



Greenvale Wind Farm Proposed

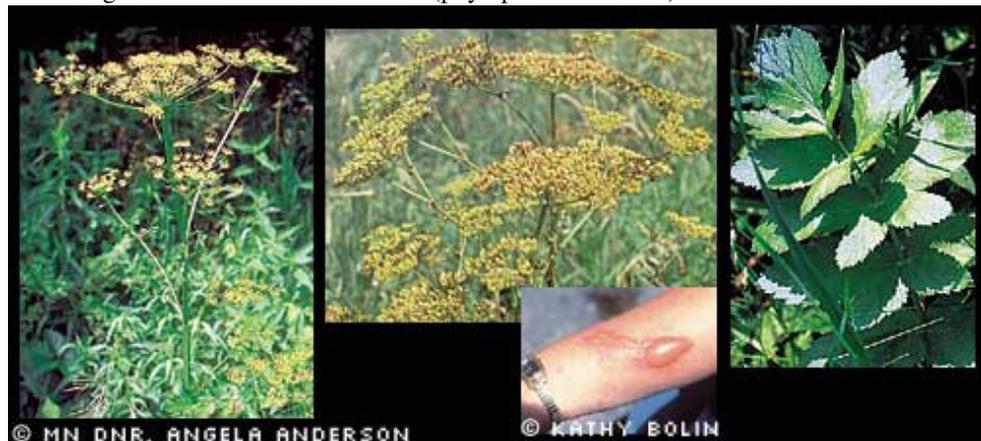
On July 20, 2009, two privately held companies jointly applied for a permit to build the area's first wind farm between 280th St. and 290th St. in neighboring Greenvale Township. Sparks Energy, LLC and Medin Renewable Energy, LLC propose to operate Greenvale Wind Farm, within a project area of 837 acres, with up to 11 wind turbines providing 11,000 kilowatts (10.84 megawatts). The operations and maintenance facility for the project would be located in a barn no longer used for agricultural purposes at 7256 290th St. W., Northfield, Minnesota.

The proposed structures themselves would consist of turbines with two blades 59 meters (193.56 feet) in diameter mounted on top of 70 meter (229.65 feet) welded steel tubes. The companies have negotiated a one year contract with Great River Energy and intend to renegotiate contracts yearly. Transmission is to be via an underground feeder line. This project will not be eligible for eminent domain, and is currently negotiating with landowners for 30 year leases with two additional extensions of 10 years each.

Because the proposed size is less than 50,000 kilowatts (50 megawatts), no Certificate of Need is required under Minnesota law. Public hearings were held from September 3 – October 7, 2009. The PUC received a request to delay further action on the project on October 14, 2009 at the request of the applicants. For more information call Suzanne Steinhauer, PUC Project Manager at 651-288-2888 or <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=24613>

DNR Identifies Wild Parsnips As Invasive

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified wild parsnips as an invasive species, as the agency has with such vegetation as buckthorn and purple loosestrife. This type of vegetation is termed invasive because it often competes with and takes over areas from natural vegetation, often to the detriment of the area. Wild parsnips are native to Europe and Asia, escaped cultivation as a root crop and are very prevalent in Eureka Township, often found along road sides and ditches. They resemble the dill weed plant with airy clusters of small yellow flowers. However, when the sap of the plant comes in contact with skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause a rash, blistering and discoloration of the skin (phytophotodermatitis).



The DNR recommends the following methods of control

1. Do nothing in healthy prairies – natives can sometimes control the wild parsnips.
2. Hand pull and remove plants – be sure to wear gloves.
3. Cut the plant below the root crown before seeds set and remove the cut plant.
4. Mow or cut the base of the flowering stem and remove.
5. Spot apply with glyphosate or selective metsulfuron after a prescribed burn.

For more information, call the DNR at 651-296-6157 or see its website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/wildparsnip.html>

Eureka Township Supervisors

Meet monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Jeff Otto, Chair

952-469-8561, term to 3/10

Brian Budenski, Vice Chair

952-292-6028, term to 3/11

Carrie Jennings, term to 3/11

952-469-4976

Dan Rogers, term to 3/12

952-469-3739

Nancy Sauber, term to 3/12

952-469-5146

Eureka Planning Commission

Meet monthly, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Vince Mako, Chair

952-469-3928, term to 4/11

Ken Olstad, Vice-Chair

952-985-7248, term to 4/11

Cheryl Groves, term to 4/12

507-645-7103

Kenny Miller, term to 4/10

952-469-4803

Peter Storlie, term to 4/12

952-469-3668

Township Contact, Clerk/Treasurer

Nanett Sandstrom, 952-469-3736

Fax 952-469-5525

Town Hall Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At other times, calls are transferred to voice mail; all calls are returned.

Drop box – A locked drop box is available near the door of the Town Hall to receive applications and other documents.

E-mail: eurekatn@frontiernet.net

Website: <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Ken Olstad 952-985-7248

Township Roads:

Brian Budenski 952-292-6028

Dan Rogers 952-469-3739

Building Inspector:

MNSPECT 952-442-7520

info@mnspect.com

www.mnspect.com

Emergency 911: ambulance, police, fire
(non-emergency 651-437-4211)

Official Notices are posted on the bulletin board located on the south (parking lot) side of the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave. and published in ThisWeek Life and Times newspaper.

Editor: Jody Arman-Jones, 651-463-2876

Mailings: Georgie Molitor

TOWN BOARD NEWS



Township Road Concerns – Please contact Town Board supervisors Brian Budenski at 952-292-6028 or Dan Rogers at 952-469-3739 regarding any issues relating to Township roads or ditches, rather than the road contractors.



Planning Commission Fall Road Inspection– Sat., October 24, 2009 - meet at the Town Hall at 8:00 a.m.

New signage – Please notice the new speed limit and other warning signs around the Township. By reducing the speed in heavily traveled areas, it is hoped that not only will it be safer, but some wear and tear on the roads will be reduced as well. The wash boarding in the roads is caused by dry weather and the rebound of vehicles shock absorbers as they travel over the roads. Our road contractors do an excellent job of maintaining our roads, but they cannot control the weather!

Eureka Estates - Many of these new speed limit and children at play signs have been placed in the Eureka Estates area. This area was designated as a Rural Residential 1 (RR-1), many years ago, due to housing density. As a result of the heavy traffic volume and concern of citizens that live in this area, the Town Board decided to reduce speed limits and to place other caution signs that you may see. Please observe the signs. They were put there for a purpose - safety and conserving your tax dollars.

265th St. Bridge Guardrail –With a projected \$15,000 price tag, the Town Board will not install guardrails on the approaches to the railroad bridge on 265th St. The ¼ mile measured east from County 23 qualifies as a Rural Residential street. This allows the Board to place a 35 mph speed limit on that portion of road for the safety and convenience of those residents and also alleviates State guidelines where guardrails would be encouraged. The lower speed should also reduce dust and maintenance.

Damage to Town Hall – In July 2009, the Town Hall was damaged when a motor vehicle drove into the front porch area then meandered through the yard at low speed, striking the building in two other locations, shifting one of the flag poles slightly, and destroying several trees. The building was unoccupied at the time; therefore no injuries were reported. The driver of the vehicle was transported to a local hospital for observation. Township insurance enabled progressing with structural repair arrangements, which have been completed. Follow up is underway to recover replacement costs for the uninsured trees, and our agency is dealing with the other party's insurance company to recover all costs.

CapX2020 Power Line – The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved a Certificate of Need for these high voltage power lines in May of 2009 and amended it in August of 2009. In September 2009, the Citizens' Energy Task Force (CETF) filed a petition to appeal the Certificate of Need with the Minnesota Court of Appeals. This petition was challenged by the PUC, but upheld by the Court of Appeals in a October 15, 2009 decision. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be completed and available for viewing later this month. In another turn of events, in September 2009, Ottertail Energy (one of the energy companies making up the consortium requesting the permit) opted out of the Big Stone II project (a coal-fired electric production plant planned for Brookings, South Dakota). Big Stone II is the anticipated source of power lines proposed to pass through Eureka. "CapX2020 spokesman, Tim Carlsgaard said that even if Big Stone II fails CapX2020 will proceed."

CEEF Representative Named - Eureka resident, Amy Nielsen, has been appointed by the Town Board to serve as the representative from Eureka Township to CEEF, filling the void created by the retirement of fellow resident, Bernadette Bloom in 2008. CEEF Enhancement Group is an advisory group bringing together approximately 10 representatives of Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka and Farmington, providing a neutral environment for interaction of the Townships and City, as well as supporting the efforts of local civic projects and events.

Interceptor Sewer Line – The primary phase of the project continues to bury sanitary sewer pipe. As part of a secondary phase, the Metropolitan Council has applied for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a lift station proposed to be located at the intersection of Dodd and 235th St. Because of their preferred location, a driveway variance will also be needed prior to permitting this portion of the project. The Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit will be held at the next regularly-scheduled Planning Commission meeting on November 2, 2009, with the regular meeting to be interrupted at 7:30 p.m. to hold the Public Hearing.

Vermillion Watershed District - Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

(VRWJPO) - Last April Eureka Township was the only township in the Vermillion watershed NOT to adopt the Rural Collaborative Water Resources Management Ordinance. It was understood at the time that the JPO would apply and administer the new regulations even if the Township did not adopt the ordinance, and that the JPO also had the authority to take over from the Township whatever permitting authority it felt necessary to assure implementation of the new regulations. The Township

stance was based on strong resident input concerned, in particular, over buffer easement requirements, as well as our Town attorneys' legal research that some aspects of the new regulations were not within any township's authority over which to accept jurisdiction.

Our stand and research has had some positive impact that benefits us as well as the other townships. Resident Carol Cooper has also pointed out to the JPO that the Federal regulation driving the buffer issue has been tempered a bit to reduce the width requirements, and the JPO has acknowledged that they will proceed to amend their Ordinance to reflect that. The other changes of the April JPO Ordinance will still be in effect, but the administration and review process is being worked out to reduce some of the inconvenience and added expense that could have resulted from imposing the original all-or-nothing stance of the JPO on the permitting process.

The JPO approached us, offering to work out a joint powers agreement for permitting that would allow most routine permits to still be handled through the Township for the convenience of our residents. Two key "triggers" would require the JPO to review a permit application in parallel with the Township, and any resulting JPO requirements would have to be made a part of the Township permit. The effect of this is that the Township still does the zoning land use consideration and the JPO only determines what watershed-related requirements may need to be applied. The triggers are 1) a lot split – triggers the buffer requirements, and 2) a new structure or addition to an existing structure (change of footprint on the property) – triggers review of drainage/runoff issues. Simple permits for re-roofing, re-siding, etc. will continue to be handled directly with the Township only, as is done currently.

Another aspect of the JPO Ordinance was that it included requirements based on the Wetland Conservation Act administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). With the blessing of BWSR and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Eureka Township has delegated major portions of that responsibility to SWCD, who has the technical expertise to perform that work. These responsibility shifts will reduce the need to involve the Town Engineer in technical reviews at applicant's expense. It may be that the County will need a comparable fee for staff to handle the review, but there was a possibility that the original JPO approach could have required both reviews, which would have increased permit fees when the triggers came into play and added delay to the approval process with the extra review step. Meanwhile, the SWCD has been approaching the other townships and already five others have followed our lead to delegate some of the WCA responsibilities to SWCD. SWCD has indicated a desire to accept full responsibility for the WCA portion, as we had requested, as soon as they can staff up to handle it. With other townships following suit, all will benefit from this service, helping hold costs down and simplifying township administration in this increasingly complex area of regulation being imposed on us by higher authorities.

PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGES

Building Permits - The Planning Commission reviews applications for lot splits, building right clusters and building permits prior to recommending them to the Town Board for approval. To date in 2009, Eureka has received three lot splits and two housing cluster applications, along with 11 building permits.

One of the most common oversights on permit application documents are setback measurements and distance between agriculture buildings and residential dwellings on adjacent properties. Ag buildings intended to house livestock must be 175 feet from any residential dwelling on adjacent properties. Having measurements from the proposed structure to all lot lines noted on the drawings saves time during the review process.

Residents should pay particular attention to the property owner signature on building permits. This indicates agreement to pay plan review fees even if the work does not proceed. Be aware that permits expire when work is not commenced within 180 days from the date of the permit, or if work is suspended, abandoned, or not inspected for 180 days. Many permits such as plumbing, siding, roofing, and decks are considered "over the counter" which can be submitted to the Township Clerk and do not require the Planning Commission review. For more information about permits, see the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/permits.html> or call 952-469-3736.

Commercial-Industrial Taskforce – The Planning Commission submitted their recommendations for planning firms to the Town Board in June as part of the planner selection process. Interviews of applicants interested in serving on the Task Force have as yet not been scheduled.

Recorder Position – The position of recorder for the Planning Commission has been offered to and accepted by Carol Kelly. She will take up her duties as of the November 2009 meeting. Welcome!

NOTES FROM THE CLERK

Electronic Notices and Mail Now Available!

Residents may now receive the following items by electronic mail. Simply e-mail your request to Town Clerk, Nanett Sandstrom, at ueerkatn@frontiernet.net

1. Township Newsletter, *Eureka! The News*.
2. Notices of special meetings, public hearings, agendas, etc.



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 Website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

2009 Eureka Township Calendar...events at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated

November 2	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
November 2	Monday	7:30 p.m.	Public Hearing – Metropolitan Council Lift Station 235/Dodd
November 9	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
November 24	Thursday	noon	Applications due for December 7 Planning Commission Meeting
December 7	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
December 14	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
December 22	Thursday	noon	Applications due for January 4 Planning Commission Meeting
January 4	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
January 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
January 21	Thursday	noon	Applications due for February 1 Planning Commission Meeting
February 1	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
February 8	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
February 18	Thursday	noon	Applications due for March 1 Planning Commission Meeting
March 1	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
March 8	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
March 9	Tuesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Tentative Board Supervisor Annual Elections
March 9	Tuesday	8:15 p.m.	Tentative Annual Meeting
March 25	Thursday	noon	Applications due for April 5 Planning Commission Meeting

**Note: All new structures, most types of remodeling (both interior and exterior), and some types of repairs require a building permit under the Minnesota State Uniform Building Code and Eureka Township Ordinances. If you are in doubt about whether a project requires a permit, please contact the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736. Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for a hard copy, \$2 for a CD disk or can be accessed on the website, <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>, or at the Dakota County libraries in Lakeville and Farmington, or Eureka Town Hall or the Dakota County Law Library.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLASSIFIEDS

Volunteer Needed

Eureka Township is seeking someone to do light, general cleaning of the Town Hall, usually monthly before the Planning Commission meeting on the first Monday of the month. Interested individuals are invited to call Clerk Nanett Sandstrom at 952-469-3736 or email her at eurekatn@frontiernet.net

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to Sue Rogers, wife of supervisor Dan Rogers, as she retires from this prestigious position!

It's Hunting Season !! – consider wearing orange when outdoors. Landowners do NOT need to post their land. If you are on land that is not yours, you must have written permission from the owner.

- Deer season (archery) – 9/19/2009 – 12/30/2009
 - Pheasant season 10/10/09 – 1/3/2010
 - Deer season (firearms) opener – 11/7/09
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/seasons.html>



Town Hall Available for Rent

The Town Hall is available to be rented Sundays through Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. An application is available by calling the Clerk at 952-469-3736 or in person at the Town Hall. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. A fee of \$25.00 per block of four hours and a \$200 deposit is required at least two weeks prior to the event. Please note that events may not be of a commercial, promotional, sales or fundraising nature. No admission may be charged to events. Alcoholic beverages, gambling and smoking are prohibited on the premises. No food preparation or cleaning facilities are available. The Town Hall capacity is 140 people.

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Guided class 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.



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Jody Arman-Jones
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Business Ads by Residents and/or Landowners in Eureka Township

This is not meant as an endorsement of products, services or business status by Eureka Township. Eureka landowners and/or residents who wish to advertise their businesses in this newsletter, may place a "business card ad" for the price of \$35.00 per quarter or \$125.00 per annum. Any revenue obtained will be applied to the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Contact the Newsletter editor at 651-463-2876 or jodyarmanjones@aol.com