

**SOO LINE TRAIL RULES AND SAFETY REGULATIONS  
ORDINANCE #14  
CARLTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE ABANDONED SOO LINE RAILROAD RIGHTS OF WAY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CARLTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

WHEREAS, Carlton County has purchased from the Soo Line Railway Company abandoned railway rights of way within its boundaries over and across premises described in Appendix A and Appendix B attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, at least 100 feet of width of said rights of way, being 50 feet on each side of the centerline of the former rail lines, is deemed to be necessary for the continued operation by the County of a recreational and commercial right of way facility; and

WHEREAS, it deemed advisable that all traffic of every kind of nature on said rights of way owned and operated by the County of Carlton as aforesaid should be regulated and managed to ensure the safety of the users of the said rights of way and of the general public and to protect and benefit the people, economy and natural resources of the County, allowing the most possible uses thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Board of Commissioners of Carlton County, Minnesota, does ordain as follows:

**SECTION I. SHORT TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known as the Soo Line Trail Rules and Safety Regulations, Ordinance #14 and will be referred herein as “this Ordinance.”

**SECTION II. AUTHORITY**

It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance to establish certain rules and regulations for the operation, management and safety of the said abandoned Soo Line Railway Rights of Way within this County in accordance with all existing Minnesota Statutes, Rules and regulations.

**SECTION III. JURISDICTION**

The files and regulations herein governing the management and safety of the Soo line Railway Right of Way Trails shall apply to all of the 100 foot rights of way within Carlton County, Minnesota, except those sections of former right-of-way now designated as public roadways by action of the Carlton County Engineer and the Carlton County Board of Commissioners. (Amended 7-13-93)

**SECTION IV. DEFINITION OF WORDS AND PHRASES**

- A. VEHICLE: All-terrain vehicles as described by Minnesota Statutes, snowmobiles as described by Minnesota statutes, bicycles and horse drawn vehicles.
- B. EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT: Crash, fire, rescue or police motor vehicles or

such other equipment as the county land commissioner may designate as necessary to safeguard and maintain the said rights of way.

- C. SERVICE, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT:  
Approved equipment normally operated for the construction, repair and maintenance of said rights of way.

**SECTION V. AUTHORIZED USES WITHOUT PERMIT**

The said right of way trails may be used in the following manners without special permits from the County:

- A. Recreational trail for pedestrians and for vehicles as defined herein, unless otherwise restricted by this Ordinance.
- B. Access to County lands for management purposes.
- C. Access road for fire protection and prevention.
- D. Access road for law enforcement and emergency purposes.

**SECTION VI. AUTHORIZED USES, SPECIAL PERMITS REQUIRED**

The said rights of way may be used in the following manners upon special permit only, which application and issuance is hereinafter provided for in this Ordinance:

- A. Access road for the harvesting, use and management of natural resources, such as timber, gravel, peat, minerals and other natural resources.
- B. Installation and maintenance of utilities, such as electric transmission lines, telephone communication lines, gas, oil and other transmission lines.
- C. Special events as are hereinafter described.
- D. For such other uses as may be subsequently approved by the County Board upon proper application.
- E. Access road for maintenance work on public drainage systems.
- F. Emergency alternate temporary public roadway.
- G. Roadway or farm crossings, when property on both sides of the right of way is owned or leased by the same owner, corporate or individual.

**SECTION VII. UNAUTHORIZED USES**

Under no circumstances should the rights of way governed by this Ordinance be used

in the following manners:

- A. As a permanent public transportation route for normal highway traffic.
- B. As a permanent driveway or access to non-county administered lands.
- C. As a log landing or storage area.
- D. As a gravel, peat or mineral storage or processing area.
- E. As a dumping area for garbage, refuse, debris, equipment, slash, spoils, or other refuse of any kind, at any time.
- F. By two-wheel motorized vehicles.
- G. By automobiles, trucks, dune buggies or other motorized vehicles with engine displacement of 800 cubic centimeters or more and total dry weight of 1500 pounds or more.
- H. No person shall drink or consume an alcoholic beverage, distilled spirit or 3.2% malt liquor while operating any motor vehicle described in this Section when the vehicle is being used within the rights of way governed by this Ordinance. It shall also be unlawful for a person to have in possession, while operating any motor vehicle described in this Section, any bottle or receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage, distilled spirit or 3.2% malt liquor that has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed.

**SECTION VIII. SPECIAL PERMITS**

Special permits provided for in Section VI above for uses described in said Section VI, Subsections A, C, F and G for periods not to exceed five (5) years shall be issued at the discretion of the Carlton County Land Commissioner. Any Request for a special permit which is denied by the County Land commissioner may be appealed to the County Board for its consideration. (Amended 4-14-92)

Other special permits shall be issued at the discretion of the County Board upon the recommendation of the County Land Commissioner. The Land commissioner may at his discretion require a deposit, fee or use fee prior to issuance of a special use permit provided herein:

Said deposit or use fee may be utilized to assist in the defrayment of cost of repair of any damage to the right of way caused by the use thereof by the special permittee, it be specifically provided that damages in excess of the amount of the damage deposit fee may be recovered by the County against the damaging user in appropriate civil litigation, injunctively or otherwise.

The said special use permit may also set forth special restrictions or conditions as to

the time constraints for the utilization thereof or regular seasonal restrictions. Said permit may also set forth special restrictions as to the area upon the right of way which may be utilized by the special permittee so that multiple use for the trail may be continuously accomplished. Said permit may also set forth restrictions as to the size, type and weight of equipment to be driven or hauled upon the right of way. Said permit may also require temporary uses of signs by the permittee warning of the special use of the right of way for the protection of the regular recreational users. In the event that any of the conditions imposed by the special permit, or if any of the regulations imposed by this Ordinance are not followed and complied with by a user, the special permit to use the same may be immediately canceled and revoked upon written notice from the Land Commissioner to the permittee, and further use of the right of way after receipt of said notice by the permittee shall be considered to be in violation of this Ordinance. Upon reasonable request of the Land Commissioner or any of his agents or any law enforcement officer or his agents, a special permittee shall be required to display the special permit. Failure to do so upon such reasonable request shall be considered to be a violation of this Ordinance. (Amended 3-7-89).

**SECTION IX. TRAIL PLOWING**

At least three inches of snow must be left upon the surface of the right of way of the trails after plowing between December 1 and April 1 of each winter.

**SECTION X. FIREARMS**

No hunting or discharge of any firearm is permitted upon or across the rights of way.

**SECTION XI. TRAIL SIGNS**

The County Land Commissioner shall be responsible for the placement of signs upon the trails and their rights of way. In addition to directional and instructional signing there may exist on the Trails advertisement signs for businesses along the rights of way, provided that written permission is first obtained from the County Land Commissioner for the placement of the said sign and further provided that said signs are designed, constructed, placed and maintained in a uniform manner as provided by the Land Commissioner and further provided that said signs do not in any way adversely affect primary uses of the rights of way.

**SECTION XII. FENCES**

Owners of land adjacent to the rights of way may construct and maintain fences along the rights of way lines provided that said fences do not encroach upon the rights of way and provided that said fencing shall be at the sole expense of the adjacent land owner.

**SECTION XIII. SAFETY**

All traffic regulations applicable to highways and streets and trails within the State of Minnesota shall be applicable to the utilization to the rights of way; however, the County reserves the right to provide for more limited and stringent safety and traffic regulations upon the rights of way as it may deem in the public interest and safety. Unless otherwise

posted, the maximum speed limit on the rights of way shall be 50 miles per hour.

**SECTION XIV. SPECIAL EVENTS**

Upon application and written permission granted by the County Land Commissioner the rights of way may be used for special events pursuant to special conditions and time constraints provided in the permit for events such as, including but not limited to, snowmobile races, dog sled races, bicycle races, etc.

**SECTION XV. ENFORCEMENT**

It shall be the duty of the Carlton County Land Commissioner to monitor the uses of the rights of way to ensure compliance with this ordinance. The Carlton County Sheriff's Department shall enforce all State laws and regulations and the terms of this ordinance upon said rights of way.

**SECTION XVI. VIOLATION AND PENALTY**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$700 and/or by imprisonment of not to exceed 90 days. These penalty provisions are in addition to any other remedy or action available in the law or as a matter of right to Carlton County.

**SECTION XVII. VALIDITY**

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by the Courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

**SECTION XVIII EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced upon passage and publication.

## APPENDIX A

A strip of land of varying width, being the former right of way and station ground property of the Soo Line Railroad Company's so-called Moose Lake to Schley branch line in Carlton County, Minnesota, beginning at the East line of the SE1/4-SE1/4 of Section 19, Township 46 North, Range 19 West, and extending in a northwesterly direction along said branch line to the west line of the NW1/4-SW1/4 of Section 30, Township 47 North, Range 21 West; said strip being of varying widths on each side of the centerline of said branch line as the same was constructed and located over and across the following:

### **Township 46 North, Range 19 West**

E1/2-SE1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, W1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NW1/4, Section 19  
S1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 18

### **Township 46 North, Range 20 West**

N1/2-SE1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, S1/2-NW1/4, Section 13  
E1/2-NE1/4, NW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NW1/4, Section 14  
S1/2-SW1/4, Section 11  
S1/2-SE1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, SW1/4-NW1/4, Section 10  
S1/2-NE1/4, NW1/4-NE1/4, E1/2-NW1/4, NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 9  
NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 8  
S1/2-SE1/4, E1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 5  
N1/2-SE1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, S1/2-NW1/4, Section 6

### **Township 46 North, Range 21 West**

E1/2-NE1/4, NW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NW1/4, Section 1  
NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 2

### **Township 47 North, Range 21 West**

S1/2-SE1/4, S1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 35  
E1/2-SE1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, SW1/4-NW1/4, Section 34  
S1/2-NE1/4, NW1/4, Section 33  
N1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NW1/4, Section 32  
S1/2-SW1/4, Section 29  
S1/2-SE1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, E1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 30

; together with all hereditaments and appurtenances thereto.

## **APPENDIX B**

A strip of land of varying width, being the former right of way, station ground and gravel pit property of the Soo Line Railroad Company's so-called superior to Brooten branch line in Carlton County, Minnesota, beginning at the south line of the SE1/4-SE1/4 of Section 35 and the south line of the SW1/4-SW1/4 of Section 36, both in Township 46N, Range 20W, and extending in a northeasterly direction along said branch line to the east line of the SE1/4-SW1/4 of Section 7, Township 47N, Range 15W; said strip being of varying widths on each side of the centerline of said branch line as the same was constructed and located over and across the following:

### **Township 46 North, Range 20 West**

S1/2-SW1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 36  
SE1/4-SE1/4, Section 35

### **Township 46 North, Range 19 West**

NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 31  
S1/2-SW1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, SE1/4-NW1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, Section 30  
SE1/4-SE1/4, Section 19  
S1/2-SW1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, SW1/4-SE1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 20  
N1/2-NW1/4, NW1/4-NE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, Section 21  
N1/2-SW1/4, S1/2-SW1/4, Section 15 (gravel pit)  
SE1/4-SE1/4, Section 16 (gravel pit)  
NW1/4-NW1/4, SW1/4-NW1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 22  
S1/2-NW1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 23  
N1/2-NW1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, Section 24  
SE1/4-SE1/4, Section 13

### **Township 46 North, Range 18 West**

S1/2-SW1/4, S1/2-SE1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, Section 18  
N1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, Section 17  
S1/2-NW1/4, NE1/4-NW1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, Section 16  
N1/2-NW1/4, Section 15  
S1/2-SW1/4, S1/2-SE1/4, NE1/4-SE1/4, Section 10  
SW1/4-SW1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 11  
S1/2-NW1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, Section 12

### **Township 46 North, Range 17 West**

N1/2-NW1/4, Section 7  
SE1/4-SW1/4, SW1/4-SE1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 6  
S1/2-NW1/4, NE1/4-NW1/4, NW1/4-NE1/4, Section 5

### **Township 47 North, Range 17 West**

S1/2-SE1/4, NE1/4-SE1/4, Section 32  
N1/2-SW1/4, SE1/4-NW1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, Section 33

**APPENDIX B  
(CONTINUED)**

SE1/4-SE1/4, Section 28  
S1/2-SW1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 27  
N1/2-NW1/4, Section 26  
S1/2-SW1/4, SW1/4-SE1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, Section 23  
N1/2-SW1/4, SE1/4-NW1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, Section 24

**Township 47 North, Range 16 West**

S1/2-NW1/4, NE1/4-NW1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-NE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 19  
NW1/4-NW1/4, S1/2-NW1/4, SW1/4-NE1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, Section 20  
NW1/4-SW1/4, S1/2-SW1/4, S1/2-SE1/4, Section 21  
S1/2-SW1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 22  
S1/2-NW1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, NW1/4-SE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4, NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 23  
NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 24  
S1/2-SW1/4, SW1/4-SE1/4, NE1/4-SW1/4, N1/2-SE1/4, SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 13

**Township 47 North, Range 15 West**

SW1/4-NW1/4, N1/2-NW1/4, Section 18  
SE1/4-SW1/4, Section 7

; together with all hereditaments and appurtenances thereto.