

CapX 2020

FARGO TO MONTICELLO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT ROUTING WORK GROUP MEETING 1

Wahpeton Eagles Club – Wahpeton, ND
January 29, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was conducted on 29 January, 2008 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Wahpeton Eagles Club in the City of Wahpeton. Of the 64 invitees, four people had confirmed their attendance in advance for the meeting and six actually attended. Table 1 lists the meeting attendees.

Table 1. RWG Meeting Attendees

Organization
Landowner
Landowner
Fergus Falls Administrator Land & Resource Management - Otter Tail County
Board Member of Lake Region Co-op
General Manager of Lake Region Co-op
City Hall

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 gathered into a group of six individuals as part of Interactive Exercise #1. The 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

Sensitivity
Airports/Airstrips
Prime Ag Land - Make the case with Farmers
State, Federal, and County Wildlife Areas – make DNR Lands available – not off limits
WAPA double circuit lines
Fergus Ethanol Plant
General Location and Placement (section and property lines)

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 re-addressed 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 benefits are there for the farmers? If it is possible to explain to the landowners what benefits they can receive from this project and come up with ways of addressing their concerns it could be valuable to the siting of the line.
- What issues are involved with building on wildlife lands? Concerned that farmers land be considered as important as wildlife lands.
- Asked for an explanation of the overhaul activities on the freeways.
- Discussed the new wind energy activities in the area, which are considered a benefit to farmers, and how farmers need more transmission lines to support these activities.
- Is there a possibility of double circuiting WAPA lines?
- Discuss the building of the Ethanol Plant in Fergus Falls area and how positioning of lines may benefit farmers with association to the facility.

Following the meeting, attendees were encouraged to fill out comment forms and leave them with facilitators or to mail them in. No comment forms were returned at the time of the meeting.