

Affidavit: North Shore Community Radio
90.7 FM WTIP Grand Marais
89.1 FM WGPO Grand Portage
90.1 FM WKEK Gunflint Lake

Issues/Programs List

This is an affidavit of WTIP's broadcast programs that have provided their most significant treatment of community issues for the **first quarter** of **2023**.

Date Filed: 03/30/2023

Filed by: Matthew Brown

Health **Civic Affairs** **Environmental** **Arts/Culture** **Social Services**
Education **Technology** **Public Safety** **Economy** **Energy**

[Link to all News stories](#)

Joe Friedrichs | March 22, 2023

Cook County officials agreed with a collection of local property owners that a stringent environmental review process needs to take place before a gravel pit and asphalt plant can be built near a protected trout stream.

Time 15:04 [Link to story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | March 19, 2023

A federal inspection this year of the Birchwood Apartments in Grand Marais found “substantial water damage to ceilings, walls, flooring, and personal property” in more than one-third of the units at the local housing complex.

In a letter dated Jan. 26 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was sent to Birchwood owner Lilean Sedlacek, officials from the federal agency share both a list of concerns and expectations to address the deficiencies at Birchwood. The inspection report was obtained by WTIP through a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The inspection by USDA staff took place Jan. 24.

[Text only link](#)

[Kalli Hawkins](#) | March 15, 2023

Efforts to reduce wildfire fuel while simultaneously sequestering carbon are underway in the Superior National Forest.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) recently conducted a demonstration project to convert balsam fir into a soil-enhancing, carbon-sequestering material called biochar.

Biochar is produced by heating biomass material in a low or no-oxygen environment. “You’re not combusting material. You’re paralyzing it,” said Brian Barry, the chemist and project lead for the NRRI demonstration project.

Time 15:04 [Link to story](#)

[Joe Friedrichs](#) | March 7, 2023

Cook County officials could spend nearly \$30 million over the next several years updating buildings and other property it owns. Before they decide how much to spend, county officials want to hear from the public on any decisions regarding the proposal.

Over the next five years, the county anticipates spending between \$13.4 million and \$30 million to upgrade building systems that are nearing or have exceeded their expected lifetimes, according to Commissioner Stacey Hawkins. If approved, the county would essentially take out loans, most often referred to as bonds in county documents, to pay for the facility upgrades and changes, she said. These loans, Hawkins said during a recent interview with WTIP, would be paid back using local taxpayer dollars.

Time 15:33 [Link to story](#)

[Joe Friedrichs](#) | February 18, 2023

Changes are coming to the Gunflint Trail.

The extent of those changes will depend heavily on the county receiving a federal grant of \$25 million. Cook County Highway Engineer Robbie Hass is preparing to submit the application for federal funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The grant application is due Feb. 28.

Time 3:54 [Link to story](#)

[Kalli Hawkins](#) | February 14, 2023

The city council meeting on Feb. 8 included a variety of agenda items, including a variance request, the North House Folk School annual update, and a discussion regarding the 5th Avenue project.

During the open forum, Anna Hamilton of Hamilton Habitats, a non-profit organization providing affordable housing, spoke about her frustration with infrastructure costs.

Hamilton said the Pebble Hill project, on the corner of the Gunflint Trail and County Road 7, cost \$53,000 to connect to city sewer and water. She is currently working on developing property west of the Homestead Cooperative, and the estimated cost to access and connect to city sewer and water for the two lots is \$80,000.

Time 9:57 [Link to story](#)

[Joe Friedrichs](#) | February 10, 2023

An event near the shores of Devil Track Lake on Friday, Feb. 10 featured a number of community members discussing the pressing needs of Cook County with state Sen. Grant Hauschild. Linda Jurek from the Cook County Chamber of Commerce and Visit Cook County was among those in attendance. Jurek and Sen. Hauschild spoke on WTIP Friday morning before a series of discussions were scheduled with business owners, county officials, and others from the community later in the day. Topics community members hoped to address with Sen. Hauschild ranged from housing to pieces of legislation being considered in St. Paul during the 2023 legislative session.

Time 17:45 [Link to story](#)

[Kalli Hawkins](#) | February 10, 2023

The Grand Marais Park Board is moving forward with updating the 2009 Grand Marais Recreation Park Master Plan. During the Feb. 7 meeting, park board members approved a bid from HKGi, a Twin Cities-based company. HKGi was the only company to bid on the master plan proposal. Dave Tersteeg, the Grand Marais parks and recreation director, said, "HKGi has a proven track record of creating these master plans and submitting them to the state and getting recreation areas into that regionally significant pool."

Time 11:13 [Link to story](#)

[Joe Friedrichs](#) | January 19, 2023

Though the discussion is in a preliminary phase, it's possible two local agencies with levy authority will merge into a joint entity in the near future. Representatives from both the Cook County/Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the recently formed Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) discussed this week during public meetings the concept of merging the two entities.

Time 17:53 [Link to story](#)

[Joe Friedrichs](#) | January 8, 2023

Mere hours after their victories in the Gunflint Mail Run, two Cook County mushers met with staff from WTIP to discuss the 2023 race. The race took place Saturday, Jan. 7, near and along the Gunflint Trail. Matthew Schmidt won the 12-dog race. Erin Altemus took first place in the shorter distance eight-dog race. In addition to being a mushing team, Altemus and Schmidt are married.

Time 11:45 [Link to story](#)

[Kalli Hawkins](#) | January 5, 2023

After a lengthy process, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has updated and finalized the 2001 wolf management plan.

The plan was released towards the end of December 2022 and will guide wolf management in Minnesota for the next ten years.

The updated wolf management plan provides a historical look at wolves in Minnesota and includes guidance on wolf population monitoring, population management, depredation control, public safety, and more. The plan also sets out a framework for future decisions regarding a wolf hunting or trapping season should the wolf be removed from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Time 18:53 [Link to story](#)

[Kalli Hawkins](#) | January 1, 2023

It has been one week since a severe winter storm wreaked havoc on businesses, residents, and linemen crews along the North Shore.

“It was one of the worst ones, I think,” John Twiest, CEO/General Manager at Arrowhead Cooperative, said. “I don’t ever recall seeing winds like that, for that steady for that long period.”

Sustained 60 mph winds lasted nearly 48 hours in areas of Cook County. During the intense storm, the Grand Marais harbor recorded wind gusts at 74 miles an hour. Twiest said, “Which is, in my mind, just nuts.”

Twiest said Arrowhead Cooperative received the first call of a power outage near Colvill and up to the Canadian border on Friday, Dec. 23, at 8 a.m.

Time 12:24 [Link to story](#)

[Link to all News stories](#)

On-going program schedule

Show Title: Minnesota Native News

Narrative: January 1 to March 31, 2023, Fridays, 9:10 a.m. and Tuesdays, 9:10: A news and public affairs program discussing issues pertinent to Native Americans in Minnesota (Civic Affairs/Culture/Environment).

5 minutes.

Show Title: A Wider Lens News and Views

Narrative: January 1 to March 31, 2023, Thursday, 5:00 pm and Sundays, 12:00 pm: Rotating local and regional Minnesota produced, ½ hour shows including Anishinaabe Bizindamoo Makak; Native Lights Podcast and Bearing Witness, discussing issues pertinent to Native Americans in Minnesota (Civic Affairs/Culture/Environment).

60 minutes

Show Title: National Native News

Narrative: January 1 to March 31, 2023, Monday-Friday, 6 p.m.: A nationally-syndicated news and public affairs program discussing issues pertinent to Native Americans (Civic Affairs/Culture/Environment).

5 minutes.

Show Title: As It Happens

Narrative: January 1 to March 31, 2023, Monday-Thursday, 6:05 p.m.: An international news and public affairs program, discussing a wide range of issues relating to North America government, health, environment, education and more.

54 minutes.

Show Title: Living on Earth

Narrative: January 1 to March 31, 2023, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.: A nationally-syndicated environmental news and information program, featuring news, features, interviews and commentary on a broad range of ecological issues.

55 minutes