Appendix A. Public Involvement
Public Meeting Record

Meeting Format
Three public meetings were held for the Northern Lights Express Project in May 2017. The purpose of these public meetings was to give attendees an opportunity to provide comments on the recently released Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment (EA) and talk with project staff. Attendees reviewed display boards discussing potential environmental impacts and an overview of the NLX Project status and schedule. Handouts were available and project staff were on hand to provide project updates and answer questions.

Meeting locations were selected to reach three main areas of the corridor on the north end, south end, and middle. Meetings were held in Coon Rapids, Sandstone, and Duluth, Minnesota.

Each meeting was two hours in length and conducted in an open house format with visual display boards, maps, and hard/electronic copies of the Tier 2 EA. Attendees were provided with the opportunity to submit written comments or provide verbal testimony to a court reporter. Staff from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (in Duluth), Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance, cities and project consultants were available to answer questions.

Attendance
There were 85 total attendees at the public meetings. Meeting and attendee information is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Open House Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2017</td>
<td>Sandstone Senior Center</td>
<td>17; 1 media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2017</td>
<td>Sandstone, MN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2017</td>
<td>Duluth Depot</td>
<td>44; 2 media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2017</td>
<td>Duluth, MN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>Coon Rapids Civic Center</td>
<td>24; 1 media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>Coon Rapids, MN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>85 attendees; 4 media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Attendance figures based on participants who signed in and does not include staff.*
Notification
Notification of the public meetings was provided on the NLX website, through the project email list, MnDOT social media – reaching over 34,000 people – and through the NLX Alliance website, email list and social media – reaching over 5,000 people. In addition, a public meeting announcement was sent to individual stakeholders throughout the corridor, which included representatives of cities, counties, chambers of commerce, local organizations and media outlets. All stakeholders were encouraged to forward the public meeting notice and to post it on agency/organization websites and social media sites.

Legal notices regarding the release of the Tier 2 EA and promotion of the public meetings were published in the Duluth News Tribune and Superior Telegram on May 2 and Star Tribune on May 7. Additional display ads were published in the Isanti County News (May 3), Pine City Pioneer (May 4), Hinckley News (May 4), Anoka County Herald (May 5), Duluth News Tribune (May 7), Superior Telegram (May 7), and the Star Tribune (May 7).

Television media outlets that covered the meeting included the WDIO News – Channel 10 – Duluth, MN; KBJR Channel 6 – Duluth, MN; and CTN Studios – Coon Rapids, MN along with the Askov American Newspaper outlet.

Information Presented
At the public meetings, information was provided on display boards regarding the environmental review process, along with potential environmental impacts and findings including socioeconomic and community resources; threatened and endangered species; transportation; noise and vibration; parks and recreation; 4(f) properties; historic properties; wetlands; and water resources. Hard copies of the Tier 2 EA were available which allowed attendees to review maps of the corridor and where potential impacts would be located. In addition, descriptions and maps of the layover facility in Duluth and two potential maintenance facilities in either Sandstone or Duluth were available for viewing. Physical models of a potential station and railroad grade crossing treatments (dual gates, dual gates with median and quad gates) were also on display.

General project information was provided via display boards including an overview of the project, current status and anticipated schedule. Station locations, preliminary design and general amenities were also displayed for all stations throughout the corridor.

Handouts provided at the meeting included a project overview, testimonial brochure, and railroad grade crossing treatment overview. These handouts were available as a take-away to meeting attendees. Comment
sheets were also provided for meeting participants to leave feedback about the project if they preferred to leave hand written comments instead of verbal comments with the court reporter.

All open house boards and handouts are available on the project website: www.mndot.gov/nlx.

Agency and Public Comments
All meeting comments were individually gathered and responses to comments can be found in Appendix B (Agency Comment Letters and Responses to the Tier 2 Project Level EA) and Appendix C (Public Comment Letters and Thematic Responses to the Tier 2 Project Level EA).

Additional Information
Included in the following pages are copies of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor publication that announces the availability of the Tier 2 EA/EAW and provided details of the public meeting/open house. Also included are newspaper legal notices, display ads in local papers, and the MnDOT press release announcing the availability of the Tier 2 EA/EAW and notice of public meetings.
The EQB Monitor is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the EQB website.

You can manage your subscription to the EQB Monitor here. Be sure to add MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list.

Check the EQB Calendar for more details on Monitor deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the EQB Website. You can also find us on Twitter and Facebook.

In this publication:

- EQB Announcements
- Environmental Assessment Worksheets
- Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets
- Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions
- Notices

EQB Announcements

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Meeting

The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection will meet at the Mn/DOT Office of Aeronautics (222 Plato Blvd St. Paul, MN 55107) from 9am-3pm on Thursday, April 27. Please email Claudia.Hochstein@state.mn.us by 12 PM on Wednesday, April 26 if you plan to attend the meeting either in person or via WebEx. Visit https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/april-27-2017-governors-committee-pollinator-protection-meeting for information on the meeting.
Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Riverstone Addition

Comment Deadline: May 24, 2017

Project Description: Riverstone Addition is proposed on 89.44 acres of land in the southwestern part of the City of Ramsey, Anoka County. The project will include up to 246 detached single-family homes and 98 attached townhome units. Site development will include installation of municipal sewer and water, mass grading, and stormwater features.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Ramsey

RGU Contact Person:
Tim Gladhill
Community Development Director
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
763-433-9826
tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us

Project Title: Afton Creek Preserve EAW

Comment Deadline: May 24, 2017

Project Description: The Afton Creek Preserve project is a 20 lot single family clustered development on 218.6 acres with 109.7 acres of conservation easement to protect Trout Brook. The development will have individual wells and septic systems, and special vegetative buffers protecting steep slopes against erosion. Currently no wetland impacts are planned and over 50% of the area will remain in open space.

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): City of Afton

RGU Contact Person:
Ron Moorse
City Administrator
3033 St. Croix Trail S
Afton, MN 55001
651-436-5090
administrator@ci.afton.mn.us

Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Project Title: Northern Lights Express (NLX) Passenger Rail Project from Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment

Project Description: The proposed project includes constructing the necessary infrastructure for, and operation of, an approximately 152-mile long, higher speed intercity passenger rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota, a portion of which will travel through Douglas County in Wisconsin, and that will reach speeds up to 90 miles per hour. Stations are proposed in six communities: Minneapolis, Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Duluth in Minnesota and Superior in Wisconsin. In addition, the proposed NLX Project would include one maintenance facility and one layover facility. These facilities may be on separate sites in Sandstone and Duluth, or co-located on one site in Duluth.
The Tier 2 EA includes documentation on the preliminary Section 106 findings regarding historic properties. The Tier 2 EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary de minimis findings, i.e., that adverse impacts to parks and recreation facilities and recreational trails would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be taken by the Federal Railroad Administration in making its final de minimis determination.

Copies of the Tier 2 EA, which documents the purpose and need of the project, along with the anticipated social, economic, transportation, and environmental impacts, are available for public review beginning April 24, 2017, at the following locations:

- MnDOT Library, MnDOT Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155-1800
- Cambridge Public Library 244 South Birch Street, Cambridge, MN 55008
- Coon Rapids Crooked Lake Branch Library, 11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802
- Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, Environmental Conservation Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992
- Hinckley Public Library, 106 First Street SE, Hinckley, MN 55037
- Sandstone Public Library, 119 N. Fourth Street, Sandstone, MN 55072
- Superior Public Library, 1530 Tower Avenue, Superior, MN 54880

To request a document in an alternative format call 651-366-4718 or email ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us.

To afford an opportunity for all interested person, agencies and groups to comment on the Tier 2 EA, public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Sandstone Senior Center
206 Main Street
Sandstone, MN 55072

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Duluth Depot
506 W. Michigan Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Thursday, May 18, 2017 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Coon Rapids Civic Center
11155 Robinson Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as a public hearing to meet requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter TRANS 400.11, Distribution and Review of Environmental Documents. The format and information provided at the Duluth meeting will be the same as the meetings in Sandstone and Coon Rapids.

To request an ASL interpreter call 651-366-4720. To request other reasonable accommodations, call 651-366-4718; the Minnesota Relay Service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711, or email your request to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us.

Copies of the Tier 2 EA are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on April 24, 2017. Comments will be accepted through May 24, 2017, and may be submitted online at [nlx.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:nlx.dot@state.mn.us) or in writing to the MnDOT Project Manager listed below.

**Project Proposer:** Minnesota Department of Transportation

**Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU):** Minnesota Department of Transportation
Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following project does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the Environmental Assessment Worksheet notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Renville County, Zaske Gravel Mine, 4-11-17 (2-20-17)

Notices

Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Notification of Releases of Genetically Engineered Organisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDA Notification</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>County(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-22</td>
<td>Pioneer Hi-Bred International</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>00 – Transformation Frequency, MG – Selectable Marker</td>
<td>Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-22. Notification is for genetically modified corn, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 17-038-103rm-a1. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDA Notification</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>County(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-23</td>
<td>Dow AgroSciences</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>IR – Insect Resistance, HT – Herbicide Tolerance</td>
<td>Fillmore (2), Nicolsot, Ottertail, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Wilkin – up to 10 acres each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dow AgroSciences, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-23. Notification is for genetically modified corn, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 17-081-102n. For additional
Syngenta LLC. filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-24, and 17-NO-25. Notification is for genetically modified corn, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 17-083-108n and 17-086-105n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Project Category</th>
<th>County(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-24</td>
<td>Syngenta Crop Protection LLC.</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>AP – Agronomic Properties</td>
<td>Dakota, Faribault, Goodhue, Mower (2), Rice, Waseca – Up to 10 acres each site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HT – Herbicide Tolerant IR – Insect Resistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nuseed Americas, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-26. Notification is for genetically modified canola, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic canola, referenced as Application Number 17-096-103n. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDA Notification</th>
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<th>Crop</th>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>County(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-26</td>
<td>Nuseed Americas</td>
<td>Canola</td>
<td>PQ – Processing Quality MG – Selectable Markers</td>
<td>Benton – 10 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, filed a Notification for Release of a Genetically Engineered Organism with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDA notification number 17-NO-27. Notification is for genetically modified corn, pending USDA-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) approval for the environmental release of transgenic corn, referenced as Application Number 17-074-102rn. For additional information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

<table>
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<th>Crop</th>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>County(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-NO-27</td>
<td>Pioneer Hi-Bred International</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>QO – Transformation Frequency HT – Herbicide Tolerance IR – Insect Resistance</td>
<td>Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

.... CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE.....

MINNESOTA PROJECT NO. ____________ STATE PROJECT NO. TCP-NLX-12B

TRUNK HIGHWAY NO. ____________ OR LOCAL AGENCY ROUTE NO. ____________

Being a passenger rail project between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota, in Hennepin, Anoka, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Carlton, and St. Louis in the State of Minnesota and Douglas County in Wisconsin.

In conformance with the requirements of SECTION 128, TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, the undersigned does hereby certify that

_____ the public has been afforded an opportunity for a public hearing,  or

_____ a public hearing was held

and that consideration has been given to the social and economic effects of the project, its impact on the environment, and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such urban planning as has been promulgated by the community.

The public was advised of the

_____ objectives of such a hearing, the procedures for requesting a hearing, the deadline for the submission of such a request,  or

_____ time, place, and objectives of the hearing

by notices published in news media having a general circulation within the area of said project. Affidavit(s) of such publication is (are) enclosed herewith.

_____ The deadline date for the submission of a request for a hearing was ____________20__,  or

_____ The hearing was held on May 16, May 17, May 18, 2017 in Sandstone, Duluth, and Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Signed ______________________ this ______ day of ________ 20__
Mn/DOT District Engineer

OR

Signed ______________________ this 22nd day of August 2017
MnDOT Project Manager
Affidavit of Publication
State of Wisconsin)
County of Douglas)
#20955

Being duly sworn, says that she is the Account Executive of Stephanie Pearson, of the City of Superior, in said County, Wisconsin, that the notice, (of which the hereto annexed is a true and correct printed copy from said paper) was inserted, printed and published in said Superior Telegram for

I. Successive week(s), at least once in each week, and in each and every number thereof: that the first publication of said notice in said newspaper was on the 2nd day of May, 2017, and that the last publication was on the 21st day of May, 2017.

BY

Account Executive

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 2nd day of May, 2017.

Notary Public

Notary Public, Douglas County, WI

My Commission Expires 5-20-17

Filed

Clerk of the County Court

Fee: $179.87
STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

Sean Brennan, being first duly sworn on oath states, or affirms that s/he is the publisher of the newspaper known as the Duluth News Tribune, or the publisher's designated agent, and has full knowledge of the facts stated below:

A. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minn. Stat. 331A.02, and other applicable laws, as amended.

B. The printed public notice that is attached was published on the following dates:

May 2, 2017

Rate Information

Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space: $0.00 per line

Maximum Rate allowed by law: $0.00 per line

Rate actually charged: $0.00 per line
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LOCATION, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A TIER 2 PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT BETWEEN MINNEAPOLIS AND DULUTH, MINNESOTA

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are advised that the Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing as provided by law to consider the location, design and environmental aspects of the proposed Northern Lights Express (NLE) Passenger Rail Project. The project is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Minnesota state law, and Wisconsin state law.

The project is to construct a passenger rail line between Minneapolis, Minnesota and Duluth, Minnesota. This rail project is being proposed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT, MnDOT), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT, WisDOT), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

The preliminary Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared as part of the Minnesota and Wisconsin state environmental review processes as required by the requirements of Minnesota Statutes (Minn. Stat.) 115B and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Trans 400. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), MnDOT and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are responsible agencies for the Tier 2 process. FRA is the federal lead agency. MnDOT is the state lead agency and WisDOT is both a responsible agency and local agency.

The NLE Project is a proposed high-speed passenger rail project that would provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota. The NLE Project would travel through Douglas County and Superior, Wisconsin. It would operate on approximately 150 miles of existing BNSF rail corridor. Stations are proposed at Target Field Station (Minneapolis), May, Coon Rapids, MN, Cambridge, MN, Hinckley, MN, Superior, WI and Duluth, WI. The NLE Project would include grade separations, overpasses, and underpasses. These facilities may be on or adjacent to one mile in Duluth. Approximately 651 acres are from 27 parcels. In the form of temporary and permanent easements would be required, primarily from undeveloped land. One publicly owned maintenance building in Hinckley, Minnesota, would be relocated.

Further information concerning the proposed project is available for inspection at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Office of Land Management, located at 303 North Market Street, Superior, Wisconsin. Information can also be viewed online at www.mndot.gov/enviro.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the Superior Public Library, 526 W. Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802. The public hearing will be conducted from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Interested persons may attend anytime between 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to provide testimony. The public hearing will be an informal open house format.

To view the Notice of Public Hearing (NPH), please call 651-366-4710. To request other reasonable accommodations, call 651-366-4710; TTY in Minnesota (MNDOT) at 651-366-4720; or TTY, Voice in Wisconsin (WisDOT) at 711, or email your request to MnDOT's contact person listed below.

The public hearing is open to the public. MnDOT project staff will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Exhibits of the proposed improvement will be on display and a statement about the proposed improvement will be available for review. All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and to present relevant information and their views, arguments, and views, written or oral, in support of or in opposition to the proposed improvements.

The Districts in Minnesota and Wisconsin have provided comments regarding the proposed improvements, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has also provided comments. The comments are available in the Environmental Assessment document prepared according to the Minnesota and Wisconsin laws. All interested persons may attend the public hearing, provide oral testimony, and submit written statements. Written statements should be made no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the public hearing, and will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements.

Minneapolis Public Library, 303 North Market Street, Superior, Wisconsin 54880-1940

Duluth Public Library, 526 W. Michigan Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1514

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Duluth Development Corporation

FRANCIS L. MAYER, Project Manager

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation System Development

D.N.T. May 2, 2017

249040
**Notice of Tier 2E Document Availability and Public Meetings**

Minnesota Department of Transportation

A higher speed passenger rail project is being considered along the BNSF rail corridor. Written comments on the Tier 2E Analysis (EA) document may be submitted through June 1, 2017 on the MnDOT website at http://www.mndot.gov.

The Tier 2E Analysis (EA) includes document proposals for bids, permitting, environmental effects, project scheduling, and other topics. The EA is available for public review and comment at the following MNDOT projects: (1) Anoka County and (2) Dakota County.

The public meeting in Duluth will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Duluth Depot, 470, St. Paul, MN 55155

For further information, call 1-888-807-TIER (8437) or visit www.mndot.gov/transportation/tier2e.
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA )
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN )

650 3rd Ave. S., Suite 1300 | Minneapolis, MN | 55488

Toni Ferdelman, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. (S)He is and during all times herein stated has been an employee of the Star Tribune Media Company LLC, a Delaware limited liability company with offices at 650 Third Ave. S., Suite 1300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55488, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:
   
   Sunday, May 7, 2017

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: $621.60.

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper’s known office of issue is located in Hennepin County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper’s known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper’s circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 9, 2017

JALENE K. HOWARD

Notary Public

2/2016
Center, Alka EMS and the Cambridge Fire Department. Additional organizations that come into play for Red Cross and the Health Care System "Response Programs" are also provided by local businesses.

"In our city we do not prepare and trained to a priority," said Katie Johnson, Island County Public Health Emergency preparedness coordinator, "and the number of individuals and agencies involved with this workshop is huge.

Topics of the morning sessions included victim mental health, trans- portation, commercialization, safety and management operations. After a brief discussion, all attendees were given a presentation on the different roles of shelter workers. "We look at the Red Cross Red Sky shelter by Red Box workers, followed by Kevin and Keith Ford, all of whom provided aid to victims of Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters. Their presentations show how the Red Cross works in the pre-disaster course down to a single summary session for the prepared public.

Laplakios, Steffor and Ford ran through the multi-step process of man- aging a Red Sky shelter, including planning and preparing planning, setting up the shelter operation, resource allocation and decision-making about sheltering and the closing of the shelter. They also shared stories of what disaster preparedness pro- vides for hotel and shelter workers and people affected by disasters who are sometimes afraid to be at these shelters due to the impact it can have on their lives.

The presentation provided guidance and showed what can be learned when working at a shelter, including record-keeping, providing food, dealing with visitors to the shelter, keeping the shelter operation running smoothly and dealing with stress and safety needs for those tenants and staff. "We got all of the dates wrong," said Moore. "I've been giving compliments since town home."

The presentation was made by Carol Moore, an economic development specialist. She spoke about the number of businesses the Regional Development Office, which works in the region. Moore said of all the vote he is tak- ing the first vote in May 2015 still weighs on him. "It was a very humbling expe- rience," she said. "And it has bothered me ever since..."

Moore's presentation was basic about health, life safety, and I feel real- ly good that we got that wrong.

Moore noted that the council de- cided to change the housing ordinance again. "That vote was the first step to bringing it down the road.

In other action, the board: • Reinstated the position of the economic development director for Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties. • Authorized the implementation of the plan for General Fund revenue and expendi- tures of $1.7 million. • Approved a ban on second-stage companies, which means any business that could bring their businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine and Cook counties.

During the April 18 Braham Area School Board meet- ing, recognition was given to the following individuals as they made contributions to the district:

• Jim Strehbek, Jeff Lillard, Rhonda Raasman, Kathy Kibler, Luke Anderson, Marissa Bulmahn, Chelsie Dalman, Danie and Sarah Gamache for their willingness to provide and move district resources through participa- tion in Kindergarten Readiness 2017.

In areas of staff development and continuing education:

• Jack Lambert for the donation of a new roller for use with the community:
"It is a privilege to help people," he said. "I have been working for the American Red Cross for 37 years and it has been a privilege to help people." • Marion Larson, Josh Sjostrom and Mindy Camp- bell for their support of the Red Cross in the elementary concerts on March 23. • Will Tompkins, Shonte Elder, Stephen and Art Koonsman for their par- ticipation in the Red Cross Blood Drive, which is celebrating the district's new facilities.

In other action:

• Approved the request of the Red Cross Blood Drive to sponsor a blood drive featuring the district's new facilities.

Salem Lutheran Church,

• The next meeting of the board will be held on the 7 p.m. Tuesday, Central East Regional Arts Council.

In the April 25 Braham Area School Board meeting:
 attending the elementary concerts on March 23. • Will Tompkins, Shonte Elder, Stephen and Art Koonsman for their par- ticipation in the Red Cross Blood Drive, which is celebrating the district's new facilities.

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The City of Pine City is currently in the process of conducting an evaluation of its current city hall facilities on the first floor of the Pine Government Center (PGC), located at 315 Main Street South. Based off of comments and concerns from the general public and staff, the City Council is considering options to potentially improve its City Hall facilities to better serve the community.

The City is now seeking more community input to inform its planning process and has issued an internet-based survey to identify community preferences regarding the project. Surveys will also be available in paper form at the City Hall (PGC), the Library, and at the Voyager Bottle Shop.

“The City believes that public participation will be an essential part of the process when considering what will be done for City Hall,” noted City Administrator Ben Cammilleri. “This information will be very important as the City weighs its options to meet our community’s long-term facility needs.”

The City has not ruled out any options to how to proceed. Staff’s analysis has identified three alternatives:

**OPTION I - REMAIN AND REMODEL THE PGC**

The City has determined that it will not sell the PGC building to the City of Pine City, but that it is willing to consider long-term leasing options with the City. Based on this decision, the City may consider staying in its current location and make improvements to its facilities such as improving ADA accessibility, meeting room space, and customer service areas. This option would likely result in the highest overall cost over time due to recurring leasing expenses. Upon termination of a potential lease agreement the city will likely not be able to retain its full financial investment in the building.

**OPTION II - BUILD A NEW SITE IN PINE CITY**

Pine City also has the potential opportunity to build a new city hall in a new location. This option would likely have less significant cost in the long run, as the City would not be subject to paying leasing expenses, and would result in higher upfront costs for construction.

**OPTION III - DO NOTHING**

This option would defer the construction of a new building as well as any substantial remodeling of the existing location. The indicated updates would focus on making only minor cosmetic and minimal safety enhancements. Efforts will be made to seek County fiscal participation in these needed corrections. This option would likely result in moderate long term costs due to recurring leasing expenses, and again, upon termination of a potential lease agreement the city will likely not be able to retain its full financial investment in the building.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The City has determined that it needs a more robust discussion with the community regarding any effort toward involvement in these needed corrections. The City would not be subject to paying leasing expenses, and again, upon termination of a potential lease agreement the city will likely not be able to retain its full financial investment in the building.

For more information on submitting comments:

- To participate in the survey, pick up a copy at Pine City Hall or the Voyager Bottle Shop, or fill one out online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/H5Q3BMQ
- Should city hall remain in Pine Government Centers, or move to a new location? City officials are asking the public to offer their input through a survey.
- Visit www.pinecitygov.com or call 320-629-2575.
- To provide comments on the recently released Tier Project Level Environmental Assessment (E/A) document for the N.L. Project is available. Comments on the document will be accepted until May 24, 2017. To view the document and for more information on submitting comments www.mn.gov/dot

Mike Struss honed for service

Retiring Pine County highway maintenance worker, Mike Struss (left), was recognized for his 20 years of service by County Engineer Mark Leflin (right) on April 16. Leflin presented a check to him noting that Struss had been a bouncer in the Rock Creek area when he was younger, and joked that is was, “Always good to have a bouncer on the staff.”

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PINE COUNTY

March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 2017

FORECLOSURE SALE

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Pine County Sheriff’s Department

By: Nathan P. Fuglestad

Attorneys for Lienor

By: Nathan P. Fuglestad

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THE TIER 2 PROJECT LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the tablet is available at www.mndot.gov/mlx. Comments on the document will be accepted until April 24, 2017, for more information on submitting comments:

www.mndot.gov/mlx

At the public hearing, the 1st Project Level EA was released for public comment. There will be an opportunity to provide comments on the potential impact to properties, public parks and recreation areas and recreational trails.

The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as a public hearing for Minnesota Administrative Code Chapter 7400 requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter TANS 403.
Solar garden plants draw bees, produce honey

By Erik Regen Staff Writer

As far as it knows, Connexus Energy’s solar garden is the first in the state to have an apiary for honey production.

The honey produced by the bees in its 10 hives will not be commercially sold, but given to Connexus customers who have subscribed to receive a portion of their household energy from the solar garden on the Ramsey campus.

“Basically, all of the honey produced will be given to our customers,” said Rob Davis, a spokesperson for Fresh Energy and the person who first connected Connexus Energy and Bolton Bees.

This is because Connexus planted flowers that attract pollinators.

Natalia said just prior to Connexus installing its 702 solar panels in the summer of 2016, its engineers suggested gravel beneath its solar array that includes 10 species of native grasses and 36 species of flowers, according to Colleen Hollinger, spokesperson for Prairie Restorations.

“The benefit is giving habitat for bees and Monarch butterflies, which have been on the decline,” Davis said. More birds will also be attracted to the site, to feed on the caterpillars, Hollinger said.

Additionally, Davis said pollinator-friendly gardens put more organisms into a system. He pitched farmers to install pollinator-friendly gardens since it could improve crop yields for soy beans and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

“We had planned to bring a couple of hives to Connexus this spring, but all the bees died this past winter,” Bolton said.

“With its abundance of pollinator-friendly flower beds, the Connexus solar garden is the perfect environment for a healthy bee population,” Travis and Chiara Bolton (pictured) and Bolton Bees. They partnered with Connexus Energy to install 15 beehives by the solar garden on the Ramsey campus.

Bolton Bees sells short- and colonies that are bred by beekeepers to be adapted to the colder northern climate. The company also produces a line of different honey products and intends to register Solar Honey for a federal trademark. This would not give Bolton exclusive rights, but it creates industry standards for honey produced on or adjacent to solar arrays.

Connexus Energy will give this “solar honey” to its fundraisers who subscribe to get some of their energy from the Solarwise garden and to groups it assists for fundraisers.

Bolton Bees will provide pollinator-friendly habitat equivalent to 775 square feet (by 12-foot pollinator garden),” Davis said.

Honey production

Greg Groenje first presented the idea of having hives near the solar garden. Groenje is manager of construction, maintenance, and systems operations for Connexus, but he said the idea was hatched by beekeeper Travis Bolton.

He had planned to bring a couple of hives to Connexus this spring, but all the bees died this past winter.

This is possible because Connexus planted flowers that attract pollinators.

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unrealistic.

PolyMet also questions Prokop's project financial assurances. "The state consultants, like Kuipers, said the acceleration of the permitting process by the federal Environmental Protection Agency was required to front $934 million to clean up, with a 30 percent contingency reserve to cover cost overruns ranging from 30 to 80 percent." The state estimates "compromising" the permit application process, said Kuipers.

Draft permits by PolyMet

Most of the money required for the PolyMet project is needed when it leaves the permitting stage, Kuipers said. Based on a reanalysis of all the presumptive costs, he said they would have walked away from the reclamation and closure system.

"There is a higher risk that permits could go away," Kuipers said.

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JOB ON CALL

Corrections

In a Tuesday story on the Superior High School annual musical "Grease," the headline should be "Grease," the headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." The headline should read "Grease," the headline should read "Grease." 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France prepares to step into political unknown

France prepares to step into political unknown.

BY ALISIJA SCUIN
New York Times

PARIS—France’s presidential election on Sunday has already broken all kinds of barriers in what countries of the world seemed frozen for decades. The two candidates are outsiders. The political establishment has been elbowed aside. The tone of the candidates is that of an outsider. The candidates are outsiders. The tone candidates are outsiders. The French media largely observed in the last week a dramatic shift invol...
MnDOT releases Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment document for Northern Lights Express passenger rail project

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, have released the Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment document on the Northern Lights Express Project, a proposed higher speed intercity passenger rail project to provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth. The NLX Project would operate on approximately 152 miles of existing BNSF railway track.

The agencies prepared the Tier 2 Project Level EA document to meet federal and state environmental requirements to advance the NLX Project into further design and project development. The Tier 2 Project Level EA builds on the NLX Tier 1 Service Level EA prepared in 2013, and addresses specific project-related issues and likely environmental effects associated with proposed track infrastructure, stations, and layover and maintenance facilities.

The Tier 2 Project Level EA document will be available on the project website, www.mndot.gov/nlx, and at local government offices and libraries throughout the corridor on or after April 24. A list of locations to view the document is available below. To request a document in an alternative format call 651-366-4718 or email ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us. Written comments on the Tier 2 Project Level EA are due by May 24, 2017. Send comments to Francis Loetterle, MnDOT, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 470, St. Paul, MN 55155 or email to nlx.dot@state.mn.us.

MnDOT is also hosting public meetings to provide information on the Tier 2 Project Level EA, answer questions and offer an opportunity for public comment. There will be no formal presentation. Public meetings will be held at the following times and locations:
Sandstone  
Tuesday, May 16  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Sandstone Senior Center  
206 Main St.  
Sandstone, Minn.

Duluth*  
Wednesday, May 17  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Duluth Depot  
506 West Michigan St.  
Duluth, Minn

Coon Rapids  
Thursday, May 18  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Coon Rapids Civic Center  
11155 Robinson Dr. Northwest  
Coon Rapids, Minn

* The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as a public hearing to meet requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter TRANS 400.11, Distribution and Review of Environmental Documents. The format and information provided at the Duluth meeting will be the same as the meetings in Sandstone and Coon Rapids.

In addition to the NLX project website, the Tier 2 Project Level EA can be viewed at:  
- MnDOT Library, MnDOT Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155-1800  
- Cambridge Public Library 244 South Birch Street, Cambridge, MN 55008  
- Coon Rapids Crooked Lake Branch Library, 11440 Crooked Lake Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802  
- Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, Environmental Conservation Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992  
- Hinckley Public Library, 106 First Street SE, Hinckley, MN 55037  
- Sandstone Public Library, 119 N. Fourth Street, Sandstone, MN 55072  
- Superior Public Library, 1530 Tower Avenue, Superior, MN 54880

The Tier 2 EA includes documentation on the preliminary Section 106 findings regarding historic properties. The Tier 2 EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary de minimis findings, i.e., that adverse impacts to parks and recreation facilities and recreational trails would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding

An Equal Opportunity Employer
this issue during the public comment period will be taken by the Federal Railroad Administration in making its final *de minimis* determination.

For more information, visit [www.mndot.gov/nlx](http://www.mndot.gov/nlx).

To request an ASL interpreter call 651-366-4720. To request other reasonable accommodations, call 651-366-4718; the Minnesota Relay Service toll-free at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY, Voice or ASCII) or 711, or email your request to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us).

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