



SESSION 3: RIGHT OF WAY PROFESSIONALS PANEL **DISCUSSION (YP FOCUSED)**

Benjamin Tozer – Fredrikson & Byron

BTozer@fredlaw.com

Mr. Tozer is a litigator whose practice focuses on the lifecycle of large energy projects, including land rights matters and regulatory proceedings in the upper Midwest. He is a senior associate with Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and has dealt with the variety of issues that arise across several hundreds of miles worth of easement acquisition for high voltage transmission lines. Mr. Tozer has also handled work on behalf of landowners subject to the eminent domain process. He was a Minnesota Lawyer 2015 Attorney of the Year, the 2016 IRWA Chapter 20 Young Professional of the Year, and was named a Rising Star by Minnesota Super Lawyers in the area of Eminent Domain in 2017. The only thing Ben loves more than easements and eminent domain is his family – his wife, Anne, and his son, Arthur, who was born this year on Father’s Day.



Ellen Heine – Xcel Energy

Ellen.L.Heine@xcelenergy.com

Ellen is a Sr. Land Agent in Xcel Energy’s Siting and Land Rights group, where she has been since 2011. She focuses on federal, state and local routing and environmental permitting and compliance for transmission line construction projects. She has worked on projects ranging from small maintenance projects to construction of a new 150 mile 345 kV transmission line. She works with a wide range of agencies, consultants and internal staff on topics such as waterway and wetland impacts, avian protection, threatened & endangered species, route selection, and public outreach. Ellen has a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of MN, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Michelle MacMillan, ARWP – Great River Energy

MMacMillan@greenergy.com

Michelle MacMillan, ARWP, is a Land Rights Technician for Great River Energy in Maple Grove, MN. She has been involved in the right of way profession for over 10 years. Currently, Michelle acts as Great River Energy (GRE) liaison when determining the impact on GRE facilities within GRE right of way by outside entities and works with these entities to minimize impacts within GRE right of way if possible. She also educates outside entities on the recommended guidelines when working within GRE right of way and coordinates relocation work and over sees the relocation of GRE facilities when appropriate. Michelle also works with outside entities to resolve existing and proposed right of way encroachment issues where the landowner has/may put GRE in a code violation situation or cause an imminent threat. Previous to working for Great River Energy, Michelle worked as a Survey/Engineering Technician for 11 years and was involved in all aspects of land development and property boundary establishment for private landowners.

Michelle has been an active member of the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) since 2007. She is currently the Communications, Nominations & Elections and Survey Chair for Chapter 20 and has also served as the Treasurer, President Elect, President, Director, Newsletter Chair and Utility Chair for Chapter 20. Michelle is also currently the International Right of Way Nominations and Elections Representative for Region 3. Michelle has an Associate of Arts Degree, an Associate of Applied Science Degree, Paralegal from Northland Community College in Thief River Falls, MN, she completed the Civil Engineering Technology program at Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN and is also a graduate of Bismarck State College with a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree, Energy Management.

Brian Mielke, SR/WA, R/W-NAC – KLJ

Brian.Mielke@kljeng.com

Brian has been in property development for 17 years, focusing on right of way for well over the last 10. He has negotiated hundreds of acquisitions, both permanent and temporary, partial and fee, urban and rural, and for a variety of project types. He's also managed acquisition and ROW for numerous project sizes and types. In his spare time, he's a planning commissioner, coach, and has the most fun fishing and riding motorcycle with his two girls and wife.



Kevin Peterson – Washington County

Kevin.Peterson@co.washington.mn.us

Kevin is currently an Engineer II with the Washington County Public Works Department where he manages the delivery and construction of roadway, trail, and bridge projects. In his ten years of experience, he has been exposed to almost every aspect of transportation engineering; including data collection, survey, design, and construction. He has facilitated and attended open houses and public engagement events for various projects involving many active stakeholders. Key projects include, Downtown Lake Elmo Reconstruction, Downtown Afton Reconstruction, over sight design support on both the TH 36 St. Croix Bridge Crossing and the TH 610 Extension design build projects. He earned his degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University and remains active professionally through service as the ASCE Transportation Committee Co-Chair, and the NCITE Student Activities and Career Guidance Co-Chair. Kevin was named ASCE-MN's 2016 Young Engineer of the Year.



Stacey A. Kroeger, SR/WA, R/W-RAC – Midwest Right of Way Services

KroegerS@midwestrow.com

Stacey A. Kroeger, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, works for Midwest Right of Way Services in Omaha, Nebraska. Midwest provides acquisition negotiations and relocation assistance to all types of displaced individuals, families, farms, and businesses throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas. Stacey has worked for Midwest Right of Way Services since 2001. She began as the contract and document specialist assisting with relocation and acquisition file management and organization. In May, 2005, she became a relocation / acquisition agent completing airport, flood/FEMA buyouts, pipeline, roadway, trails, and utility projects for private, local, state, FAA, HUD, and federally funded projects. Midwest has relocated a storage unit facility, car dealerships, churches, steel casting facility, metal recycling facility, a dormitory unit, residential acreages, and mobile home parks just to name a few. She is the past president of Chapter 78 and is an active member of the Relocation Community of Practice Committee.