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Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

The *EQB Monitor* Publication Calendar for 2012 is included in this edition

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: January 25, 2012

Project Title: Split Rock Lighthouse State Park Campground Expansion

Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to expand the campground at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park by constructing access roads and adding up to 77 additional campsites and four camper cabins. The expansion is located within the existing State Park, northwest of Trunk Highway 61 in southern Beaver Bay Township, Lake County.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Split Rock EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to 651-297-1500.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
- DNR Northeast Region --1201 E. Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Silver Bay Public Library, 9 Davis Drive, Silver Bay, MN 55614
- Two Harbors Public Library, 320 Waterfront Drive, Two Harbors, MN 55616
- Reg. Develop. Library (RG 3), Duluth Public Lib., 520 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

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 posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>.

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 on the *EQB Monitor*, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road – 4th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2873
Fax: 651-297-2343
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us>

The EAW is also posted on the DNR's website at mndnr.gov (Click on "Public Input", then select "Split Rock EAW" from the scroll-down list under "Environmental Review"). Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5157.

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person: Ronald Wieland, Planner
Environmental Review Program
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025
651-259-5157

EA/EAW AVAILABLE

**Project Title: I-90/Dresbach Bridge and Approach Roadway Interchange Project
(MnDOT S.P. 8580-149), Dresbach Township, Winona County, Minnesota**

Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing to construct a new Interstate Highway 90 (I-90) river crossing bridge over the Mississippi River to meet current structural and geometric standards, and reconstruct the interchange at US 61/14 and I-90 to improve traffic safety, capacity and access on and between the highways.

Copies of the EA/EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project, alternatives considered, and the anticipated social, economic, environmental impacts, including Federal Section 106 and Section 4(f) impacts, are available for public review beginning December 26, 2011 at the following locations and on the project website at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/dresbachbridge/documents.html.

- Minnesota Department of Transportation - District 6 Offices, 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Southwest Region La Crosse Office, 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd., La Crosse, WI 54601
- Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 55401
- Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd St SE, Rochester, MN 55904
- Winona Public Library, 151 W Fifth Street, Winona, MN 55987
- Hokah Public Library, 57 Main, Hokah, MN 55941
- Caledonia Public Library, 231 East Main Street, Caledonia, MN 55921
- Dresbach Town Hall, 46851 Riverview Drive, La Crescent MN
- City of La Crescent, 315 Main Street, La Crescent, MN 55947
- La Crescent Public Library, 321 Main Street, La Crescent, MN 55947
- La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
- Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Ave. S., Onalaska, WI 54650
- La Crosse City Hall, 400 La Crosse Street, 4th Floor, La Crosse, WI 54601
- Onalaska City Hall, 415 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to comment on the EA/EAW, a public hearing/open house meeting has been scheduled for January 25, 2012 at the La Crescent Area High School, 1301 Lancer Boulevard, La Crescent, MN from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The public hearing will have an open house format with formal presentations at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. A court reporter will be present to record oral comments, and written comments can also be provided by attendees. The hearing location is ADA accessible. Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meeting should contact the Minnesota Relay Service at the telephone numbers listed below.

The EA/EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. To request the EA/EAW document in an alternative format, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodation at the public meeting, call Jane Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay), or e-mailing janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us. Please request accommodation at least one week in advance of the hearing.

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list and other interested parties. The comment period will begin on December 26, 2011. Written comments will be accepted through February 23, 2012 and should be submitted to the contact listed below.

Project Proposers: Minnesota Department of Transportation and Wisconsin Department of Transportation

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person: Jai Kalsy
Mn/DOT Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation – District 6
2900 48th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Phone: 507-286-7545
E-mail: Jai.Kalsy@state.mn.us

Project Title: Carver CSAH 11 Reconstruction and Realignment Project (SP 010-611-006)

Description: The Carver County Public Works Division is proposing construction of the CSAH 11 Reconstruction and Realignment Project (SP 010-611-006) located in the City of Chaska, Dahlgren Township, and Laketown Township in Carver County, Minnesota. The proposed scope of the project includes reconstruction of CSAH 11 between CSAH 61 and CSAH 10, including reconstruction of approximately 0.75 miles on the existing alignment and new construction of approximately 1.25 miles on a new alignment. The major elements of the project include improved intersection and mobility of CSAH 11, grading, drainage, aggregate base, concrete curb and gutter, bituminous surfacing, storm sewer and storm water ponding, water quality enhancement, pedestrian/bicycle trail and signalization of the CSAH 11/CSAH 10 intersection.

Copies of the EA/EAW which documents the purpose and need for the project, along with the anticipated environmental impacts, are available for public viewing beginning Thursday, December 29, 2011 during regular business hours at the following locations:

- Carver County Public Works, 11360 Hwy. 212 W., Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322-8016
- Carver County Public Library 4 City Hall Plaza Chaska, MN 55318
- Carver County Public Library 217 South Vine Street Waconia, MN 55387

The EA can also be accessed for viewing and printing from the Carver County Public Works website:

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/PW/index.asp>

The above referenced document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Project Engineer at 952-466-5200, or to individuals who are hearing or speech impaired by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at 952-466-5200 between 7:30 am and 4:00 p.m.

The comment period will begin on Thursday, December 29, 2011. Written comments will be accepted through Monday, January 30, 2012. Comments should be submitted to the Carver County Project Manager listed below.

RGU: Carver County

Contact Person: Scott Smith, Project Engineer
Carver County Public Works Department
11360 Highway 212, Suite 1
Cologne, MN 55322
952-466-5217
ssmith@co.carver.mn.us

Carver County advises all interested persons of an opportunity to request a public hearing for the Carver CSAH 11 Reconstruction and Realignment Project. A public hearing may be requested by individuals to whom the proposed project is of significant concern. The hearing request should indicate the concerns and reasons why a hearing is requested. A public hearing may be held if it is determined that there is substantial public interest to warrant a hearing. A request for a public hearing may be made by submitting a written request to the Project Engineer listed above on or before Monday, January 30, 2012. If a hearing is held, notice of the time and place of the hearing will be published in the local newspaper.

Project Title: County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard) Transportation Improvements, Andover and Anoka, Anoka County, Minnesota (SP 002-716-012)

Description: In 2012, Anoka County will initiate the reconstruction of CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard) in the Cities of Andover and Anoka from CSAH 7 (7th Avenue) to CSAH 9 (Round Lake Boulevard). Review and approval of the CSAH 116 Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) was completed by Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in fall 2011. The County encourages the public to attend a Public Hearing and Open House for the proposed Transportation Improvements.

The Open House and Public Hearing will be held Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (formal public hearing from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.) at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304.

The proposed project includes reconstruction of 1 mile of an existing rural two-lane roadway to a four-lane, urban roadway with center median; construction of storm sewer, storm water treatment ponds; construction of an off road bituminous trail; improvements to the existing CSAH 116/CSAH 7 signalized intersection; the installation of a new signal at the CSAH 116/38th Avenue NW intersection; and 0.5-mile of city trail improvements. This project will impact wetlands and require the acquisition of right-of-way. The tentative schedules for right-of-way acquisition and construction, dependent upon federal approvals, will be discussed at the open house.

The purpose of the open house is answer questions about the proposed project. Maps, drawings and other pertinent information, including the Environmental Assessment/ Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) will be available. The EA/EAW is the federally-required document that outlines social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project. The public is encouraged to discuss the project with staff and the consultant during the open house portion of the event.

The purpose of the public hearing is to collect comments and feedback on the EA/EAW document. During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to provide oral or written comments on the document. These comments will be documented during the public hearing. Comments collected during the hearing will be incorporated and responded to in the final EA/EAW. Staff from the county is not permitted to answer questions during the formal hearing.

During the public hearing, meeting participants will have the opportunity to submit verbal comments that will become part of the official public hearing record. The hearing will be extended appropriately to accommodate verbal comments.

Copies of the EA/EAW will be available for public viewing at the public meeting and for at least 15 days prior to the public meeting during business hours at the following locations from December 26, 2011 through January 27, 2012:

- Anoka County Highway Department: 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304
City of Andover, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304
- City of Anoka, 2015 1st Ave N, Anoka, MN 55303
- Rum River Library, 4201 6th Ave, Anoka, MN 55303
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Room 175 Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55155

In addition, a copy of the EA/EAW can also be viewed on the Anoka County Website at:
http://ww2.anokacounty.us/v3_highway/CSAH116/Welcome.html

Written comments can be submitted at the public meeting or mailed, prior to the close of the public comment period on January 27, 2012, to Jack Corkle, Anoka County Highway Department, 1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304.

Accessibility and ASL

For accessibility or ASL, please make your request by January 5, 2012. To request an ASL interpreter or other reasonable accommodations, call Jack Corkle at 763-862-4219 or e-mail your request to jack.corkle@co.anoka.mn.us.

RGU: Anoka County

Contact Person: Jack Corkle
Anoka County Highway Department
1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
763-862-4219
jack.corkle@co.anoka.mn.us

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation 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*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Stewart Material Coal Handling Facility, McLeod County, December 20, 2011, (August 22, 2011)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 26/Hilton Trail Interchange Project, Pine Springs, Lake Elmo and Grant, Washington County, December 14, 2011 (April 18, 2011)

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.

- Wabasha County, Bremer Quarry (Skyline Materials, Inc.)

NOTICE OF EIS PREPARATION

Project Title: Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Final Scoping Decision Document

Description: On November 1, 2011, the Scott County Board of Commissioners approved Jordan Aggregates Proposed Mining Final Scoping Decision Document (SDD). The Final SDD analyzes the impacts to local aquifers and the preparation of a detailed mitigation plan for the provision of water supply for identified potentially impacted wells. The Final SDD also analyzes the impacts to Sand Creek and impacted wetlands resulting from the construction of an adjacent deep pond in the floodplain. Scott County hereby issues notice of its intent to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jordan Aggregates proposed mining operation in Sand Creek Township. The Final SDD and work plan are available on the Scott County website.

Please contact Kate Sedlacek or Al Frechette at Scott County Environmental Health and Inspections Department.

RGU: Scott County

Contact Person: Kate Sedlacek
ksedlacek@co.scott.mn.us
Scott County Government Center
200 Fourth Ave W.
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-496-8351

Allen Frechette
Environmental Health Manger
afrechette@co.scott.mn.us
Scott County Government Center
200 Fourth Ave W.
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-496-8354

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY - BOTTINEAU TRANSITWAY SCOPING BOOKLET

Project Title: Bottineau Transitway Project

Local Project Proposer: Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU): Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) and the Metropolitan Council have initiated the environmental review process for the Bottineau Transitway Project. Federal funding will be pursued for this project from FTA. As a result, FTA-designated as the lead federal agency for this project—is undertaking environmental review in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As the local public agency sponsoring the project, HCRRA is complying with the requirements of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The FTA, HCRRA and Metropolitan Council have determined that the Bottineau Transitway Project may have significant environmental impacts. To satisfy both federal and state requirements, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the Bottineau Transitway Project. A Scoping Booklet has been prepared to serve as the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Bottineau Transitway Project, in compliance with the state environmental review requirements.

The Bottineau Transitway is a proposed project that will provide for transit improvements in the highly traveled northwest area of the Twin Cities. The Bottineau Transitway is located in Hennepin County, Minnesota, extending approximately 13 miles from downtown Minneapolis to the northwest through North Minneapolis and the suburbs of Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, New Hope, Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, and Osseo. Two types of high-frequency transit service are being studied for the Bottineau Transitway: bus rapid transit (BRT) and light rail transit (LRT).

Copies of the Scoping Booklet which documents the project's history, purpose and need of the project, proposed alternatives under consideration for study in the EIS, overall decision-making process/schedule, issues to be covered in the EIS, project schedule, and the public outreach/comment process are available for public review beginning December 23, 2011, at the following locations:

- **Project website** – www.bottineautransitway.org
- **Maple Grove Library** - 8001 Main St., Maple Grove
- **Osseo Library** - 415 Ave., Osseo
- **Brooklyn Park Library** - 8600 Zane Ave. N., Brooklyn Park
- **Brookdale Library** - 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy., Brooklyn Center
- **Rockford Road Library** - 6401 42nd Ave. N., Crystal
- **Golden Valley Library** - 830 Winnetka Ave. N., Golden Valley
- **North Regional Library** - 1315 Lowry Ave. N., Minneapolis
- **Sumner Library** - 611 Van White Memorial Blvd., Minneapolis
- **Hennepin County Public Library** – 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to be informed about the details of the Bottineau Transitway project, four formal public Scoping Meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Scoping Open House #1

Monday, January 23rd, 2012

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Theodore Wirth Chalet

1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis

Scoping Open House #2

Tuesday, January 24th, 2012

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Brooklyn Park City Hall

5200 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park

Scoping Open House #3

Wednesday, January 25th, 2012

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC)

2001 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis

Scoping Open House #4

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

6:00 -8:00 pm

Robbinsdale City Hall

4100 Lakeview Avenue, Robbinsdale

All of the scoping meeting locations are accessible for persons with disabilities.

Government agencies will be invited to a separate Interagency Scoping meeting to be held as follows:

Thursday, January 19, 2012

9:00 – 11:00 am

2550 University Avenue West, Suite 238N, St. Paul

Auxiliary aides, services and communication materials in accessible formats and languages other than English can be provided by contacting Brent Rusco at the contact information provided below.

Copies of the Scoping Booklet are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list. Comments will be accepted through **February 17, 2012**. Comments can be submitted in writing, by U.S. mail, by e-mail, or by fax to:

Contact Person: Brent Rusco
Bottineau Transitway Project Manager
Hennepin County
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415
Phone: 612-543-0579
E-mail: brent.rusco@co.hennepin.mn.us
Fax: 612-348-9710

Comments may also be submitted directly via the Bottineau Transitway website, www.bottineautransitway.org.

Written materials, project updates, and materials presented at the public Scoping meetings will be available on the Bottineau Transitway project website noted above.

AUAR UPDATE

**Project Title: Shenandoah Business Park and Minnesota Valley West, Shakopee, MN
WSB Project No. 1756-06**

Description: The original AUAR was adopted by the City in 2001. Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, Subp. 7, and AUAR must be updated every five years to remain valid. The purpose of this submittal is to update the AUAR so it remains valid for another five years.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4410.3610, Subp. 7, this AUAR Update is being submitted for the required ten-day review. The comment period will end on December 28, 2011. Any comments can be forwarded to:

RGU: City of Shakopee

Contact Person: Mr. Michael Leek
City of Shakopee
129 South Holmes Street
Shakopee, MN 55379
mleek@ci.shakopee.mn.us

NOTICES

MnDOT Vacates EAW and Negative Declaration for the proposed MN&S Freight Rail Relocation

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) proposed a project consisting of track improvements to the existing Canadian Pacific (CP) Bass Lake Spur, CP Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern (MN&S) Spur, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Wayzata Subdivision in the City of St. Louis Park to accommodate the relocation of the Twin Cities and Western (TC&W) freight rail traffic currently operating in the Kenilworth Corridor in Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) was the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the project. MnDOT published an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) in May 2011, and issued a Negative Declaration regarding the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the project on June 30, 2011.

On December 19, 2011, MnDOT was notified by HCRRA that it passed a resolution determining that the project no longer warrants separate environmental analysis under state law as a standalone project and is no longer being pursued as a standalone project.

In light of HCRRA's resolution, MnDOT issued a resolution on December 20, 2011 vacating the EAW and Negative Declaration for the project. MnDOT's resolution can be found on MnDOT's freight rail website:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/railroads.html>

EQB Monitor Publication Calendar for 2012

Volume Number	Deadline for Submission	Publication Date	EAW Comment Deadline
36-1	December 30 (Friday)	January 9	February 8
36-2	January 13 (Friday)	January 23	February 22
36-3	January 30	February 6	March 7
36-4	February 13	February 20	March 21
36-5	February 27	March 5	April 4
36-6	March 12	March 19	April 18
36-7	March 26	April 2	May 2
36-8	April 9	April 16	May 16
36-9	April 23	April 30	May 30
36-10	May 7	May 14	June 13
36-11	May 21	May 28	June 27
36-12	June 4	June 11	July 11
36-13	June 18	June 25	July 25
36-14	July 2	July 9	August 8
36-15	July 16	July 23	August 22
36-16	July 30	August 6	September 5
36-17	August 13	August 20	September 19
36-18	August 27	September 3	October 3
36-19	September 10	September 17	October 17
36-20	September 24	October 1	October 31
36-21	October 8	October 15	November 14
36-22	October 22	October 29	November 28
36-23	November 5	November 12	December 12
36-24	November 19	November 26	December 26
36-25	December 3	December 10	January 9, 2013
36-26	December 17	December 24	January 23, 2013