

## ROBERT L. MUNNEKE

P.O. Box 197 Aitkin, MN 56431

218-851-2483

dmunneke@embarqmail.com

November 29, 2017

Aitkin County Board Members:

Commissioner J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson

Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

Commissioner Donald Niemi

Commissioner Bill Pratt

Commissioner Anne Marcotte

Aitkin County Court House

217 2nd Street NW

Aitkin, MN 56431

DEC 04 2017

Dear Aitkin County Board Members:

When the Enbridge pipeline near Kalamazoo, Mich., ruptured and created a crude oil spill in 2010, it was 17 hours before Enbridge employees responded. Meanwhile, almost one million gallons of oil went into the Talmadge Creek and then onto the adjoining Kalamazoo River. The National Transportation Safety Board came down hard on Enbridge, issuing a report in 2012 that included this statement:

"This investigation identified a complete breakdown of safety at Enbridge. Their employees performed like Keystone Kops and failed to recognize their pipeline had ruptured and continued to pump crude into the environment," said NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman. "Despite multiple alarms and a loss of pressure in the pipeline, for more than 17 hours and through three shifts they failed to follow their own shutdown procedures."

Enbridge had known for five years there was an impending problem and did nothing to prevent the tragedy. Many homes in the area ended up being abandoned because it was impossible to get the oil removed.

Imagine one million gallons of oil ending up in Big Sandy Lake. It does not make sense for an oil pipeline to go through a lakes area. We are just asking for trouble.

The Friends of the Headwaters have proposed an alternate route for the pipeline that goes around the lakes area. I respectfully ask that you encourage Enbridge to use this alternative route.

We all want the pipefitters to have good jobs. Every needs a good job. But it is not fair in the process to place in jeopardy so many folks who rely on the economy of the lakes area for jobs. Also, folks have heavy investments in homes and cabins that would be adversely affected by a spill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Munneke

Search this site...

Advanced Search

Home &gt; NEWS &amp; EVENTS &gt; News Releases &gt; Pipeline Rupture and Oil Spill Accident Caused by Organizational Failures and Weak Regulations



## NTSB News Release

National Transportation Safety Board Office of Public Affairs

### Pipeline Rupture and Oil Spill Accident Caused by Organizational Failures and Weak Regulations

7/10/2012

WASHINGTON - Pervasive organizational failures by a pipeline operator along with weak federal regulations led to a pipeline rupture and subsequent oil spill in 2010, the National Transportation Safety Board said today.

On Sunday, July 25, 2010, at about 5:58 p.m., a 30 inch-diameter pipeline (Line 6B) owned and operated by Enbridge Incorporated ruptured and spilled crude oil into an ecologically sensitive area near the Kalamazoo River in Marshall, Mich., for 17 hours until a local utility worker discovered the oil and contacted Enbridge to report the rupture.

The NTSB found that the material failure of the pipeline was the result of multiple small corrosion-fatigue cracks that over time grew in size and linked together, creating a gaping breach in the pipe measuring over 80 inches long.

"This investigation identified a complete breakdown of safety at Enbridge. Their employees performed like Keystone Kops and failed to recognize their pipeline had ruptured and continued to pump crude into the environment," said NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman. "Despite multiple alarms and a loss of pressure in the pipeline, for more than 17 hours and through three shifts they failed to follow their own shutdown procedures."

Clean up costs are estimated by Enbridge and the EPA at \$800 million and counting, making the Marshall rupture the single most expensive on-shore spill in US history.

Over 840,000 gallons of crude oil - enough to fill 120 tanker trucks - spilled into hundreds of acres of Michigan wetlands, fouling a creek and a river. A Michigan Department of Community Health study concluded that over 300 individuals suffered adverse health effects related to benzene exposure, a toxic component of crude oil.

Line 6B had been scheduled for a routine shutdown at the time of the rupture to accommodate changing delivery schedules. Following the shutdown, operators in the Enbridge control room in Edmonton, Alberta, received multiple alarms indicating a problem with low pressure in the pipeline, which were dismissed as being caused by factors other than a rupture. "Inadequate training of control center personnel" was cited as contributing to the accident.

The investigation found that Enbridge failed to accurately assess the structural integrity of the pipeline, including correctly analyzing cracks that required repair. The NTSB characterized Enbridge's control room operations, leak detection, and environmental response as deficient, and described the event as an "organizational accident."

Following the first alarm, Enbridge controllers restarted Line 6B twice, pumping an additional 683,000 gallons of crude oil, or 81 percent of the total amount spilled, through the ruptured pipeline. The NTSB determined that if Enbridge's own procedures had been followed during the initial phases of the accident, the magnitude of the spill would have been significantly reduced. Further, the NTSB attributed systemic flaws in operational decision-making to a "culture of deviance," which concluded that personnel had developed an operating culture in which not adhering to approved procedures and protocols was normalized.

The NTSB also cited the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's weak regulations regarding pipeline assessment and repair criteria as well as a cursory review of Enbridge's oil spill response plan as contributing to the magnitude of the accident.

The investigation revealed that the cracks in Line 6B that ultimately ruptured were detected by Enbridge in 2005 but were not repaired. A further examination of records revealed that Enbridge's crack assessment process was inadequate, increasing the risk of a rupture.

"This accident is a wake-up call to the industry, the regulator, and the public. Enbridge knew for years that this section of the pipeline was vulnerable yet they didn't act on that information," said Chairman Hersman. "Likewise, for the regulator to delegate too much authority to the regulated to assess their own system risks and correct them is

#### Related News Releases

- October 30, 2015  
NTSB: American Petroleum Institute's New Recommended Practice for Pipeline Safety Management Systems Exceeds NTSB Recommendation
- July 10, 2012  
Pipeline Rupture and Oil Spill Accident Caused by Organizational Failures and Weak Regulations
- July 03, 2012  
NTSB to Meet on Pipeline Rupture and Oil Spill Accident
- July 27, 2010  
NTSB Launching Team to Investigate Pipeline Accident That Spilled Crude Oil into River in Michigan
- September 15, 2010  
NTSB Chairman Updates Congress on Progress of Investigation into Marshall, Michigan Pipeline Leak
- May 21, 2012  
NTSB Adding Documents to Public Docket on Pipeline Rupture and Spill Accident in Marshall, Michigan

#### Related Reports

- Pipeline Accident Report PAR-12-01

#### Related Events

#### Related Investigations

- Crude Oil Pipeline Rupture and Spill

#### More NTSB Links

- Investigation Process
- Data & Stats
- Accident Reports
- Most Wanted List

**MONTHLY STATEMENT OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN  
OFFICE OF COUNTY RECORDER, AITKIN COUNTY  
November 2017**

NATURE OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED	FEES RECEIVED
COUNTY RECORDER FEES	\$0.00
MISC RECEIPTS	
COPIES & C/COPIES	\$976.55
NOTARY	\$60.00
TORRENS	\$143.00
TORRENS ASSURANCE *** 9.2031	\$16.50
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$6,684.50
STATE TREASURY GENERAL FUND *** 9.2036	\$4,956.00
LAND RECORDS COMPLIANCE FUND (UNALLOC) 1-100-195-5529	\$5,192.00
RECORDER TECHNOLOGY FUND 1-100-196-5529	\$4,720.00
COUNTY WELL CERTIFICATE	\$165.00
STATE WELL CERTIFICATE *** 9.2027	\$935.00
COUNTY DEATH CERTIFICATE	\$417.00
STATE DEATH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$568.00
COUNTY BIRTH CERTIFICATES	\$220.00
STATE BIRTH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$104.00
CHILDREN'S SURCHARGE *** 9.2024	\$78.00
LEGISLATIVE SURCHARGE (144.226 SUBD 3 (b)) *** 9.2036	\$260.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSIT OF CASH OR CHECKS TO THE AITKIN COUNTY TREASURER</b>	<b>\$25,495.55</b>

RECORDING DONE FOR WHICH NO PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED	
VETERANS HONORABLE DISCHARGES	
AITKIN COUNTY	\$92.00
AITKIN CO ROAD & BRIDGE	
OTHERS	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92.00</b>

*Michael T. Moriarty*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Michael T. Moriarty, Aitkin County Recorder

By *Ray C. Hepp*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy #####

Documents Recorded for Month: 466  
 Documents Recorded for Year: 5472

<b>Previous Year Statistics</b>
Documents Recorded for Month: 452
Documents Recorded for Year:
Last Year's Monthly Deposit: \$26,241.70

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**Aitkin County Courthouse**  
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-7276  
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 29, 2017

COPY

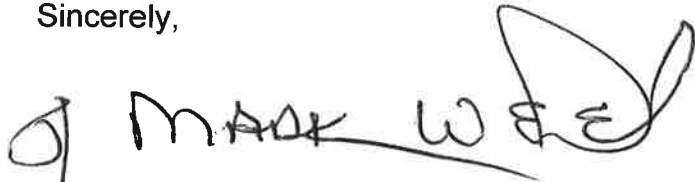
Rebecca May  
101 Minnesota Avenue South  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Rebecca:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reappointed you to the East Central Regional Library Board. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your reappointment!

If you have any questions, please contact Carla Lydon at (763) 392-0649.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Carla Lydon, ECRL

Thanks again Rebecca!!



# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**Aitkin County Courthouse**  
217 Second Street N.W. Room 134  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-3093  
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 29, 2017

Ihleen Williams  
36987 US Hwy 169  
Aitkin, MN 56431

COPY

Dear Ihleen:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reappointed you to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Aitkin County as the District 1 representative. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your reappointment!

If you have any questions about this committee, please feel free to call Nancy Johnson Houg at 218-927-2151.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc. Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Nancy Johnson Houg

Thanks again Ihleen !!

MARK

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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218-927-3093  
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November 29, 2017

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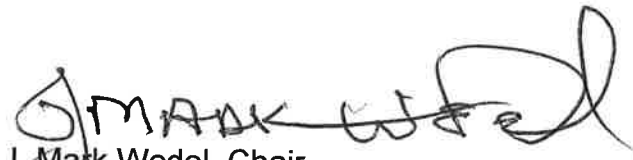
Renee Larson  
329 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Renee:

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners would like to thank you for your application to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, however, another applicant was chosen.

The Board thanks you for your interest. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Nancy Johnson Houg

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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217 Second Street N.W. Room 134  
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November 29, 2017

Jeremy Paquette  
50801 237<sup>th</sup> Place  
McGregor, MN 55760

COPY

Dear Jeremy:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reappointed you to the Aitkin County Board of Adjustment as the District 4 representative. Your three year term begins January 2018, and ends December 31, 2020. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your reappointment.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director at (218) 927-7342.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**Aitkin County Courthouse**  
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-3093  
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 29, 2017

Ed Spiel  
31479 – 395<sup>th</sup> Place  
Aitkin, MN 56431

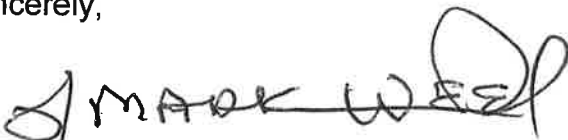
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Dear Ed:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reappointed you to the Aitkin County Board of Adjustment as the District 2 representative. Your three year term begins January 2018, and ends December 31, 2020. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your reappointment.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director at (218) 927-7342.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director



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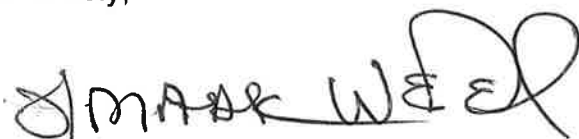
William Schmidt  
41199 310<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear William:

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners would like to thank you for your application to the Board of Adjustment, however, another applicant was chosen.

Thank you for your interest. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

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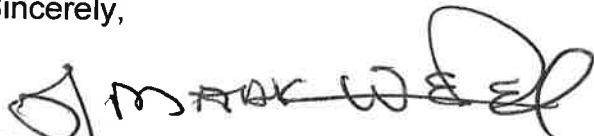
Dennise Sonne  
20585 326<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Isle, MN 56342

Dear Dennise:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners reappointed you to the Aitkin County Planning Commission as the District 3 representative. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your reappointment.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director at (218) 927-7342.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

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November 29, 2017

COPY

Steve Kulifaj  
38421 State Hwy 18  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Steve:

At the November 28, 2017 Aitkin County Board meeting, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners appointed you to the Aitkin County Planning Commission as the District 2 representative. We thank you for your application and congratulate you on your appointment.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director at (218) 927-7342.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

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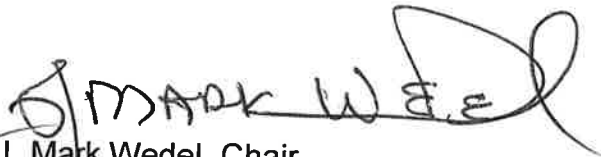
Terry Betley  
112 Third St. NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Terry:

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners would like to thank you for your application to the Planning Commission, however, another applicant was chosen.

Thank you for your interest. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

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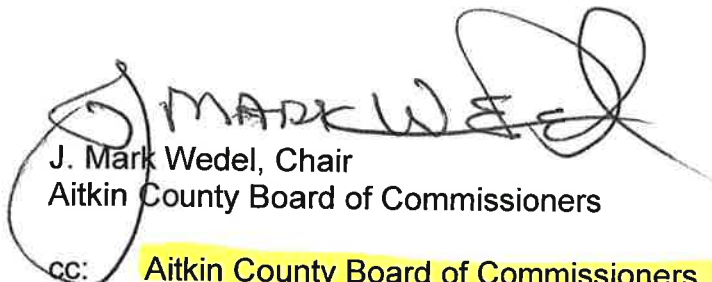
Robert Harwarth  
38191 360<sup>th</sup> Street  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Bob:

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners would like to thank you for your application to the Planning Commission, however, another applicant was chosen.

Thank you for your past service and continued interest. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

# AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

**Aitkin County Courthouse**  
217 Second Street N.W. Room 134  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218-927-3093  
Fax: 218-927-7374

November 29, 2017

Brian Anderson  
408 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

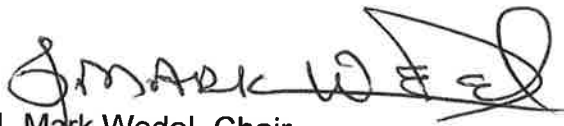
COPY

Dear Brian:

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners would like to thank you for your application to the Planning Commission, however, another applicant was chosen.

Thank you for your interest. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director

*Join The Aitkin County Sheriff's Office  
For Some Christmas Cheer*

**We would like to invite you to the  
Sheriff's Admin. Office**

**December 13, 2017  
1:00 to 3:00**

**Join us for cookies, coffee, cider and lots of other  
snacks.**

**See you there!**





# Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: December 5, 2017

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
Bob Harwood	✓		MY SELF
MARK JAWAS		✓	LAND COMMISSIONER
Lou Brown		✓	County Treasurer
MICHAEL MORIARTY		✓	COUNTY RECORDER
Bryelle Breedstem			Age
Maure Landstad	✓		Citizen
Larry Chadwick	✓		King Larry 45
John Welle		✓	Highway Dept.
Jenny Neff		✓	P & Z / Sewer services
BRAD KELVIN WATN			Aitkin Schools
JERRY DELWILL	✓		MY SELF



