Lake. Any revenue generated from selling products or assets developed or acquired with this appropriation must be repaid to the trust fund unless a plan is approved for reinvestment of income in the project as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10. and (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended

to June 30, 2025: (8) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 5, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (s), Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground and Visitor Center;

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2025

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** This project consists of the design and construction of a new campground and necessary amenities in Crane Lake.

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

Voyageurs National Park(VNP) is Minnesota’s only national park and the nation’s only water-based national park, consisting of more than 84,000 acres of water and 134,000 acres of land. The interconnected waterways of the park provide an unparalleled opportunity for citizens to explore the Northwood’s lake and border country. You must leave your car and take to the water to fully explore and experience the lakes, islands, and shorelines of the park. Nearly 200 years ago, voyageurs paddled birch bark canoes full of animal pelts and trade goods through the park on their way to Canada. Today, people explore the park by canoes, kayaks, houseboats, and motorboats. Water is the defining feature of Voyageurs National Park(VNP). Access and tourism expansion was the long-term promise of the park—increasing economic opportunities for local residents while preserving a national treasure and developing recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens. The overall goal is to create a Visitor Center operated by the Department of Interior’s National Park Service and coordinated with the DNR’s new boat ramp and entrance point while combining all with a new NPS campground and public space.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

Crane Lake Township is requesting \$3,100,000 from the ENRTF for the design and construction of the new Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground. The Campground will be constructed on a recently purchased a 29 acre parcel of land that was the site of the former Borderland Resort. Crane Lake Township received \$950,000 from the ENRTF to purchase this property. The Campground will include RV sites, tent sites, restroom and shower facilities, RV pump out facilities at either the Campground, DNR or the Visitor Center sites, parking lot and kiosk. In addition to the campground amenities, Handberg Road and Bayside Drive will be paved to provide access to the campground and to meet ADA requirements at the campground. .

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s natural resources?**

The successful outcomes this initiative/project will include the following:

Increased level of visitation into Crane Lake and at resorts, guest houses, campers, houseboats and VNP. Enhanced day-use access into VNP from Crane Lake. Easy water access for private boaters. New land-accessed camping for VNP and area visitors. Public lakeshore recreation for residents and visitors. Community center with public docking, highly visible from entry to town. Year-round point of contact for VNP visitors in Crane Lake. Capacity to link these functions by trails to other communities. Physical solutions that benefits all parties.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Region(s): NE

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Region(s): NE

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: National Park Campground Design and Construction Administration

**Activity Budget:** \$613,280

**Activity Description:**

Campground Site Preparation/Permitting/Engineering Design, Construction Administration, Environmental Review and Wetlands Review.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description  | Approximate Completion Date |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Engineer Selected Through a Competitive Process                          | September 30, 2021          |
| All Permits Secured  | March 31, 2022              |
| Begin site Design, engineering plans and specifications completed.       | May 31, 2022                |
| Begin Oversight and Construction Administration                          | June 30, 2022               |
| Construction Administration Completed and Work Approved by the Township. | June 30, 2023               |
| Environmental Contamination - R.A.P. Attached                            | June 30, 2023               |

### Activity 2: National Park Campground Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$2,471,720

**Activity Description:**

Construction of the Campground and Necessary Amenities. The Campground and amenities will include RV sites, tent sites, restroom and shower facilities, RV pump out facilities at either the Campground, DNR or the Visitor Center sites, parking lot and kiosk. ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description  | Approximate Completion Date |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Competitive Bid to Select a General Contractor to Construct the Campground and Amenities | April 30, 2022              |
| Contractor Selected and Project Bid Awarded to Construct the Campground and Amenities    | May 31, 2022                |
| Begin the Construction of the Campground   | June 30, 2022               |
| Campground Completed and Approved by the Township  | June 30, 2023               |
| Campground Opens to the Public   | June 30, 2023               |

### Activity 3: St. Louis County will Serve as the Fiscal Agent

**Activity Budget:** \$15,000

**Activity Description:**

St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

**Activity Milestones:**

| Description   | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| St. Louis County will Serve as the Fiscal Agent Throughout the project. | June 30, 2023               |



## Project Partners and Collaborators

| Name  | Organization   | Role                                 | Receiving Funds |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| MN DNR Staff  | MN DNR   | Potential Funder/Project Advisor     | No              |
| Bob DeGross - Superintendent<br>- 218-283-6606<br>- degross@nps | National Park Service - 360 Hwy 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649 | Project Advisor                      | No              |
| Township Board  | Crane Lake Township  | Project Oversight/Project Management | No              |
| St. Louis County Board  | St. Louis County   | Fiscal Agent                         | Yes             |

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

Description: Upon receipt of a signed grant agreement, the Township will issue a press release announcing the project, the plans for the reconstruction of the Campground, and will include special thanks and acknowledgement to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for their assistance.

The Town of Crane Lake shall use the Town's web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. Permanent signs/plaques will be designed and erected at the Campground acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR Grant on behalf of Crane Lake. All documentation for fiscal reporting will be available by request.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

It is anticipated that additional funding will be sought to complete this project including from these potential sources: United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), United State Forest Service (USFS), NPS, State Bonding, municipal bonding, and other sources. The NPS has the ability to lease facilities over the long-term where there is a potential income stream and pay off the facilities over the long-term, even if the income stream is only a partial source for the

lease payments and operational costs. Thus the campground is an important component of the large scale Visitor Center project from the NPS viewpoint.

### Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

| Name  | Appropriation                         | Amount Awarded |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Land Acquisition for Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center | M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i | \$950,000      |

## Budget Summary

| Category / Name  | Subcategory or Type                        | Description   | Purpose | Gen. Ineligible | % Benefits | # FTE | Classified Staff? | \$ Amount   | \$ Amount Spent | \$ Amount Remaining |
|--|--|---|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Personnel</b>   |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |                 |                     |
|  |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           | -               | -                   |
| <b>Contracts and Services</b>  |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |                 |                     |
| SEH has been selected as the Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process             | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Campground Design/Permitting/Engineering and Construction Administration          |         |                 |            | 0     |                   | \$617,125   | \$617,125       | -                   |
| Casper is selected as the General Contractor Hired Through A competitive Bidding Process | Professional or Technical Service Contract | General Contractor Will Be Responsible Of All Aspects Of The Project Construction |         |                 |            | 8     |                   | \$2,480,522 | \$2,480,522     | -                   |
| St. Louis County   | Professional or Technical Service Contract | St. Louis County will be the Fiscal Agent   |         | X               |            | 2     |                   | \$2,353     | \$2,353         | -                   |
|  |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | \$3,100,000 | \$3,100,000     | -                   |
| <b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>  |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |                 |                     |
|  |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           | -               | -                   |
| <b>Capital Equipment</b>   |  |   |         |                 |            |       |                   |             |                 |                     |
|  |  |   |         |                 |            |       | Sub Total         | -           | -               | -                   |

|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  | -                  | - |
| <b>Travel In Minnesota</b>          |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  | -                  | - |
| <b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>     |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  | -                  | - |
| <b>Printing and Publication</b>     |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  | -                  | - |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>               |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |                    |                    |   |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Sub Total</b>   | -                  | -                  | - |
|                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>\$3,100,000</b> | <b>\$3,100,000</b> | - |

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

| Category/Name                                    | Subcategory or Type                        | Description                               | Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Contracts and Services</b> - St. Louis County | Professional or Technical Service Contract | St. Louis County will be the Fiscal Agent | Crane Lake (Population 100) does not have the staff or infrastructure to manage large sums of money therefore we have contracted with St. Louis County to have their auditors assist in administering these funds. |

## Non ENRTF Funds

| Category         | Specific Source      | Use  | Status                     | \$ Amount          | \$ Amount Spent    | \$ Amount Remaining |
|------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>State</b>     |                      |  |                            |                    |                    |                     |
| Cash             | Iron Range Resources | Visitors Center Construction   | Secured                    | \$274,800          | \$274,800          | -                   |
| Cash             | Minnesota DNR        | Project Construction Related Tasks - \$1.9 Million Allocated, \$100,000 is allocated to the Visitors Center Project. | Secured                    | \$1,800,000        | \$1,800,000        | -                   |
|                  |                      |  | <b>State Sub Total</b>     | <b>\$2,074,800</b> | <b>\$2,074,800</b> | <b>-</b>            |
| <b>Non-State</b> |                      |  |                            |                    |                    |                     |
|                  |                      |  | <b>Non State Sub Total</b> | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>            |
|                  |                      |  | <b>Funds Total</b>         | <b>\$2,074,800</b> | <b>\$2,074,800</b> | <b>-</b>            |

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [000ba03c-ae.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

This visual shows the site and conceptual drawing of the campground....

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

| Title                 | File                             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Resolution            | <a href="#">bf09c98f-af1.pdf</a> |
| Additional Resolution | <a href="#">48074475-4fe.pdf</a> |

### Supplemental Attachments

#### *Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

| Title                             | File                             |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SLC Fiscal Agent Contract         | <a href="#">c9c03a1f-a63.pdf</a> |
| LCCMR Background Check            | <a href="#">a313bd32-6bd.pdf</a> |
| Page from Campground Drawing      | <a href="#">bde49857-5d2.pdf</a> |
| Campground Budget Summary 9-11-23 | <a href="#">d54a5c12-73b.pdf</a> |
| Campground Specs RFP              | <a href="#">466b58b7-654.pdf</a> |
| Campground Drawings               | <a href="#">b51fe519-0e6.pdf</a> |
| Crane Lake Sign                   | <a href="#">cfb2c821-d9b.pdf</a> |
| Recorded CIC Termination          | <a href="#">cc3a913e-212.pdf</a> |
| Campground Photo 1                | <a href="#">4cf33547-c3b.jpg</a> |
| Campground Photo 2                | <a href="#">55f8da8e-06f.jpg</a> |
| LCCMR Sign                        | <a href="#">5d1f1a68-528.jpg</a> |
| Response Action Plan Approval     | <a href="#">c4e18228-a66.pdf</a> |
| Recorded Easement                 | <a href="#">7ba39bd0-934.pdf</a> |

#### *Media Links*

| Title                              | Link  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| National Park Service Website Link | <a href="https://www.nps.gov/voya/getinvolved/crane-lake-visitor-center-project.htm">https://www.nps.gov/voya/getinvolved/crane-lake-visitor-center-project.htm</a> |
| Project Website                    | <a href="https://cranelakecampground.com/">https://cranelakecampground.com/</a>   |

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

All of the changes were made as requested in the Comments and Revisions section. Also included the Fiscal Agent, made changes to the activities/milestone, adjusted the budget, included a new visual for the campground and added the dissemination section. 7/9/2021 - Revisions were made to allow for the Fiscal Agent to be paid from this grant. August 4, 2021 all changes were made based on staff recommendations.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

Yes

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

Yes

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:**

Yes, Revenues will be generated by leasing/renting camp sites. The revenue generated will be reinvested into the campground through maintenance and operations. Maintenance and operations of the campground will include labor, supplies, advertising, utilities, repairs, equipment purchases and grounds upkeep.

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

Yes, St. Louis County

## Work Plan Amendments

| Amendment ID | Request Type      | Changes made on the following pages   | Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)   | Date Submitted   | Approved | Date of LCCMR Action |
|--------------|-------------------|---|---|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1            | Amendment Request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul> | <p>PM Info: PM has changed the primary email and the former email is no longer active.</p> <p>Activities and Milestones: Added milestone &amp; language per request by LCCMR staff.</p> <p>Budget: Updated allocations to Activity 1 and 2 - described in status update. Overall allocation remains the same, but due to additional project scope including outside funding, additional engineering services are required including administrative and onsite efforts.</p> <p>Attachments: Supplemented recorded CIC info as requested.</p> | November 3, 2023 | Yes      | November 3, 2023     |
| 2            | Completion Date   | <p>Previous Completion Date: 07/31/2023</p> <p>New Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p>  | <p>Due to project delays associated with CIC termination, unexpected contamination, project rebidding, and ultimately expanding the scope of the project with recently secured DNR funds, the project date could not be met. The DNR funds were only recently approved and weather does not allow for the remainder of the work to be completed as the work needs to be completed during the appropriate construction season.</p>   | October 31, 2023 | Yes      | October 31, 2023     |
| 3            | Completion Date   | <p>Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p> <p>New Completion Date: 06/30/2025;</p> <p>Governor Approved on 04/15/2024</p>  | <p>There were delays in awarding and the project start date. Delays were associated with project rebidding, supply chain issues, CIC Termination, and securing additional DNR and IRRRB funds. The contractor</p>   | November 3, 2023 | Yes      | May 21, 2024         |

|   |                   |   |  |                    |     |                   |
|---|-------------------|---|--|--------------------|-----|-------------------|
|   |                   |   | (Casper) has also informed the Town that there are also currently material delays due to supply chain issues. SEH is performing Construction Administration through the extended project duration. We have exhausted all options within completing the project within the original deadline.                 |                    |     |                   |
| 4 | Amendment Request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul> | Minor budget adjustment for overall project completion. Funding is being reallocated from St. Louis County administration fees. St Louis County has indicated that the updated budget is sufficient for project completion. Those funds are allocated to the construction contract with Casper Construction. | September 26, 2024 | Yes | October 14, 2024  |
| 5 | Amendment Request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul>  | Minor budget adjustment for overall project completion. Funding is being reallocated from St. Louis County administration fees. St Louis County has indicated that the updated budget is sufficient for project completion.  | November 14, 2025  | Yes | November 25, 2025 |

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update August 14, 2025

**Date Submitted:** November 14, 2025

**Date Approved:** November 25, 2025

### Overall Update

The project is complete. Grand Opening was on June 6, 2025. There were approximately 200 reservations at the campground during the 2025 season.

### Activity 1

The design and construction administration is complete. The project construction is complete. The easement is recorded.(attachment) The Response Action Plan has been approved by the MPCA and no further action is needed. (attachement)

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

All of the construction is complete.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 3

St. Louis County fulfilled their obligation as the fiscal agent for LCCMR funds.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Dissemination

Crane Lake Township is using their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)". Permanent sign has been erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The sign includes the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo. (attachment)

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2025

**Date Submitted:** November 14, 2025

**Date Approved:** November 25, 2025

### Overall Update

Project construction is substantially complete. Contractor is in the process of submitting project closeout paperwork.

### Activity 1

Construction is substantially complete. Completion anticipated in May 2025. Contractor to submit final closeout paperwork upon completion.

### Activity 2

Construction is substantially complete. Completion anticipated in May 2025. Contractor to submit final closeout paperwork upon completion.

### Activity 3

St. Louis County continues hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

### Dissemination

Crane Lake Township is using their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)". At the project site construction signs are in place. Permanent signs/plaques will be erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** September 26, 2024

**Date Approved:** October 14, 2024

### Overall Update

Construction has proceeded over the past summer and fall construction season. The installation of water and sewer is complete. The sewer pump station is complete and operational. The water, sewer, and electrical utilities have been tested and are ready for use. The earthwork and campsite grading are complete. Turf has been established, along with entrance drive paving. The project is considered substantially complete and is currently in the punch list phase.

The contractor is currently working on final pavement installation and sign installation. The town anticipates occupancy of the campground in October once the Department of Health Campground inspection occurs. Once the inspection has passed, the campsites are considered operational. The project is on schedule for completion in October.

### Activity 1

Construction Administration is ongoing for the 2024 construction season. There are monthly construction progress meetings, along with monthly construction payments to the general contractor. The project is substantially complete, and currently in the punch list phase. Construction completion is anticipated in October 2024. Project closeout activities will follow in the coming months.

### Activity 2

Construction has proceeded over the past summer and fall construction season. The installation of water and sewer is complete. The sewer pump station is complete and operational. The water, sewer, and electrical utilities have been tested and are ready for use. The earthwork and campsite grading are complete. Turf has been established, along with entrance drive paving. The project is considered substantially complete and is currently in the punch list phase.

The contractor is currently working on final pavement installation and sign installation. The town anticipates occupancy of the campground in October once the Department of Health Campground inspection occurs. Once the inspection has passed, the campsites are considered operational. The project is on schedule for completion in October.

### Activity 3

The county continues to serve as the fiscal agent and assists with monitoring the project funding and monthly invoicing.

### Dissemination

Project sign is installed, and project website is operational. ENRTF acknowledged in all.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** September 26, 2024

**Date Approved:** October 14, 2024

### **Overall Update**

Construction is ongoing. Site sewer and water utilities are nearly complete. Site electrical is currently under construction. Project is on schedule for completion in the Fall of 2024.

### **Activity 1**

Construction administration is ongoing with completion on schedule for Fall 2024

### **Activity 2**

Construction is ongoing. Site sewer and water utilities are nearly complete. Site electrical is currently under construction. Project is on schedule for completion in the Fall of 2024.

### **Activity 3**

St. Louis County continues to serve as fiscal agent for review and disbursement of funds.

### **Dissemination**

Project sign is installed, and project information is on project website. ENRTF is acknowledged in all.

# Additional Status Update Reporting

## Additional Status Update September 14, 2023

**Date Submitted:** November 2, 2023

**Date Approved:** November 3, 2023

### Overall Update

Overall construction continues to move forward with the originally scoped sites. Recently the DNR, St. Louis County, and the Town of Crane Lake formalized a grant agreement to access funds which were allocated as a direct appropriation by the legislature. This will allow for the project to now include the remainder of the sites which will be finalized in 2024.

Based on the changes in the project, there are adjustments requested. This includes a schedule adjustment, a reinvestment of revenues, and a redistribution of the budget to the activities within the workplan. Further details on these changes are included in the activity updates below.

There is a request to allow for revenues to be reinvested into the park in compliance with the associated rules and regulations. This was a clerical error at the initial time the project was secured, and the Town has always intended to reinvest the revenues.

There is also a request to extend the completion date of the project beyond the allotted timeline, which will require legislative action. This is related to the unforeseen project delays such as the termination of the CIC, delays associated with the environmental process, and securing additional funds to complete the work.

### Activity 1

Milestones 1 through 3 have been completed under prior updates.

During the prior reporting period, the following progress has taken place: Construction observation and administration is ongoing. SEH is completing these services. This includes conducting regular construction meetings, processing of applications for payment, coordination with project stakeholders, and preparing project change orders. This also includes efforts related to environmental compliance with are funded with outside sources. The CIC has formally been terminated and was recorded by the County on August 18, 2023.

There have been changes to the project which require an amendment. In part, these changes include a redistribution of the budgets to individual activities to account for additional engineering fees. This adjustment accounts for the unforeseen elements associated with the CIC, the rebidding of the project, and the added scope of services to the overall project, therefore extending the project schedule. St. Louis County (fiscal agent) has requested that these budgets be adjusted.

### Activity 2

Milestones 1 through 2 have been completed under prior updates.

The bid for the construction has been awarded to Casper Construction for this project, contracts are executed. Construction is underway and ongoing until the project is complete. Underground water main, sewer main, and earthwork are in progress. Regular onsite meetings are occurring and applications for payment are being processed by the Town and the fiscal agent.

There have been changes to the project which require an amendment. With the redistribution described in Activity 1,

the activity budget was reduced in order to balance this budget. Any additional construction costs will be paid through the DNR direct appropriation agreement. The project is fully funded. Additionally, there is a need to extend the project duration. This is due in part to the outside funding for the remainder of the project coming in late in the fall of 2023. With the nature of the work, it is not suitable to be constructed during the winter months and therefore will require a timeline extension to complete the required work.

### **Activity 3**

St. Louis County has been hired as the Fiscal Agent for this project. St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. The County is processing monthly payment applications from Casper construction. SEH and St. Louis County meet on a regular basis to discuss funding and payments. All necessary funds are in place to complete the awarded work. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

St. Louis County has requested that the Activity budget allocations for Activity 1 and Activity 2 be adjusted as described elsewhere to allow for processing of payments.

### **Dissemination**

Crane Lake Township uses their project web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement is located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, project signage has been installed and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. Photo of sign is attached.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** April 10, 2023

**Date Approved:** May 9, 2023

### Overall Update

The successful outcomes this initiative/project will include the following: Increased level of visitation into Crane Lake and at resorts, guest houses, campers, houseboats and VNP. Enhanced day-use access into VNP from Crane Lake. Easy water access for private boaters. New land-accessed camping for VNP and area visitors. Public lakeshore recreation for residents and visitors. Community center with public docking, highly visible from entry to town. Year-round point of contact for VNP visitors in Crane Lake. Capacity to link these functions by trails to other communities. Physical solutions that benefits all parties. Working with LCCMR staff, the CIC / survey items are complete pending final signatures. All environmental issues have also been addressed.

### Activity 1

Design has been finalized and the project was bid. Bid pricing came in higher than planned, and the project was re-bid in early April. The Town plans to award construction contracts at the May 9, 2023 board meeting. The campground site preparation, permitting, engineering design, environmental review and wetlands review have been substantially completed.

Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. LCCMR's research into this situation did delay the overall project. The township legal counsel is now helping the project move forward with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The attorney is in the process of gathering signatures to process the formal abandonment.

Permits have been submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry, MPCA, and Department of Health. Permits have been approved for St. Louis County and Department of Health.

ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

Construction of the project will begin in summer 2023.

### Activity 2

The bids for the construction has not been awarded for this project. There has been no construction activities at this time.

ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

We tried to add a milestone to Activity 2, but it would not let us. We wanted to add "Provide LCCMR documentation of resolution of all environmental issues.

### Activity 3

St. Louis County has been hired as the Fiscal Agent for this project. St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

### Dissemination

Soon to occur - Crane Lake Township shall use their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. Permanent signs/plaques will be will be designed and erected at the campground acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen. We are working to produce a temporary banner to temporarily display until permanent signs erected.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** October 18, 2022

**Date Approved:** December 12, 2022

### Overall Update

The successful outcomes this initiative/project will include the following: Increased level of visitation into Crane Lake and at resorts, guest houses, campers, houseboats and VNP. Enhanced day-use access into VNP from Crane Lake. Easy water access for private boaters. New land-accessed camping for VNP and area visitors. Public lakeshore recreation for residents and visitors. Community center with public docking, highly visible from entry to town. Year-round point of contact for VNP visitors in Crane Lake. Capacity to link these functions by trails to other communities. Physical solutions that benefits all parties. Working with LCCMR staff, the CIC issue that has delayed the project is close to being resolved. The process for formal abandonment is underway, as is the process of environmental remediation.

### Activity 1

Design has substantially been finalized and the project Engineer is now preparing a late October bid advertisement. The campground site preparation, permitting, engineering design, environmental review and wetlands review have been substantially completed.

Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. LCCMR's research into this situation did delay the overall project. The township legal counsel is now helping the project move forward with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The attorney is in the process of gathering signatures to process the formal abandonment.

Permits have been submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry, MPCA, and Department of Health. Permits have been approved for St. Louis County.

ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

Construction of the project will begin sometime after design and bidding is complete.

### Activity 2

The bids for the construction has not been let for this project. There has been no construction activities at this time.

ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

We tried to add a milestone to Activity 2, but it would not let us. We wanted to add "Provide LCCMR documentation of resolution of all environmental issues.

### Activity 3

St. Louis County has been hired as the Fiscal Agent for this project. St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

**Dissemination**

ENRTF/LCCMR are mentioned and recognized at each public meeting where the project is discussed.

Soon to occur - Crane Lake Township shall use their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. Permanent signs/plaques will be will be designed and erected at the campground acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen.

We are working to produce a temporary banner to temporarily display until permanent signs erected.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** October 18, 2022

**Date Approved:** December 12, 2022

### Overall Update

This project consists of the design and construction of a new campground and necessary amenities in Crane Lake.

### Activity 1

We have continued to make progress on preliminary design and permitting. We have completed meetings with the stakeholders. Wetlands delineation report is completed. Prepared Phase II report documentation. We are preparing the draft certificate of survey for attorney review. We have refined the preliminary campground cost estimates. Have completed soil borings, soil vapors and soil probe drilling. We have conducted SHSP and HASP review. We have reviewed the archeology report. We anticipate moving into final design in the upcoming months and hope to bid the project in early fall 2022. The campground project is in final design and it is anticipated that construction bids will be let fall 2022.

Crane Lake is working through a CIC property rights issue with attorneys. CIC issue is ongoing with the Township attorney.

The contamination issues do not pertain to the campground site and are restricted to the Visitors Center site. Please see the Visitors Center update regarding the contamination issue.

### Activity 2

No construction activities have been undertaken.

### Activity 3

St. Louis County has been hired as the Fiscal Agent.

### Dissemination

Crane Lake has not done much formal publication at this point as we are still early in the design process. However, we have been in initial discussion regarding some project signage and we acknowledge that we will include the requirements as it relates to MENRTF. We will also make mention at our next meeting that we should move forward with some of the other dissemination such as press release and acknowledgement on our website. Regular project meetings are held with the Township steering committee. Minutes from these meetings are submitted to the Township for review at their monthly board meetings. There is no additional update on dissemination at this time.