Taconite Harbor Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting

Stantec

October 29, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome and Orientation to the Advisory Committee Process
- Introductions
- Set expectations for the purpose, objectives and discuss desired outcomes
- Establish roles and responsibilities
    - Relationship with Cook County/Grand Marais EDA and Minnesota Power/Cleveland Cliffs
- Process overview
- History of Taconite Harbor Site
- MN Power

Why an Advisory Committee?

What is it?

A group appointed by the Cook County/Grand Marais Joint EDA who agreed to participate in an educational process and advise Cook County, the EDA, the landowners and other stakeholders about the future reuse of the Taconite Harbor property

Who comprises the group?

The EDA has selected applicants that represent a geographic and organizational cross section of interested citizens

Why form the group?

Any reuse scenario for the reuse of this property is very complicated. By committing the time to become better informed, this committee can provide valuable input to the decision making process.

Make it easy

Provide resources and education in an easy-to-digest format

Make it educational

Invite property owners (MN Power and Cleveland Cliffs), environmental experts, energy experts, market experts, and others to present relevant information to support decision-making

Advisory Committee Introductions

- ❑ **What is your name?**
- ❑ **What is your background and relationship to the area?**
- ❑ **Where do you currently reside?**
- ❑ **What is your connection to Taconite Harbor?**
- ❑ **Why were you interested in serving on the Advisory Committee?**

Stantec Project Team – Main Contacts

John Shardlow

Senior Advisor

Jacob Woelmer

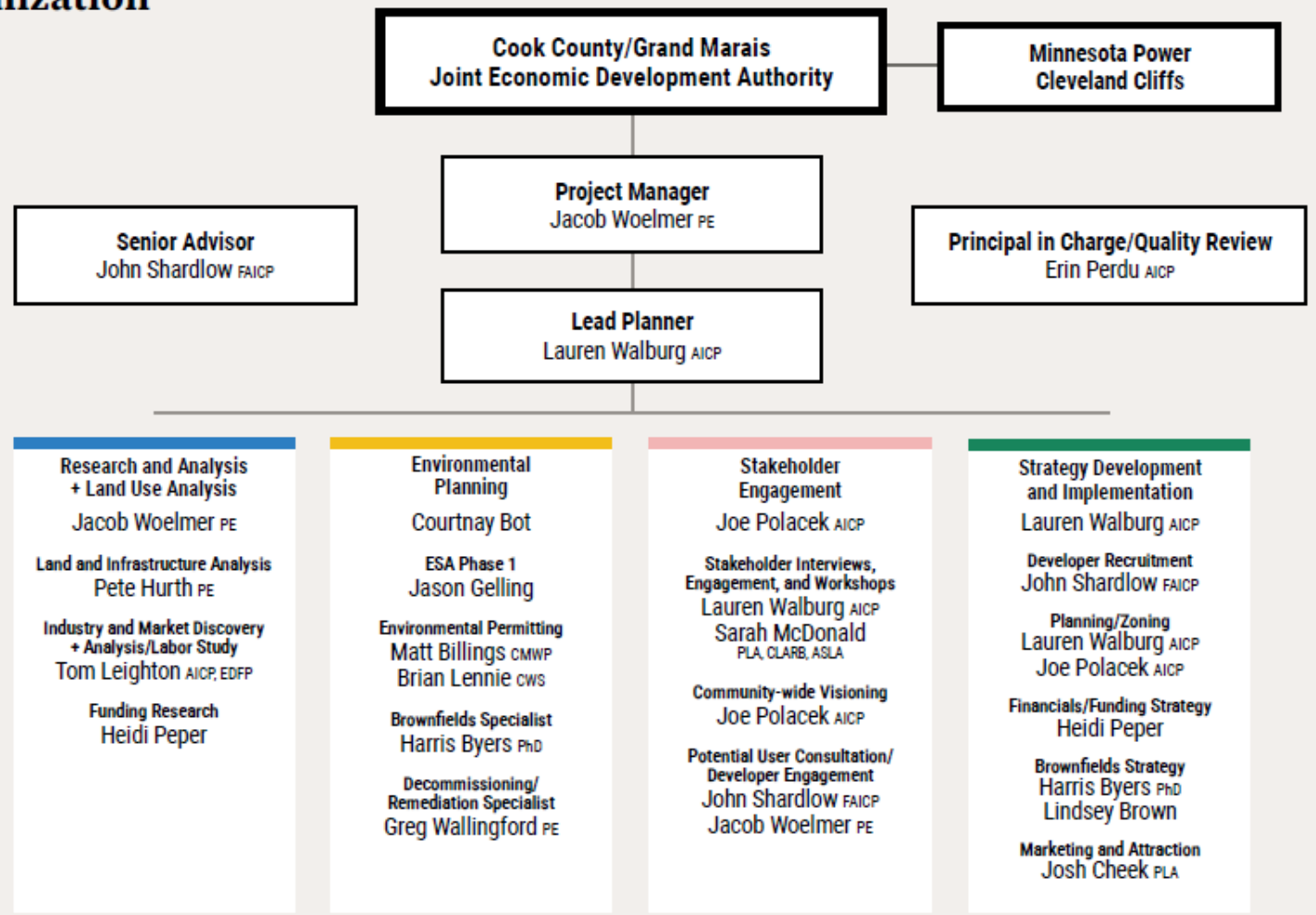
Project Manager

Lauren Walburg

Advisory Committee Lead

Overall Project Team

Team Organization



Setting Expectations

Purpose

The Taconite Harbor Advisory Committee is established to serve as a collaborative, community-based working group that provides informed guidance and feedback throughout the strategic planning process for the remediation and redevelopment of the Taconite Harbor site. The committee will receive and consider an abundance of relevant information, foster respectful dialogue, and help create a shared vision that honors its iconic location, respects its rich history and promotes resilient and economically viable future land uses.

Desired Outcomes

- A transparent, inclusive and well-documented planning process.
- A shared vision for the future of Taconite Harbor that reflects community values and stakeholder input
- Two alternative redevelopment scenarios that represent different opportunities for the property
- A strategic implementation plan with clearly defined roles, responsibilities, funding sources, and regulatory pathways

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Advisory Committee (AC) Role**

The AC will serve in an advisory role to the EDA, ultimately assisting in the development of 2 reuse scenarios for the property, and the paths to their implementation

- **Property Owner Role (MN Power and Cleveland Cliffs)**

As the property owners, MN Power and Cleveland Cliffs have rights, responsibilities and interests that must be understood and respected to realize any viable reuse scenario

- **EDA Role**

The EDA will collect all the information from the Advisory Committee and work collaboratively with the landowners, Cook County, the State of Minnesota and prospective investors to promote the successful reuse of the property

- **Stantec Role**

Stantec will provide information and expertise to inform all of the participants about the opportunities and constraints that will influence the reuse of this process. We will complete due diligence information and document the regulatory, environmental and financial challenges that will need to be managed to accomplish either reuse scenario.

- **General Public Role**

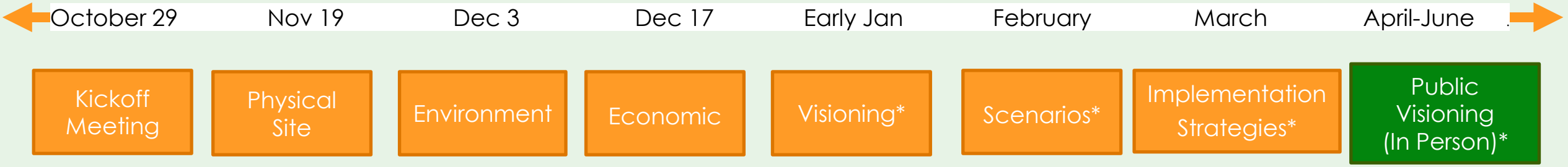
All of the information used in this process will be available to the general public on the Cook County website. Public input will be encouraged at every stage of the process and there will be opportunities for in-person review of all the key recommendations before the final presentation to the EDA committee.

Roles and Responsibilities

AC Responsibilities

- ❑ Attend all meetings
- ❑ Listen to the information and opinions expressed by others respectfully
- ❑ Once all information has been shared, work together to help create a vision for the future of the property
- ❑ Help the Stantec team develop two reuse scenarios for the property
- ❑ Share this vision and reuse scenarios with the EDA
- ❑ Acknowledge that the AC is serving in an advisory capacity and are not the final decision makers

Tentative Schedule – Virtual Meetings



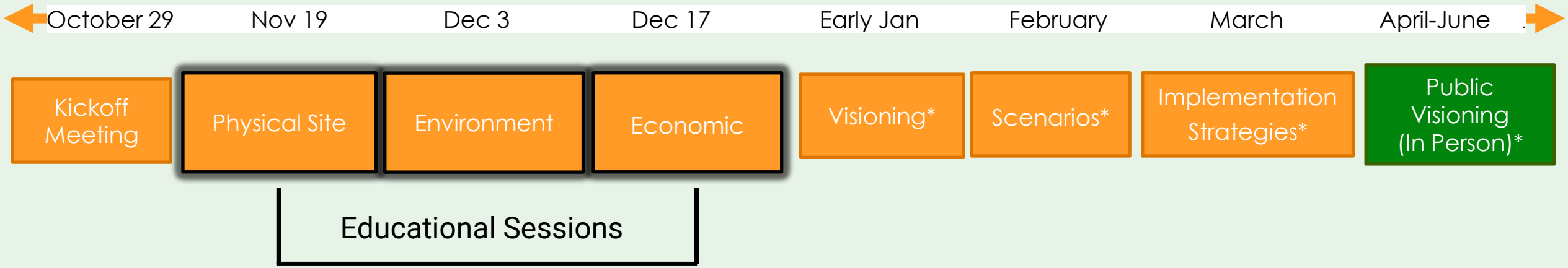
Scheduling Questions:

1. Keep meetings on Wednesday evenings?
2. With virtual meetings, keep timing 6:00-7:30pm?
3. Any concerns with the tentative schedule as shown?

Subsequent meetings will be virtual
After this meeting we will set a schedule and get out calendar invites to hold meeting date/times

***Tentative – Exact order and dates of sessions TBD**

Tentative Schedule – Virtual Meetings



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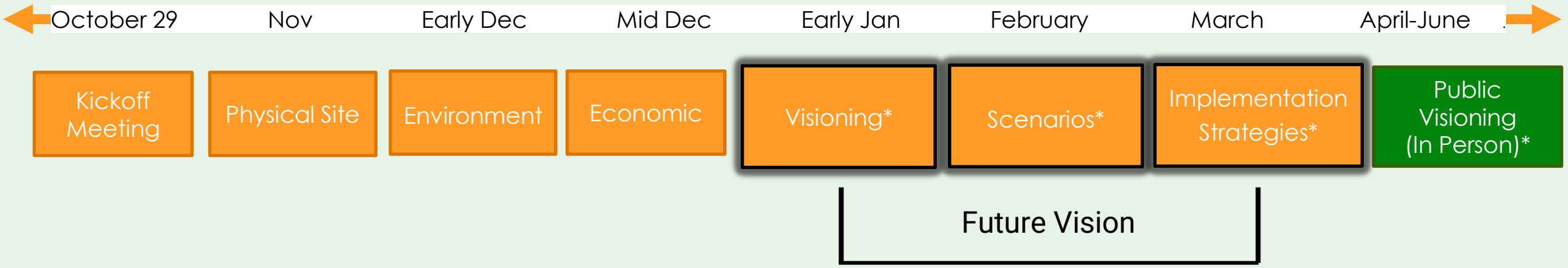
Tentative Schedule – Virtual Meetings

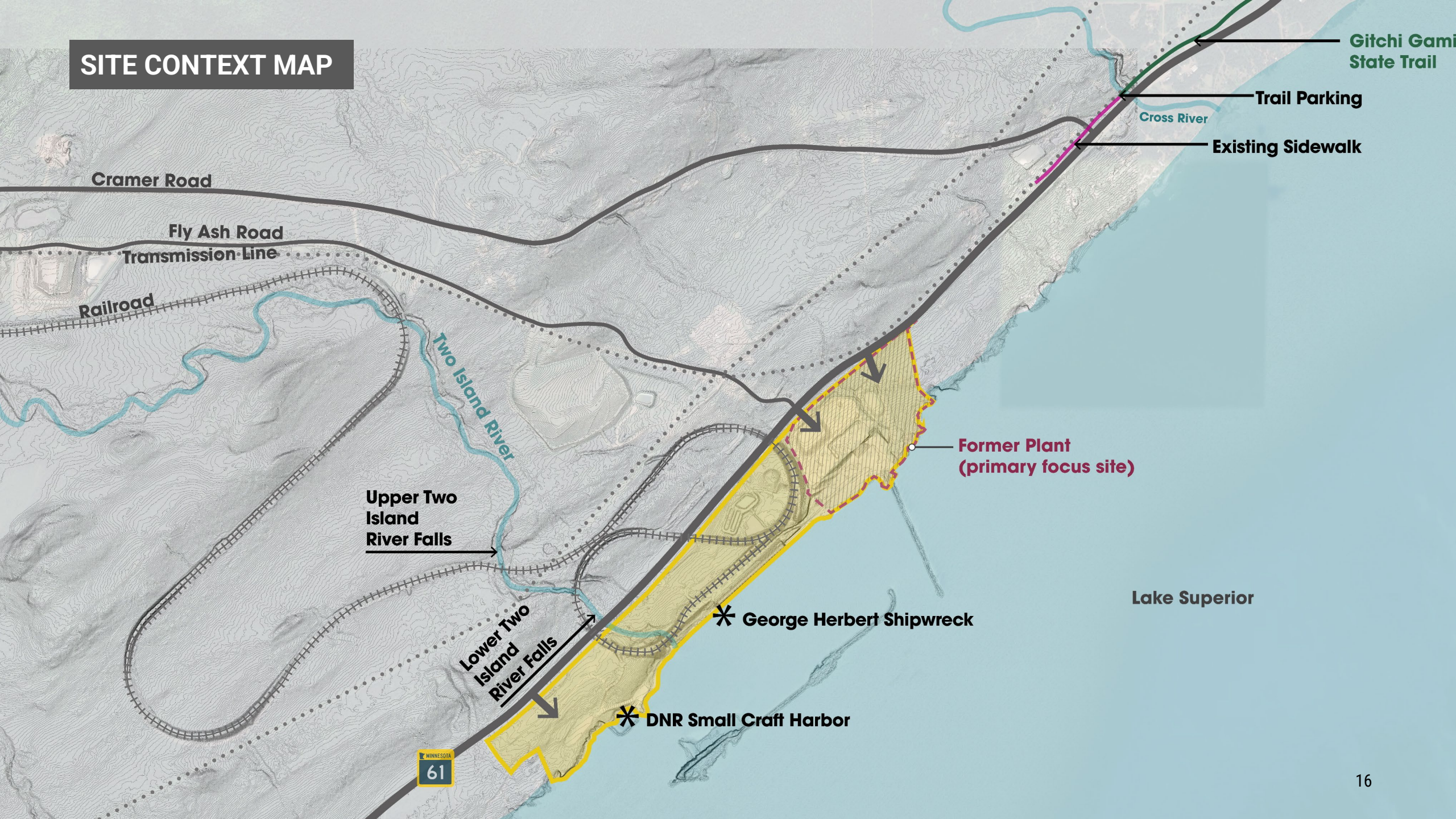


***Tentative – Exact order and dates of sessions TBD**

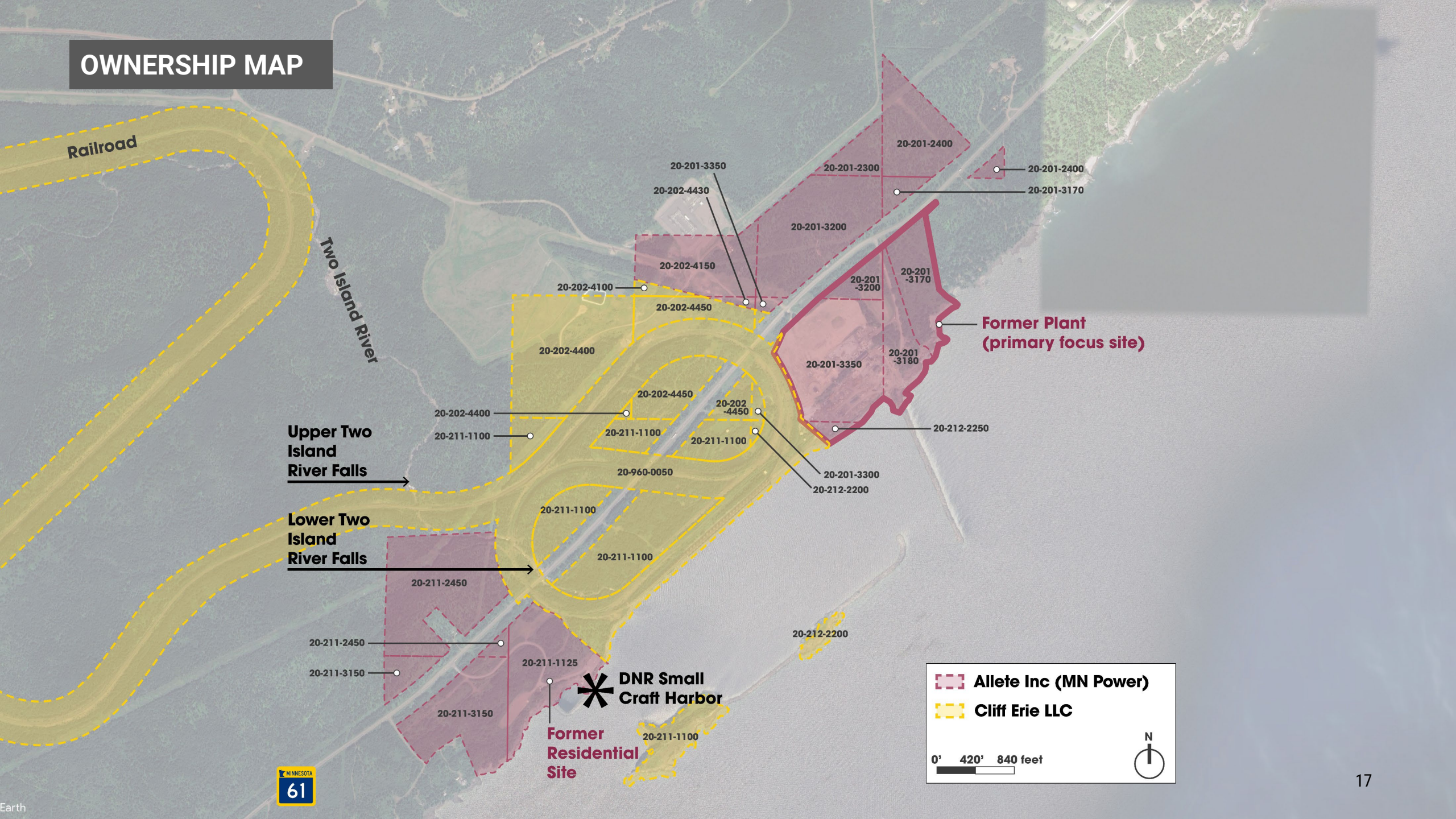

REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP
Canada
United States
GRAND PORTAGE
ELY
St. Louis Cou
Lake Coun
Lake County
Cook County
Voyageur Highway
Superior National Forest
GRAND MARAIS
LUTSEN
AURORA
TOFTE
FINLAND
TACONITE HARBOR
Finland State Forest
MINNESOTA
61
SILVER BAY
Lake Superior
TWO HARBORS
Superior Hiking Trail
DULUTH
PORT WING
BAYFIELD
Superior Hiking Trail
Gitchi Gami State Trail
State Parks
Roads

COMMUNITY CONTEXT MAP

SITE CONTEXT MAP



OWNERSHIP MAP

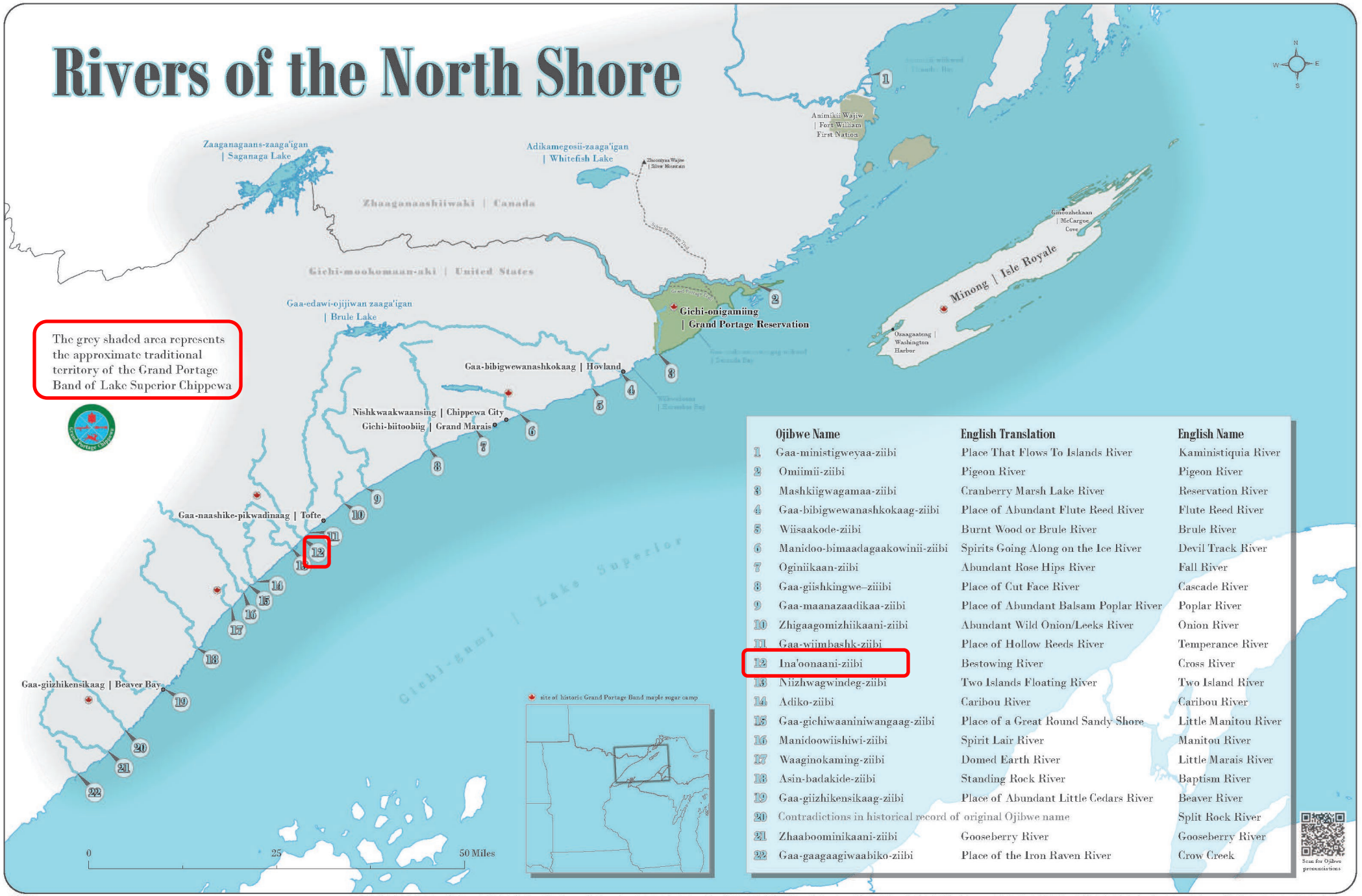


Indigenous History on the North Shore: Chippewa

The Ojibwe (also known as the Chippewa or Anishinaabeg) have ancient origins near the Gulf of St. Lawrence/east coast, eventually migrating to the Great Lakes stopping at 7 locations on the way:

- ❑ The mouth of the St. Francis River (turtle-shaped island);
- ❑ Niagara Falls;
- ❑ Detroit River;
- ❑ Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron;
- ❑ Sault Ste. Marie;
- ❑ Spirit Island in Duluth; and
- ❑ Madeline Island, or Mooningwaanikaaning (another turtle-shaped island)

Rivers of the North Shore



	Ojibwe Name	English Translation	English Name
1	Gaa-ministigweyaa-ziibi	Place That Flows To Islands River	Kaministiquia River
2	Omiimii-ziibi	Pigeon River	Pigeon River
3	Mashkiigwagamaa-ziibi	Cranberry Marsh Lake River	Reservation River
4	Gaa-bibigwewanashkokaag-ziibi	Place of Abundant Flute Reed River	Flute Reed River
5	Wiisaakode-ziibi	Burnt Wood or Brule River	Brule River
6	Manidoo-bimaadagaakowinii-ziibi	Spirits Going Along on the Ice River	Devil Track River
7	Oginiikaan-ziibi	Abundant Rose Hips River	Fall River
8	Gaa-giishkingwe–ziibi	Place of Cut Face River	Cascade River
9	Gaa-maanazaadikaa-ziibi	Place of Abundant Balsam Poplar River	Poplar River
10	Zhigaagomizhiikaani-ziibi	Abundant Wild Onion/Leeks River	Onion River
11	Gaa-wiimbashk-ziibi	Place of Hollow Reeds River	Temperance River
12	Ina'oonaani-ziibi	Bestowing River	Cross River
13	Niizhwagwindeg-ziibi	Two Islands Floating River	Two Island River
14	Adiko-ziibi	Caribou River	Caribou River
15	Gaa-gichiwaaniniwangaag-ziibi	Place of a Great Round Sandy Shore	Little Manitou River
16	Manidoowiishiwi-ziibi	Spirit Lair River	Manitou River
17	Waaginokaming-ziibi	Domed Earth River	Little Marais River
18	Asin-badakide-ziibi	Standing Rock River	Baptism River
19	Gaa-giizhikensikaag-ziibi	Place of Abundant Little Cedars River	Beaver River
20	Contradictions in historical record of original Ojibwe name		Split Rock River
21	Zhaaboominikaani-ziibi	Gooseberry River	Gooseberry River
22	Gaa-gaagaagiwaabiko-ziibi	Place of the Iron Raven River	Crow Creek

Scan for Ojibwe pronunciations

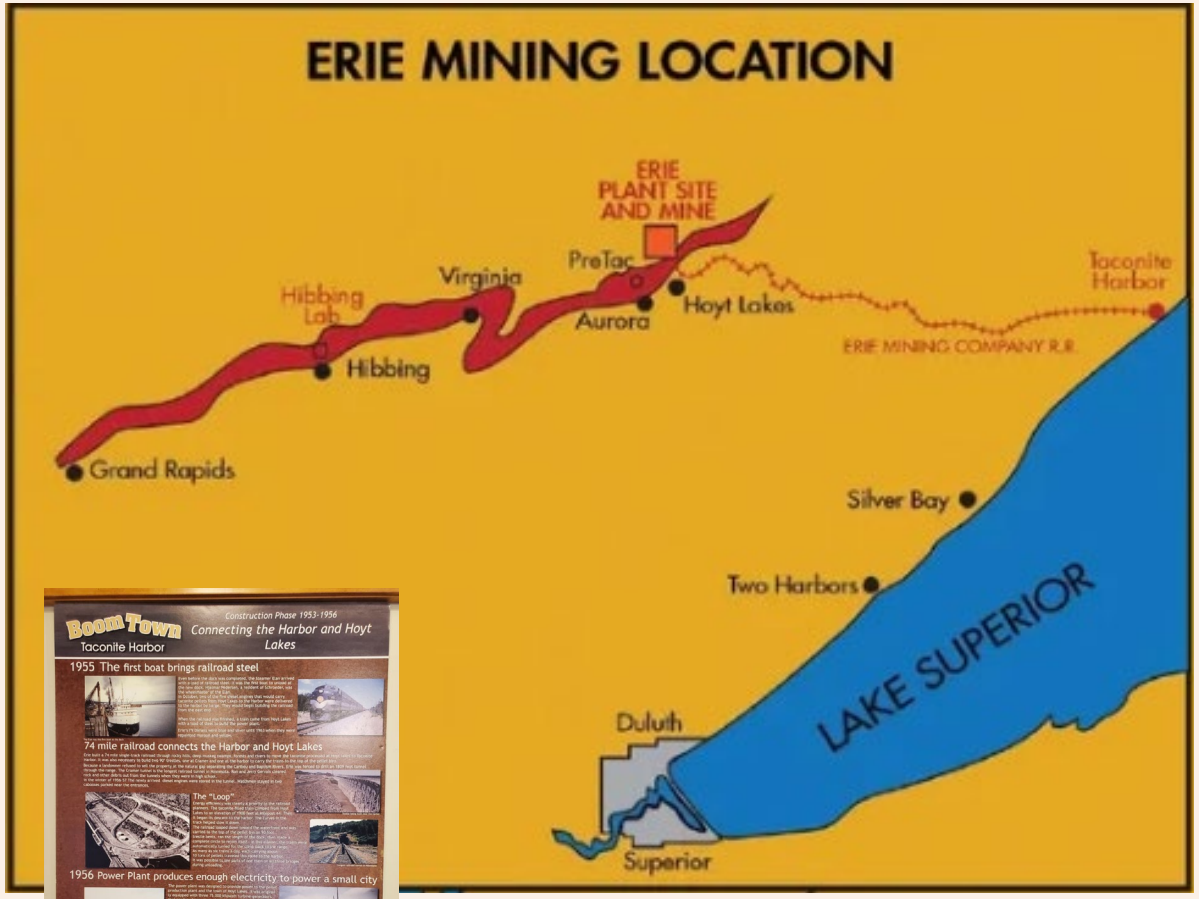
Compiled by Erik Martin Redix, Tim Cochrane, historical consultant, Dr. Gordon Jourdain and Michael Zimmerman Jr., Ojibwemowin consultants. Map designed by Morgan Swingen (1854 Treaty Authority) in 2023. Geographic data used were obtained from MnGeo and Ontario GeoHub. This project was supported by Grant Number 90XM0058 from Administration for Native Americans. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Cross River

"Cross River" was called "Ina'onaani" before Father Baraga landed, which translates roughly to "Bestowing River". People today aren't sure why it was called that, but elders fluent in the language have said that the verb tends to be used in a ceremonial sense, so they like to think there was a spiritual tradition associated with the area - but that's just speculation. There were also sugarbushes inland.

Finding “Taconite Harbor”

- **1949:** Pickands Mather and Company sent C.F. Trowbridge to find a suitable location on Lake Superior for “Taconite Harbor.” Chosen because of the Two Islands – it was thought to be a good harbor location when supplemented with breakwaters.
- **1949:** Erie mining purchased the Proposed Harbor Site including the Fishery of Tom and Mary Johnson, the Two Island Resort owned by Amund and Lava Hovland, and the home of Judge Clarence and Lillian Magney.
- **1953:** Erie Mining “Goes Public” with $300M Project to construct a massive Taconite processing plant in Hoyt Lakes, MN and a dock and power plant located at Taconite Harbor
- **Nov. 1953:** Work began with construction of 1,300 feet of the northeast breakwater and 4 ½ miles of railroad grade
- **Spring 1954:** Hundreds of workers swarm to Schroeder – iron workers, carpenters, big equipment operators, electricians, engineers, surveyors and general laborers



Construction Phase 1953-1957

- Lake Superior made things difficult with rocky shores and severe storms. It was necessary to construct breakwaters and deepen the solid rock bottom of the lake by 30 feet so that ore boats could load there
- First, a coffer dam was constructed to hold back Lake Superior – holding the lake back by about 35 feet for 2,000 feet along the shore.
- Once the coffer dam was in place, about 1 million yards of solid rock was blasted to a depth of 30 feet below lake level
- The blasted stones were used to form the breakwater. Additional armor stones were cut from Carlton Peak in Tofte.
- The tugboats Edna G and Frank Sears pulled the derrick boats around in the harbor to place stones on the breakwater.

Delivering construction materials.

Constructing the dock face within the cofferdam thirty feet below the lake level.

Completed dock face.

SALIENT FEATURES OF TACONITE HARBOR

DOCK

Total dock length	2,434 ft.
Ore dock (and storage bin) length (initial)	1,200 ft.
Ore dock (and storage bin length (ultimate)	1,824 ft.
Coal Dock length	510 ft.
Depth of water at dock	30 ft.
Dock altar and bollards above water	10 ft.
width	6 ft.

Dock face — Concrete with 8 in overhang extending for 6 ft. down from altar.

Fenders — Rubber tubing

Height of control cab above water	72 ft.
Height of RR trestle above water	89 ft.

LOADING EQUIPMENT

Storage capacity of bin	100,000 tons
No. of Loading Belts	25
Reciprocating feeders	2 per belt
Belt spacing along dock	48 ft. centers
Belt width	42 in.
Belt shuttle length	91 ft.
Maximum reach beyond dock face	44 ft.
Height of belts above water	37 ft.
Belt speeds and capacities	
FAST — 500 fpm —	1500 tph
SLOW — 250 fpm —	750 tph
Belt scales	1 per belt
Operating cabs (init)	1 for 13 belts
	1 for 12 belts

(add 13 belts and 1 cab for future dock expansion)

NAVIGATION

Harbor length	About 1 mile
Harbor width	About 1,300 ft.
Depth in harbor	27-75 ft.
Dock heading	046°
NE breakwall length	1,637 ft.
Navigable width NE opening	393 ft.
Minimum depth NE opening	30 ft.
C/L bearing of NE opening	154°
Navigable width SW opening	450 ft.
Minimum depth SW opening	27 ft.
Range bearing SW entrance	026°

COAL DOCK

Location	NE end of main doc
Length	510 ft
Unloader	1 tower typ
Unloader travel	430 ft
Size bucket	12 to
Unloading capacity	1,000 tp

(Bucket discharges into tower hopper and 54 in conveyors carry coal to stockpile)

OIL

Storage tanks	1 — 80,000 bb
	1 — 40,000 bb
Pipeline connections	Middle of coal doc
	1 —10 in. lin
	1 — 8 in. lin

(Continued from page 7)

project includes a new mine on the eastern Mesabi iron range at Hoyt Lakes, near Aurora, Minn., a 7.5 million ton annual capacity taconite concentrating plant at Hoyt Lakes, a 73-mile-long railroad joining plant and harbor, and the harbor and loading dock described and pictured herewith.

When Erie Mining Co.'s plant starts operation this fall it will have the highest capacity of any pelletizing plant in the world. It is not expected that any pellets will be shipped over the new dock at Taconite Harbor until the opening of the 1958 navigation season.

"Before we arrive at the oversimplified conclusion

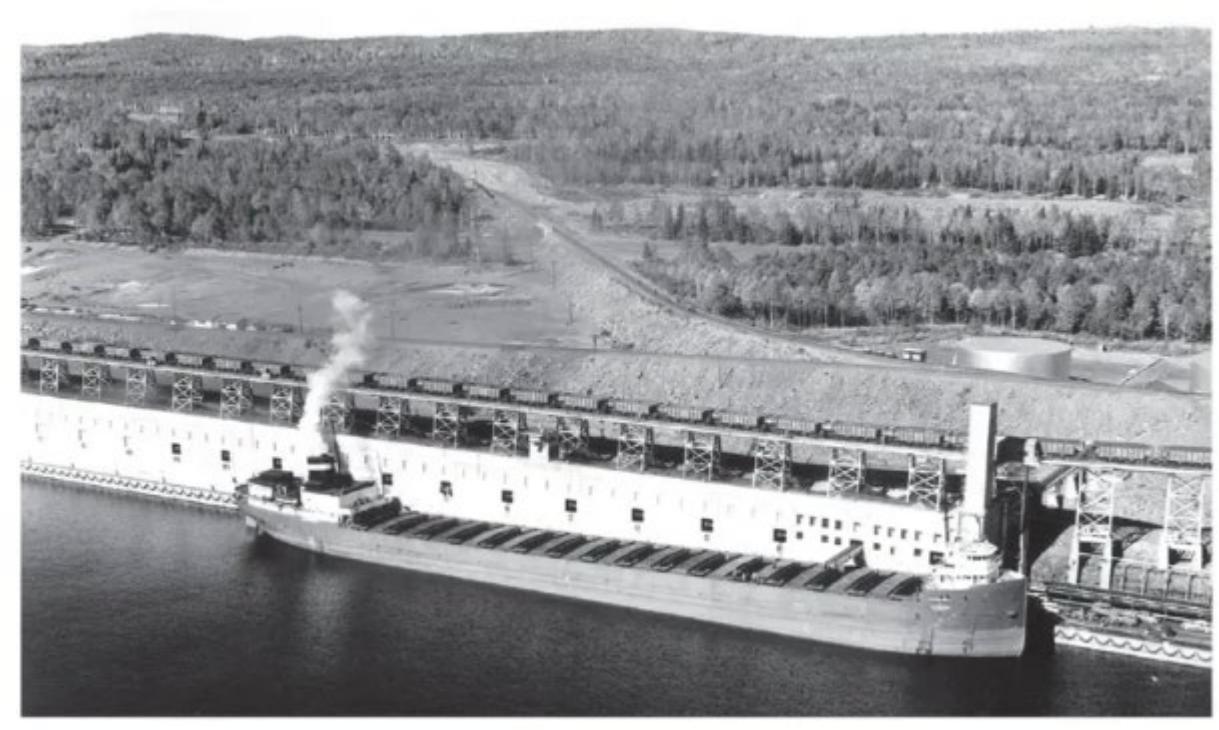
unusual care to provide ease of operation — auto where possible. Each of the two operating cab equipped with a console and two control panels, their instruments arranged in sets and numbered conveyors.

"The small console (practically in the operator's (Ed Note: See picture upper right on page 7) con instruments necessary to control and indicate all tions of the belt conveyors and the movements of shuttles. It also includes lights which signal when hatch has received its predetermined tonnage.

"Above, and in front of the operator, another p contains the conveyor enclosure door switches, a set of bar indicators that show him the position o stream from each belt with respect to the center edges of the hatch. A set of dials indicates the cumulated tonnage of pellets in each hatch with re to the preset tonnage.

Construction Phase 1953-1957

- At the time of its construction, Taconite Harbor was the fastest, most efficient loading dock in Minnesota and northern Wisconsin.
- It could load 2 ships at the same time while a coal boat could unload coal at an adjacent dock
- It was designed to handle 7.5 million tons of taconite pellets annually
- 25 tunnels in the face of the dock housed the conveyor belts that loaded the pellets into the boats. They reached 55 feet over the water, weighed pellets and could be retracted when not in use



Operation 1957-2001

- **1955** – The Steamer Elan brought a load of railroad steel and was the first boat to unload at the new dock.
- A 74-mile railroad was constructed to connect Taconite Harbor with the taconite processing facility in Hoyt Lakes.
- The railroad winds through rocky hills, deep swamps, forests and rivers – and the Cramer Tunnel, the longest railroad tunnel in Minnesota at 1,809 feet.
- **The "Loop"** in the tracks helped the trains slow down in the descent to the harbor. It also provided an easy way for the trains to turn around.
- As many as 6 trains per day, each carrying 10 tons of pellets travelled to the harbor.

Aerial view of construction showing temporary road to Gull Island for breakwater construction.

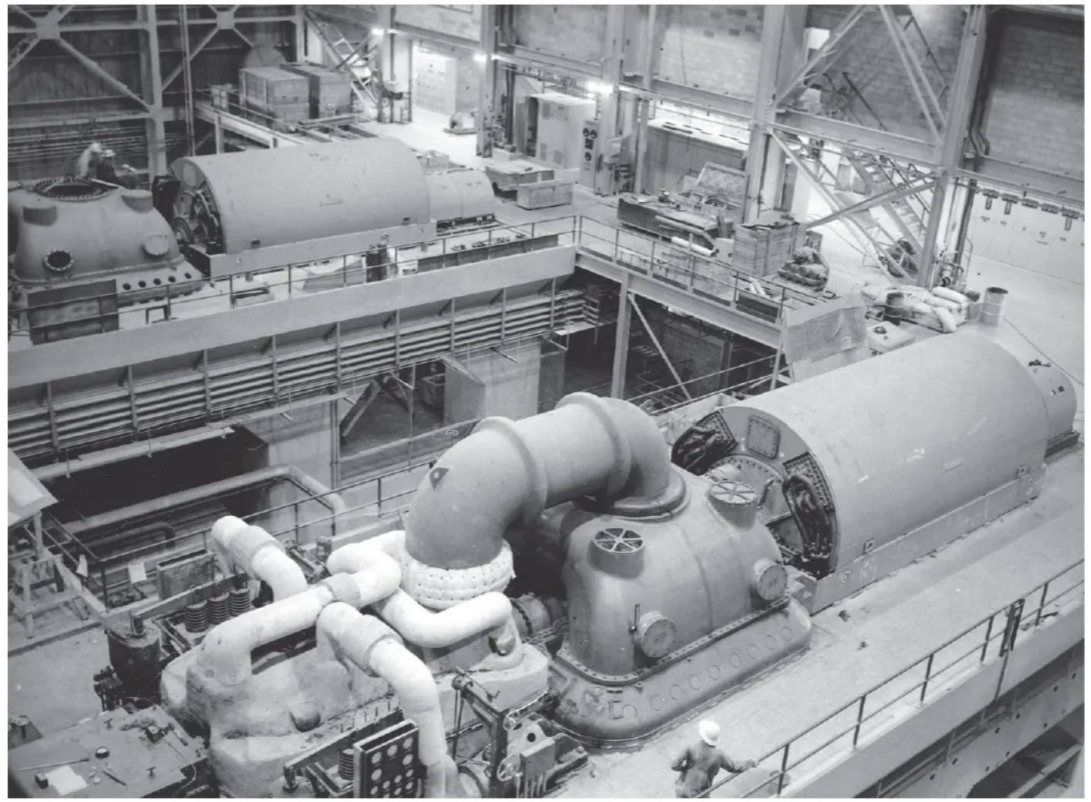
Baldwin locomotives at Taconite Harbor

Power Plant

- The Taconite Harbor site included a power plant designed to provide power to the pellet production plant and the town of Hoyt Lakes
- The plant was originally equipped with three 75,000 kw coal powered boiler turbine generator units with an associated substation and 62-mile transmission line
- The plant was idled several times in its history, for the last time in 2016

Power Plant near end of construction.

High voltage transmission towers during construction.



Power Plant interior looking down on turbine and generator units.

Taconite Harbor townsite

- **1957 –** 24 prefabricated houses lined Brandon Drive in the townsite of Taconite Harbor
- For $400 down and $110 per month, you could buy a 3-4 bedroom bungalow
- A fire hall and a community center were also erected around this time
- A playground, baseball field, and tennis and basketball courts also existed to serve the 74 kids in its heyday
- Residents have fond memories of Taconite Harbor:

"sliding hills, bike trails, and streets where it was safe to play in the day or night, and traffic was never an issue. Hide and seek in the dark where the moon and start were your only light"

First Unit of New Taconite Harbor Shopping Center Nearing Completion at Two Islands

Shown below is the front elevation of Erie Mining Company's Taconite Harbor Shopping Center, which is nearing completion. This is the first commercial building on the new townsite at Taconite Harbor. It is a very substantial building, steel and concrete, entirely fireproof, and constructed in the form of a "T." The center section is two stories high and will contain a dormitory for thirty men, a recreation area, public toilet facilities and administrative offices. The wings

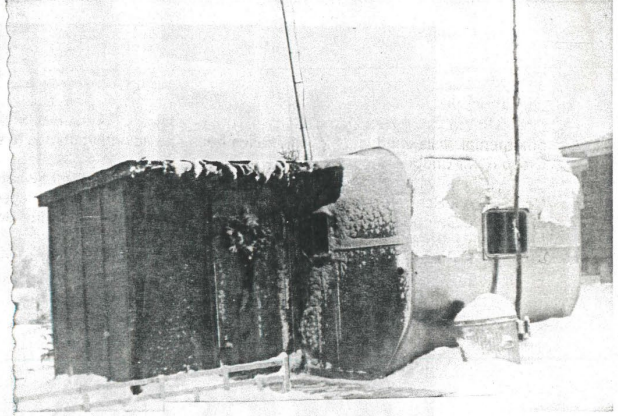
This represents an investment of $150,000.00 more in Cook County. The designer was A. G. Porter, contractors C. O. Backlund & Sons, Barney Johnson and Commercial Electric. The facilities will be under the immediate direction of A. G. Porter, with F. A. Jasmer of Duluth managing the eating facility and Carl Noyes of Grand Marais as manager of the markets. Gordon Wonser will provide the laundry and dry cleaning. About June 15th the restaurant will be available to

Taconite Harbor 6/30/75 - Basgen Photography

KEY TAKEAWAYS | **CONTEXT SETTING**

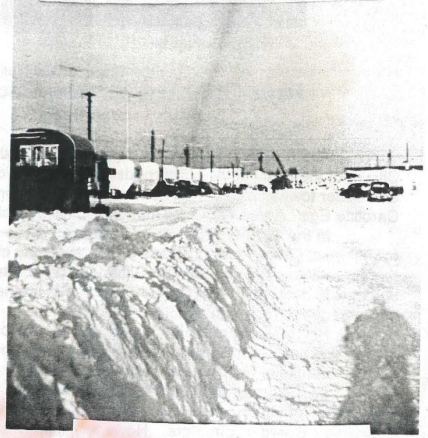
Taconite Harbor townsite

Office "girls" Taconite Harbor
1955 Sylvia Albert, Marsha Anderson,
Gail Skrien, Virginia Tofte

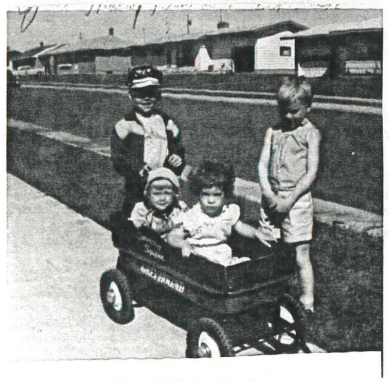


Christmas 1955 Trailer 165 Taconite Harbor

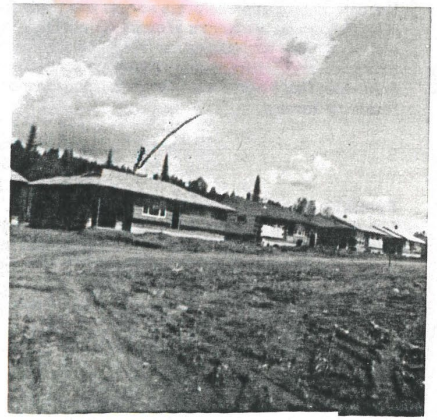
Joe McCauley with Taconite Harbor Fire
Station in background



Trailer village at Taconite Harbor
1955



"Taconite Harbor Kids"
Joe, Rita, and Mary McCauley & Janie Schmidt



New houses at Taconite Harbor

Taconite Harbor becomes a Ghost Town

- By the early **1980's** the neighborhood started to dwindle, with the facility scaling back its workforce down to about 100 people in 1982
- **1986** – The 21 families remaining in Taconite Harbor were told they would need to move
- **1988** – The last family left Taconite Harbor
- Due to the financial decline in the iron ore industry, Erie Mining Company (now LTV Steel Mining Co.) filed for bankruptcy shortly thereafter
- **2001** – The last load of taconite pellets leaves the Taconite Harbor dock
- **2007** – Minnesota Power celebrates 50th anniversary of the Taconite Harbor Energy Center
- **2016** – Coal Fired Plant idled
- **2023** – Plant decommissioning begins

10-29-01

Sale of LTV approved to Cleveland-Cliffs & Mn. Power

After months of negotiations that involved even the highest officials in the state, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. and Minnesota Power, a business of ALLETE, Inc. has finally reached an agreement with LTV Corporation to acquire the assets of LTV Steel Mining Company (LTVSMC) in Northeastern Minnesota for a total of $87.5 million.

The deal was finalized last Wednesday, and the Iron Range Resources Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), who helped put the pieces together, also learned that Cleveland Cliffs would make approximately 3,000 acres available to the agency that could be used for future development of industrial projects.

Minnesota Power granted Hoyt Lakes LTV property on which the city had developed recreational facilities, namely its golf course, ball field and campground. In addition, they have granted a one-dollar option to the IRRRB for approximately 2,000 acres of LTV land on the east side of Wynne and Sabin Lakes; the future development of which could be a joint project of the agency and Minnesota Power. Minnesota Power has also agreed to providing between 20 and 25 megawatts of electricity to a future mining operation on the LTV site at their generation cost for a specified period of time.

That future mining company could be Teck Cominco, a Canadian-based minerals development agency based in Vancouver. According to Senator Doug Johnson, DFL-Tower, Tek Cominco has been "actively meeting with the state for a long time," to work out an agreement that would allow it to develop a non-ferrous mining project on the former LTV property.

Tek Cominco has the technology to mine copper from the region, and is currently working on developing a similar technology to extract nickel, said Johnson. The company has sampled the LTV property for these minerals, and according to IRRRB commissioner John Swift, "They are an unusually financially healthy mining company. They have substantial assets, experience, and knowledge. We're very impressed with them."

Four companies bid on the LTV mining facility and its holdings after LTV Corporation closed its Hoyt Lake's plant doors on January 5, 2001, and initiated Chapter ll bankruptcy proceedings. Cleveland-Cliffs and Minnesota Power submitted a joint bid, and was the only bidder that was willing to assume environmental (and other) liabilities of the mine.

Under terms of the agreement, Cliffs will acquire all of the iron ore mining and processing facilities, including LTV's 74-mile mainline railroad and loading dock operation at Taconite Harbor, in Schroeder. A Minnesota Power subsidiary will acquire the 225 megawatt coal-fired electric generating facility at Taconite Harbor,

Cook County Sheriff Dave Wirt surveys what's left of the Gunflint Lake Fire Hall.

Firefighters from Poplar Lake and Sea Gull Lake watched helplessly as a fire tore through the Gunflint Trail fire hall on Gunflint Lake Monday night. All of the gear that they needed to fight the fire with was stored inside the building. The fire started in or near the ambulance about 6:45 p.m.

Lost in the blaze was a pumper truck, ambulance and all of the other equipment inside the building. The loss was estimated at $250,000 to $300,000.

The fire was believed to have started near a defibrillator and an automatic blood pressure cuff, which was connected to a charger. So far no cause for the fire has been determined.

Dan Baumann, chief of the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department, said he hopes he can get a used fire truck and enough hoses and nozzles and fire fighting protective gear soon to protect the buildings and people near the end of the trail. He would like the equipment stored near Gun-

KEY TAKEAWAYS | **CONTEXT SETTING**

Today

Minnesota Power Contact Team

Todd Simmons
VP of Generation Operations

Kurt Anderson
Director of Environmental and Land Management

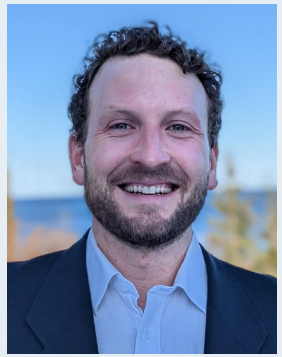
Kate Van Daele
Community and Local Government Affairs Manager

minnesota power

AN ALLETE COMPANY

Stacey Green
Regional Development Lead

Eric Sutherland
Engineer Senior



Michael Scharenbroich
Regional Development Representative

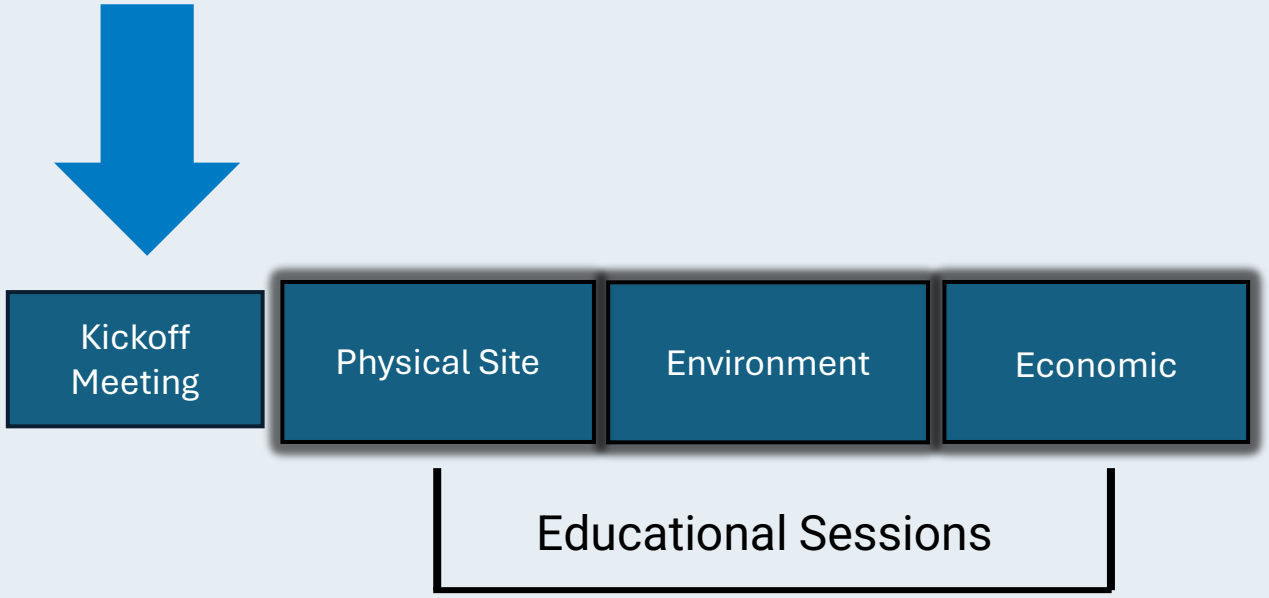
Main Contact
Michael Scharenbroich
mscharenbroich@mnpower.com

Minnesota Power's Partnership

- Welcome to the Advisory Committee
- **Minnesota Power's Role in the Process**
  - MP is the current property owner with a long history as the generation facility operator at Taconite Harbor Energy Center (THEC).
  - MP has been a committed community partner with employees who have lived and worked in the area.
  - For this process, MP will be a non-voting advisory committee stakeholder that can provide subject matter expertise on the site, decommissioning process, and infrastructure knowledge.

Minnesota Power's Partnership

- This kick off meeting is an initial high-level orientation and status update.
- Additional details and information will be provided at the educational sessions for;
  - Physical Site
  - Environment
  - Economic
- As the current property owner and stakeholder, are here to continue our partnership in the region and assist in the process.



Minnesota Power's Partnership

- History of service to the region.
  - Acquired from LTV in 2001
  - 225 MW capacity
  - Long history of community engagement, including Community Advisory Panels
  - Closely worked with MPUC, MPCA, and others during both operational and decommissioning phases
  - Evaluated numerous power generation-based options after cessation of coal operations
- Decision to idle and decommission 2023.
  - Regulatory and Operating permits
    - Co-permittee with Cleveland Cliffs
  - Decommissioning process

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- Purpose of being in involved in this strategic planning process.
    - Listen to the community's experiences, expectations, and interests.
    - Providing non-proprietary, accurate, and timely information to the advisory committee.
    - Contribute to realistic goal setting based on current conditions and business needs for Minnesota Power.

Taconite Harbor in 2008

Minnesota Power's Partnership

- The timing of the strategic planning process with current decommissioning process. Status of the site for the process:
    - Access to site and safety
    - Current environmental remediation in preparation for industrial re-use status.
    - Long-term contractual relationship with Cleveland Cliffs for the shared site.
- Minnesota Power's THEC history at the site and continued partnership in the area.
    - Not in the electric service territory
    - Significant land holdings
    - Alignment of future site with community, customers

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Thank you for your participation and we look forward to working with you.

minnesota power

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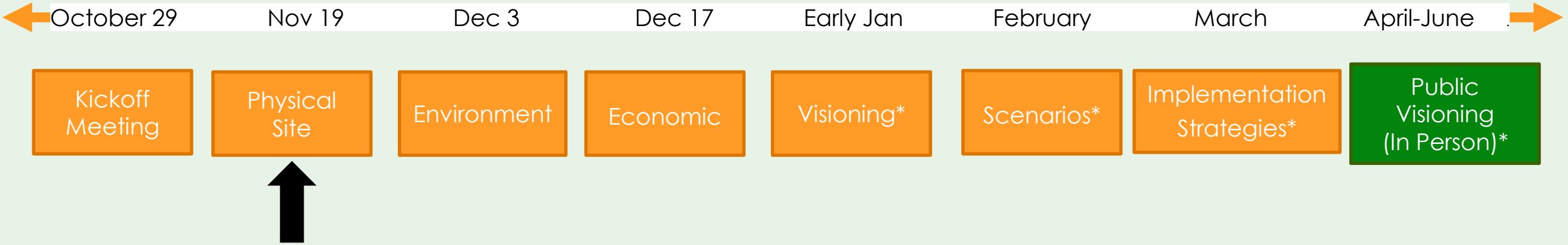
Comments/Questions?



THANK YOU!!!

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