

Minutes
COVID-19 Response Team
Video Conferencing
Thursday, June 4, 2020
7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief; Jeff Jacobson, Biwabik City Administrator; Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Becky Burich, Hoyt Lakes City Clerk; Amanda Gross, Mesabi East School Board; Laura Ackman, Essentia Health Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Becky Burich stated that a large street project has begun a few weeks ahead of schedule in Hoyt Lakes. The skate park opened and it is going well. There have been inquiries about shelters in parks, and at this time they remain closed. Hoyt Lakes has taken no action on opening the beach; it is currently swim at your own risk. Regular campground camping opened to Mesabi East District area residents on Monday; they can begin camping on Friday.

Jeff Jacobson said the Biwabik City Council wanted to open the beach as it would be difficult to keep people out of there, especially with the DNR pier. There is also playground equipment at the beach; this will be removed soon. The campground sites have been opened to recreational camping with controlled spacing between sites. Reservations will have to go through the website. Main Street construction will be causing a lot of inconveniences over the summer.

Tim Soular indicated the East Range Police Department received the first social distancing complaint at the Hoyt Lakes Campground. There is some continued work needed regarding golf carts and ATVs regulations, especially at Fisherman's Point. The Team should continue to look at lifeguards ongoing – it is difficult to monitor and maintain beaches without them. Officers and National Guard members deployed to the Twin Cities will receive a rapid test for COVID-19.

Jodi Knaus stated the Town of White has Twin Lakes Beach; it is currently closed. She was reading the DNR's and Governor's orders regarding beaches; lifeguards are not supposed to be patrolling and monitoring for social distancing, etc. There are also concerns regarding the bathrooms at Twin Lakes. Summer Recreation is currently allowed in groups of ten, including the coach. There isn't very clear guidance for kid's recreation at this time. The Township has received calls with opening the Loon Lake Community Center for Church services.

Laura Ackman said it has been quiet at Essentia Health Northern Pines. She believes we are in the calm before the storm; it's hard to tell what will happen going forward. Either there will be a large spike or it will pass over without many problems.

Amanda Gross said the Mesabi East graduation ceremony went really well. School is done at this time; principal interviews will take place next week. The School Board will write a letter of support to the legislature to open schools as normal in the fall.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. This is a closed meeting.