

Eureka! The News

A Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

Spring 2012



Eureka Township Supervisors

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

Brian Budenski, Chair

952-292-6028, term thru 3/14

Kenny Miller, Vice Chair

952-469-4803, term thru 3/13

Mark Ceminsky

612-819-1334, term thru 3/15

Steve Madden

952-383-1803, term thru 3/15

Pete Storlie

952-469-3668, term thru 3/14

Eureka Planning Commission

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

Lucretia (Lucy) Barfknecht

952-469-3513, term thru 4/13

Fritz Frana

952-469-3576, term thru 4/14

Butch Hansen

612-490-0091, term thru 4/15

Carrie Jennings

952-469-4976, term thru 4/14

Allen Novacek

952-690-5940, term thru 4/15

Township Contact, Clerk/Treasurer

Nanett Sandstrom, 952-469-3736

Fax 952-469-5525

Town Hall Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

September 3 - June 7: 4 - 6 p.m.

June 12 - August: 10a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: 25043 Cedar Ave. S.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 576

Lakeville, MN 55044

Drop Box - Items may be placed in locked drop box near the Town Hall front door.

E-mail: eurekatn@frontiernet.net

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

Nanett Sandstrom 952-469-3736

Township Roads:

Mark Ceminsky 612-819-1334

Pete Storlie 952-469-3668

Building Officials:

MNSPECT 952-442-7520

info@mnspect.com

VRWJO Permits: 952-891-7546

Travis.Thiel@co.dakota.mn.us

www.vermillionriverwatershed.org

Emergency/non-emergency authorities - all contacts - 911 (ambulance, police, fire)

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 Sun ThisWeek newspaper.

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

jodyarmanjones@aol.com

Mailings: Brianna Groves, Cheryl Groves

2012 Annual Election

Results of the March 13, 2012 Township election are as follows:

Supervisor #3 - Mark Ceminsky 161

Nancy Sauber 159

Supervisor #4 - Steve Madden 157

Gloria Belzer 152

2012 Annual Meeting

Cory Behrendt was elected moderator of the 2012 Annual Meeting, held at the Town Hall beginning at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

Financials - Total Bills paid in 2011 were \$491,887.94. Total Receipts were \$534,117.89. The Town Hall Loan Balance as of 2/17/2012 is \$122,187.33. The payoff date is August 20, 2014.

Thank you to Dan Rogers, retiring after nine years as Town Board Supervisor and **Julie Larson** who served as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer this past year. Thanks to **Nancy Sauber** for her years of service on the Town Board, Planning Commission, task forces and special projects. The time, talents and efforts of these three are greatly appreciated.

Planning Commission Report - Chair, Carrie Jennings reported no new home permits were issued in 2011. Currently, work is ongoing researching wind and sign ordinances.

Town Board Report

Roads - Kenny Miller reported expenditures of \$132,000, primarily on spring road repairs. Planned graveling was completed, and culverts on the north end of Chub Lake Road were replaced. Work on the north end of Highview was funded by the Dakota County Road Bridge fund and commitments from business landowners along the stretch.

Commercial/Industrial Study - Nancy Sauber reported Phase I of the C/I was completed and the Town Board elected, at this time, not to move forward with Phase II. Less than \$8,000 of the cost for this study was from taxpayers.

Former Town Hall Site - a motion was made, seconded and passed to look at selling the land on which the former Town Hall stood, selling the shipping container on the site and to get prices on building a storage garage for the Township. Numbers and analysis will be brought to next year's Annual Meeting.

Levy - The Levy for 2013 was set at \$437,550, down \$42,250 from 2012.

The 2013 Annual Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Town Board Assignments

Attorney Contact - Kenny Miller, alternate Brian Budenski

Lakeville & Farmington Fire - Steve Madden

North Cannon Watershed - Mark Ceminsky, alternate Kenny Miller

Vermillion River Watershed - Brian Budenski, alternate Mark Ceminsky

Weed Inspector - Mark Ceminsky

Allina Ambulance - Steve Madden

Roads - Mark Ceminsky and Kenny Miller

DNR/Wetlands - Kenny Miller

Airlake Airport - Brian Budenski

Town Hall - Town Clerk, Nanett Sandstrom and Kenny Miller

Dakota County Contact - Steve Madden, alternate Kenny Miller

Sheriff Contact - Steve Madden

Compliance Officer - Pete Storlie

Professional Services - Pete Storlie, alternate Kenny Miller

Building Inspector - Pete Storlie, alternate Mark Ceminsky

Official Newspaper - Sun ThisWeek (formerly ThisWeek Life and Times)

Official Bank - Castle Rock Bank

TOWN BOARD INFORMATION



Road Committee Being Formed – Volunteers Needed

The Town Board is creating a committee of the two road supervisors, the road contractor, one Planning Commission member and three citizen volunteers. The entire committee will be volunteer and meet 4-6 times a year. Work would include creating a detailed road budget, capital improvement projects, road maintenance and general road planning. Any interested applicants should submit a brief letter of interest to the Town Clerk before the May 14 Town Board meeting. Applicants would need to attend the meeting, be interviewed and appointed. The term would last for one year and applicants may re-apply.

Spring Ditch Clean Up – Thanks to all who have been picking up the trash from the ditches. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in and help out. Caution is urged as reports of “MacGyver” bombs have been received. A deputy from the Dakota County Sheriff’s office reports these are usually built by “kids” out of 20 oz. or two liter plastic bottles. They usually contain some liquid and have the cap on. Residents are encouraged to report anything suspicious by calling 911.

Contact Mark Ceminsky or Pete Storlie for help with larger discarded items (TV’s, furniture, appliances, etc.).

A reminder there is a reward for information leading to the prosecution of illegal dumping.



Nicer weather brings all of us outside more often. Please drive with caution and be sure to WATCH FOR KIDS!

PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGES

New Planning Commission Members Appointed

Two new members of the Planning Commission will be serving three year terms, expiring in April 2015. **Butch Hansen**, a lifelong Eureka resident who currently lives in the southwest quadrant, is a self-employed building contractor and farmer, father of five and grandfather of 16. Butch brings experience as a former Planning Commission member. **Allen Novacek** has lived in Eureka Estates for approximately 20 years, is a self-employed autobody specialist, recent widower and father of eight. Sincere thanks go to **Gayle Klausner** who just completed her term on the Planning Commission. The residents of the Township appreciate the hard work, preparation and attention to detail demonstrated throughout her service. Best wishes in all future endeavors.

TOWN CLERK NOTES



Town Hall Office Hours – Tuesdays & Thursdays

Through June 7, 2012

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

June 12 – August, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Election Judges Needed



To be an election judge you must meet all of the following qualifications:

You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota

You must be able to read, write, and speak English

You cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct at the same time

You cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct

Student Eligibility

College students at least 18-years-old may serve as election judges

High school students 16-years-old and older may serve as trainee election judges



Training for election judges is required to be completed at least 60 days prior to an election. Training is free, with compensation for mileage. Judges in Eureka Township are paid \$10 per hour of service on Election Day. Questions? More information? Interested? Please contact the Eureka Town Clerk at 952-469-3736, or eurekatn@frontiernet.net as soon as possible. Also see the information at the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website. <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=585> or call their office at 651-201-1324.

GENERAL NOTICE FROM DAKOTA COUNTY

To Control or Eradicate Noxious Weeds - Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 1883, subd. 1, that all persons in Dakota County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector (Local or County) having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is contracted for hire by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. By State law the Local Inspectors is designated as the Township Supervisors, City Mayors or their appointed assistants. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture website contains the complete list of designated noxious weeds: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/badplants/noxiouslist.aspx>.

Ag Preserve – an Alternative to Green Acres and Rural Preserve

By Jeff Otto (former Board member)

The State Legislature in 2010 and early 2011 significantly changed the Green Acres program that reduces property taxes for eligible participants. These changes may now make the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program (Ag Preserve) a more attractive alternative for a similar benefit of a nearly one-third reduction in property taxes.

It is not practical in this space to fully describe all the particulars of each program and allowable eligibility exceptions for these programs. However, we can highlight important differences that may help you decide to look into the details further. At the end of this article you will find contact information for resources to assist you.

A major reason many of us chose Green Acres over Ag Preserve was the Ag Preserve covenant (property restriction) that required an 8-year waiting period before you could exit the program if you wanted to develop the land for other than ag use. But the new Green Acres now also has a similar restriction although structured a little differently. It has a 5-year waiting period from the time you ask to end your participation, plus during the first 5 years you cannot even submit a request to terminate. This means that initially you are locked in for 10 years, but any time after the 5th year you may submit the withdrawal request that starts the 5-year countdown.

With Ag Preserve, one can submit the withdrawal request at any time to start the 8-year countdown. Many participants would submit the withdrawal request at the same time as the application to participate so that the 8-year countdown would start immediately. After 8 years, the owner would re-apply if desiring to remain in the program longer and re-submit another withdrawal request to repeat the cycle. This does carry the risk that in the 8 years, Ag Preserve requirements may have changed.

The new Green Acres also excludes non-tillable land such as woodland or wetland. That land may instead be enrolled in the Rural Preserve Program which has an added requirement for a Conservation Assessment Plan to be submitted. This Plan would have to be developed by a State-certified specialist at property owner expense. The owner would then be required to carry out whatever measures this Plan might call for in order to continue to get the tax benefit. This program has a simple 8-year withdrawal waiting period similar to Ag Preserve, not the 5+5 of new Green Acres.

The Ag Preserve program makes no distinction between tillable and non-tillable acreage nor does it require a Conservation Assessment Plan.

Green Acres and Rural Preserve require a repayment of the prior three years of tax savings at the time the property comes out of either, which includes a title change such as for selling the property or even just placing it in a trust. Ag Preserve has no such repayment penalty.

You may, however, rollover from Green Acres into Ag Preserve without the repayment penalty.

The old Green Acres program expires in May, 2013. A property owner has three possible courses of action:

1. Rollover (without back tax penalty) into the new Green Acres (tillable) and/or Rural Preserve (non-tillable) programs by applying for them and meeting the new requirements. (Rural requires the Conservation Assessment Plan.)
2. Rollover (without back tax penalty) into Ag Preserve by applying for it and meeting the Ag Preserve eligibility requirements.
3. Old Green Acres expires in May, 2013, the 3-year back tax savings repayment becomes due, and there are no future tax savings going forward.

How do I enroll?

Green Acres and Rural Preserve applications are handled directly with the County Assessor with no Township involvement.

The Ag Preserve program was established by the State legislature applying to the 7-county metropolitan area under the oversight of the Metropolitan Council. Actual approval of applications is delegated to the local zoning authority, which for us is the Eureka Town Board. Once approved, the applicant must then take the application to both the Dakota County Assessor and the Property Records departments, both located in the County Administration Center in Hastings (1590 Hwy. 55). This is only to record the approved application – the County does not have approval or veto authority over Ag Preserve applications. The Assessor needs to record it so that the tax discount is properly applied, then the covenant must be recorded against the deed by the Property Records Department. The current County charge for property recording is \$46 per Ag Preserve application.

Ag Preserve application forms may be obtained at our Town Hall or downloaded from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website (see below). The website has forms for two similar-sounding programs, Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves and Minnesota Agricultural Land Preservation. The Minnesota program was created to benefit the other counties in Minnesota outside the 7-county Metropolitan area, such as Rice County. Here in Dakota County we use the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves program and forms.

Resources

Jeff Otto – (952)-469-8561 - I would be happy to help at no cost with understanding the requirements and the relationship of Ag Preserve rules related to Eureka Township zoning regulations. As a former Board member and Chair, I was responsible for evaluating and approving Ag Preserve applications. I was also deeply involved with recent zoning ordinance changes and corrections. No one at the County level has detailed knowledge of Eureka zoning (other townships have similarities but are not exactly the same). I recently completed rollovers of my two properties and our church farm property from Green Acres into Ag Preserve.

Eureka Town Clerk (952)469-3736 – Ag Preserve forms and to submit for Board approval.

Dakota County Assessor (651)438-4200

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture webpage for Ag Preserve forms:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/conservation/preservation.aspx> (Note: two of the allowable eligibility exceptions specified in the State Statutes are not included on the printed form and need to be written in if one applies.)



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 E-mail: eurekatn@frontiernet.net
 Website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

2012 Eureka Township Calendar...events at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated

<i>May 7</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting</i>
<i>May 24</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>noon</i>	<i>Applications due for June 4 Planning Commission Meeting</i>
<i>May 24</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting, Apple Valley</i>
June 4	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
June 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
June 21	Thursday	noon	Applications due for July 2 Planning Commission Meeting
June 28	Thursday	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting, Apple Valley
<i>July 2</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting</i>
<i>July 9</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>noon</i>	<i>Applications due for August 6 Planning Commission Meeting</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting, Apple Valley</i>
August 6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
August 13	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
August 23	Thursday	noon	Applications due for September 4 Planning Commission Meeting
August 23	Thursday	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting, Apple Valley

**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 MNSPECT, 952-442-7520, or email info@mnspect.com. Also, please check with the VRWJPO and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning. VRWJPO permits must be applied for at the same time as permit application is submitted to the Township. 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

FARM FUEL THEFTS

The Dakota County Sheriff's office reminds residents that as the price of fuel increases, so too, do the incidences of thefts from farm sources. Please report any suspicious activity by calling 911 - yes, fuel thieves have been caught in the act!



SWEDIN CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

Dr. Brian Swedin
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Farmington, MN 55024

Clinic (651) 460-6868

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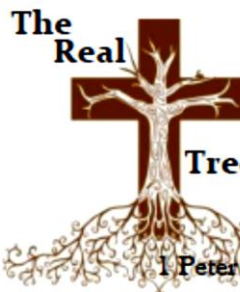
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*Join us at the
Eureka Town Hall*

10 AM

Tree Church

*May 20, June 17, July 15,
Aug 19, Sept 16*

www.therealtreechurch.org

Business Ads by Residents and/or Landowners in Eureka Township. No endorsement of products, services or business status is implied. 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 which will help defray costs of this newsletter. Thank you for your support.