

**Koochiching County
Consolidated Conservation Committee
June 29, 2011
7:00 PM
Birchdale Community Building**

Minutes

Attendance: Ralph Lewis
Linda Lafky
Daniel Zimney
Gary Swenson
Mike Hanson
Soren Oleson

Dennis Monrean
Etta Erickson
Kevin Adee
Denton Hasbargen
Kris Berthiaume

DNR Representative: Joe Brown, Littlefork

Others present: Winnie Hasbargen, Roland Height, Harlan Klien, David Imes, Jan Imes,

Guest: Vicki Sellner and Jim Sneller, MN DNR Division of Lands & Minerals

Administrator: Kallie Briggs

Order: Chairman Ralph Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 in the Birchdale Community Building.

Minutes: Motion/Second/Passed Dennis Monrean/Kris Berthiaume to approve the May 5, 2011 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests: Jim Sneller and Vicki Sellner attended the meeting to inform the Committee about Lands and Minerals. Jim is the Principal Engineer for MN DNR Division of Lands and Minerals and Vicki the Attorney. Their offices are located in Hibbing. Jim spends his time overseeing active properties capable of mining on state lands. He has spent a lot of time in Koochiching County on a geographical area called the Canadian Shield. The Shield extends from Canada into Koochiching County and is known for deposits of gold and sulfide mineralization. The bedrock in Kooch is similar to those areas where gold has been discovered in Canada. A power point presentation was shared with the Committee. A copy is on file. Jim went on to say the Aero Magnetic mapping is very expensive as they fly over and shoot every quarter mile. Birchdale and Baudette both have targeted areas in which companies are looking at. There was a project near International Falls in the mid 80's that attracted an interest for drilling because of the cost of the minerals. There was also an interest at Little American Island after they went down and were able to pinch and hold a sizable amount of gold.

Vicki said there are currently 10 active metallic leases and 3 ways to obtain a lease. Each lease has is for fifty years with the price being per year/per acre. Leasing can be done through Public

Sales which is a bidding process for a qualified bidder; Lease by Application which are lands offered at public sales that did not sell during the bidding process; and negotiation which are leases to companies interested in properties who have partners with land positions.

All core samples are stored in the Core Library in Hibbing and companies can go and look at the cores instead of redrilling. A small core is ¾ to 3” in diameter. They can be drilled out in all directions including vertical and directional. After the core is removed companies are able to look down the shaft three hundred to one thousand feet with a camera. When the drilling is done the holes are filled in and sealed. Permits to begin mining can take a long time; Polymet has been working on their permit for 5 years and has spent over 20 million dollars.

The different types of State Administered mineral Lands are: 1) School Trust Fund, 2) University of Trust Fund, 3) County Tax Forfeit, 4) Consolidated Conservation (ConCon), 5) Acquired and 6) Volstead.

Old Business: Frontier and Clemetson Parks: Carl Bowman has completed the asphalt project without penalties to him or his company.

New Business: The following items were brought up under New Business:

- Next Meeting: During the next meeting we will have the financials for the ConCon budget.
- County Crushing: The County is scheduled to begin rock crushing in the pit on July 7. They will use the rock crushed on the County Road 18 project.
- Financials: **Motion/Second/Passed Dan Zimney/Dennis Monrean to approve the administrative and office expenses as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.
- ConCon Minutes: After each meeting, Kallie emails the approved minutes to the county to be put on the Lands Department website. You can also find the minutes if you Google ConCon Minutes.
- Koochiching County Platt Book: Kooch has a new Platt Book online. This was a project done through the Soil and Water Department. Over the next 5 years it will be continually updated to where the public will be able to focus in on certain areas and print that area. This will enable updates and changes to be made on a regular basis verses having a book printed every 5-10 years.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Birchdale Community Building.

Adjourn: Soren Oleson and Dan Zimney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM