

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 **second quarter** of **2023**.

Date Filed: 06/21/2023

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 | June 12, 2023

WTIP heard complaints from multiple listeners and community about swarms of biting insects during recent weeks.

All one needs to do is step outside anywhere from the end of the Gunflint Trail to the edge of Grand Marais to get a picture of how bad the bugs are this year. Indeed, swarms of biting black flies and mosquitoes were abundant across the North Shore and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in late May and the first two weeks of June. In addition to a prolonged spring with steady precipitation, abundant snowfall last winter across the region provides ample breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Time 9:29 [Link to story](#)

Kalli Hawkins | June 8, 2023

The City of Grand Marais is in the beginning stages of developing a long-range master plan for the Grand Marais Recreation Area, which serves Grand Marais residents and visitors as a campground, marina, and public park.

In 2009, the city developed a plan for future improvements. Some of the recommendations from that plan have been implemented, including a community connection pocket park, removal of the municipal swimming pool and public utility garages, and an upgraded public water access.

The city is now interested in learning how residents and visitors use and experience the Grand Marais Recreation Area and what desires they have for future investments in the campground, marina, and park area.

Time: 7:43 [Link to Story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | June 4, 2023

The people behind a proposed mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness continue to navigate changes to state and federal policies that could ultimately prevent the operation from becoming a reality.

As WTIP reported, news from this week adds another piece to the complex puzzle. Twin Metals, a proposed underground mine near Ely, outside the wilderness, was already in trouble. It suffered a major blow last year when President Joe Biden's administration canceled two federal mineral rights leases that were critical to the project, a decision the company is challenging in court. Then the administration moved in January to ban new mining projects upstream from the Boundary Waters in the Ely area for 20 years, according to the Associated Press.

Time: 12:07 [Link to story](#)

Kalli Hawkins | June 2, 2023

Many Grand Marais or Cook County residents have ventured beyond the county lines to influence change or share their knowledge and skill with the larger world.

And one Grand Marais resident is currently in France doing just that.

WTIP had an opportunity to connect with Peter Henrikson, a Grand Marais resident, carpenter, and timber frame teacher at North House Folk School to learn more about the tight-knit community of timber framing carpenters who are using their skillful hands and unwavering passion for restoring an iconic architectural landmark, the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Time: 20:43 [Link to story](#)

Kalli Hawkins | May 31, 2023

The North American Moose Conference is an annual gathering that brings together researchers, conservationists, and aspiring graduate students from across the continent. The annual event serves as a platform for sharing cutting-edge research, discussing conservation strategies, and fostering collaboration among moose ecology and management experts.

The first conference was held in St. Paul in 1963 and has rotated throughout the past 50+ years through various iconic locations across North America, including Maine, Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Minnesota.

In addition to St. Paul hosting the conference, Duluth and Grand Portage have hosted in the past. Grand Portage hosted the 35th conference in 1999. The North American Moose Conference returned yet again to Grand Portage more than twenty years later for the 55th annual conference in 2023.

Time: 25:35 [Link to story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | May 30, 2023

Local government officials in Cook County largely celebrated the 2023 legislative session in terms of more money arriving from the state. However, there are some additional expenses for the county that will result from legislation passed during the session, including in the form of paid family and medical leave for county employees, according to County Administrator James Joerke.

Time: 16:25 [Link to story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | May 24, 2023

The Minnesota Legislature put the final touches on a \$72 billion state budget and adjourned for the year Monday night as Democrats celebrated enacting an ambitious agenda that ranged from protecting abortion rights, to providing more resources for education, to legalizing marijuana.

The big tax bill of the session, which cleared its final test Sunday evening, included \$3 billion in tax cuts, including modest one-time rebates from the state's \$17.5 billion budget surplus. But, the Associated Press reports, lawmakers also approved tax increases to provide ongoing funding for long-term initiatives like transportation improvements and a new paid family and medical leave program.

With the end of the 2023 legislative session, here are some of the funding and programs in Cook County that will see support from the state.

Time: 14:58 [Link to story](#)

Kalli Hawkins | May 22, 2023

A biomonitoring program called Healthy Kids Minnesota is offering a one-of-a-kind opportunity for children ages three to six to participate in a state-wide initiative to identify potential exposure to harmful chemicals.

The Minnesota Department of Health is partnering with numerous counties across the state, including Cook County, to formulate a deeper look into the need to protect preschoolers from chemicals. Although the program will not study the specific health effects of participants, the study findings will help determine whether chemical levels differ between groups over time.

Children between the ages of three and six who have completed the Early Childhood Screening between 2022 and now or are due for one can participate. Besides learning about their exposure to harmful chemicals through a one-time urine sample analysis, participants will benefit by receiving a free well-water test that includes heavy metal analysis and a \$40 Visa gift card.

Time: 13:23 [Link to story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | May 19, 2023

It's the beginning of a new era.

Cook County resident EJ Isaac was hired in late April to be the next fisheries supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural resources at the agency's Grand Marais office.

Isaac is very familiar with the fish and fish habitat of the North Shore and inland lakes and rivers of Cook County. For the past 12 years, Isaac has worked as a fish and wildlife biologist for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Isaac becomes the first permanent fisheries supervisor for the DNR in Grand Marais following the retirement of Steve Persons in May 2022. Assistant Fisheries Supervisor Matt Weberg spent the past year serving in an interim role leading the local office.

Time: 16:47 [Link to story](#)

Joe Friedrichs | May 9, 2023

A Cook County woman died as a result of injuries she sustained when a rock crashed through her windshield on Highway 61 near Two Harbors.

Kay Spielman, 46, died following the May 5 accident, according to officials from the Two Harbors Police Department.

The accident occurred Friday afternoon near the Burlington Bay Campground on the eastern edge of Two Harbors. Law enforcement in Two Harbors confirmed a rock crashed through the windshield of Spielman's vehicle. It is not known what caused the rock to crash through the windshield of a moving vehicle on Highway 61.

[Link to text only](#)

Joe Friedrichs | May 5, 2023

The Cook County Board of Commissioners took action that will ban any deer, elk, or other cervid farms to operate locally.

In doing so, Cook County becomes the first county in Minnesota to have an outright ban on deer and elk farms.

The ban on cervid farms will prohibit deer farms in an effort to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). The unanimous vote by the county board on April 25 updates the county's zoning ordinance to prohibit cervid farms. There are currently no cervid farms in Cook County, so the move does not impact any existing operations locally. The action taken by the board does not impact the recent arrival of a bison herd to the Grand Portage Reservation. Bison are not cervids, so the ranch at Grand Portage will not be impacted by the recent action to ban deer and elk farms in Cook County.

Time: 13:25 [Link to story](#)

Rhonda Silence | May 1, 2023

The two-day Cook County Emergency Conference was held on April 28-29, continuing a long history of training and networking for local and regional responders. After a three-year hiatus, the conference was back with a wide-ranging agenda of presentations and hands-on opportunities.

The event was kicked off with a welcome and "thank you" to emergency responders from Cook County Commissioner Ann Sullivan, Grand Marais Mayor Tracy Benson, and Cook County Emergency Management Director Mike Keyport. They were followed by an update from the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office by Robert Reif. He shared information on what the Fire Marshal's office can do for local emergency services.

There were interesting presentations from local emergency officials, such as North Shore Health with "Stop the Bleed" training. Arrowhead Electric CEO John Twiest gave a recap on the major outage in December 22 and talked about what community members should do in extended outages. There was training on the use of Naloxone (Narcan) and ARMER radio communications updates. Andrea Tofte shared information from Cook County Public Health on lessons learned in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Time 9:17 [Link to story](#)

[Link to all News stories](#)

On-going program schedule

Show Title: Minnesota Native News

Narrative: April 30 to June 30, 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: April 30 to June 30, 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: April 30 to June 30, 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: April 30 to June 30, 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: April 30 to June 30, 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