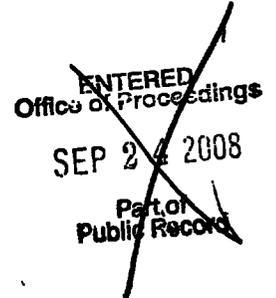


225943

September 10, 2008

Dale Schoenborn
President
Fertile-Beltrami Sandhill Snowcruisers
PO Box 45
Fertile, MN 56540

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW, Suite 1149
Washington, DC 20024



Re: Minnesota Northern Railroad Abandonment in Norman County,
Minnesota, STB Docket Number AB-497 (Sub-No. 4X)

Dear Mr. Williams,

This request is filed on behalf of the Fertile-Beltrami Sandhill Snowcruisers, a 501C3 non-profit recreational club located in Northwestern Minnesota.

The Sandhill Snowcruisers request issuance of a Public Use Condition, as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition, rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost No. 40.2 at the north end of the Marsh River Bridge south of Shelly and end of track at milepost No. 21.0 at or near Perley, a distance of 19.2 miles in Norman County, Minnesota.

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

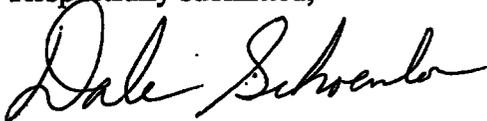
1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: The rail corridor in question connects the cities of Perley, Hendrum, Halstad, and Shelly all of which have connections to other trail systems traversing through Norman County. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with planning activities of recreational clubs in Minnesota. This corridor provides important wildlife habitat for the Greater Prairie Chicken, Sharp Tailed Grouse, and Turkey in Northwestern Minnesota, along with a variety of mammals. Plans of the trail club will continue to focus on restoration of native prairie when applicable.

The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time: to assure all the land titles are cleared, work on a trail plan to incorporate this portion, and begin financial networking with other state agencies.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc., by Certified U.S. Mail, this day of September 10, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Dale Schoenborn
on behalf of: Fertile-Beltrami Sandhill Snowcruisers

Cc: Thomas McFarland – Attorney for MN Northern RR, Inc.
George LaPray – General Manager, MN Northern RR, Inc.
Robert Rickert- Mn/DOT