



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. J. J.', located in the upper right corner of the document.

Here are the latest updates from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Drinking Water Protection program. We have also updated our website at [Lead and Copper Rule Revision](#). The FAQs are based on the rule as published on January 16, 2021. MDH will provide regular updates via email and our website. If you need to reach MDH with questions, start with your District Engineer.

For contact information, visit [Drinking Water Protection Contacts](#).

Please forward this message to other staff at your system. Thank you.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

On March 12, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published two notices that impact the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

It is important to note that the final rule may change in the near future, so we recommend CPWSs delay significant actions to meet the new rule until a final version of the rule and EPA technical guidance is available. If the rule is revised, EPA intends to provide additional time for implementation to compensate for the delay.

The [first notice](#) delays the effective date of the [LCRR](#) from March 16, 2021, **to June 17, 2021**. This notice does not change the rule provisions or the compliance date of January 16, 2024. This delay in the effective date is consistent with [Presidential directives issued on January 20, 2021](#), directing the heads of federal agencies to review certain regulations issued towards the end of the last Administration, including the LCRR. There is no public comment requested, and this delay goes into effect as of March 12th.

The [second notice](#) proposes further delaying the effective date of the LCRR until December 16, 2021, and proposes to delay the compliance date from January 16, 2024, **to September 16, 2024**. EPA is asking for public comments on this proposal, which must be submitted by April 12, 2021. If the effective date is delayed until December, EPA intends to conduct stakeholder outreach throughout the review period to gain additional public input on the LCRR and potential changes to the rule, particularly from communities that are most at risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. If the EPA decides it is appropriate to propose revisions to the rule, it will consider whether to extend compliance dates for those specific obligations further. EPA intends to issue a final decision on this proposal before June 17, 2021, the effective date.

To find more information about these two notices, visit the following webpages of the Federal Register:

- [Federal Register: National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions; Delay of Effective Date](#)
- [Federal Register: National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions; Delay of Effective and Compliance Dates](#)

Thanks to all for your continued cooperation and hard work during these difficult circumstances.

You are subscribed to Community Public Water System Updates for Minnesota Department of Health. This information has recently been updated and is now available.

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You can update or cancel your subscription at any time by [editing your personal profile](#). You will need your email address and your password (if you have selected one).

P.S. If you have any questions or problems please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com for assistance.

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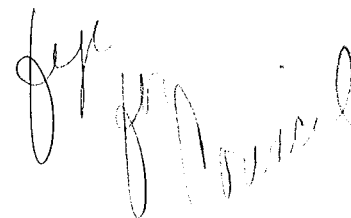
[MDH on Instagram](#)

This email was sent to banderson@cityofcoleraine.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Department of Health · 625 Robert Street North · St. Paul MN 55155 · 651-201-5000

GOVDELIVERY 

Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine

From: Parthun, Chris (MDH) <chris.parthun@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Harry Bertram; Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine
Subject: Wellhead Protection Planning
Attachments: WHP Plan Extension Request Form_Coleraine.docx



Hi Harry and Briana –

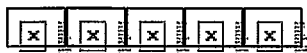
The Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment for Coleraine is due to be completed by 3-30-2021. Due to the pandemic, most of the Drinking Water Protection staff were re-assigned to COVID response duties, and other staff were assigned new duties to help fill those gaps. A number of cities have also been impacted and challenged to maintain basic services to their citizens. For these reasons, St. Paul staff recognize that additional time may be required to complete wellhead protection planning efforts.

The MDH extension request document has been updated to recognize this situation. I spoke with Harry this afternoon and we agreed that requesting an extension is the best solution to getting Coleraine's plan amendment completed. Be advised that the same situation is occurring with the city of Bovey.

Attached is a populated Extension Request form. Please print the document, check the box for "Plan Amendment" at the top of the page, and have Harry sign it. The completed, signed form can be scanned and emailed to Trudi at trudi.witkowski@state.mn.us, who will review the request (please copy me on the email). When approved, I will work with you to submit an amended work plan to implement actions that will continue to protect the city's drinking water supply while the plan amendment is being completed.

Thanks for your attention to this. The extension request is for 18 months, which should provide sufficient time to complete the amendment. Please contact me with any questions.
Chris

Christopher E. Parthun
Principal Planner | Drinking Water Protection Section
Minnesota Department of Health
705 5th Street NW, Suite A
Bemidji, MN 56601-2933
Office: 218-308-2109 | Mobile: 218-213-3171





March 18, 2021

OFFICIAL MEETING NOTICE

The Range Association of Municipalities & Schools has scheduled the following meetings on Thursday, March 25, 2021, via Zoom:

5:30 PM RAMS Finance Committee (separate Zoom link)

6:00 PM RAMS Board of Directors via Zoom

Join the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83982072146>

Meeting ID: 839 8207 2146

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83982072146# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,83982072146# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Check out the website: <http://www.ramsmn.org>

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Northeast Service Cooperative Building

1. **Call to Order – President Charlie Baribeau**
2. **Roll Call of Board – Lois**
3. **Review and Approve Agenda (action)**
4. **Approve Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. Regular Meeting held February 25, 2021.
5. **Appearance:** Brian Silber – Virginia Park & Rec Director – the “MECC” project
6. **Director’s Report:**
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. Update on HF 496 – 9 member property tax committee
 - b. Update on HF 874 – Constitutional Amendment on Education
 - c.
8. **New Business:**
 - a. Letter of Introduction to Congressional Cabinet members
 - b. Intelligent Communities Initiative – Blandin/IRRR – possible grant project
 - c. America Recovery Rescue Plan Act – funding for the region
9. **Board Member Updates:**
 - a. Jennifer Hoffman Saccoman – City of Hibbing
 - b. Orlyn Kringstad – City of Tower
10. **Finance Committee Report:**
 - A. Finance Committee Meeting held March 25, 2021:
 1. Expenditures February 25-March 24, 2021).
 2. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual.
 3. Balance Sheet.
11. **Other:**

Member floor privileges.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Adjournment.

From: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation <IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine
Subject: The Ranger - March 17



The Ranger

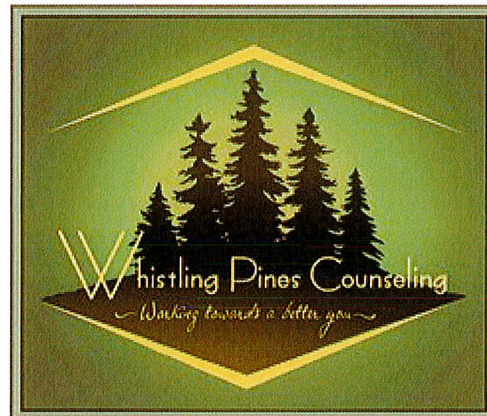
March 17, 2021

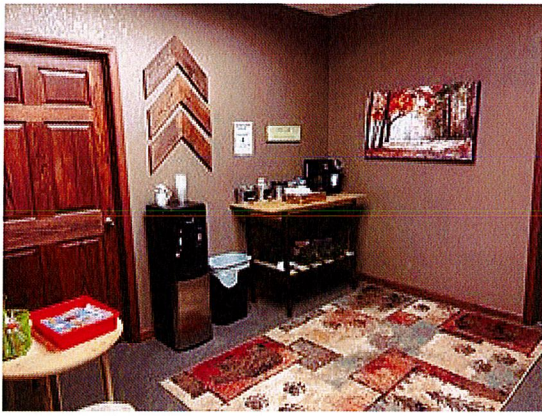
Taconite Area Business Relief loans assist 90 businesses

Whistling Pines Counseling in Hibbing was one of 90 businesses that received a **Taconite Area Business Relief** loan, a COVID-19 economic assistance program funded by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and administered by [The Entrepreneur Fund](#).

Whistling Pines is a private mental health practice offering individual, group, family and couples psycho and trauma therapy services to ages 0 to 100, as well as parenting classes. It was founded in 2019 by Stacy Englund who is a licensed Medical Social Worker (MSW) and a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). Prior to opening Whistling Pines, Englund's therapy background was concentrated in mental health services at area schools.

The **Taconite Relief** loan helped Englund offset lost revenue when she temporarily closed her facility in March 2020 due to statewide pandemic restrictions. It also helped with expenses related to establishing a home office during the initial closure, teletherapy equipment and supplies related to new cleaning and public health procedures.





"I assist over 40 clients each week. When my facility closed, I quickly mobilized to offer teletherapy to my clients so that services were as uninterrupted as possible," said Englund. "As soon as the restrictions allowed, I reopened the office one day per week for clients who did not have equipment or internet connectivity for teletherapy."

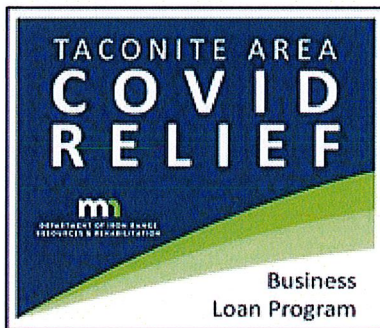
Whistling Pines is now fully reopened and has returned to a client load near what it

was prior to the pandemic's onset. Englund still conducts teletherapy for those clients that prefer it.

"The pandemic revealed that some clients actually prefer teletherapy. It saves them drive time and is more convenient. Some clients prefer in-person, and I am happy to offer both options. My clients choose what works best for them," said Englund. "The pandemic also brought about the positive change in insurance companies accepting teletherapy as a billable service. That was a huge advancement in the mental health field for the providers and the patients."

Teletherapy also expanded Englund's service area because people from further away can connect with her remotely.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented financial and logistic challenges to my business," said Englund. "I am very thankful not only for the financial support from the Taconite Relief loan, but also for the general business advice and assistance offered by The Entrepreneur Fund."



The **Taconite Area Business Relief Loan Program** was established in June 2020 and funded at \$5 million. Local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for 2% interest loans of up to \$40,000 to be used as working capital or any legal purposes. No repayment on the loans is due for the first six months, followed by 60 payments of principal and interest. Applicants must intend to re-open if currently closed due to the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has created extraordinary economic challenges in northeastern Minnesota," said Commissioner Mark Phillips, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. "The Relief Loans have assisted 90 businesses, and loan funding is still available to help move forward through the economic recovery."

Ninety loans totaling \$3,116,972 have been issued to businesses, and the loans have positively impacted 886 jobs. [Learn more about Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation COVID Relief programs.](#)

Local businesses have free technical assistance in marketing, human resources and bookkeeping

[Northland Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#) received federal CARES Act funding to expand their technical assistance services to local businesses as they respond to and operate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Northland SBDC launched its Subject Matter Expert program to provide additional no-cost marketing, human resources and bookkeeping assistance to small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The graphic features a dark blue background with a red banner at the top and bottom. At the top, the logo for "AMERICA'S SBDC MINNESOTA" is displayed. Below the banner, the text "ACCESS TO OUR REGIONAL MARKETING EXPERTS" is centered. To the left, four headshots of experts are arranged in a 2x2 grid, each with their name below: Briana Manning, Monica Hendrickson, Molly Solberg, and Melissa Cox. To the right, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "SIGN UP FOR NO-CHARGE CONSULTING AT NORTHLANDSBDC.ORG". The bottom red banner contains the text "ONE-ON-ONE MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19".

AMERICA'S
SBDC
MINNESOTA

ACCESS TO OUR
REGIONAL MARKETING EXPERTS

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ONE-ON-ONE MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL
BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) was signed into law by the United States Congress in March 2020. It was designed to provide aid through a variety of programs to large and small businesses, industries, individuals, families, gig workers, independent contractors and hospitals.

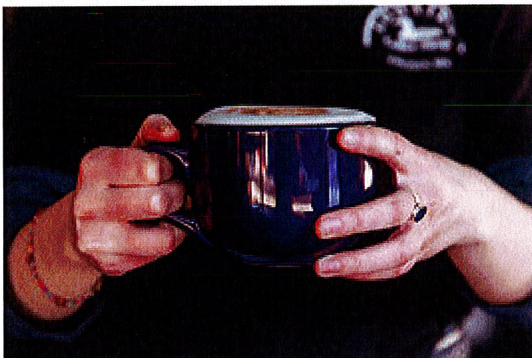
Loonies Coffee Shop on Chestnut Street in downtown Virginia was one of the businesses that utilized the SBDC CARES Act resources.

Loonies opened for business January 2021 amidst the pandemic and offers indoor and takeout service of coffee, wood fire pizza, sandwiches, soup, quiche and pastries. It is owned by Cassandra Hainey, Jeff Zupetz and Allen Lewis who met in the Blandin Leadership



program three years ago. All have full-time jobs in the Virginia area, and they joined together to launch Loonies. Hainey is the executive director for Volunteers in Education. Zupetz is an Emotional Behavior Disorders teacher at Northland Learning Center. Lewis is the fire chief at Virginia Fire Department. *(Pictured left to right: Zupetz, Hainey and Lewis. Photo: Herberg Photography by Justine.)*

“Following the Blandin program, Jeff, Allen and I met to discuss how to implement in our community what we learned,” said Hainey. “We shared a common interest in strengthening mental health resources, and the concept of Loonies was born. We decided to open a downtown coffee shop to bring people together and use some of the profits to fund nonprofits connected to mental health services.”

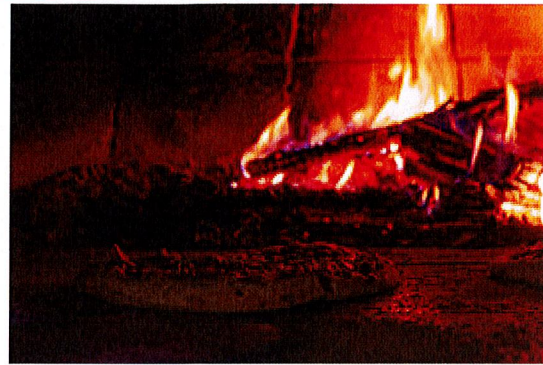


Loonies donates 10% of its profits to local nonprofits that work to reduce the stigma and increase access to mental health services in the Quad Cities. United Way of Northeastern Minnesota’s United for Veterans was chosen as the nonprofit recipient for proceeds during the first quarter of 2021. United for Veterans provides resources, including mental health assistance to local veterans. [Learn more about United](#)

[for Veterans.](#)

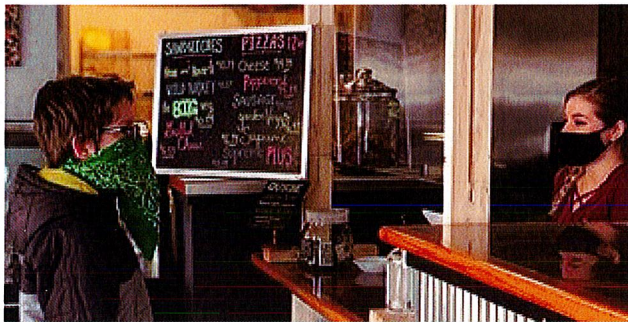
Hainey and her partners met Betsy Olivanti at the Blandin program. Olivanti is the SBDC regional consultant and provides technical support to local businesses (existing and startups) such as business plan development, feasibility and financial analysis, market research, advertising and sales, loan packaging, strategic planning, accounting systems and e-commerce. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provided a Development Partnership grant to Northland Foundation to support an SBDC representative located on the Iron Range.

"We called on Betsy to help us with the start-up and take our idea to reality," said Hainey. "She gave us so much support, technical advice, and connected us to key people, local grant programs and services specifically designated to help small businesses. She had the connections and knowledge we needed to launch Loonies. When starting a small business, there is no official checklist to follow. Betsy made sure we did not miss a step."



Loonies has one full-time and five part-time employees. It is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays beginning March 20. [See Loonies featured menu items and order online.](#)

Pictured below: Corbet Hainey orders from McKenna Lackner at Loonies.



"While the SBDC has maintained a local presence since the early 2000s with expertise to assist small businesses at no charge, we added additional consultants with specific expertise to assist small businesses throughout the pandemic, due to the CARES Act funding" said Olivanti. "We want every Iron Range small

business owner to access this assistance if they need it."

Small business owners who would like no-cost assistance in marketing, human resources and/or bookkeeping can sign up for services at [Northland SBDC's website](#) to connect with a local consultant. [Read the success stories of northeastern Minnesota businesses that have utilized SBDC.](#)

For Development Partnership grant information email [Whitney Ridlon](#) at Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation or call her at 218-735-3004.

Note: Loonies also utilized a Business Energy Retrofit (BER) grant and city of Virginia Downtown Redevelopment grant. Both grant programs are funded by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and administered by AEOA and the city of Virginia respectively.

Pictured at right: Janna Goerd and sons Jasper and Milo visit Loonies.



Coffee mug and pizza oven photos: Herberg Photography by Justine.

Art walk in Quad Cities aims to increase traffic at local businesses



First Thursdays QC (Quad Cities) art walk will begin May 6, 4 p.m. in the downtowns of Eveleth, Gilbert, Mountain Iron and Virginia and continue on the first Thursday of every month. It is a year-round community event designed to increase pedestrian traffic to downtown businesses and showcase local artists. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a Culture & Tourism grant.

Participating businesses, bars and restaurants will host an artist onsite at each location during the event, and the business may create sales, promotions or samplings to enhance the visitors' experience. Artists may include musicians, sculptors, painters, artisans, writers, illustrators and poets. They may sell their works or perform demonstrations of their art medium.



"Our goal is to bring people into local retail or service businesses, sometimes for the first time," said Betsy Olivanti, Revive Virginia chairwoman. "There will be monthly gift card drawings to participating businesses. We hope this will encourage shoppers to visit each participating business and drop their name in the drawing at multiple sites. There will also be live music during the event at the new pocket park on Chestnut Street in Virginia and hopefully in other Quad City

downtown locations."

Art walks take place in many rural and urban communities across the nation. The events are usually pedestrian-friendly in neighborhoods and downtown areas. In northeastern Minnesota art walks have been established in [Ely for three weeks in February](#) and [Grand Rapids on the first Friday of every month](#).

Interested [businesses and artists may register online](#) for First Thursdays QC. The business fee is \$15 per month with an annual commitment, or \$25 per month with an occasional commitment. Participating businesses will be provided a complimentary sandwich board

that may be displayed outside of their location, and the business will also be included in event maps and advertising. There is no fee for artists.

"We plan to kick off the first art walk on May 6 with a block party in Virginia on the 400 block of Chestnut Street," said Beth Pierce, Iron Range Tourism Bureau executive director. "We are working to schedule similar events in Eveleth, Gilbert and Mountain Iron for the following months. The impact could be quite substantial from multiple weeknight events that emphasize our region's retail, small businesses, eateries and artists. I believe art walks can attract both local residents and tourists."

Project partners include Iron Range Tourism Bureau, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, Lyric Center for the Arts and ReVive Virginia which is a nonprofit organization formed to focus on downtown preservation and revitalization. The project also received grants from Virginia Community Foundation and Explore Minnesota.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation's grants are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry. [Email Danae Beaudette](#) for Culture & Tourism grant information or call her at 218-735-3022.

Hibbing uses Residential Redevelopment grant to improve neighborhoods

The city of Hibbing demolished 38 dilapidated structures using Residential Redevelopment grants from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. During the past three fiscal years the city removed:

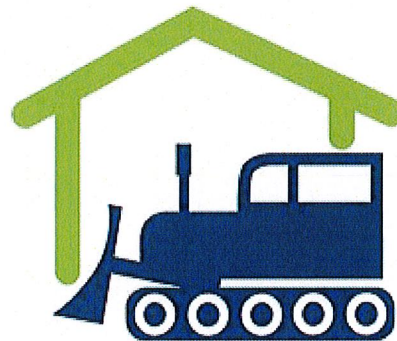
- 16 houses.
- 17 garages.
- 5 accessory structures.

"By using the Residential Redevelopment grant program, the city of Hibbing has been able to demolish vacant structures that are dilapidated, blight, uninhabitable or a safety hazard for the residents," said Hibbing Building & Zoning Permit Technician Tina Glad. "Many of the property owners have redeveloped their property by building new structures after the demolitions are complete."

Since 1982 the Residential Redevelopment grant has provided funding for demolition within the agency's service area to pave the way for a cleaner, healthier environment, more attractive communities and new construction.

Grants may be awarded to cities, townships, counties and tribal units of government to demolish dilapidated single-unit residential homes, residential duplex homes of no more than two units, garages, sheds and barns.

Grant money is still available to communities this fiscal year. [Learn more about the Residential Redevelopment grant guidelines.](#)



[Email Danae Beaudette](#) for information or call her at 218-735-3022. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation funds its grants through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.

The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.



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