

March 12, 2009

Field Review of CapX2020 MN River Crossing At LeSeur and Belle Plaine.

Attendees

USFWS:

Jeanne Holler
Gerry Shimnek
Vicki Sherry
Gary Wege
Chris Trosen
Sarah Inouye-Leas

MN DNR:

[REDACTED]

Henderson Feathers:

[REDACTED]

Gustavus Adolphus – Linneaus Arboretum:

[REDACTED]

LeSeur: (this part of the tour was led by Henderson Feathers)

- line will come in somewhere by Mayo Park Arboretum (we drove on CR28/Froest Prairie Road)
- the city appears to “want” the crossing – rumor has it the city thinks it makes sense
- Tyrone Township – line will come through MN Valley Orchard (320th St)
- in the East the line will connect with the Hampton Station
- there is a private “goose refuge” about ½ mile west – it usually holds about 2500 geese
 - the refuge is private property with not hunting, etc
- 1st stop = by the MN Valley Orchard on 320th Street
- 2nd stop = by the sewage treatment ponds off of 169
 - line will come in between Green Giant & knoll
 - there are usually eagles on the ponds
 - 2 eagles nest within 1/3 mile of each other. about 2 miles NW of where we were standing at 2nd stop = Kelm cut off nest & Burns Island
 - 1 ½ miles SE there is 1 nest
 - sewer ponds are puddle clay lined
- took 93 North = “scenic byway”
 - by Coachlight Restaurant there is a hatchery area (Coachlight Pond) on Right of highway and a gravel pit off to the Left with a red-tailed hawk nest nearby
 - there’s a great blue heron rookery in which 19 young were produced last year (last year was a lower year due to hwy construction)
- 3rd stop = Bucks Lake
 - line will go across ponds through Bucks Lake and up the hill
 - there is a smaller lake (Horseshoe Lake) connected to Bucks Lake, which is connected to the MN River
 - S. edge of Bucks Lake usually stays open all winter
 - home to egrets, cormorants, etc.

- usually there is no winter die off
- “every person along the ridge are bird watchers”
- much if the area has been restored and is becoming a wild area
- use Bucks Lake for EE, but now have 2nd – 5th graders “so don’t do a lot out here”
 - used to do fish studies with older students
 - would like to bring seniors out here
- NEY Center is on others side of the River – [REDACTED] volunteer for NEY, JR Brown & Henderson Feathers
- only pasque flower bed is in Sand Prairie = < ½ mile on top of bluff
- 4th stop = Cemstone (aggregates)
 - not in line with crossing area
 - Henderson Feathers would like to build platform & facility for public viewing
 - larkspartrows
- 5th stop = JR Brown River Center & Henderson Feathers headquarters
- other points of interest from Henderson Feathers
 - other crossing is not in Scenic Byway & not in a populated area
 - besides NEY Henderson Feathers is the other big environmental group in the area & they “use tourism to protect the land”
 - nearby is Rush River Park – cerulean warblers nest here
 - prothonotary warblers nest in the MN River valley

Belle Plaine: (for this part, from Henderson Feathers only [REDACTED] came)

- either crossing will pass through wetlands
- at Belle Plaine, the footprint will be larger than what’s currently there = safety issue for someone working on lines
 - current width = ~ 50’
 - will be 150’ (more)
- there are sewage treatment ponds here, too – coots, shorebirds, waterfowl

- 1) Grating line occurs within
- 2) RT handle next
- 3) Handle detector - Rys says next
- 4) Obysand immediate left of B

on pen J. Heller

- 5) Dip
- a) Topped line would be 70-125'

- b) 75' from approx. existing 69 kV line
- c) Line @ 40-55' - 8 lines

48) 5000 ft from ~~west~~ N side

County Book - Hwy app
 signed by SE MN

- 10) # sent frame on top of B&E
- 11) Rich River State Magazine

- 1) heading to E of Bucko Lake, W of swamp ponds

46) Bucko Lake & W Power Bull

- 2) Power poles above
- 3) W. Valley not below of

spring, not much good
 frame, lots of wire with

- 3) Buck Lake connected to MN

River near Henderson L.

- 4) Power line crossing in

MN R. Valley - crossing

- 5) Much of Valley somewhat

from big production

- 6) All waterfalls falling are under

watering

- 7) Hwy 93 in normal highway

- 8) No formal facility @ Bucko Lake

but use for field studies

* Take Get location of "private"

swamp location

Nye Center?

- 9) H. Foster Property & E. Johnson