



Saint Louis County

Administration • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:

May 14, 2014

CONTACT: Dana Kazel, Communications Manager
(218) 725-5049 office • (218) 591-2219 cell

St. Louis County hands over raceway keys to City of Hibbing

With the 2014 race season set to begin this weekend at the Hibbing Raceway, St. Louis County leaders will ceremoniously pass the keys – or in this case the victory flag – to the City of Hibbing, which now owns the raceway. Representatives of St. Louis County, Hibbing and the Iron Range Raceway Association will hold a media event this Thursday, May 15, at 11 a.m. in front of the Hibbing Raceway’s Grandstand, located at 1799 23rd Street in Hibbing.

The transfer, which was finalized earlier this year, has been in the works for quite a while. When the Hibbing Technical and Community Colleges merged on to one campus, it necessitated the relocation of the North St Louis County Fairgrounds and made it increasingly apparent that the Iron Range Racing Association’s best chance for success as a contract lessee of the track would be with the City of Hibbing as owner. City ownership would offer both greater latitude to lengthen the lease period with IRRA and afford more opportunity to use the facility as an entertainment venue.

The St. Louis County Board approved in December 2012 the transfer of 19.5 acres of fee-owned land in Hibbing, which includes the Hibbing Race Track, to the City of Hibbing. The County also transferred \$250,000 in economic development funds to Hibbing for use at the site. The 2014 race season will be the first for the track with the City of Hibbing as owner.

“It was the consensus opinion of all parties that the new ownership arrangement affords the best opportunity to sustain the rich history, valued economic impacts and future growth opportunities for the sport of racing,” said Commissioner Steve Raukar of Kelly Lake. “As a County Board, our focus has to be on the delivery of core services to our citizens. Yet we are thrilled to see the racing tradition continue. Lastly I want to give a special thanks to Hibbing Community College for their ongoing cooperation and partnership.”

“The racetrack is an important part of our community,” said Hibbing Mayor Rick Canneta. “We are excited by the opportunities we now have moving forward, and look forward to playing a

more active role in promoting the Hibbing Raceway.”

The Hibbing Raceway is known as one of the finest dirt racetracks in northern Minnesota. For more information on the raceway and this season’s schedule, visit hibbingraceway.com

###