



Boone County Government

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Boone County Board

FROM: Ken Terrinoni, County Administrator

DATE: March 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Meeting with Great Lakes Basin Representative

Winnebago County Chairman Scott Christiansen invited Chairman Walberg to a briefing by the representatives of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad on March 9th, and I was asked to attend. Below are summary points from the meeting:

- A "Fatal Flaw" analysis of various environmental issues along the entire route led to the change from Winnebago into Wisconsin to Boone into Wisconsin.
- They desire to avoid population centers.
- They would consider realignment to the route by 100'-200'.
- The expected width of easement is 200' of which 50' would be for utilities.
- This project is added to the Surface Transportation Board's "Master Project List". The issuance of the STB's Notice of Intent is expected within a few weeks.
- The actual permit process will take 12-18 months.
- The STB will have 8-10 hearings throughout the region, dates to be announced. The Great Lakes Basin representatives will have meetings in Boone County after the STB's hearing.
- The Eminent Domain process involves offers to landowners with 30 days to accept. Without acceptance and after the 31st day, legal action may begin.
- There is an "Acquisition Formula" which involves 1) purchase value of \$20,000 acre, 2) landowners receiving free residential electricity, and 3) rail access from their property.
- A single main track is being presented at this time.