

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.



Attendees reviewing environmental document in Sandstone, MN

Attendance

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

Table 1: Open House Attendance

Day/Time	Location	Attendance
May 16, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Sandstone Senior Center Sandstone, MN	17; 1 media
May 17, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Duluth Depot Duluth, MN	44; 2 media
May 18, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Coon Rapids Civic Center Coon Rapids, MN	24; 1 media
Total		85 attendees; 4 media

* 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.



Media coverage of public meeting in Duluth, MN

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*

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 - www.eqb.state.mn.us
EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us - (651)-757-2873

Publication Date: April 24, 2017
Vol. 41, No. 17

Publication Schedule: Mondays at 8:00 AM
Submission Deadline: [View 2017 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

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](#).



Photo Credit: MPÇA

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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 Moore
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:

- On the MnDOT website at <http://www.mndot.gov/nlx>
- 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 or in writing to the MnDOT Project Manager listed below.

Project Proposer: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Minnesota Department of Transportation

RGU Contact Person:

Francis Loetterle
Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 470
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1800
651-366-3194
nlx.dot@state.mn.us

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-22	Pioneer Hi-Bred International	Corn	OO – Transformation Frequency MG – Selectable Marker	Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-23	Dow AgroSciences	Corn	IR – Insect Resistance HT – Herbicide Tolerance	Fillmore (2), Nicollet, Ottertail, Renville, Sibley, Stearns, Wilkin – up to 10 acres each

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

information contact Clifford Watrin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-6531, clifford.watrin@state.mn.us

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-24 17-NO-25	Syngenta Crop Protection LLC.	Corn	AP – Agronomic Properties HT – Herbicide Tolerant IR – Insect Resistant	Dakota, Faribault, Goodhue, Mower (2), Rice, Waseca – Up to 10 acres each site

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-26	Nuseed Americas	Canola	PQ – Processing Quality MG – Selectable Markers	Benton – 10 acres

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

MDA Notification	Applicant	Crop	Project Category	County(s)
17-NO-27	Pioneer Hi-Bred International	Corn	OO – Transformation Frequency HT – Herbicide Tolerance IR – Insect Resistance	Blue Earth (1) – 10 acres, Blue Earth (2) 25 acres

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 17-074-102rm. 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

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

X 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

X 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

X 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 Francis E. Lettler this 22ND day of AUGUST 20 17
MnDOT Project Manager

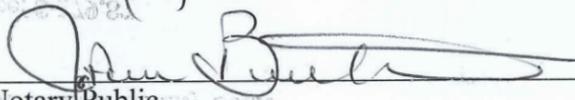
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF WISCONSIN)
SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS) #20955

Stephanie Pearson, of the City of Superior, in said County, being duly sworn, says that she is the Account Executive of Superior Telegram, Inc. publishers and printers of **Superior Telegram**, a public newspaper printed and published in the City of Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin, and 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

1 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 2nd day of May, 2017

BY: 
 Account Executive

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


 Notary Public

Notary Public, Douglas County, WI
 My Commission Expires

May 15 2017

Filed _____ 20____

Clerk of the County Court

Fee: \$ 179.87

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LOCATION, DESIGN and ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A TIER 2 PROJECT LEVEL 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 (NLX) Passenger Rail Project (including those aspects that may require future application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the placement of fill materials into waters of the United States). A Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared as part of the Minnesota and Wisconsin state environmental review processes to fulfill the requirements of Minnesota Statutes (Minn. Stat.) 116D 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 EA process. FRA is the federal lead agency, MnDOT is the state lead agency and WisDOT is both a responsible agency and a cooperating agency due to its signatory role.

The NLX Project is a proposed higher speed passenger rail project that would provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota. The NLX Project would travel through Douglas County and Superior, Wisconsin. If constructed, NLX would operate on approximately 152 miles of existing BNSF rail corridor. Stations are proposed at Target-Field Station (Minneapolis, MN); Coon Rapids, MN; Cambridge, MN; Hinckley, MN; Superior, WI and Duluth, MN. The NLX Project would include one maintenance facility and one layover facility to provide for daily service of the trains. These facilities may be on separate sites in Sandstone, MN and Duluth, MN or co-located on one site in Duluth. Approximately 13 acres 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 and copying at the WisDOT Northwest Region Office in Superior, Wisconsin at the address given below. Information can also be viewed online at www.mndot.gov/nlx.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Duluth Depot, 506 W. Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802. The public hearing will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 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 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. Requests for assistance should be made no later than three working days prior to the public hearing.

MnDOT project staff will be available for informal discussion to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Exhibits of the proposal 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 verbal and/or written testimony concerning the general location, design aspects and the social, economic, and environmental impacts and effects of the proposed project (including those impacts and effects for which a future application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers may be required pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act); and whether the improvement is or is not in the public interest and consistent with the goals and objectives of area planning.

It is anticipated that the relocation of a city maintenance building in Minnesota will occur as a result of the proposed improvement. Any person who feels that he or she may be thus affected by the proposed improvement may obtain relocation assistance information from the MnDOT Office of Land Management Relocation Unit at 1-888-234-1247.

The Tier 2 EA includes documentation on the preliminary Section 106 findings regarding historic properties, in accordance with National Historic Preservation Act. Persons with an interest in or knowledge about historical and archaeological resources in the project area are invited to present such information at the public hearing. The Tier 2 EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) properties 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 FRA in making its final de minimis determination in accordance with the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended. Information on Section 106 and Section 4(f) will be available at the public hearing, with staff available to answer questions.

Provisions have been made for the submission of written statements or other exhibits in place of or in addition to the testimony presented at the public hearing. This additional testimony will be included in the hearing record if postmarked no later than Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Mail this additional testimony to the project manager contact listed below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are further notified of the availability of the Tier 2 Project Level EA evaluating the project's impacts and effects, which has been prepared and filed according to the State and National Environmental Policy Acts. This document indicates that no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of this improvement. The Tier 2 Project Level EA is available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

Northwest Region Office*
 Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
 1701 N. 4th Street,
 Superior, WI 54880-1068

Superior Public Library
 1530 Tower Avenue,
 Superior, WI 54880-2563

Duluth Public Library
 520 West Superior Street,
 Duluth, MN 55802-1514

Bureau of Technical Services
 Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 451
 PO Box 7965
 Madison, WI 53707-7965

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Library*
 4802 Sheboygan Ave.
 Room 100A, P.O. Box 7910
 Madison, WI 53707-7910

*Printed copies of the draft document may be requested at these locations. There may be a charge for this service. An online copy can be viewed at the project website: www.mndot.gov/nlx.

Comments regarding the environmental impacts and effects of the proposed improvements will be addressed in the final environmental document if postmarked/received no later than Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Written comments on the Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment should be sent via U.S. mail or e-mail to the MnDOT contact person listed below.

Francis Loetterle
 Project Manager
 Minnesota Department of Transportation
 395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 470,
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 or email to nlx.dot@state.mn.us

MnDOT will review all comments and testimony presented as part of this public hearing process and reserves the right to make a final determination on the proposed improvements as described in this notice.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 Division of Transportation System Development

S.T. May 2, 2017

#20955 wnaxlp

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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:

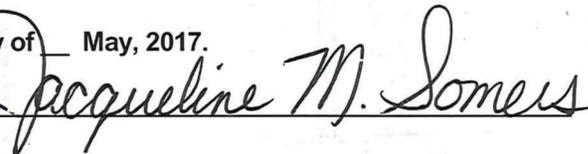
May 2, 2017

By _____


Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me

on this 5th day of May, 2017.

Notary Public _____





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
LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS PASSENGER
RAIL PROJECT BETWEEN MINNEAPOLIS and DULUTH,
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Further information concerning the proposed project is available for inspection and copying at the WisDOT Northwest Region Office in Superior, Wisconsin at the address given below. Information can also be viewed online at www.mndot.gov/nlx.

The **public hearing** will be held on **Wednesday, May 17, 2017**, at the Duluth Depot, 506 W. Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802. The public hearing will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 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.

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Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
1701 N. 4th Street
Superior, WI 54880-1068

Superior Public Library
1530 Tower Avenue
Superior, WI 54880-2563

Duluth Public Library
520 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802-1514

Bureau of Technical Services
Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 451
P.O. Box 7965
Madison, WI 53707-7965

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Library*
4802 Sheboygan Ave.
Room 100A, P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

*Printed copies of the draft document may be requested at these locations. There may be a charge for this service. An online copy can be viewed at the project website: www.mndot.gov/nlx.

Comments regarding the environmental impacts and effects of the proposed improvements will be addressed in the final environmental document if post-marked/received no later than Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Written comments on the Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment should be sent via U.S. mail or e-mail to the MnDOT contact person listed below.

Francis Loetterle
Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 470
St. Paul, MN 55155
or email to nlx.dot@state.mn.us

MnDOT will review all comments and testimony presented as part of this public hearing process and reserves the right to make a final determination on the proposed improvements as described in this notice.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation System Development

D.N.T. May 2, 2017

2479403

Legal Notices

Notice of Tier 2 EA Document Availability and Public Meetings
Public meetings, hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), are being held to receive comments on the Tier 2 Project Level EA for the Northern Lights Express (NLX) Passenger Rail Project. NLX is a proposed higher speed passenger rail project that would provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth. If constructed, NLX would operate on approximately 152 miles of existing BNSF rail corridor.

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
1155 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. The Tier 2 Project Level EA is available for review at the following locations:

- On the MnDOT website at <http://www.mndot.gov/nlx>
- 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 documents the purpose and need of the project along with the anticipated social, economic, transportation, and environmental impacts. The Tier 2 EA addresses specific NLX Project-related issues and environmental effects associated with proposed NLX Project operations and construction, including track infrastructure, stations, and maintenance and layover facilities. 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.

Written comments on the Tier 2 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

Legal Notices

STORAGE UNIT AUCTION
The contents of six storage units, a GE dryer, and a table with two drawers are to be sold at public auction on Thursday May 18th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at Local Motion, 8625 Monticello Ln N, Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369. Bess Scott, GE 3 cycle heavy duty large capacity electric dryer model DCL33EY0WW, table with two drawers, storage units 350, 506, 655, mattress, box spring, dresser, lamp, candelabra, suitcases, boxes, totes, washer, loveseat, mirror, pictures, weights, table, table base, bedrail, cabinet, jewelry box, foot rest, trunk, Gal Brooks storage units 713, 736, 738, dresser, boxes, totes, tv, 2 piece sectional, bird statue, headboard & footboard, desk, chair, table.

PREMIER AUCTION COMPANY
651-772-6830
midwestauctions.com/premier
Joe Michalitsch Lic # 62-17-005

Proposals for Bids

Attention DBE/MBE/WBE/ Subcontractors and Suppliers
Ames Construction Inc. and Kraemer NA (JV) are soliciting quotes from for the following project: Metropolitan Council - Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Contract No. 15P307. DBE Goal 16%. The directory of certified vendors can be found at <https://mncup.mtc.state.mn.us>. Please provide your scope letter by May 9, 2017 @ 5:00PM. Bids due to Ames Construction on May 16, 2017 @ 5:00 PM. Type of Work includes but is not limited to: Surveying, flatwork, curb/gutter, paving, crushing, rail construction, testing services, traffic control, CIP structures, bridges, LRT platform stations, aggregates, trucking, landscaping, rebar supply/install, sheet pile supply/install, piling supply/install, electrical, precast track panels, artwork, underground utilities, earthwork, erosion control, demolition, milling and removals. In order to assist certified DBE, MBE and WBE Contractors and Suppliers in smaller activities or quantities and establish delivery and construction schedules which will permit maximum participation of disadvantaged businesses where feasible. When submitting your quotes please indicate whether items are tied or not tied. We will require 100% Performance & disbursement bonds, include when submitting your quote or include bonding rate in your quote. You can access bid documents on our Sharefile website at <http://tinyurl.com/3zdeh7>. For information regarding specific jobs and any assistance you may need, please contact our office. Ames Construction, Inc. 2000 Ames Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306, phone 952-435-7106 Fax: 952-435-0913. email: bidinfo@amesco.com. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Park Construction Company - 1481 81st Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN is soliciting quotes from any qualified DBE, TGB and Veteran-Owned subs/suppliers, that may be interested in providing pricing for the following MNDOT projects: (1) **SP SP 7102-127 in Sherburne City - (5.7% DBE); (2) SP 7001-112 in Scott & Dakota Cts - (7.4%); (3) SP 1906-65 in Dakota - (4.5% DBE); (4) SP 1981-136 in Dakota County - (TGB 5.4%/Vet 0%). All projects bid: May 19, 2017 @ 9:30 AM.** For assistance in such areas as obtaining or interpreting plans/specs, preparing proposals, providing advice to obtain bonding and insurance, project scheduling, or any other project-related issue, please contact Park Construction by phone at (763) 786-9800. Please fax all quotes to Park at (763) 717-6237 or email to estimating@parkconstruction.com. Park is an "Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer".

Garage Sales - North Suburbs
St. Anthony Village Patriots Marching Band Garage Sale 5/6, 8-6 & 5/7.

Garage Sales - North Suburbs

Blaine-Johnsville Neighborhood Garage Sales 33rd Annual Sat May 13th 7am. Maps, Porta Pots & Food Available Hwy 14 & 65 Look for signs www.blainegaragesales.com www.facebook.com/BlaineGarageSales

Garage Sales - S. of River Suburbs

APPLE VALLEY GARAGE/ESTATE SALE, Fri 5/5 8-3, Sat 5/6 8-5, Sun 5/7 8-5, 13937 DUBLIN RD. Art, Books, frames, Kids, Hunting, sport, house-hold, quality vintage items & more

Garage Sales - NW, SW & W Suburbs

Bloomington 201 E 88th St. Sat & Sun 9-3:30pm. Men's high fashion clothes & shoes

Plymouth 14800 34th Ave N Sunday, May 7th, 12-2:30 PM INDOOR KIDS GARAGE SALE! Kids items from 20+ families!

Rummage Sale - Odds 'n Ends

PLANT SALE STUDENT GROWN HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park Thu, Fri & Sat, May 11-13, 9a to 7p. Annuals, perennials & vegetables, hanging baskets, patio pots & more **Look for signs!**

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134 Home Health Care

Professional Home Care CNA is looking to care for your loved one. Exc. refs. Liable housekeeping & personal care, poss live-in, PT/FT. Lisa 763-226-9844

150 Miscellaneous Services

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226 Adult Entertainment

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313 Auctions/Liquidations

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS AUCTION of Impounded Vehicles OPEN TO LICENSED SCRAP METAL PROCESSORS & USED MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS DEALERSHIPS ONLY 51 N. Colfax, 2 Blocks So of Glenwood on Colfax. **Thursday 5/11/2017 10:30 AM.** Lot open for vehicle inspection 1/2 hour prior to sale. No One under 18 Admitted. Mark Frederichs Lic #27-20. Mpls. *****

Online Auction: Premium Hardwood Lumber: Complete Liquidation of Inventory usedmachineryauctions.com Ending May 11, 2017 763-441-5152

315 Festivals/Crafts/Flea Markets

CRAFT, FLEA MARKET & KIDS ACTIVITIES VENDORS WANTED FOR

317 Estate Sales

Estates & Antiques Auction Mon, May 8 - 6pm Preview: Sun 4-8 & Mon 9-6 Catalog w/photos avail @ www.lutherauctions.com **LUTHER AUCTIONS** 2556 E 7th Ave, No. St Paul 651-770-6175 Lic #82-73

EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTOR'S ESTATE (Part 1) 152 Blake Rd. N., Hopkins Sun. 10-3. Fabulous! See online for info. **MUIRFIELD ASSOCIATES** (763) 234-1734

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Cash Paid for Limited Edition Art Prints 612-501-8998 or send list to modfineart@gmail.com

324 Collectibles

Buying: old toys, Tonkas, Hot Whls, die cast, action figs, G.I. Joe, tin toys sports cards & more. 612.384.9569

COIN SHOW SUNDAY 5/14, 9-4 South St Paul VFW (1 mile N of 494 on Concord). Dave 651-269-5846

Coin Show, Sun. May 7, 9-4 Bloomington Crown Plaza 494/34th

NORTHLAND ANTIQUE, TOY, DOLL & ADVERTISING SHOW Sunday, May 7th, 9-3:00 Progress Center, MN State Fairgrounds, St Paul. Admission \$6 (51 off with ad). Antique toys, dolls, tin, mechanical, cast iron, trains, advert. Bob 763-560-4290

POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St. Sat May 13, 9am-6, Sun May 14, 9-3.

***STAMP SHOW* 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse**, Maplewood Community Center (1/2 mi S of Hwy 36 on White Bear Av) Sun 5/14, 10-4 763-473-0750

WE BUY IT ALL! Paying \$ Cash - not a check. Mark 612-802-9686. WCCO Ch 4 #1 Appraiser. BBB A+. All Collectibles, HSN/QVC TV jewelry, Gold, Diamonds, silver coins, Sterling, Baseball Cards, toys, Comics, Costume/Estate jewelry, militaria. Free advice, 39 years in biz.

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SKID STEER ATTACHMENTS Grapple bucket, wheel loader, backhoe loader, loader, hoe arm, buckthorn puller, pallet fork, snow plow. 651-269-5688

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404 Dogs

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BULLDOGGE, OLDE ENGLISH 2M/2F, shots, tails, dewormed, paper, rare colors, Ready! \$1,300. 612-669-0909

English Bulldog AKC Female, shots/vet chkd, Fawn/wht, 8 wks, Bully. \$3,500 Dam. call/text 651-278-1058

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GERMAN SHEPHERD, AKC. bred for temp & beauty \$1500. 320-221-3090 westboundgermanshepherds.com

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GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS ***\$1500 - SALE \$875! 612-913-2146** jensamazingshpherds.com

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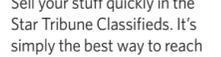
1998 BRECKENRIDGE PARK MODEL \$25,000 or best offer. Camp Brigadoon (seasonal campground) on Beaver Dam Lake. This year's lot rent already paid thru September 2017! call 612-802-3491 for more info.

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<p>AUDI</p> <p>Audi Minneapolis Hwy 394 & General Mills Blvd. Golden Valley, MN 763-744-9393 www.audiminneapolis.com Sales: Mon-Thurs: 8am-8pm, Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-5pm Service: Mon-Thurs: 7am-7pm, Fri: 7am-6pm, Sat: 8am-4pm Parts: Mon-Thurs: 7am-8pm, Fri: 7am-6pm, Sat: 8am-5pm</p>	<p>DODGE</p> <p>Dodge of Burnsville Hwy 35W & Cliff Road, Burnsville, MN Local or Toll Free 1-855-800-9952 www.DODGEofBURNSVILLE.com Sales: Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-9pm, Fri & Sat: 8:30am-6pm Service: Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm, Sat: 8am-4pm</p>	<p>PORSCHE</p> <p>Porsche of Minneapolis Hwy 394 & General Mills Blvd. Golden Valley, MN 763-744-9191 www.porscheofmpls.com Sales: Mon-Thurs: 8am-8pm, Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm Parts: Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm, Sat: 9am-1pm Service: Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm</p>
<p>BUICK</p> <p>GMC Trucks 1111 East Highway 110, Inver Grover Heights, MN 651-552-2222 Sales: Mon-Thurs 8:30am -9pm, Fri 8:30am - 8pm and Sat 8:30 am- 6pm Service: Mon-Fri 7am - 6pm, Sat 8am -4pm</p>	<p>INFINITI</p> <p>Jim Lupient Infiniti 394 & Louisiana Ave, Golden Valley, MN 763-546-5577 www.LupientInfiniti.com Sales: Mon-Thurs: 8am-9pm, Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-5:30pm Service: Mon-Fri: 7am-6pm,</p>	

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.

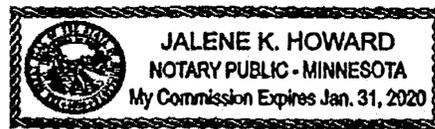
FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Toni Ferdelman

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 9, 2017

JALENE K. HOWARD

Notary Public



Cambridge

Continued from front

er retaliation. The inspections that have taken place by the city have occurred when the tenant is moving out and they no longer fear retaliation.

She said the second deterrent is the up front cost. For all the rental housing inspections the city has conducted in the past three years since the inception of the ordinance, all of them have been valid and the tenant's \$40 inspection fee was returned.

Levitski proposed that city staff bill the \$40 after the inspection and do not take any inspection fees up front. If the city finds a pattern of frivolous complaints, it can always go back to requiring the \$40 fee up front.

Following discussion, the City Council approved Levitski's proposal to amend the fee schedule for rental housing inspections.

During City Council comments, Council Member Joe Morin brought up that a proposed rental housing ordi-

nance has been before the City Council twice and both times it has failed. Most recently, the proposed ordinance was presented before the council in May 2015.

"I would like to bring back the rental ordinance before the council," Morin said. "I know I've been getting complaints myself from town home rentals near me, and I know Carri Levitski and Council Member Lisa Iverson have also been getting complaints. I think it's time we did something and we need to address these basic health and safety needs for these tenants and the city itself."

Morin said of all the votes he's taken as a council member, the failed vote in May 2015 still weighs on him.

"That vote gave me the most heartburn, and it has bothered me ever since," Morin said. "The proposed ordinance was about basic health, life and safety issues, and I felt we really

got that vote wrong."

Levitski noted if the council decides to consider the proposed rental housing ordinance again, this will be the third time city staff is bringing it before the council.

By consensus, the City Council decided to have City Administrator Lynda Woulfe schedule city building inspector Matt Small to come before the council for a presentation and informational session based on his experience working in Coon Rapids. Woulfe said previous information already collected by city staff and the previous proposed ordinances will also be provided to council members prior to Small's presentation.

Woulfe explained currently rental housing inspections are completed by city staff after a complaint by a tenant has been received.



During the May 1 Cambridge City Council meeting, Mayor Marlys Palmer declared May as Building Safety Month. Pictured in front are Community Development secretary Lola Nisley, building inspector Matt Small, Palmer, building official Mike Fabini and Community Development Director Marcia Westover. Pictured in back are Council Members Jim Godfrey, Lisa Iverson, Joe Morin and Kersten Barfknecht-Conley.

Photo by Rachel Kytönen

Training

Continued from front

Center, Allina EMS and the Cambridge Fire Department. Additional organization partners included the American Red Cross and the Health Care System Preparedness Program. Food was also provided by local businesses.

"In our community, being prepared and trained is a priority to leaders," said Krista Jensen, Isanti County Public Health emergency preparedness coordinator, "which was evident from the number of individuals and agencies involved with this workshop and exercise."

Topics of the morning sessions included victim mental health, transport and triage, critical incident stress management and shelter operations.

At the shelter operations sessions, attendees were given a presentation on opening and operating an American Red Cross shelter by Red Cross workers John Lapakko, Mark Steffer and Keith Ford, all of whom provided

aid to victims of Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters. Their presentation was a condensation of a full course down to a single summary session for the purpose of the event.

Lapakko, Steffer and Ford ran through the multi-step process of running a Red Cross shelter, including planning and preparation, planning the sheltering operation, resourcing the shelter, opening the shelter, operating the shelter and closing the shelter. Shelters like those opened and operated by the American Red Cross during the aftermaths of disasters provide food, shelter and aid to people who have lost their homes or otherwise been forced to leave them. These shelters are generally set up in borrowed local facilities such as churches or sports stadiums.

The presentation provided guidance on a variety of issues that come up when working at a shelter, includ-

ing record keeping, providing food, dealing with visitors to the shelter, keeping information private for those in the shelter and assessing medical needs for victims, both in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and in the days or weeks following.

Ford emphasized how working at a shelter can be meaningful for both the victims who stay in them and the volunteers who staff them day to day following a disaster.

"It is a privilege to help people," he said.

For more information on the American Red Cross in Minnesota, visit www.redcross.org/local/minnesota. For more information on Isanti County Department of Public Health and the annual Spring In2 Preparedness event, visit www.co.isanti.mn.us/isanti/departments/public-health or call 763-689-4071.

Entrepreneurship

Continued from front

ulation is a little under 26,000. Both straddle the line between rural and urban or suburban.

Despite the outlook, there are resources available in the area for those looking to start businesses of their own, including the Small Business Development Center and GPS 45:93, an economic development group that works in the region.

Richard Baker, a former economic development director for Mille Lacs County and past president of GPS 45:93, noted that although starting a business is difficult no matter where you are, people still do it successfully no matter where they are, too.

"Any given time in the U.S., 10 to 15 percent of the population is looking at starting a business," he said. "One of my first recommendations to anybody looking to start a business is to go to the Small Business Development Center."

Tom Willett works as a consultant in Isanti, Pine and Kanabec counties for the North Central Small Business Development Center, based at Central Lakes College. One of the aspects he emphasizes to new business owners is the importance of putting together a business plan that works out the key details of how their business will theoretically succeed. He said entrepreneurs who work with the center when they're starting out tend to do better than those that don't.

"Companies that we work with, we've shown that 80 percent of them are still here in five years," Willett said.

Abby Lingle, who owns Abby Lingle Porcelain Pottery in Milaca, started her business without a formal plan.

Although she has succeeded, she regrets her approach. When she was in college studying art, thinking about eventually monetizing her art was frowned upon; art was supposed to be for art's sake.

"I really regret not taking some business classes," Lingle said.

Alicia Overby, owner and founder of Baby Elephant Ears in Cambridge, made the Small Business Association one of her first contacts when she was looking to start her business.

"That was honestly prominent in figuring out what I was doing," Overby said.

Willett helps write the text of the business plan in such a way that it will be appealing to loan-granting bodies like banks, which are typically an essential hurdle to clear when starting a business. He cited the example of one business owner who came to the development center after failing to secure a necessary start-up loan with a self-written business plan.

"It wasn't that he didn't know what he was talking about; he just didn't talk bank language," Willett said.

Willett, like Baker, is involved with GPS 45:93, which exists to grow and attract businesses to Mille Lacs, Isanti, Pine, Kanabec and Chisago Counties.

One of GPS 45:93's initiatives is economic gardening, which works to grow existing small businesses.

"Traditional economic development is, 'Let's go out and find another big company,'" Willett said.

Instead, GPS reaches out to what are called second-stage companies, which have between 10 and 100 employees. These companies are con-

sidered to be in the growth stage, but they are often limited by a lack of marketing knowledge. GPS 45:93 sets them up with attorneys, accountants and other help to take their business to the next level.

"The main idea is that small businesses create jobs," Willett said.

One of the problems attracting entrepreneurs locally can be the lack of consistent high-speed internet in some areas. Lifestyle, cheap land and lower taxes attract people to the region who could bring their businesses with them or start new ones. The web can even allow some lucky ventures to effectively operate national businesses from well outside a metro area, but if they can't maintain a connection, they won't come to this region.

"It's a huge game-changer," Baker said. "What the internet has done is change the economy."

Attracting new and established business owners to a community helps raise the fortunes of those already present.

"If you get those people that have that higher disposable income level, that's going to drive your retail sales and your services in your community," Baker said.

Another piece Willett helps entrepreneurs with is marketing, which he considers an underrated component to getting customers through the door.

"They have this idea, 'If I build it they will come,'" Willett said of many young business owners. "I try to do what I call real down-to-earth practical things."

Willett's strategies include compiling customer email lists and providing expertise via a blog or other medium so that customers view you as an authority in your field. Willett also helps companies update their old websites or learn how to use LinkedIn, which can become a valuable resource if they begin tracking customers through the social network and joining groups in their industry.

Braham School

Continued from front

instrumental in leading the school through the School of Excellence application process. This is a national program that involves a systematic program of self-study, development of a school improvement program and implementation of the plan based on demonstrated results.

In other action, the board:

- Reviewed the preliminary budget for 2017-2018, which shows a total general fund revenue and expenditures projection of \$7.7 million.

- Acknowledged contributions from the following sources: Wal-Mart grant, \$1,000 for the sports and entertainment class field trip; Tim Burton, fridge-freezer valued at \$85 for the theater department; Pat and Greg Tollefsrud, gloves valued at \$50 for Braham Area Elementary School students; Braham Girl Scouts for labor on updating nature trails near Braham Elementary; Salem Lutheran Church, \$20 for girls softball team; East Central Regional Arts Council grant in the amount

of \$830 for Daryl Johnson II work with band and math; and the following contributions to the Supermileage program: Central Minnesota Manufacturing Association, \$250; Aurelius Manufacturing, \$200; Braham Moose Lodge, \$500; and Community Giving-Bremer Bank, \$250.

- Appointed Eklund as the Local Education Agency representative for federal programs, which means he will serve as the administrator of the Title I, Title II, Title VI and the Assurance of Mastery programs.

- Accepted Superintendent Ken Gagner's recommendation that contract work days for the community education and activities secretary be reduced from 211 to 201 days effective July 1.

- Approved the request of Luke Becker, vocational industrial technology and agriculture teacher, for the Supermileage team to go to Detroit for the Supermileage competition.

– The next meeting of the board will be 7 p.m. Monday, May 15.

During the April 24 Braham Area School Board meeting, recognition was given to the following individuals as Braham Honors recipients for the month:

- Jan Strohkirch, Jeff Eklund, Lindsay Rasmussen, Roxanne Kirby, Dawn Olson, Lori Auers, April White, Danika Dahlin, Danae Shaw and Sarah Gamache for their efforts to promote and serve the district through participation in Kindergarten Roundup 2017.
- Beth Stone and Paulette Weisz, for their leadership in areas of staff development and continuing education.
- Jack Lanhart for the donation of a new roller for use in the district's outdoor facilities.
- Marion Larson, Jodi Splittstoser and Mindy Campbell for volunteering to greet family and friends who attended the elementary concerts on March 23.
- Marie Sward, Julie Johnson, Sarah Golly, Shawn Kuhnke, Steph White and Art Kaunonen for their participation in and support of the Open the Gates events celebrating the district's new facilities.
- Tiffany Fogel for work on the Braham promotion movie ad to be shown at the theater in Cambridge.
- Braham Police, Braham Fire, East Central Energy, Mike Wallace, Keith Golly, Greg Cardey, city of Braham, Braham Ford, Knife River Construction, DNR Forestry Service and the Allina Ambulance Service for their efforts on the Big Truck Day April 8, attended by 185 people.
- Lauren Kreyer for making it to and participating in the State Speech Contest April 22.
- Jayden Prill, Michael McAdams, Chelsey Swanson, Zach Anderson, Lilia Anderson and Kyra Johnson for making it to and participating in the State FFA Convention.
- Sunita Xiong for winning the local spelling bee and participating in the regional competition.
- LeSean Greer for winning the local and regional Geography Bees and participating in the state competition.
- Kaylie Paitl for signing a national letter of intent to play college volleyball at St. Catherine University.
- Kaitlyn Dordal for signing a national letter of intent to play college basketball at Central Lakes College.
- Brandon Wyganowski for signing a national letter of intent to run college cross-country and track at the South Dakota School of Mines.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Northern Lights Express

Higher Speed Passenger Rail Project

Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment

The Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the NLX 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.mndot.gov/nlx

Public Meetings

May 16
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sandstone Senior Center
206 Main St,
Sandstone

May 17*
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Duluth Depot
506 W Michigan St,
Duluth

May 18
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Coon Rapids Civic Center
11155 Robinson Dr NW,
Coon Rapids

Attend a public meeting to provide comments on the recently released Tier 2 Project Level EA document and to talk with project staff. There will be an opportunity to provide comments on the potential impacts to historic properties, public parks and recreation areas and recreational trails.

*The public meeting in Duluth will also serve as a public hearing to meet notification requirements under Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter TRANS 400.11.

For more information on the upcoming public meetings or the Tier 2 EA:
www.mndot.gov/nlx nlx.dot@state.mn.us

A public service presentation on

ANNOUNCING: Parental Alienation Syndrome

A presentation by: **Dr. Paul Reitman**, Forensic Psychologist & Attorney • www.paulreitman.com
Michelle Kelsey, Kelsey Law Office, P.A. • www.kelseylawyer.com

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- Therapeutic Alienation
- Qualifications to assess parental alienation and to do reunification therapy
- Choosing an attorney and legal team
- Legal resources for alienated parents



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Pine City officials ask for public's input on fate of city hall

CITY OF PINE CITY

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 Voyageur 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 Ken 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 on how to proceed. Staff's analysis has identified three alternatives:

OPTION I - REMAIN AND REMODEL THE PGC

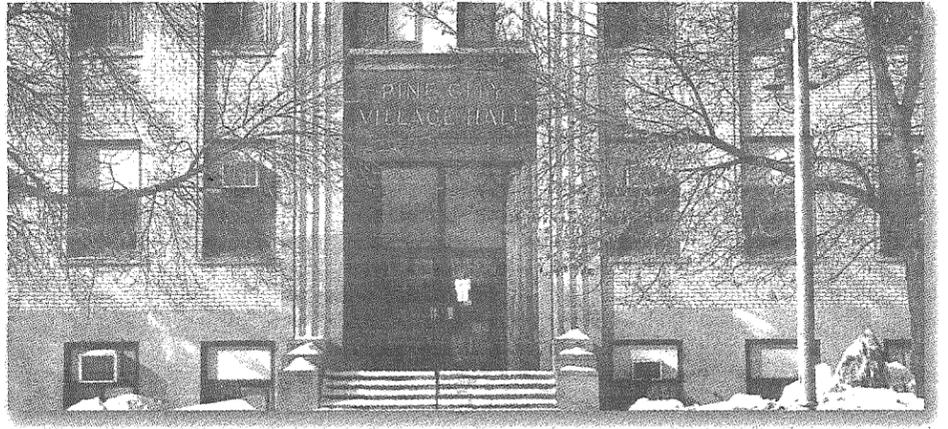
The Pine County Board has determined that it will not sell the PGC building to the City of Pine City, but that it is willing to consider long-term leasing options with the City. Based on this decision, the City may consider staying in its current location and make improvements to its facilities such 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 ON 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 a lease, but would result in higher up-front 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



MIKE GAINOR | THE PIONEER

Should city hall remain in Pine Government Center, or move to a new location? City officials are asking the public to offer their input through a survey.

orts will be made to seek County fiscal involvement 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 com-

munity regarding any effort toward improving city hall. Additional planning and preparations are now underway. The city will begin additional public engagement including a public forum, which will be announced in the coming weeks. If you are interested in being a part of this dialogue, please email info@pinecitygov.com or call 320-629-2575.

To participate in the survey, pick up a paper copy at Pine City Hall or the Voyageur Bottle Shop, or fill one out online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/H5Q3BMQ

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Mike Struss honored for service

Retiring Pine County highway maintenance worker, Mike Struss (left), was recognized for his 28 years of service by County Engineer Mark LeBrun (right) on April 18. LeBrun presented a clock 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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Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment
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www.mndot.gov/nlx nlx.dot@state.mn.us

FEATURES

Solar garden plants draw bees, produce honey

By Eric Hagen
Staff Writer

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

The honey produced by the bees in 15 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. Jars of "solar honey" will also be included in gift baskets that are donated to local fundraising causes, according to Samantha Neral, Connexus Energy spokesperson.

Travis and Chiara Bolton, owners of Bolton Bees, installed the 15 beehive boxes in Connexus's solar garden at the southeast corner of Bunker Lake and Ramsey boulevards on April 24. The honey will be ready to be harvested later this summer and they expect to produce 600 jars. Solar subscribers will be told when they can pick up their jar of honey.

"Connexus Energy's project is a shining example of what a solar site can and should be," said Rob Davis, a spokesperson for Fresh Energy and the person who first connected Connexus Energy and Bolton Bees.

This is possible because Connexus planted flowers that attract pollinators.

Neral said just prior to Connexus installing its 792 solar panels in the summer of 2014, its engineers suggested gravel beneath the panels. A group of people, including herself, thought the site would look much better with some flowers.

They connected with Prairie Restoration and Fresh Energy to brainstorm and came up with a garden 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. More birds will also be attracted to the garden to feed on the caterpillars, Hollinger said.

Additionally, Davis said pollinator-friendly gardens puts more organics into topsoil. 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.



Chiara Bolton (pictured) and Travis Bolton own Bolton Bees. They partnered with Connexus Energy to install 15 beehives by the solar garden on the Ramsey campus. Photos by Eric Hagen

These gardens are also better long-term solutions for managing water runoff than gravel beds and turf grass, he said.

Fresh Energy is an advocate of pollinator-friendly solar gardens because these co-ops and companies have large amounts of land to plant grasses and flowers and would have hired a company for ongoing management.

"Connexus' pollinator-friendly solar array will provide pollinator habitat equivalent to 726 houses having a 6-foot-by-12-foot pollinator garden," Davis said.

Honey production

Greg Groenjes first presented the idea of having honey-producing hives near the solar garden.

Groenjes is manager of construction, maintenance and systems operations for Connexus, but his side hobby is beekeeping.

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



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

Bolton Bees sells starter colonies that are bred to better adapt 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 Bees exclusive rights, but it creates industry standards for honey produced on or adjacent to solar arrays.

"With its abundance of pollinator-friendly flowers, the Connexus solar garden is the perfect environment for a healthy bee location," Travis and Chiara Bolton said.

eric.hagen@ecm-inc.com



Connexus Energy's garden by its solar panels on the Ramsey campus attracts pollinators, including bees. Photo by Rob Davis, Fresh Energy

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Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment

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POLYMET

From Page A1

leaving the site may need to be treated to prevent acidic runoff from polluting nearby waters. PolyMet is figuring on 50 years of treatment costing about \$436 million. But Kuipers said the federal Bureau of Land Management, for example, figures on 500 years of treatment, essentially in perpetuity, which would push the ongoing PolyMet treatment cost to nearly \$3.7 billion.

Kuipers also criticized PolyMet's estimate that cost overruns will amount to only 5 percent of the total. In real-world mine closures, Kuipers notes, cost overruns ranged from 30 to 80 percent original cost estimates. That "unrealistic" 5 percent contingency estimate "compromises" PolyMet's entire permit application "tremendously," Kuipers said.

Unrealistic returns?

Kuipers also questions PolyMet's projection that its financial assurance fund will earn a net 6.9 percent annually, figuring an 8 percent return on investment and just 1.1 percent annual inflation. Kuipers said the industry standard is to figure on net returns of less than 4 percent, while the federal Office of Management and Budget uses 1.5 percent.

That return rate is critical because it determines how much money PolyMet must front before any mining can begin, either in trust funds, surety bonds or insurance policies, or a combination of all three.

PolyMet says it can achieve the \$842 million financial assurance total needed by the 11th year of operations to close the mine early (the company is planning a 20-year mine life, with peak liability starting at year 11) by setting aside \$332 million when the permit is awarded by the state.

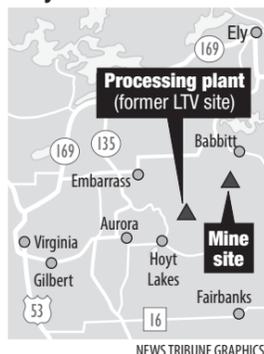
Kuipers' estimate is more than three times higher.

Using PolyMet's closing cost estimate but adding in higher cost overruns and lower interest rates, Kuipers said the state should demand at least \$514 million and probably much more. Figuring only a 1.5 percent annual return on investment after inflation along with a 30 percent contingency or cost overrun estimate and a 500-year water treatment period, Kuipers says PolyMet should be required to front \$934 million before any permit is awarded.

Kuipers was hired by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy to review the PolyMet permit to mine application. He has a degree in mineral process engineering from the Montana School of Mines. He's worked on mining and environmental projects including engineering design, permitting, operations, reclamation and closure, water treatment and financial assurance for more than 30 years. He currently serves as liaison for First Nations tribes on the Mount Polley expert review panel investigating solutions to the 2014 Mount Polley mine disaster in British Columbia.

Kuipers cited the Zortman-Landusky mine in Montana that

PolyMet



operated from 1978 to 1998 when the owner, Pegasus Gold Corp., declared bankruptcy and walked away from its operations in Nevada, Montana, Idaho and Australia. That forced the state of Montana to take over operations at Zortman-Landusky where they unexpectedly found vast areas of acid mine pollution that eventually cost nearly \$100 million to clean up, including starting perpetual water treatment at the site.

While the Zortman-Landusky mine produced \$300 million in gold over 20 years of operations, it closed leaving Montana taxpayers with a \$33 million cleanup bill.

"This is the kind of thing you (Minnesota) want to avoid," Kuipers said.

Minnesota offers a more difficult, water-rich environment than Montana, he noted, where lakes and rivers might be 30 miles away from the mine.

"It takes a great deal more precautions," he said of mining in acid-bearing rock in wet areas such as Northeastern Minnesota. "There's a higher risk that things could go wrong."

Draft permits by September?

Most of the money PolyMet says it will need when it leaves the project is for water treatment using a reverse osmosis filtration system. It's hoped that the system will keep any acidic water out of local waterways where it might leach heavy metals and other pollutants into the ecosystem.

The rest of the money would be used to close the mine pit and rehabilitate the site, including filling the mine pit, safeguarding stockpiles of acidic waste rock, tearing down the processing center and leaving the site in a more natural state that is less likely to pollute in the future.

"It's interesting that we are probably close to agreeing on how much it's going to cost to physically close the operations, assuming nothing goes wrong," said Aaron Klems, spokesman for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "The real issue is how much do you require PolyMet to put up in real money, on Day One, so that taxpayers aren't put at risk for footing the bill for long-term treatment or cleaning up any mess?" PolyMet has applied

for most of the more than 20 state and federal permits needed to start the mining project, the most important of which is the permit to mine through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. That permit includes state requirements for financial assurance.

PolyMet spokesman Bruce Richardson said the initial permit to mine application was a first step in the company's process with the DNR. The company expects robust negotiations with the state to develop the final numbers.

"The financial assurance provisions in our permit to mine application, as with our other permit applications, are under agency review. That review will undoubtedly result in various modifications being made of the proposals, and those changes will appear in the draft permits that the agencies will begin issuing for public review and comment," Richardson told the News Tribune. "That will be the appropriate time to debate the merits of the application. It's premature to do so now."

Barb Naramore, DNR assistant commissioner, told the News Tribune she's "anticipating a draft permit decision and public notice in late summer" but that could be delayed considering the complexity of the permit. Naramore said the state hasn't even started writing details of the permit and that any assessment of where they are in determining financial assurance numbers is premature.

"We are carefully considering all information and recommendations from our consultants, our own staff, and other sources as we work on the financial assurance aspects of the permit to mine application," Naramore said. "We are not yet at the stage of developing draft permit language. If and when we do get to that stage, we will certainly be drawing on the expertise of our consultants."

Naramore said all interested parties will have a chance to comment on permit details when the draft permit goes public later this year. She said that's the proper time for interested parties to weigh in on specifics.

"However, MCEA has provided us with a copy of Mr. Kuipers' analysis and we will certainly review it," he said.

State consultants raise flags

The DNR's financial consultants hired to help draft the permit for Minnesota's first-ever copper mine submitted their first major recommendations in January. They pored over past examples where mines in other states failed to stop environmental damage, where acidic runoff damaged nearby waters and where the

companies declared bankruptcy and walked away, often leaving taxpayers holding the cleanup bag.

They warned that unless PolyMet finds a major partner or is purchased by a larger firm, the small "Canadian junior" company may not be able to obtain the bonds necessary to fund financial assurance up front. (PolyMet is one-third owned by Swiss commodities giant Glencore, but PolyMet officials insist they intend to run the company after opening the mine.)

And the state consultants, like Kuipers, warned against using only PolyMet's cash flow to cover the cost of paying for financial assurance. PolyMet would rather pay as it goes, increasing financial assurance as it makes profits from mining.

After looking at past mine pollution problems, the state's consultants concluded that "many of the bankruptcies involved small or junior mining companies without deep pockets. So when the commodity price slumped or additional financial assurances were demanded, the company could not maintain the cash flow and could not secure outside financial assurance after the fact."

"In most cases, neither party (regulatory agencies nor the mining company) understood the true future environmental damage potential nor the cost to mitigate the problem because the regulators did not insist on geochemical sampling and evaluation. The magnitude of the problem was not recognized by the regulators until after the damage was done, and by then it was too late."

The state consultants then noted that if an accurate, upfront financial assurance had been required, some mining companies likely would have walked away.

"If the actual cost of the reclamation and water treatment were recognized and factored into the mine economics, some of these projects may never have started," the consultants concluded.

Jobs and economic impact

The PolyMet mine is proposed near Babbitt while the company plans to reuse the idled LTV Steel taconite processing plant near Hoyt Lakes to process copper, nickel, gold and other valuable metals.

PolyMet supporters say the all-new kind of

PolyMet financial assurance

How much money should PolyMet be required to set aside before mining starts to cover closing costs and ongoing environmental protection? Here's a comparison between the PolyMet proposal in its permit to mine application and an analysis by Montana mining consultant Jim Kuipers.



Capital costs



Water treatment duration



Water treatment costs



Contingency/cost overrun estimate



Total indirect costs



Estimated return on investment after inflation



Total up-front money available to state



NEWS TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

mining will employ 300 people and pump \$550 million into the regional economy each year, a welcome diversification in an area hard-hit by the cyclical iron ore industry.

But critics say the potential for polluted runoff from the site is too great and that the potential environmental harm isn't worth the risk — especially the risk of acidic runoff when sulfur-bearing rock is exposed to air and water.

PolyMet's Environmental Impact Statement was approved in 2015 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources after a nearly 10-year environmental review period that included a do-over after the initial review was deemed inadequate by federal regulators. The Hoyt Lakes mine is the only project that Toronto-based PolyMet has. The company will need to raise more than a half-billion dollars from investors and lenders to actually build out the mine, with financing likely to come after permits are approved.

Construction would start when permits are issued and would take about two years before the mine is operational.

Judge sets rules for Yanez trial

Buttons, signs, 'facial expressions' banned from St. Paul courtroom

By Tad Vezner

St. Paul Pioneer Press
ST. PAUL — The judge who will preside over the trial of St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez has outlined what behavior he will tolerate in his courtroom — including a ban on any facial expressions in reaction to testimony.

An order signed by Ramsey County District Judge William Leary III this week makes some common stipulations, such as not allowing anyone to talk to jurors. It also reserves a row of seats each for the families of Yanez and Philando Castile, the motorist he is accused of shooting to death during a traffic stop this past summer.

But the order also adds that "courtroom attendees shall not wear signs, buttons, articles of clothing or attire, or engage in other forms of expression that refer or call attention to this matter, the Decedent, parties or witnesses."

Additionally, "courtroom attendees shall not make any facial expression, gesture, utterance, or change of demeanor that conveys any opinion or belief in response to a statement of a party or witness, argument or statement of counsel, or ruling of the court."

During the trial, the order calls for area outside the courtroom to be cleared of everyone but law enforcement officials. The order also states that "any conduct in or outside the government building that directly interferes with the conduct of a fair and impartial trial in this matter is prohibited."

The Yanez trial begins May 30 in Ramsey County District Court in downtown St. Paul.

Yanez faces one count of second-degree manslaughter and two felony-counts of dangerous discharge of a firearm. He has pleaded not guilty.

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Northern Lights Express

Higher Speed Passenger Rail Project

Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment

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For more information on the upcoming public meetings or the Tier 2 EA:
www.mndot.gov/nlx nlx.dot@state.mn.us

SCHOOL

from Page A1

LPNs on staff.

The change would cost the district an additional \$72,000 annually, said Alayna Burger, school district business manager. However, if the school district cannot fill its vacancies and is forced to contract out work for the positions, the annual cost would be more than \$125,000.

The School Board voted unanimously to move the matter forward to its regular meeting.

In other business:

It was announced Monday that the food

services department applied for and received a National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance grant. The grant, totaling \$57,137, will go toward a new oven at Northern Lights Elementary School and a new salad bar at Superior Middle School.

The oven costs nearly \$50,000 and will replace an outdated oven and two old steamers. The salad bar will go into use at the middle school in the fall.

Northern Lights Elementary School earned a Wisconsin Title I School of Recognition award for the 2016-17 school year, making it the fifth consecutive year the school

has been honored.

Northern Lights was honored as a Beating-the-Odds school. To earn the award, a school must be within the top 25 percent of high-poverty schools in the state and have above-average student achievement in reading and mathematics when compared similar schools.

During the reorganization of the School Board, officers remained the same, with Len Albrecht named president and Christina Kintop named vice president. Robert Morehouse was appointed treasurer, while Mike Raunio was named school clerk.

GARFIELD

from Page A1

A citation for first offense operating while intoxicated was also filed against Garfield in connection with the incident.

Officers responded to a Banks Avenue residence at about 7:27 p.m. April 25 after a domestic dispute call was received from a third party; officers learned Garfield was the suspect, and he had left the residence prior to their arrival. He was located by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Pattison Park and taken into custody.

Garfield reportedly pointed a gun at the victim during an argument after drinking. Police later found the .22 mm pistol loaded with eight bullets at the Banks Avenue residence.

Garfield waived a preliminary hearing Wednesday in Douglas County Circuit Court and was bound over for arraignment on the felony charge May 26. He was ordered to have no contact with the reported victim, not operate a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license, and not use or possess alcohol or dangerous weapons.

Fennessey noted Garfield is innocent until he is proven guilty, and he's hopeful Garfield receives a fair and speedy trial.

"This goes beyond being proven innocent or proven guilty," Fen-

nessey said. "As elected officials, it is imperative that we hold the trust of the citizens ... once that trust has been broken, it needs to be addressed."

Fennessey said the trust people of Superior put in Garfield has been "completely destroyed" and hinders his ability to represent the 6th District.

"For me, as a loving husband and the father of three females, I am sickened by the report and the seriousness of the allegations," the councilor said.

Fennessey urged the Council to take action, and reiterated and joined Mayor Jim Paine's call for Garfield to step down.

"I would like to address the Council to urge them to take this issue seriously," Laura Gapske, a newly elected member of the Superior School Board, said Tuesday night. "I thank Councilor Fennessey for his words addressing this dark cloud that has hit our community. I've worked in the field of domestic violence for over 13 years, and my kids have to hear why we're here today. It's because of a city councilor's alleged poor actions. We need to talk as a city and move to a higher standard for public officials."

Gapske encouraged the council to make sure there is accountability for the councilor's alleged actions.

Pete MacInnes, a resident of the 6th District represented by Garfield, said he was grieved

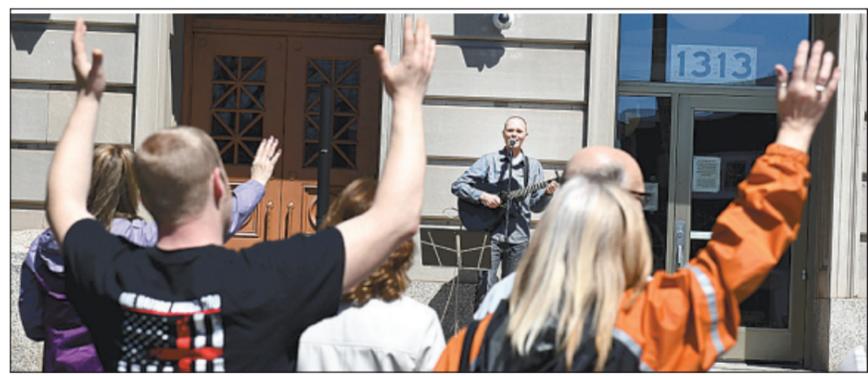
deeply when he saw the newspaper article and the charges filed against the councilor.

"I do believe that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, and we must continue to allow that process to play itself out," MacInnes said. He urged Garfield to step down, and the Council to take action to remove him if he doesn't step down.

"As a former resident of his district, I'm very disappointed," said Kym Young, a community advocate. "I have grandchildren in this community that I am raising, young grandsons that I am raising to be respectful of women, to be respectful of our laws, and to be respectful of our community. I teach in this community that we need to be engaged in our civic activities, and we look to our elected officials and hold them to a higher standard, whether that's fair or not. That is how our society has worked and does work. You're held to a higher standard because you represent all the people. I am very disappointed in your actions and I am asking you, as a former constituent, to please step down."

Young said she doesn't believe that he can represent the people who are victims of domestic violence and can't serve as a good role model for children in the community.

"Do the honorable thing and don't make our city council take the next steps," Young said.



Jed Carlson / jcarlson@superiorteleg.com

DAY OF PRAYER — Matthew Seiple Anderson plays at the 66th National Day of Prayer outside of the Douglas County Courthouse on Thursday afternoon.

ENBRIDGE

from Page A1

last year. The mentoring program matches students with area automotive professionals.

"We have two projects going on, technically three projects," said Esler, who's been involved in the program since it began five years ago. "The Jeep was restored with three students at Len's Auto Body. Then at Johnny's Auto Body, one of our new mentors, they scratch-built a matching off-road trailer, and they restored a 1970s Honda Trail 70 mini-bike to go on back."

The finished project

will be sold as a lot at the annual Kars at the Kitchen show May 21.

Next year's students may get the chance to modify the donated Silverado. For more information on the program, visit the Spartan Hot Rod Facebook page.

Whenever Enbridge has trucks to replace, keys change hands.

"It's not a regular thing, but when we have them we donate them to local response groups or nonprofits," said Enbridge spokeswoman Becky Haase. "We really want to support our local emergency responders and community. Part of our priority of being a good neighbor is giving back and being the solution when nonprofits and

folks need resources." To sign up for a donated vehicle, visit www.enbridge.com and search "apply for funding."

"Emergency responders, they're the first ones to get picked," Haase said. "They have to be near our lines, likely to respond in the event of an Enbridge need."

There are about 40 agencies on the list currently.

"We were excited that we came up this soon because I think we've only been on the list a year or two," Nordrum said.

Two more trucks are set to be donated in the Northland in the next few weeks, according to Eric Mack, communications coordinator with Enbridge.

HOMICIDE

from Page A1

with the ATM Mafia in Duluth. A female witness also identified the man as Band-Aid. She pulled out her smartphone and identified Band-Aid as Smith through his Facebook page. Another woman, who was seen next to Smith in the video, viewed the footage. She didn't know who the man next to her was, but came back later to show detectives Smith's Facebook page.

Braman told the court police also found reports and a booking photo on file connecting Smith with the nickname Band-Aid.

The witness from the alley was shown the body camera footage and im-

mediately recognized Smith.

Braman said the witness said he was positive Smith shot Kyle.

When asked for clarification by Court Commissioner Rebecca Lovejoy, Braman agreed that the witness was identifying Smith as the man he saw with the gun.

District Attorney Mark Fruehauf introduced Smith's 2013 judgment of conviction for assault in the third degree, substantial bodily harm in Minnesota, as well as a copy of the criminal complaint.

Fruehauf said that under Minnesota law, whether a conviction is a felony or misdemeanor depends on the sentence given. Because of the amount of time Smith served — less than a year — it is considered a mis-

demeanor by Minnesota statute.

"I don't view that as fatal to our case, I guess," Fruehauf said after the hearing.

If the offense had been committed in Wisconsin, he said, it would be a felony.

"Wisconsin prohibits people from possessing firearms in this state if they commit an offense in another state that would be a felony in this state," Fruehauf said. "He's not a felon, but he is a person prohibited from having a firearm."

Public Defender Fredric Anderson, who represents Smith, said the question of whether Smith is considered a felon is "probably an argument for another day."

Smith's next court appearance is set for June 5.

Correction

In a Tuesday story on the Superior High School musical "Grease," the number to call for ticket reservations was incorrect. The correct number is (715) 394-8720 ext. 119, the school treasurer's office. The Telegram apologizes for the error.



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Stormwater Permitting Program Update Meeting

An informational meeting will be held from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM on Weds. May 10th at Environmental Services Division of Public Works, 51 E 1st St. Superior, WI.

Learn about The City of Superior's Stormwater Program updates and how it may affect the permitting process. This meeting is specifically for consultants and contractors who will be involved with projects within the City limits. A presentation will start at 4:30 and last about an hour followed by a question and answer session.

Questions? Contact Kristy DeVera at deverak@ci.superior.wi.us or 715-395-5841

More information at: www.ci.superior.wi.us/574/Stormwater-Management

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FRENCH ELECTION

France prepares to step into political unknown

By ALISSA J. RUBIN
New York Times

PARIS—France's presidential election on Sunday has already broken all kinds of barriers in a country where politics seemed frozen for decades. The two candidates are outsiders. The political establishment has been elbowed aside. The tone of the race between the insurgents has shocked many for its raw anger.

Then, barely an hour before the official close of campaigning at midnight Friday, the staff of the presumed front-runner, Emmanuel Macron, a 39-year-old former investment banker, announced that his campaign had been the target of a hacking operation. Internal e-mails and other documents, some real, some fake, according to

the campaign, were posted on an online message board favored by white nationalists in an apparent effort to aid his rival, Marine Le Pen, 48, the far-right leader.

Saturday was a surreal day in France. The dramatic timing of the leaks, coming just as French law mandated a 44-hour media blackout before and during Sunday's critical presidential runoff, jolted the final hours of the race.

The French media largely observed the blackout, offering little about the content of the hacking, which appeared to involve mundane exchanges.

But the hacking succeeded in sowing still more confusion in a race that was already among the most unpredictable in memory. Even before the last-minute attempt at

sabotage, the election represented a big step into the political unknown for France — the first time in more than 50 years that neither of the establishment parties will be represented in the final round.

Instead, voters will choose one of two starkly different candidates, who each have pledged to change the system, though in different ways.

Le Pen, a fierce nationalist, wants to take France out of the European Union and restore the franc. Macron, a centrist who formed his own party, En Marche!, wants to push market and labor reforms to make France more competitive and deepen its ties to the E.U.

"The experienced politicians were rejected, and now we have a new category of candidate," said Dominique

Bussereau, a member of the mainstream right party Les Republicains.

But for all the turmoil, whether either candidate will be able to muster broad legislative or popular support is in doubt — raising the real possibility that an election intended to shake the status quo could still result in stasis. Can either candidate, as an outsider, really be effective as president?

Neither has ever held national elected office. Each lacks any real base of support in Parliament and will be trying to build one from the ground up — and the president of France is powerful only if he or she has a majority in Parliament to help push through his or her party's program.

That uncertainty may ripple through Europe, which will

be watching closely to gauge both the strength of far-right forces in France and the depth of the anti-E.U. sentiment.

The differences between the candidates are so deep that the winner will surely be seen as a harbinger of Europe's future. Resentment of E.U. rules and the failure of the bloc to wrestle with immigration and border controls were major issues in the campaign.

Beyond France, the election will be critical in determining Europe's openness to the world and the fate of its generous social welfare benefits. It is being especially closely watched in Germany, which holds parliamentary elections in September.

In particular, a close eye will be kept on Le Pen's share of the vote, which will serve as

a gauge of the current strength of the populist tide that last year ushered Britain's vote to leave the E.U. and Donald Trump to power in the U.S.

In the final polls, Macron was favored to win — by as much as 20 percentage points. Still, the polls come after a long season of staggering electoral upsets around the world.

No matter who wins, the country will be abandoning the political order that has shaped it for the past 59 years, when it was dominated by the country's two mainstream parties — the Socialist Party and the center-right Republicains.

"We are changing into a four-party system that has never existed before in France ... and that does not exist elsewhere in large European countries," Bussereau said.

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Far right in U.S. cheers hack of candidate

◀ **FRANCE** from AI trying to go global," said Ben Nimmo, a senior fellow of the digital forensics research lab at the Atlantic Council, a think tank, who has studied the far right's recent efforts against Macron and others in France. "There's a feeling of trying to export the revolution."

The leak, which involved posting campaign documents like e-mails and accounting records to message boards, occurred late Friday, hours before a legal prohibition on campaign communications went into effect across France. In response, Macron's team said the hackers had included fake information alongside authentic material "to sow doubt."

"Intervening in the final hour of the official campaign, this operation is clearly a matter of democratic destabilization, as was seen in the United



GRAHAM HUGHES • Canadian Press via AP
French citizens in Montreal cast early votes in the French presidential election on Saturday. Macron was well ahead in the polls.

States during the last presidential campaign," Macron's campaign said in a statement late Friday, minutes before the communications prohibition went into effect.

By Saturday, a trail of digital crumbs appeared to tie the attack on Macron's campaign to Russian hackers. Forensics specialists found that one of the leaked Excel documents from Macron's campaign had been modified on a Russian version of Excel, and edited on Russian-language computers.

One document had last been modified by a Russian user named Roshka Georgiy Petrovich. The 32-year-old employee of the Moscow-based Eureka CJSC, a Russian technology company, did not immediately return e-mails requesting comment. Eureka CJSC's clients include several Russian government agencies.

U.S. intelligence officials say that Russian government agencies regularly outsource political cyberattacks to Russian cybercriminals and top computer engineers. Security experts note that the digital crumbs could be the sloppy work of a Russian engineer, or studiously left by hackers looking to mask their true identities and whereabouts.

Within hours after the hacked documents were made public, the hashtag #MacronLeaks began trending world-

wide, aided by far-right activists in the United States who have been trying to sway the vote in favor of Le Pen.

Jack Posobiec, a journalist with the far-right news outlet the Rebel, was the first to use the hashtag with a link to the hacked documents online, which was then shared more widely by WikiLeaks. Posobiec remains the second-most mentioned individual on Twitter in connection with the hashtag behind WikiLeaks.

While there is no evidence that the breach against Macron's campaign was organized by this loosely connected group of far-right campaigners, the U.S. activists have been gathering on sites like 4chan and Discord, which were previously used to coordinate support for Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

One popular tactic, experts say, has been "Twitter raids," or efforts to hijack trending hashtags and topics on the social media site and inject far-right and anti-Macron propaganda.

A week before the second round of the French election, for instance, online activists, many from the United States and other English-speaking countries, flooded Twitter with coordinated anti-Macron memes — online satirical photos with biting captions — carrying hashtags like #ely-

see2017 that were linked to the campaign. That included portraying him as a 21st-century equivalent of Marie Antoinette; other memes made allegations of an extramarital affair.

"They tried to bombard French Twitter with memes favorable to Le Pen," said Padraic Ryan, a project coordinator at Storyful, an online marketing company that tracks social media activity around news events. "The campaigns are showing an increasing level of sophistication and coordination."

Despite these increasingly coordinated digital efforts by far-right activists, analysts say, their efforts had not reached the vast majority of the French electorate — until the Friday release of the hacked documents.

It will most likely take until after the election to review all the leaked documents. Under France's electoral rules, publication of the material before voting could lead to charges.

On Saturday, Le Monde, a French newspaper that has been fact-checking online information, posted a message below all of its election articles, saying that it would not disclose the contents of the breach until after the voting Sunday. Le Monde said it did not want the leak to be used to disrupt the electoral process.

The French media has been ordered by the electoral commission not to publish contents of the leaks. But the growth of digital misinformation and other falsities is likely to only grow in a season of elections in Europe in which British and German voters will soon head to the polls, said Janis Sarts, director of the NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence, in Riga, Latvia.

"Misinformation is increasingly used to achieve political ends," Sarts said. "Technology helps to amplify that message through fake news sites and social media."

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News Release

April 21, 2017

Contact: Mary McFarland Brooks
651-366-4280

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

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.

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.

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