

July 26, 2006

Russell Borgen
President
Agassiz Recreation Trail, Joint Powers Board
201 1st ST NW
Ulen, MN 56585

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 7 - 2006

Part of
Public Record



Re: Minnesota Northern Railroad Abandonment in Norman and Polk
Counties, Minnesota, STB Docket Number 497 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Mr. Williams,

This request is filed on behalf of the Agassiz Recreational Trail Joint Powers Board, a board comprised of Clay, Norman, and Polk Counties from Minnesota.

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition, as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition, rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost No. 64 south of Beltrami and end of track at milepost No. 47.0 south of Ada, a distance of 17.0 miles in Polk and Norman Counties, Minnesota (the Rail Line).

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:

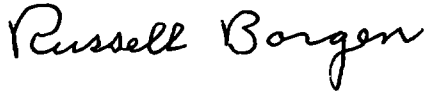
1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: The rail corridor in question links an existing trail system to the north, east, and south joining the communities of Fertile, Crookston, and Twin Valley. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with planning of the Agassiz Recreation Trail. This corridor provides important wildlife habitat for the Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp Tailed Grouse 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 July 26, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Borgen".

Russell Borgen
on behalf of: Agassiz Recreational Trail, Joint Powers Board

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