



**ITASCA COUNTY
REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847



Tuesday, January 14, 2025

2:00 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

DRAFT

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Present	2:00 PM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	2:00 PM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:00 PM
	District #4	Vacant	
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:00 PM

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Johnson called for nominations for Chair of the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority for the year 2025.

Commissioners Smith and Snyder nominated Commissioner Casey Venema.

After calling for more nominations, Chair Johnson called for the question.

Motion To: Cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Venema as Chair of the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority for the year 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

The gavel was turned over to the new 2025 Chair, Commissioner Venema.

Chair Venema called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority for the year 2025.

Commissioners Snyder and Johnson nominated Commissioner Cory Smith.

After calling for more nominations, Chair Venema called for the question.

Motion To: Cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Smith as Vice-Chair of the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority for the year 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

III. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the agenda, as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

IV. APPROVE OF MINUTES

Motion To: Approve the minutes, as delineated below.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 12, 2024 Regional Railroad Authority meeting.
2. Approve the minutes of the Thursday, December 12, 2024 Regional Railroad Authority Special Session.

V. DISCUSSION / INFORMATIONAL

1. Private Crossing Agreement – MES Building

Motion To: Authorize the execution by ICRRA Chair of the MES Private Rail Crossing Agreement with Mesabi Metallica Company, LLC,

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

VI. ADJOURN

Chair Venema adjourned the meeting at 2:03 PM.

ATTEST

Amanda Schultz
Deputy Clerk of the County Board

Casey Venema
Chair, Regional Railroad Authority



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Grand Rapids, MN 55744

IV.1.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-257

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Sara Thompson

AGENDA ITEM:

Mesabi Trail - Kelly Lake to Keewatin Reconstruction, Sara Thompson

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Adopt the Resolution Re: Mesabi Trail Reconstruction Project Federal Recreational Trails Program Grant Application and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

The Itasca County Land Department has been working with the St. Louis County Regional Rail Authority on a reconstruction project from Rainy Road by Kelly Lake to 1st Avenue in Keewatin. For this project, a 3.3 mile section of Mesabi Trail will be reconstructed from the community of Kelly Lake toward the City of Keewatin. The project begins with the removal of the existing broken bituminous trail surface. Once removed, the base will be re-graded, filled with additional class 5 materials, and re-compacted. Drainage culverts will be inspected, cleaned, and potentially replaced if necessary. After the base work is complete, the trail will be paved with new bituminous. Itasca County is applying for an FRTP grant to complete the .3 mile section from the County line to 1st Avenue in Keewatin.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. 25 01 08 KLK Proj map

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4



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REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY**

123 NE 4th Street
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Regular Meeting

RESOLUTION 2025-1

**RE: MESABI TRAIL FEDERAL RECREATIONAL
TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of recreational trails to the local economy and supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, the Mesabi Trail corridor between Kelly Lake and Keewatin needs to be reconstructed, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County continues to partner with St. Louis & Lake County Regional Rail Authority to preserve and maintain the 165-mile-long paved bike trail from Grand Rapids to Ely, and

WHEREAS, a Federal Recreational Trail program grant is available to fund seventy-five (75) percent of the cost of projects under this grant, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the twenty-five (25) percent match requirements for the Federal Recreational Trail grant program, and is working to secure or has secured matching funds for the project, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if Itasca County is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural resources, Itasca County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. Itasca County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Itasca County Auditor, located at 123 NE 4th St. Grand Rapids, MN. 55744 be named as the fiscal agent for this project (or grant), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Itasca County hereby assures the Mesabi Trail will continue to be maintained for no less than twenty (20) years as required by the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Casey Venema
VACANT:	District #4

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, Casey Venema, Chair of the Itasca County Regional Railroad Authority, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on February 11, 2025 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.



Chair



KEEWATIN

KEETAC MINE

BNSF RR

HIBBING

KELLY LAKE

Rainey Rd

60

1st Ave N

Begin

End

St Louis County

Itasca County

Hwy 169

169

76

Old Hwy 76

3.0 Miles

0.3 Miles