



November 22, 2004

EQB Monitor

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

Comments due on December 22, 2004

Glenwood Marina

Description: The City of Glenwood is proposing to construct a marina with 100 boat slips on the northeastern end of Lake Minnewaska. A floating breakwater is also proposed to dissipate wave action and protect the marina.

RGU: City of Glenwood

Contact: Dave Iverson, City Administrator, 137 Minnesota Ave. E., Glenwood, Minnesota 56334; 320-634-5433, Fax: 320-634-5592.

Cromwell Estates Residential Subdivision

Description: Project to convert 104.4 acres of agricultural land into a 10 lot platted subdivision with lots ranging in size from 5 to 17 acres. The subdivision will require 1,900 feet of new roadway and each lot will have a private well and individual on-site sewage treatment system.

RGU: Clay County

Contact: Tim Magnusson, Planning Director, 807 N. 11th Street, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560; 218-299-5002, Fax: 218-299-5195, Email: tim.magnusson@co.clay.mn.us.

ABOUT THE EQB MONITOR

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements and other notices.

The *EQB Monitor* is also posted on the Environmental Quality Board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

Vol. 28, No. 24

Next issue: December 6, 2004
Submittal deadline: November 29, 2004

Heritage Development Project

Description: The development project is located east of TH 3 and north of existing urban development on three parcels totaling approximately 160 acres in Empire Township. The mixed use project is planned for 345 housing units, 40,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, athletic fields and a neighborhood park. Urban services will be extended to the development.

RGU: Empire Township

Contact: Dean Johnson, Consulting Planner, Empire Town Hall, 3385 - 197th Street West, Farmington, Minnesota 55024; 651-463-4494, Fax: 651-463-4620, Email: info@township.empire.mn.us

Hawkinson Construction Rock Quarry"

Description: Hawkinson Construction Company, Inc. of Grand Rapids, Minnesota is proposing to establish a rock quarry and hot mix batch plant in Koochiching County. The proposed 30-acre project site is located southeast of Margie on State Highway 71.

Copies of the EAW will be available for review at the Koochiching County Zoning office.

RGU: Koochiching County

Contact Richard Lehtinen, Environmental Services Director, Address 715 4th Street, International Falls, Minnesota 56649; 218-283-1155, Fax 218-283-1159, Email: richard.lehtinen@co.koochiching.mn.us

EHLR Property Master Planned Community

Description: The EHLR Property development is a 218-acre residential master planned community with 287 units on 96 acres and 83 acres of parks and open space. The project is generally located west of Trunk Highway 101 and north of Hackamore Road in the City of Corcoran, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

RGU: City of Corcoran



Contact: Sue Vergin, City Administrator, City of Corcoran, 200 County Rd 116, Corcoran, Minnesota 55340; 763-420-2288, Fax: 763-420-6056, Email: svergin@ci.corcoran.mn.us

Minnesota Trunk Highway 7 in Hutchinson

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation proposes improvements to Trunk Highway 7 in Hutchinson. Mn/DOT has prepared an EA/EAW on the project, which involves improving TH 7/22 to a five lane street from Shady Ridge Road to 5th Avenue in Hutchinson. Improvements to TH 15 will also occur, including widening, channelization and the replacement of a bridge over the South Fork of the Crow River.

Comment Period: The comment period will begin November 22, 2004 and will remain open through January 7, 2005.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the project will be held at the Hutchinson Public Event Center, 1005 Highway 15 South, Plaza 15 Building. The hearing will be held December 8th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, and will employ an open house format.

Copies of the EA/EAW will be available at the Mn/DOT District Office in Willmar; the Mn/DOT Office in Hutchinson, 1800 Adams St. SE; the Hutchinson Public Library, 50 Hassan St. SE; the Chamber of Commerce 12 Main St. N; and at the Hutchinson City Hall, 14 Hassan St. SE.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Lowell Flaten, Project Manager, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar Minnesota, 56201; 320-214-3698.

Trunk Highway 241 Reconstruction, City of St. Michael, Wright County Minnesota

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is proposing to reconstruct approximately 3.3 miles of Trunk Highway (TH) 241, in the City of St. Michael, Wright County Minnesota. The project will include reconstructing the existing two-lane roadway and expanding to a four-lane facility. The four-lane segment will begin at 4th Street and continue to I-94.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA), which documents the purpose and need of the project and anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts, are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the following locations beginning November 22:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation - District 3 Office, 3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303
- City of St. Michael, 3150 Lander Avenue NE, St. Michael, Minnesota 55376
- Roy Sims Community Library, Great River Regional Library, 403 Central Avenue East, St. Michael, Minnesota 55376

The document will also be available on the Mn/DOT website beginning November 22nd at www.dot.state.mn.us.

Mn/DOT encourages the public to attend an open house and combined public hearing with the City of St. Michael for the proposed reconstruction of TH 241. The open house and hearing will be held December 9th, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Michael City Hall, City Council Chambers located at 3150 Lander Avenue NE. St. Michael City Hall is handicapped accessible. The purpose of the open house/hearing is to inform the public about the project, and to encourage comments and questions. Comment cards will be available to fill out at the open house/hearing or can be returned by mail. A court reporter will be present to officially record verbal comments. Comments submitted will become part of the official record.

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the current MEQB list and others. The comment period will begin on November 22, 2004. Comments will be accepted through December 22, 2004 and can be directed to the contact listed below.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact: Chad Casey, P.E., Project Manager, Mn/DOT Project Development, 3725 12th St. N., St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303; 320-255-3058, Fax: 320 203-6089, Email: chad.casey@dot.state.mn.us.

Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative Biomass Gasification

Description: Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative in Little Falls, Minnesota, proposes to construct a biomass gasification system that will fuel the facility's thermal oxidizer, a major component of the plant's pollution control equipment. The single gasifier would have a design throughput of approximately 12 tons of clean scrapwood per hour. There will be no increase in the amount of ethanol production as a result of this project.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Lynne Kolze, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-282-5992

PETITIONS FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- John Laveau Gravel C.U.P. Project, Carlton County
- Brainard Village Project, City of Detroit Lakes

EAW NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has made a decision regarding the need for an EAW in response to a citizen petition.

- Board of Supervisors of Castle Rock Township, Joe Miller Homes, Interim Use Permit, ordered.

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparations of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the EQB Monitor.

- Preserve at Giants Ridge, Biwabik City Council, November 1, 2004 (September 13, 2004)
- Swan Lake, Beltrami County Board, October 19, 2004 (June 21, 2004)

DRAFT AUAR AVAILABLE

Mound Visions

Comments due December 22, 2004

Description: The Mound Visions AUAR is being prepared to address the cumulative impacts of future redevelopment in Mound's Downtown. The AUAR will explore the impacts of two development scenarios. The first scenario will follow the Comprehensive Plan, which guides land use to implement the City adopted Mound Visions Plan. The second scenario, Mound Harbor Renaissance (MHR), will evaluate

development impacts proposed by two development teams. Each scenario proposes a compact mix of office, retail, and residential uses as well as a transit center, hotel and farmers market. The MHR scenario also proposes to increase the dredge area of the Lost Lake Canal for docking and surface water use. Although the scenarios have similarities, differences in location and densities suggest a need to evaluate both scenarios. The Draft AUAR studies impacts to wetlands, surface water drainage, natural areas, traffic, and utility infrastructure systems.

Copies of the Draft AUAR are available for review at Mound City Hall, 5341 Maywood Road and the Weston Library, 2079 Commerce Blvd, both in Mound, Minnesota, 55364.

RGU: City of Mound

Contact: Sarah Smith, Community Development Director, 5341 Maywood Road, Mound, Minnesota, 55364; phone (952) 472-0604; fax (952) 472-0620; email: sarahsmith@cityofmound.com

All written comments should be submitted to Ms. Smith on or before December 22, 2004

The Bridges Office Development

Description: The Bridges Office Development is a proposed corporate campus development of 118 acres located at the northwest quadrant of Interstate 35W and Trunk Highway 10 in Mounds View, Minnesota. The project will consist of approximately 1.5 million square feet of office space.

RGU: City of Mounds View

Contact: Aaron Backman, Economic Development Coordinator, City of Mounds View, Minnesota; 763-717-4029, Email aaron.backman@ci.mounds-view.mn.us.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Elk River Landfill South MSW Development – Environmental Impact Statement

Description: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is public noticing a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet, as the basis for the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

An EIS is being prepared by the MPCA on a proposal by Elk River Landfill to expand operations at its existing mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal facility by developing 73.7 acres currently used by a gravel mining operation

located immediately south of the existing landfill property. The proposed landfill project, known as the Southern Development Area, will follow mining operations by the current property owner, the Tiller Corporation. The proposed project will provide approximately 15,000,000 cubic yards of additional MSW capacity for the City of Elk River, Sherburne County, and the surrounding area. This capacity is expected to provide continued landfill operations for 16 to 20 years, depending upon incoming waste volumes. The preparation of the EIS is mandatory under provisions of Minn. R. 4410.4400, sub. 13(E). The MPCA is the Responsible Governmental Unit for this EIS.

The public comment period on the Draft Scoping EAW will end December 22, 2004. There will be a public meeting held at the Uptown Room, City of Elk River, 13065 Oromo Parkway, Elk River, Minnesota, on Thursday, December 9, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This public meeting will be open to the public for interested parties to comment and ask questions regarding the Draft Scoping Document for the preparation of the EIS.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, at the following:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html>

RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact: Debra Moynihan, Project Manager, Environmental Review and Operations Section, Regional Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, Minnesota 55155; 651-296-8420.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Proposed Amendment to Rules Governing the Environmental Review Program,

Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410, Adopting Mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Exemption Categories for Recreational Trails

Public Hearing. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) intends to adopt rules after a public hearing following the procedures set forth in the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.2200 to 1400.2240, and the Administrative Procedure Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.131 to 14.20. The EQB will hold a public hearing on the above entitled rules at the following times and places and continuing until the hearing is completed:

- Tuesday, January 11, 2005, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Northern Inn, Highway 2 West, Bemidji, MN 56601
- Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Hermantown Public Safety Training Facility, 5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
- Wednesday, January 19, 2005, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Fort Snelling History Center Auditorium, Fort Snelling, MN, at the junction of state highways 5 & 55.

To find out if a hearing has been postponed due to adverse weather conditions, please call the EQB contact person listed below or check the EQB website: www.eqb.state.mn.us.

Additional days of hearing will be scheduled if necessary. All interested or affected persons will have an opportunity to participate by submitting either oral or written data, statements, or arguments. Statements may be submitted without appearing at the hearing.

Administrative Law Judge. The hearing will be conducted by Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick, who can be reached at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 100 Washington Square, Suite 1700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401 2138, telephone 612-349-2544, and FAX 612 349 2665. The rule hearing procedure is governed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.131 to 14.20, and by the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minnesota Rules, and parts 1400.2000 to 1400.2240. Questions concerning the rule hearing procedure should be directed to the Administrative Law Judge.

Subject of Rules, Statutory Authority, and Agency Contact Person. The proposed rules would amend the lists of mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) categories (at Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4300) and Exemption categories (at Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4600) to add categories specific to certain types of recreational trails. The proposed rules would not establish categories for mandatory Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for recreational trails. The proposed mandatory EAW and Exemption categories would apply to private as well as public recreational trails, provided that private trails would only be subject to review if governmental approval or financial assistance was involved. Currently, the environmental review program rules do not contain any mandatory review or exemption categories that apply directly to recreational trails of any type. An EAW may be prepared on a discretionary basis by a unit of government for a recreational trail, and citizens may request preparation of an EAW by filing a citizen's petition as authorized by the environmental review rules. If the EQB adopts the mandatory EAW and Exemption categories, review will become automatic for some trail

projects, while discretionary review (including review initiated by citizen petition) will no longer be possible for some other projects.

The proposed rules are authorized by Minnesota Laws 2003, chapter 128, article 1, section 167, subdivision 3, which directs the EQB to “adopt rules providing for threshold levels for environmental review for recreational trails.” The EQB also has standing authority to adopt and amend the mandatory categories and exemptions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 116D.04, subd. 2a (a). A copy of the proposed rules is published in the State Register and attached to this notice as mailed. The proposed rule is also available at the EQB website, www.eqb.state.mn.us. A free copy of the rules is available upon request from the agency contact person. The agency contact person is: Gregg Downing at EQB, 300 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155; phone, 651/205-4660; FAX, 651/296-3698; and email, gregg.downing@state.mn.us. TTY users may call the Department of Administration at 800/627-3529.

Statement of Need and Reasonableness. A Statement of Need and Reasonableness is now available for review at the EQB offices and website (www.eqb.state.mn.us) and at the Office of Administrative Hearings. This statement contains a summary of the justification for the proposed rules, including a description of who will be affected by the proposed rules and an estimate of the probable cost of the proposed rules. The statement may be reviewed and copies obtained at the cost of reproduction from the agency.

Public Comment. You and all interested or affected persons, including representatives of associations and other interested groups, will have an opportunity to participate. You may present your views either orally at the hearing or in writing at any time before the close of the hearing record. All evidence presented should relate to the proposed rules. You may also submit written material to the Administrative Law Judge to be recorded in the hearing record for five working days after the public hearing ends. This five day comment period may be extended for a longer period not to exceed 20 calendar days if ordered by the Administrative Law Judge at the hearing. Following the comment period, there is a five working day rebuttal period during which the agency and any interested person may respond in writing to any new information submitted. No additional evidence may be submitted during the five day rebuttal period. All comments and responses submitted to the Administrative Law Judge must be received at the Office of Administrative Hearings no later than 4:30 p.m. on the due date. All comments or responses received will be available for review at the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Notice of EIS Scoping Decision and EIS Preparation

Hardwood Creek Official Profile Restoration and Corridor Rehabilitation

On October 13, 2004 the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers adopted a Scoping Decision for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed for the Hardwood Creek Official Profile Restoration and Corridor Rehabilitation. The project area is located within the Cities of Hugo and Forest Lake, beginning just south of Rice Lake and ending at Highway 61. The purpose of this project is to (1) restore the main channel of the Judicial Ditch #2 (JD2) portion of Hardwood Creek to its official profile and (2) enhance vegetation and habitat areas along the corridor.

The following issues will be addressed in the EIS:

1. A groundwater assessment will be conducted to better quantify groundwater inputs into JD-2;
2. Wetland drainage estimates will be refined and a thorough clarification of Track I and Track II impacts will be completed. All analysis will include impacts to Rice Lake;
3. Further assessment of avoidance of impacts to DNR wetlands;
4. Both direct and indirect effects of the drainage that the construction of the channel may cause on lands that are not immediately adjacent to the ditch;
5. Water quality impacts to HWC/JD2 and Peltier Lake.
6. Impact mitigation measures.

Copies of the entire Scoping Decision are available by contacting Theresa Stasica at the

Rice Creek Watershed District at 763-398-3070. The Scoping Decision and other information are also available at <http://www.ricecreekwd.com>.



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Department of Administration

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171
St. Paul, MN

Vol. 28 No. 24

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information or additional copies of the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial, 658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1388

Phone: 800-657-3794 or 651-296-2603
Fax: 651-296-3698
E-mail: <mailto:eqb.monitor@state.mn.us>