

COUNTY BOARD

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with one-third coming from renewable sources and one-third from natural gas. The line would allow Minnesota Power to trade with Manitoba Hydro, which is an excellent energy source, he said.

“It’s a very nimble, strong supply of power,” Atkinson said. “It doesn’t even make carbon, so it takes us and very much

mitigates our risk to future carbon taxes.”

This increased reliance on stable, hydroelectric power means Minnesota Power customers won’t be exposed to the price increases caused by carbon taxes from coal, he said.

“It’s not likely to make it cost less, it’s going to keep it from costing as much as it could,” he said. “I don’t anticipate that anything I do results in a decrease. In the long term, it’s going to keep our rates manageable.”



Wayne Skoe

Minnesota Power will purchase one-time easements for the private and public property the line crosses, Atkinson said.

For this project, he said, a 200-foot wide easement is needed, so each mile of the line will require roughly 24 acres. “Minnesota Power essen-

tially pays the value of the land,” he said. “So whatever the value per acre of that land is is what we pay.”

The real benefit to the county comes from the personal property taxes Minnesota Power will pay for the transmission line, Atkinson said.

“We estimate that we will be paying between \$40,000-\$60,000 per year, per mile,” he said.

Atkinson said he didn’t have the exact number of miles the line would travel

through Koochiching County, but it would be around 60 miles. Commissioner Wade Pavleck said at \$50,000 in property tax per mile, 60 miles of transmission line would generate \$3 million in revenue for the county annually.

Minnesota Power staff hope to begin construction on the line in 2016, Atkinson said, and they expect the project will take three to four years to complete. The purchase agreement stipulates a completion date

of June 1, 2020, he said. With a project completion date seven years away, Atkinson said he thinks Minnesota Power has conducted the project correctly by involving stakeholders in the discussion from the beginning.

“I think we are doing it the right way,” he said. “Most utility companies would not put in over a years’ worth of this sort of public outreach prior to sending in and submitting an application.”

AWARD

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their work and a professionally produced video to use to share the story of their work with others.

“We are extremely honored to receive this prestigious award and thank all of our partners for believing in this innovative project and helping it succeed in saving lives,” said Dave Lee, director of Carlton County Public Health and Human Services.

The TXT4LIFE program reaches youth in ways they communicate most – through text messaging. Prior to funding through the grant, the Minnesota affiliate of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline reported answering about 25 calls a month from youth and young adults – a small percentage in comparison to the volume from other ages.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline was seeing a decrease in calls from young people over the years, yet suicide rates among that group were going up.

“We knew something was not right,” Lee told The Journal.

With implementation of the text line, the organization is now receiving, on average, 300 text message conversations per month from this age group. The program is seeing that, for young people, texting is the way they are communicating, and adding this service to the 1-800-273-8255 number has been a great benefit in saving lives, said Lee.

Lee told The Journal this week that since the beginning of this year, 110 users of the TXT4Life program have been from Koochiching County.

“Some of those may be duplicated, but it’s still signifi-

cantly higher than when the 800 number was in place,” said Lee. “So kids are using it and that’s what it’s there for.”

Lee said the effort would not have been successful without the collaboration of the entities involved.

“Koochiching County needs to celebrate, too,” he said, adding the support of the county board and Terry Murray, county Community Services director, played a key role.

The idea of using texts to connect young people with help came after a review of recent youth suicides.

“We saw kids on electronic media before they killed themselves, they were on Facebook and texting,” he said. “We understand in the adolescent mind things move quickly and we need to respond in a way they can connect with.”

He said the 800 telephone

line is great to steer people to a trusted resource — if people are willing to use it. And, he said, too many young people were not and instead were feeling isolated and not willing to reach out for help.

The text line has been complimented by marketing and outreach in the northeast region, including school presentations, community trainings, and distribution of marketing materials. Lee refers to the school presentations as “equipping students with a lifeline in their pocket,” as students are asked to enter the text line number into their phones during the presentation. The development of technology beyond the traditional mental health outreach has allowed students to get connected to help and resources, who may not have otherwise. Lee said officials in other

parts of the state have wanted to implement the program, but it did not have the capacity. However, the last legislative system brought support to expand the program.

THE AWARD

“Each year cities, counties, and schools are challenged to do more with less and these awards recognize those who are most creatively doing that,” says Jay Kiedrowski, senior fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. “The award winners have done an exemplary job integrating innovative ideas and problem-solving techniques into their operations, redesigning how they do business and improving services they provide Minnesota communities.”

Others recognized with awards include:

■ School category: Mon-

roe Elementary, Brooklyn Park; GEARS Time – consistent with its magnet program in mathematics, science, and children’s engineering, Monroe Elementary developed GEARS (Getting Excellent Academic Results for all Students) Time.

■ City category: Madelia — to satisfy an order by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to decommission wastewater treatment ponds, the City of Madelia transformed them into a natural habitat for pheasants, water fowl, and deer that is also accessible to people with disabilities.

To learn more about the Local Government Innovation Awards as well as the individual award winners and their innovations, visit www.lgia.umn.edu. To learn more about TXT4Life, visit www.txt4life.org or find them on Facebook.

EDA

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American Water Works Association’s Annual Conference in September. The Falls won last year’s “Best in Glass” competition at the MN AWWA Conference, and went on to finish second during AWWA’s national “Best of the Best” drinking water competition. The Falls was selected as the people’s choice winner for best tasting water at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair.

In other commission

news, Mason reported that U.S. Sens. Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar have been asked to sponsor a Senate companion to the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act, co-authored by 8th District Congressman Rick Nolan in the U.S. House.

The bill would allow partnerships between the public and private sectors to construct new land port of entries.

A plan to reconstruct the International Falls port-of-entry has been shelved because Congress has indicated it will not fund such

projects this year.

International Falls City Council and the Koochiching County Board have sent letters to federal lawmakers representing Borderland urging their support of the bill.

City officials have said while federal funding for construction of a new land port of entry in International Falls is not likely in the near future, a change in the law to allow for public-private partnerships would help construction of the proposed new facility move forward more quickly.

The existing port of entry facility was constructed in 1993. Since then, the former U.S. Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service has been blended into the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The mission of managing the border has also changed.

The commission also heard from Mason that KOOTASCA Community Action Inc. is working with the national Boys and Girls Club of America to consider whether a club should be formed locally.

Mason said in her director’s report that the national organization will conduct a feasibility study over the next couple months, and she has recommended a variety of local people to be interviewed in the process.

The commission was told that Voyageurs National Park Superintendent Mike Ward, a member of the EDA Advisory Board, has asked to speak to the EDA Commission at an upcoming meeting about air quality issues.

Mason reported that


Ward wants the commission to know that it is a fallacy the park does not want development in the community and he noted that there is no class one air quality requirement. Mason said he told the board that if a business meets the permitting processes of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “it will be welcomed by the National Park Service.” Mason said he pointed to the NOvA neutrino detector project at Ash River, as an example.



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Happy 50th Anniversary
Stewart & Sharon
Kennedy
Love
Kip & Shelley
Liz & Bryce
Kurt & Des

Hunting Girls Holiday Expo

Wednesday, December 4th, 2013
4:00pm to 7:00pm
Ranier Community Building

PARTICIPATION VENDORS INCLUDE:

Tastefully Simple – Niki Kossow • Scentsy – Kyra Briggs • Massage Therapy – Kasi Joyce • Young Living Essential Oils – Becky Olson & Candy Ginter
Evolve U Fitness – Ashley Wade • Thirty One – Jill Morrison
It Works Skinny Wraps and Hanging By a Moment Custom Signs – Mollie Besch • Mary Kay – Cheryl Kennedy • Swanky Sweet Pea – RaeAnne Conat
Tasteful Treasures – Tracy Nuthak • Pampered Chef – Desiree Arnold
Hunter Girls – Alli Ruelle-Howell • Miche – Lindsey Frank

Rainy Lake Medical Center Diabetes Support Group

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Rainy Lake Medical Center will be offering the final session of the Diabetes Support Group for 2013.

When: Tuesday, December 3rd
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)
Where: RLMC Clinic Community Room

Topic: *Holiday Foods & Diabetes*
Speaker: Heather Pitschka, Dietitian

Please call 283-9431 if you plan to attend, space is limited.



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12 Days Of Christmas Sale

Enjoy these Holiday Savings
Dec. 3rd – Dec. 14th
at **RONNING'S**

December 3 Socks BOGO 1/2 off*	December 4 Rainy Lake Shirts & Sweatshirts 20% off*	December 5 Winter Hats, Mitts, Scarves, etc. 20% off*	December 6 Carhartt Lined Jackets & Bibs 20% off*
December 7 Secret Savings Day 1-4 pm Only	December 8 Jeans BOGO 1/2 off*	December 9 Camo & Blaze Orange 30% off*	December 10 Fleece & Sportswear 20% off* <small>excludes under armour</small>
December 11 Gifts & Souvenirs 20% off*	December 12 Long Underwear 20% off* <small>excludes under armour</small>	December 13 Winter Jackets, Bibs & Snowpants 20% off*	December 14 Footwear 20% off* <small>excludes mucks & bogs</small>

*2nd pair of equal or lesser value. Some exclusions may apply. Sale on regular priced merchandise ONLY. Excludes Under Armour, Bogs & Mucks. Sale only valid for one day, as listed above. NO early or late sales will be given.

Int'l Falls Monday-Saturday 8-7 • Sunday 9-4 • 283-8877