

Office of Environmental Stewardship

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March 11, 2019

Dave Schilling, MnDOT
Central Office, St Paul, MN

Re: MnDOT Proposed Purchase of Land for Future Construction
Review per Minn. Statutes § 307.08
Eveleth, St. Louis County, T57 R17 Section 17

Dear Dave,

MnDOT CRU was notified there is a 34-acre parcel near Eveleth (Fayel Township) under review for possible future construction of a truck station. Project information indicates a significant portion of the property has been used for gravel/borrow since at least 1953. Some of the area previously mined has reforested since 1991. Early MnDOT site planning indicates the building would be located in the SW part of the property away from St. Mary's Lake.

We have reviewed the proposal to determine if there are previously recorded cultural properties within the parcel and also to determine the potential for yet unidentified archaeological properties. There are no historically significant standing structures located on the property. Our review of GIS site polygons in the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) Web Portal and our consultation with that office indicate that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within, or adjacent to, the parcel. In addition, we consulted with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) to confirm there are no known American Indian burial sites within or near the parcel, and reviewed a 2011 study of unrecorded historical cemeteries in the state prepared for the Minnesota Historical Society and the Oversight Board of the Statewide Historical and Archaeological Survey. There are no known burials within the parcel boundaries.

The undisturbed portions of the property have potential to contain archaeological resources because of the location on St. Mary's Lake. Our Office recommends those areas be surveyed by an archaeologist prior to development in order for MnDOT to assess any potential impacts to archaeological remains should they be present.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Teresa Martin, Archaeologist
Cultural Resources Unit

cc: MnDOT CRU Project File
Duane Hill, MnDOT D-1