

# CapX 2020

## FARGO TO MONTICELLO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 1

**Holiday Inn – Alexandria, Minnesota  
January 30, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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The meeting was conducted on 30 January 2008 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Holiday Inn in the City of Alexandria, Minnesota. Of the 115 invitees, 13 people had confirmed their attendance in advance for the meeting and 33 actually attended. Table 1 lists the meeting attendees.

**Table 1. RWG Meeting Attendees**

<b>Organization</b>
Landowner
Landowner
Landowner
Alexandria Light & Power
Sauk County Public Utilities
Landowner
Hamlet of Collegeville
Hamlet of Collegeville
Landowner
City of Melrose
Landowner
Landowner
City of Freeport
Landowner
Landowner/City of Sauk Centre
Landowner
Pope Soil & Water Conservation District
Douglas County
City of Melrose
Minnesota Department of Transportation District 4
City of Osakis
Township Official
Todd County
Douglas County
Landowner
Todd Soil & Water Conservation District
Landowner
Landowner
City of Sauk Centre
Grant County
Landowner
Landowner
Landowner
Landowner
City of Sauk County
Landowner

The following agenda was adhered to for the meeting.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Presenters</u>
11:00 – 11:05	Welcome and Introductions	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
11:05 – 11:15	Who/What is the Working Group?	
11:15 – 11:25	Purpose of Today's Meeting	
11:25 – 12:00	Interactive Exercise #1	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
12:00 – 12:15	Project Background/Regulatory Process	
12:15 – 12:25	Break	
12:25 – 12:35	Routing Criteria	Tim Carlsgaard/Darrin Lahr
12:35 – 12:45	Interactive Exercise #2	
12:45 – 12:50	Next Steps	
12:50 – 1:00	Questions and Answers	

The meeting opened with group introductions and an explanation of purpose. The attendees were divided into groups of five or six individuals as part of Interactive Exercise #1. Each group, lead by a facilitator, was asked as a group to list general areas that are sensitive to them in the transmission line routing process. These general areas were written down by the facilitator on a 36 by 44 inch poster board with no order of priority given to the any of the areas listed. The exercise lasted approximately 35 minutes.

A complete list of the results of Interactive Exercise #1 is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Exercise #1: General Areas of Sensitivity in Transmission Line Routing**

<b>Sensitivity</b>
Airports – Douglas County (New), Alexandria (possible moving of airport), Clear Zones, Sauk Centre Airport
Health Effects on Livestock
Prime Ag Land
TV/Radio/Electric fence Interference
Cemeteries (English Grove, Union Lake)
City Expansion & County Planning
Flight Interference (Emergency Helicopters St. Cloud/Alex)
Wetlands
Pipe Lines (Williams County, associated fuel tank refinery)
Railroads/Light Rail (as possible corridors)
General Location and Placement (tile lines, fence lines, property lines, irrigation interference)
I-94 Corridor (sensitivity and opportunity)
Trees / Wood Lots
Use of Existing Structures (as opportunity)
Lakes and Residential Property (Lake Latoka)
Historic Property and Parks (Kensington Ruinstone Park, Wobegon Trail)
County Planning
Native Prairie Lands
Endangered Species (raptors)

Following Interactive Exercise #1, the project background and routing criteria were presented. After a short break, the group engaged in Interactive Exercise #2 where the lists of general areas of sensitivity from Interactive Exercise #1 were presented to the entire group as part of an active group discussion. The group was encouraged to ask questions about the sensitivities listed and to add any others that came to mind. The end of the presentation consisted of a discussion of the next steps in the project process, as well as a question and answer session.

Questions and comments addressed during this session, as transcribed by a representative of the project, are listed below.

- What are the distances required for transmission lines from properties and right-of-ways? Could a greater distance be used between structures?
- Lots of tourism along the interstate. Do not want to see too much development. Hide structures as much as possible.
- How many people would be out of power if a line went down?
- Would existing lines remain in place after new lines are installed?
- How will natural energy factor in?
- Want priority rankings on various sensitivities and would like to be informed of these.
- What is the possibility of buying some property rather than the whole farm?
- If native prairie exists in the area will the transmission lines be run through it? Attention should be paid to endangered species. Only 3% of native prairie is left in the state and it cannot be restored.
- Amateur Radio Operators Club should be included in the meetings. They may have concerns about radio interference from lines.
- Concerned about effect of lines on the sales of properties under development especially Saint Croix area.
- Would like to see Lake Wobegon Trail area used for the transmission line.

Following the meeting, comment forms were returned from eight Attendees. A summary of the comment forms is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. Routing Work Group Meeting 1 Questionnaire and Comment Form**

Comment(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found the meeting very informative.</li> <li>• Will share the information with fellow commissioners and people from the county.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This presented a great opportunity to learn more about the project and its needs. Thanks.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauk Centre municipal airport is the only airport in Stearns County and is on the National Plan of Integrated Airport System. We currently have plans to extend our runway and are currently going to FAA for approval.</li> <li>• The area has a major potential for commercial development, much of which is due to 3 major road systems, I-94, Hwy 71 and 28.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see the 115KV line as part of this project. It is much needed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of new transmission of 115KV from Alex to St. Cloud. Replace old 69KV because it is old and needs to be updated.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for the information. Continue to keep local units of government especially the cities and counties in this process.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you use the rails to trails, it would help to limit the environmental impact.</li> <li>• It would decrease the cost of building since the rail beds could handle the weight of the equipment and has existing access for equipment. Therefore no need to build roads to access the lines.</li> <li>• It would reduce the chance of erosion during building and maintenance work.</li> <li>• It would not affect wetlands all the damage has already been done.</li> </ul>