

# CapX 2020

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

**Eagle Trace Golfers Club – Clearwater, MN  
January 31, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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The meeting was conducted on 31 January, 2008 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Eagle Trace Golfers Club in the City of Clearwater. Of the 86 invitees, nine people had confirmed their attendance in advance for the meeting and 17 actually attended. Table 1 lists the meeting attendees.

**Table 1. RWG Meeting Attendees**

<b>Organization</b>
Sterns County Environmental Services
Fish Lake Association
Avon Hills Initiative
Avon Hills Initiative
Lyndon Township
City of St. Cloud
Wright County
The Native Co. Recovery
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Initiative Foundation
Landowner
Saint Johns
Landowner
Landowner
Albany City
City of Monticello Engineer
City of Monticello Council Member

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/Airstrips – Expansion of St.Cloud Airport (next 10yrs), Sterns County
Colleges – St. Johns campus, St. Ben's campus, Abby land, 2,740 acres of public park, also country setting part of student choice for attendance, campus appeal
City Expansion & County Planning – Urban growth plans for next 50yrs (growth boundary), Hwy plans for St.Cloud
Pipe Lines - MinnCan Pipeline through Sterns Co.
Railroads/Light Rail (as possible corridors)
Overhead lines in industrial parks (cranes)
I-94 Corridor (sensitivity and opportunity, sensitivity around Avon area), Billboards along I-94, County Road 7
Use of Existing Structures (as opportunity), existing transmission lines, Albany Substation upgrade
Residential Property (Avon Hills area, considered biologically significant park area as well)
Historic Property and Parks – hiker, biker opportunities co-exist, Wobegon Trail
Health Effects Human and Animal
County Planning, County mapped growth areas, subdivision growth
Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) – four areas, (Avon Hills, Saint Wendell Bog)

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.

- Concern about the health effects to humans and livestock.
- Can the existing I-94 right-of-way be re-utilized?
- What is the setback distance for lines from homes and property lines?
- Some concerns regarding wildlife flyways for species such as swans and raptors.
- How do you deal with Billboards along the interstate?
- What is the process for the acquiring of land? Are easements purchased?
- What types of poles will be used or are being considered?
- What happens if the interstate needs to expand?
- Preference for ground insulators to be placed in the air with regards to the substation.
- Concerns regarding structures placed along the discharge areas of Fish Lake. County in the process of filtering that lake and restoring it to a healthier state.

Following the meeting, comment forms were returned from two 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>• Lyndon Township planning public info via Annual Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in March) and spring news letter.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid SNAs in the Avon Hills Area.</li> <li>• Minimize the environmental impacts in the Avon Hills Area.</li> </ul>