

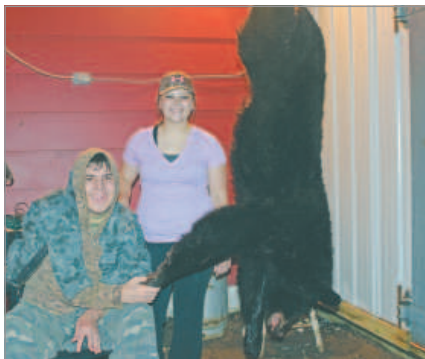
**Water world**  
Water takes second in state competition

A3



**Wish granted**  
Locals organize hunt for Twin Cities man

A9



# The Journal

Saturday,  
September 14, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota [www.ifallsjournal.com](http://www.ifallsjournal.com) \$1

## Proposed transmission line focus of meetings

Minnesota Power plans meeting Wednesday in Littlefork

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings this month about its proposal to construct the Great Northern Transmission Line.

The open house meetings are scheduled in communities along the Phase 1 route alternatives this month.

Meetings in Borderland are planned for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Littlefork Community Center, and from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the Blackduck Public High School.

Minnesota Power proposes to build the Great Northern Transmission Line the company says will bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota, meet growing energy demands and increase system reliability, according to its website.

The Great Northern Transmission Line, which will deliver hydropower generated by Manitoba Hydro to customers in the United States, will consist of two transmission lines:

■ Phase 1: 500 kV line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and

■ Phase 2: 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Amy Rutledge, manager, corporate communications with ALLETE | Minnesota Power, stressed the routes are still being considered.

"Again, these are not the final routes," she stated in an email to The Journal. "We are still collecting data and input and that is the purpose of these fall open houses."

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1 of the project. The company says it anticipates both phases of the project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is the initial priority. Minnesota Power will focus on the certificate of

Powerline to A7 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

Falls EDA Vice President Cynthia Jaksa works with a group Wednesday to identify potential uses for the Donahue property. Jaksa has said the property is a benefit to the city even with the \$90,000 in brokerage fees paid by the city.

## Options for Donahue property discussed

First of four meetings intended to gather ideas for use of the property

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Trails, housing, a recreation vehicle park, a water bottling plant, a hydroponics plant, camp sites and a cell phone tower site were just a few of the possible uses identified Wednesday for the 122 acres of land west of International Falls known as the Donahue property.

About 35 people attended the first of four meetings intended to gather input about the potential use of the property that was provided to the city in 2009 by the Donahue Family Trust.

Organized by the International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission, other forums that are intended to further refine potential uses for the property

are planned for Sept. 25, and Oct. 9 and 23. Each of the meetings are to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the AmericInn. Andy Hubley, senior planner with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, who has experience in transportation, land-use planning and community visioning processes, led Wednesday's form and is expected to lead the future sessions.

EDA Vice President Cynthia Jaksa, also a Falls city councilor, said one option for the property is to return it to the Donahue family.

"I would like to look at other options for the property," she said Wednesday. She encouraged people at the session to return to the future sessions and encourage others to attend.

Donahue to A7 ➤



Pat Donahue spoke about his family's long history on the property west of International Falls as EDA President Gail Rognerud, at left, listened. Donahue said his father, Pat, was born, raised and died on the property his family provided to the city.

## Voyageurs National Park to start reservations, fees in 2014

Fees for sites to range from \$16 to \$24

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Voyageurs National Park will implement next year a reservation and fee schedule for campsites, houseboat sites, and interior boats.

The action follows a three-year process that included public meetings and input to determine if campsite reservations fees are warranted for the park. It also required approval of the National Park Service director's office, overriding a moratorium on new

or modified fees in national parks.

Park officials and area tourism industry officials have said they believe more people would visit the water-based park if they knew they had a site reserved for them when they arrive.

The public process also encouraged a phase-in of the system.

"During civic engagement a lot of people requested we phase this process over a couple years so that visitors would become accustomed to the process. We fully

agree with their input," said VNP Superintendent Mike Ward.

The park will begin to phase into the reservation/fee program the interior and main lake campsites, houseboats sites, and rentals of boats on interior lakes. This will allow park staff to ensure all aspects of the system provide the intended service to visitors. It also allows a few seasons for visitors to get used to the changes.

Starting in 2014, the park will place the boats on interior lakes program, the two existing sites accessible to people with handicaps, and the 17 interior sites on the

reservation/fee system.

In addition, a combination of 30 large and small campsites located on the four main lakes will be placed on the reservation/fee system in 2014. This will give the park time to monitor how these 30 sites are used prior to continuing implementation.

"This is a large project and will take time and monitoring to achieve success," said Ward. "We will continue to implement the other 240 sites in the park based on staffing and the results of the monitoring."

The 30 large lake campsites and

two sites accessible to people with handicaps will be marked with "reservation only" signs and all other campsites will remain first come, first served in 2014.

Starting in February, reservations for the above described sites can be made in advance online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling the National Call Center at (877) 444-6777

Advance reservations are available until midnight the night before the visit. Reservations are by credit card only.

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VOLUME 4  
NUMBER 74