

From: Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:16 PM

To: Britta Bergland; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG

Cc: Darin Mielke

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Attachments: GRE Laketown Project CSAH 10_County Comments_05082024.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Britta and Michael,

Please see attached for the County's comments on the proposed Laketown 115-kv Transmission Line Project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us

Web: www.co.carver.mn.us

From: Britta Bergland <bri>britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM

To: Whitney Schroeder < wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us>

Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Luke Schwarz <lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us>; Darin Mielke

<dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>

Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Whitney Schroeder,

Great River Energy is proposing to construct approximately 4.3 miles of new double-circuit, 115-kilovolt high voltage transmission line within Laketown and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, Minnesota (the Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project, or Project). As part of the Project, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative would construct a new distribution substation at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 10 and Laketown Road. More information on the Project, along with a Project map, is available in the attached letter and fact sheet.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative are planning to submit a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the summer of 2024. Great River Energy would appreciate any comments that you may have on the Project. Please reach out to Michael Swenson with Great River Energy at 763-445-5979 or MSwenson@GREnergy.com with questions, written comments, or a request for a meeting.

Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland

612.746.3673 direct 612.472.0329 mobile britta.bergland@merjent.com



1 Main Street SE, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55414 612.746.3660 www.merjent.com

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May 8, 2024

Michael Swenson Transmission Permitting Specialist 763-445-5979

Delivered via email: Michael Swenson mswenson@GREnergy.com

CC: Britta Bergland <u>britta.bergland@merjent.com</u>

Re: Great River **Energy's (GRE)** Laketown Project - Comments on Proposed 115-kv

Transmission Line Project

The purpose of this letter is to document the comments of Carver County Public Works (the County) on GRE's proposed 115-kv transmission line project and fact sheet received on 4/19/24. See below:

- 1. The proposed Option 1 alignment is consistent with County's preference based on the previous review memo dated 2/2/24 and appears to have the least impact on County roadways. The County approves Great River Energy's intent to move forward with Option 1 as the preferred route.
 - a. Option 3 is not recommended due to realignment of CSAH 10 in 5-10 years.
- 2. Once Great River Energy finalizes the preferred alignment, the County would like to review future pole locations to minimize conflicts with future roadway alignments.
- 3. The setback and site grading associated with the proposed substation will need to meet future needs per the County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan for this corridor, which consists of a rural four-lane highway with a trail on the north side. This results in a total future ROW width of 200-220 feet according to the Comprehensive Plan.
- 4. For future CSAH 10 alignment information please refer to the Highway 10 Corridor Study improvement concept layout titled, "Highway 10 Western Subarea West".

These are the County's comments at this time. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Whitney Schroeder at wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us.

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 952-466-5208

CARVER COUNTY

From: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 9:37 AM **To:** Whitney Schroeder; Britta Bergland

Cc: Darin Mielke

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Whitney,

Can you provide additional information as to the future setback from CSAH 10 the county would need regarding the substation grading and potential pole placements to cross CSAH 10 near Laketown Road, a shapefile or just an estimate on potential setback from the existing road centerline.

- Mike

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy

Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537

mswenson@grenergy.com

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Cc: Darin Mielke <dmielke@co.carver.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Thanks,

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Carver County Public Works

11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322

O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918 Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>

Web: www.co.carver.mn.us

From: Britta Bergland <bri>domerjent.com>

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Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG < <u>mswenson@GREnergy.com</u>>; Luke Schwarz < <u>lschwarz@co.carver.mn.us</u>>; Darin Mielke

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Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland

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From: Whitney Schroeder <wschroeder@carvercountymn.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 12:23 PM

To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG; Britta Bergland

Cc: Darin Mielke

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Attachments: Pages from Final_Carver County 2040 C.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Mike,

My apologies, my previous email had an outdated graphic attached. Please use this one instead for reference.

Thanks,

Whitney Schroeder, PE, PTOE | Traffic Engineer Carver County Public Works 11360 Highway 212, Suite 1, Cologne, MN 55322 O: 952.466.5208 | M: 952.254.6918

Email: <u>wschroeder@co.carver.mn.us</u>
Web: <u>www.co.carver.mn.us</u>

From: Whitney Schroeder

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 11:04 AM

To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>; Britta Bergland <bri>britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Cc: Darin Mielke <dmielke@carvercountymn.gov>

Subject: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Hi Mike,

Attached is the 4-lane rural highway graphic from the Comp Plan for you to use as a reference. The required 200' right of way would be centered on the existing highway's centerline.

Hope this helps! Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

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Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

Britta Bergland

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Figure B.6: Typical Cross-Sections



4-LANE RURAL - MIDBLOCK

From: Jason Mielke <jmielke@co.carver.mn.us>

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:40 AM

To: Britta Bergland

Cc: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Britta, Michael,

Would you happen to have any substation detail you could share with us (land Management and the WMO)? Unsure if any WMO requirements for the substation and wetland impacts are covered by the PUC process or the LGU gets involved so want to check on that.

Thank you. Jason

Jason Mielke

Carver County Land Use Manager D: 952-361-1817 | O: 952-361-1820 www.carvercountymn.gov

Carver County Public Services Division Land Management Department Government Center, Admin Bldg 600 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318-2101

From: Britta Bergland <bri>britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:08 AM

To: Land Management <LandManagement@co.carver.mn.us> **Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>

Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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From: Jason Mielke <jmielke@co.carver.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:42 AM

To: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG

Cc: Britta Bergland; Paul Moline; Kristen Larson; Chad Braun

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project **Attachments:** GRE_Laketown_Carver Co Land Management_Intro_Letter_Final_20240419.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Good morning, Michael,

Based on my previous conversations with MVEC Representatives and the Great Rivers Energy Team, it is my understanding this project (transmission line and distribution substation) fall under the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permitting authority. Just for clarification purposes, your informational project outline states, "Great River Energy will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure any other required environmental or construction and road crossing permits."

- What are some permitting examples here?
- And based on the PUC approval, is the substation portion of the project exempt from:
 - Local conditional use permit process?
 - o State Building Code?
- The substation access would be permitted through the Carver County Public Works Department.
 - o Chad Braun, Transportation Engineering Specialist cbraun@co.carver.mn.us

If the entire project follows the PUC permitting authority and exempts the local land use authority, the Carver County Land Management Department has no additional comments.

I'm also including the **following comments** from our Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) pertaining to water management and permitting. Questions pertaining to the CCWMO's review process or authority should be directed to Paul Moline pmoline@co.carver.mn.us or Kristen Larson klarson@co.carver.mn.us

- Work will require an erosion and sediment control permit if the total disturbed area is greater than 1 acre or if
 any amount of disturbance is located within a sensitive area.
- Work will require a **combined ESC and stormwater permit** if the **substation site** total new impervious is greater than 1 acre or if 10,000 square feet of impervious surface is located within a sensitive area.
- Sensitive areas are defined as areas that are within 50 feet of and drain to one or more of the following
 resources: DNR protected waters, watercourses, designated floodplain, bluffs and bluff tops, wellhead
 protection areas, delineated wetland boundaries or other areas displaying wetland characteristics (hydric soils,
 hydrophytic vegetation, hydrology).
- Additional information on ESC, stormwater, and wetland permitting can be found on the County's website here:
 https://www.carvercountymn.gov/departments/public-services/planning-water-management/water-management/permits
- **Temporary or permanent impacts to wetlands** requires permitting under the Wetland Conservation Act. Carver County acts at the WCA LGU for all townships in the county.
- Please provide a **location map**, **site plan**, and **summary information** on the total new impervious and total disturbed area for the proposed project so county staff can assist with determining permit needs.

Thank you for allowing questions and comments.

Jason Mielke

Carver County Land Use Manager

D: 952-361-1817 | O: 952-361-1820

www.carvercountymn.gov

Carver County Public Services Division Land Management Department Government Center, Admin Bldg 600 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318-2101

From: Britta Bergland <bri> britta.bergland@merjent.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:08 AM

To: Land Management <LandManagement@co.carver.mn.us> **Cc:** Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>

Subject: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

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Thank you -

Britta Bergland [on behalf of Michael Swenson, Great River Energy]

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From: <u>Swenson, Michael GRE-MG</u>

To: <u>Jason Mielke</u>

Cc: <u>Britta Bergland; Paul Moline; Kristen Larson; Chad Braun</u>

Subject: EXTERNAL: RE: Great River Energy - Laketown 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 2:55:23 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

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Jason,

The PUC's permitting authority to supersede/preempt local permitting is defined in Minn. Stat. § 216E.10. In part this states that the route permit "shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government." (Link to the statute - https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216E.10). This preemption does not include state or federal permits required for construction. Examples of permits that may be required includes but is not limited to:

- Wetland Conservation Act Permitting (which is administered by local government but is state law)
- DNR utility crossing licenses
- DNR public water works permits
- MN DOT crossing permits
- NPDES/SDS permitting
- Federal Clean Water Act permitting

The issuance of a route permit would preempt local conditional use permitting and building permits. Additionally, local stormwater requirements would be preempted by the route permit. Notwithstanding, the County as a local shareholder and regulatory authority, is highly encouraged to participate and provide comment on routing and siting at public hearings and throughout the entire permitting process to inform the PUC of local permitting and design requirements.

Regarding wetland conservation act permitting, the transmission line would be looking to utilize the federal permits exemption for utilities. As the project progresses, we will be developing additional resources to document compliance with all conditions of the exemption. My understanding from previous projects is the federal utilities exemption does not apply to substation facilities. MVEC will be coordinating with CCWMO if wetland conservation act permitting is required for the substation. We'll provide additional design information to the county as the project progresses.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or comments.

Mike

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy

Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537

mswenson@grenergy.com

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Cc: Britta Bergland < britta.bergland@merjent.com >; Paul Moline < PMoline@co.carver.mn.us >;

Kristen Larson < klarson@co.carver.mn.us >; Chad Braun < cbraun@co.carver.mn.us >

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City of Victoria

From: Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com>

Sent:Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:57 AMTo:Britta Bergland; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MGSubject:EXTERNAL: FW: Laketown Transmission Line

Attachments: Laketown GRE Response Letter.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Comment letter from the City of Victoria on Laketown is attached.

Michael Swenson, CMWP Transmission Permitting Specialist Great River Energy

Direct: 763-445-5979 | Cell: 952-807-4537

mswenson@grenergy.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 8:53 AM

To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <mlommel@GREnergy.com>; Swenson, Michael GRE-MG <mswenson@GREnergy.com> **Cc:** Cara Geheren <Cara.Geheren@focusengineeringinc.com>; Jenn Brewington <jbrewington@ci.victoria.mn.us>

Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

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Good morning Michelle and Michael,

Thank you for meeting with Cara, Jenn, and I last week. As discussed, we've prepared a response letter regarding the proposed Laketown transmission line. Please see the attached letter and let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from us.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann

City of Victoria | City Planner

1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386

P: 952-443-4223

E: bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us

Learn more at <u>www.ci.victoria.mn.us</u>

From: Brian McCann

Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:23 AM

To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG <mlommel@GREnergy.com>

Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for all the information, I really appreciate it. I don't have any other questions at this time. We just wanted to make it known our future plans and potential impacts from Option 2. Hope the open houses went well yesterday, and I apologize again that I wasn't able to attend.

Have a great day,

Brian McCann
City of Victoria | City Planner
1670 Stieger Lake Lane PO Boy 36 | 1

1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386

P: <u>952-443-4223</u>

E: bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us

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From: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG < mlommel@GREnergy.com >

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 4:55 PM

To: Brian McCann < bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us >

Subject: RE: Laketown Transmission Line

You don't often get email from mlommel@grenergy.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: **External Email** - This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Brian,

Appreciate you reaching out about the project. We won't have a definitive decision soon, although as of now, the route labeled as Option 1 has some preference for us based on our initial analysis, although all routes are being considered at this time. All input will be an important consideration, and we will do further research on the annexation agreement, although we are aware of some of the future development in that area. All the comments and numerous other factors will be taken into consideration in making our decision on one route to apply for.

Municipalities, Townships and Carver County certainly have an equal chance to provide comments. And once the route permit process begins with the Department of Commerce, there will be multiple opportunities to provide comment which will become part of the record. The Public Utilities Commission will be the permitting authority.

The easement that is needed for this line is 100' wide total (50' on each side of the transmission centerline) and if we were to follow the Xcel line on option 2, it sounds like we would need to be offset from their centerline by 80', so the potential corridor may be a little narrower than you expected.

Since it may be a bit before we have a route chosen, do you want to get back to me with any additional comments or concerns that the City has? And I can follow-up with you on generally how the meeting went if you would like?

Thank you,

Michelle Lommel

Sr. Field Representative, Land Rights

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Blvd. Maple Grove MN 55369-4718

direct: 763-445-5977 / fax: 763-445-6777

cell: 612-309-6839 / toll-free: 1-888-521-0130 ext. 5977

www.greatriverenergy.com

From: Brian McCann < bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us >

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:03 PM

To: Lommel, Michelle GRE-MG < mlommel@GREnergy.com >

Subject: Laketown Transmission Line

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Good afternoon Michelle,

The City of Victoria received a copy of your notice in the mail regarding the open houses for a new transmission line through Laketown Township. Is it possible to relay your findings from the open houses tomorrow? Additionally, is there any consideration given to municipalities and their preferred option?

The reason I ask is because Option 2 lays within land that will eventually become Victoria through an annexation agreement with the Township, and this area is anticipated for commercial and industrial development in the near future. If Option 2 is chosen, will the line be adjacent to the existing line, and thus would essentially have a 200' wide easement? This may deter development in an area that the City of Victoria has envisioned for future commercial growth for awhile.

Thank you for your time and I apologize I'm unable to attend the open houses tomorrow. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann
City of Victoria | City Planner
1670 Stieger Lake Lane, PO Box 36 | Victoria, MN 55386

P: 952-443-4223

E: bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us

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PUBLIC DOCUMENT - NOT PUBLIC DATA HAS BEEN EXCISED CITY OF VICTORIA

Victoria, MN Est. 1915

February 26, 2024

Great River Energy Attn: Michelle Lommel 12300 Elm Creek Blvd Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

RE: Laketown Transmission Line

Dear Michelle Lommel,

Thank you for meeting with staff members of the City of Victoria to discuss the proposed transmission line within Laketown Township. As you are now aware, several properties within the proposed transmission path are within future annexation areas that will become part of the City of Victoria (see Ultimate City Boundary map).

The City has the most concern with "Option 2" that was presented, which would run directly adjacent to the existing Xcel Energy power line. Many of the properties within the pathway titled "Option 2" reside within the future commercial and flex-employment growth areas for the city. These properties have been highly anticipated for the last few decades to become the commercial hub for the city. An additional power line and easement adjacent to the existing Xcel Energy power line and easement would severely prohibit development of this highly-anticipated growth area.

As we've discussed, I've overlaid the total potential easement width over the future land use map of the area to visualize the potential impact. The city desperately needs future commercial development to accommodate our growing community, and "Option 2" would severely impact long-awaited development.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges of "Option 2" and we sincerely hope you consider these impacts when deciding the power line transmission route through Laketown Township.

Sincerely,

Brian McCann City Planner, Community Development Department, City of Victoria 952-443-4223, bmccann@ci.victoria.mn.us

CC: Jenn Brewington, Community & Economic Development Director, City of Victoria Cara Geheren, City Engineer, Focus Engineering, Inc.



CITY OF VICTORIA

Victoria, MN Est. 1915

"Option 2" Easement and Impacts to Future Commercial/Flex-Employment Areas



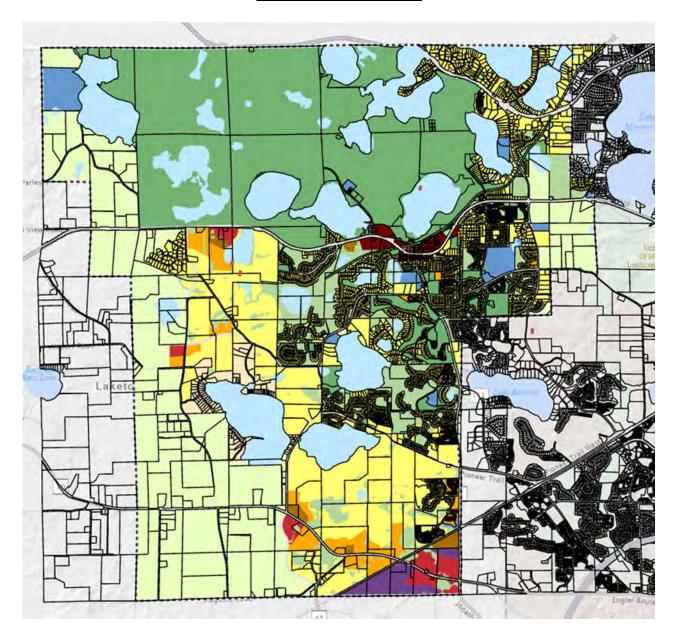
The assumed easement measurements extend 75 feet south and 150 feet north of the existing centerline of the Xcel Energy power line, resulting in an easement width of 225 feet, The total acreage encumbered by easement would be approximately 12.5 acres of anticipated commercial and flex-employment land.

CITY OF VICTORIA



Est. 1915

<u>Ultimate City Boundary</u>



Laketown Township

From: Clerk Treasurer < lnfo@laketownmn.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 12:52 PM

To: Joe Green < joeg@mvec.net >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Laketown Township

This message originated from outside your organization

Good afternoon Joe,

Would you be available to provide an overview at a future board meeting regarding the expansion project impacting Laketown Township? and anything in the ROW of Augusta Road as we maintain that townline road.

Monday, July 8th is a 3:00p meeting if that works for you.

Also, if there are any distribution lists we could be added to for updates along the way, we would appreciate it.

Thank you!

--

Office of the Clerk

Laketown Township 9530 Laketown Rd Chaska, MN 55318

Office: 952.442.5278

Website: www.LaketownTownship.info

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