

Issues
Report
2013

Problems, Needs and
Quarterly
Third Quarter,

The following is a list of issues of community and public interest that the news department of this station covered during the months of July, August, and September, 2013. Included is a description of each issue and the news stories that were written and aired to inform the local residents about each issue that had an impact of the community.....

1.) -- **Winona Fire**.....On Friday, September 13th, several historic buildings in downtown Winona were damaged from a large fire. Three of the buildings were destroyed and several others sustained extensive smoke and water damage. The news department provided live remote updates from the scene and followed the progress and investigation into the cause of the blaze that resulted in many people being displaced. See attached news stories.....

2.) -- **Flood Damage**.....In late June, 2013, there was an large storm that moved through both Houston and Fillmore Counties as well as parts of Winona County. The results were extensive damage to roads and bridges. Houston and Fillmore Counties were both declared federal disaster areas an were able to receive both state and federal assistance in making repairs. The news department followed the investigation and the September special legislative session that was held to approve state funding. See attached news stories.....

3.) -- **Winona Bridge Project**.....Progress continued on the Winona Bridge Project as the Minnesota Department of Transportation continued its preparations for construction to begin 2014. MinnDOT announced the construction start date had been moved up from 2015 to mid-2014. In August, the City of Winona signed off on the plan to construct a new bridge and rehab the existing bridge, and by September MinnDOT had begun working on land and building acquisition. The project was still

estimated to cost between 150 and 175 million dollars. See attached news stories.....

4.) -- **Frac Sand Mines**.....In early June the Winona County Board of Commissioners approved a conditional use permit for the first frac sand mine in the county to begin operations. That was followed a month later by a lawsuit filed by local citizens who appealed the permit saying the board had not required enough environmental study on the project. Some state agencies also continued their efforts to establish uniform guidelines and rules for local counties to use to regulate the mines and product transportation, as required by the state legislature. See attached news stories.....

5.) -- **County Comp Plan**.....A 19-member citizens continued is review of the county's comprehensive plan in order to provide recommendations for updating the plan to the county board of commissioners. A public meeting was held in early August to receive public input on the proposed changes. The proposed changes are expected to be ready for county board review by the end of 2014. See attached news stories.....

Submitted by:

Darryl Smelser
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