



12/13/23- Jail Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes

Project: Beltrami County Jail
Date: 12/13/23
Meeting Location: County Commission Work Room
Start Time: 10:00 AM

MEETING ATTENDEES: * (Indicates attended remotely via conference call)

<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>
X	Tim Sumner	Beltrami County
X	Richard Anderson	Beltrami County
	Jorge Prince	City of Bemidji
X	Jason Riggs	Beltrami County
X	Calandra Allen	Beltrami County
X	Tom Barry	Beltrami County
X	Jarrett Walton	Beltrami County
X	Trisha Hansen	DOC
	Darrell Seki	Red Lake Nation
	Jerry Loud	Red Lake Nation Liaison
	Faron Jackson	Leech Lake Nation
*	Wendy Spry	DOC Tribal Liaison
X	John Henningsgaard	Citizen
*	Paul Rairamo	Citizen
	Donny Wilcox	Construction Engineers
X	Ben Matson	Construction Engineers
	Bruce Kimmel	Ehlers Public Finance Advisors
*	Scott Fettig	Klein McCarthy Architects
X	Danielle Reid	Klein McCarthy Architects

1. Committee Updates

- A. The Design & Operations Committee met on the afternoon of 11/29. They reviewed the design progress on Schematics to date and will be meeting again this afternoon (12/13) to review more design progress and other items. There have been other separate design meetings taking place with smaller groups to address specific areas and specific design disciplines such as electrical. The kitchen will also be reviewed this afternoon.
- B. The Committee discussed the need to meet with the Programming and Finance committees as we near the completion of Schematic Design. Ben M noted that he will schedule meetings with these two committees once this phase of design is complete, or sometime shortly after the first of the year. Tom B noted that the Finance Committee needs to discuss bonding and other procedural items. Programming will probably be looking to hear details about the tour of the Moose Lake sweat lodge after that takes place on December 8.

2. Site items

- A. Tom B noted that the closing date is scheduled for the afternoon of 12/22/23. Commissioner Anderson will be there to sign documents. The County will pay the closing costs at that time.
- B. Some items related to the Boundary Survey will be discussed at a meeting with Mark Fuller of Freeberg & Grund following this meeting.

3. Sweat Lodge

- A. The tour of the Moose Lake facility took place on 12/8.
- B. At the meeting Danielle R was tasked with taking notes and those are attached to these minutes with a couple of photos. Tom B asked that these notes be incorporated into an updated memo to be presented to the County Commission.
- C. Comments in the meeting regard the tour:
 - i. Jarrett W noted that the process is over 3 hours long and there are no wellness checks in that duration. There is a large, dedicated space just for this as there are spaces for other religions.
 - ii. Tom B noted that this was an inmate led service and that the duration of the stay for people at the prison averages 7 years, so it's very different from County Jail.
 - iii. Tim S stated that he appreciated that the committee did the due diligence to tour the facility. These ceremonies are easier to perform in some settings and some things the County can't do.
 - iv. Wendy S also noted that she appreciated the committee's time and effort to go tour to consider this, but that it probably doesn't work for the County. With the wellness checks that are required there are issues of cultural respect to be considered too. The furlough option that is being considered might be the better option.
- D. Ben M will schedule a meeting with the Programming Committee prior to the Commission meeting on 1/16 to update that group on the tour, including these comments and the notes from Danielle. The Programming Committee will also be given the completed Schematic Design update at this meeting.

4. Design

- A. With time being short the committee was given some broad updates on the status of the design by Danielle R.

5. Construction Management Discussion

- A. RFP Responses are due on 12/11. The committee reviewing these will meet on 12/15 and then schedule interviews.

6. New Business - none

Next Jail Steering Committee Meeting – Next Meeting is scheduled for 1/10/24 @ 10:00 AM (County Work Room)

Attachment(s): Danielle R notes from Sweat Lodge Tour

From: [Danielle Reid](#)
To: [Ben W. Matson](#)
Cc: [Thomas H. Barry \(tom.barry@co.beltrami.mn.us\)](#)
Subject: Beltrami County Jail Tour of MCF Moose Lake Sweat Lodge Notes
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:05:22 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Sketch of Layout.pdf](#)

Ben,

Below are my notes from our tour of MCF Moose Lake Sweat Lodge. Below are two photos and attached is a sketch of the layout if needed. Wendy reviewed the photos and approved sharing with the committee.

1. Attendees:
 - a. Jason Riggs
 - b. Jarrett Walton
 - c. Calandra Allen
 - d. Anthony Derby
 - e. Tom Barry
 - f. Tim Sumner
 - g. John Carlson
 - h. Wendy Spry
 - i. Trish Hansen
 - j. Danielle Reid
 - k. Austin Rudin
2. Sweat Lodge Observations
 - a. Site located in open yard inside secure double fencing.
 - b. Secure fencing was fortified by numerous layers of razor wire.
 - c. Site sized at approximately 90 feet by 100 feet.
 - d. Site consisted of the uncovered lodge, open fire pit, perimeter flag poles, fenced changing area, porta-toilet, covered storage for stones/firewood and locked storage cabinet.
 - e. Storage for canvas is located in an indoor storage room.
 - f. Cameras located overhead.
3. Questions and Answers
 - a. How often is a sweat offered at the facility?
 - i. Every Saturday.
 - b. How long is a typical sweat?
 - i. 3 hours.
 - c. What other religions does the facility support?
 - i. Wicca, Norther European, Hebrew, Islam, Jehovah Witness, Satanic
 - d. What outdoor space accommodate religious ceremonies?
 - i. Three outdoor spaces, one for Wicca, one for smudging and one for sweat lodge.
 - e. Are indoor spaces dedicated to one religion?
 - i. No, multi-purpose spaces (similar to classrooms) are used for religious activities.
 - ii. Spaces are reserved with a minimum of 4 persons.
 - f. Is there a facility call to prayer?
 - i. No, but prayer schedules are published and available for any that request it.
 - g. Is call to prayer space provided?
 - i. Space is provided for night prayer.
 - ii. During the day, prayer must not impede any secure movement or job activity.
 - h. How many can fit inside the sweat lodge?
 - i. Up to 30 offenders can fit inside.
 - i. Can access to sweat be prohibited?
 - i. Yes, if there is a disciplinary action, if they are not paying attention or causing problems.
 - j. What other indoor space is provided for programming?
 - i. 3 meeting rooms.
 - ii. 1 gym with 2 full basketball courts and weight area.
 - iii. 1 Staff office.
 - iv. 2 storage rooms.
 - k. What other prisons have a sweat lodge?
 - i. All of them.
 - ii. Frequency of ceremony offerings differ depending on classification.
 1. Oak Park Heights ceremony is once a month.
3. Security Concerns Observed
 - a. Rocks available to prisoners.
 - i. Volleyball size rocks are selected for this reason.
 - ii. It is more difficult to bring larger rocks inside the prison.
 - b. Tobacco
 - i. Smuggling tobacco occurs but is monitored.

- c. Surveillance
 - i. No cameras located inside the lodge.
- 5. Differences Between Prison and Jail
 - a. There were several differences between a jail and a prison setting observed on the tour. The following outlines a summary of the main differences:
 - i. Classifications
 - 1. MCF Moose Lake houses one classification of male medium security.
 - 2. A jail facility houses multiple classifications as well as females.
 - a. Inmates are not allowed to mix in a jail.
 - ii. Well checks
 - 1. Jails are required to conduct well being checks every 15-30 minutes.
 - 2. Sweat is not disturbed by staff during the ceremony.
 - iii. Length of stay
 - 1. MCF Moose Lake average length of stay is 6-7 years. Some offenders have a life sentence.
 - 2. Beltrami County Jail's average length of stay is 13 days.
 - iv. Size
 - 1. MCF Moose Lake houses 1037 offenders.
 - 2. Beltrami County Jail is planned to house 242 maximum.
 - v. Facilitator
 - 1. MCF Moose Lake offender is the facilitator for smudging and sweats.
 - 2. Beltrami County Jail staff are not qualified to facilitate a ceremony.
- 5. Conclusions
 - a. A sweat lodge in a State prison facility does not easily compare with a County Jail facility.
 - b. Options may be considered to provide access without building a lodge on the County grounds.
 - i. Local sweat is available in the Bemidji area once a month on the last Friday of the month from 2pm to 10pm.





Danielle Reid | KLEIN MCCARTHY ARCHITECTS
6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 410 | St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952.955.9389 direct | 952.908.9990 office | 952.908.9991 fax
www.kleinmccarthy.com