
Appendix A

List of Acronyms

ADT	Average Daily Traffic
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CR	County Road
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSAH	County and State Aid Highway
EAW	Environmental Assessment Worksheet
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
ICE	Intersection Control Evaluation
IRC	Interregional Corridor
LAWCON	Land and Water Conservation
LOS	Level of Service
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MEPA	Minnesota Environmental Policy Act
MMUTCD	Minnesota Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MNDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mn/DOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NHS	National Highway System
NHIS	Natural Heritage Information System
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
O & M	Operation & Maintenance
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
SAFETEA-LU	Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users
SD	Scoping Document
SDD	Scoping Decision Document
SNA	State Natural Areas
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
T & E	Threatened & Endangered
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VHT	Vehicle Hours Traveled
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WPA	Waterfowl Production Area
WSD	Watershed District

Appendix B

MNDNR Questionnaire and Response



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40

Phone: (651) 259-5109 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: lisa.joyal@dnr.state.mn.us

April 23, 2007

Mr. Joel Asp
SEH
3535 Vadnais Center Drive
St. Paul, MN 55110-5196

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed TH 71/TH 23 Interchange Reconstruction Project, T120N R35W Sections 12, 13, 23 – 26, 36, T120N R34W Sections 7, 18, Kandiyohi County
NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20070704

Dear Mr. Asp,

Please note that we detected what *we believe to be* an error in the Township, Range, or Section information as it was submitted to us on the Information Request Form. Because the location description that was submitted on the Information Request Form did not exactly match the project area outlined on the map that was submitted with the form, the enclosed search results are for the area indicated on the map (as listed in the subject line of this letter). If the location description of your project area, as listed above, is in error, please contact me.

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 4 known occurrences of rare species or native plant communities in the area searched (for details, please see the enclosed database printouts and the explanation of selected fields).

Current workloads prevent us from providing detailed comments at this time about which rare features may be impacted by your project. To avoid delaying your project planning and to assist you in evaluating whether your project might impact rare features, we are providing printouts of known locations of rare features in the vicinity of your project, and a fact sheet that provides guidance on determining whether your project might negatively affect one of these rare features. If you have specific questions regarding whether a particular activity might impact a rare feature, please contact me.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Kandiyohi County. Our information about native plant communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: short record report and long record report. To control the release of locational information, which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



The short record report provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the short record report for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. **The long record report includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the long record report for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other natural resource-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Todd Kolander, at (507) 359-6073.

An invoice in the amount of \$74.56 will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for map and database search. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Joyal
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields

Minnesota Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program
Long Record Report of Element Occurrences within 1 mile radius of:
TH 71/TH 23 Interchange Reconstruction Project
Multiple TRS
Kandiyohi County

Element Name and Occ. #: Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site) #206 **EO ID #: 607**

Observed Area:
Extent Known?:
Ownership Type: MN DNR Wildlife (state land not WMA mgd by DNR)
Location Description: Kandiyohi County, MN
T120N R35W S23, T120N R35W S15, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S22
Site Name: GLACIAL LAKES, WIG WMA
Survey Site #/Name:

Last Observed Date: 1980-05-
First Observed Date:
Last Survey Date:
Managed Area(s): Wig WMA
Survey Type:
Surveyor(s):

MN Status: N/A
Federal Status:
State Rank: SNR
Global Rank: GNR
EO Rank: Not ranked

General Description: LONG LAKE. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT GREAT BLUE HERON GREAT EGRET BLACK- CROWNED NIGHT HERON CATTLE EGRET
EO Data:

Element Name and Occ. #: Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle) #2240 **EO ID #: 29931**

Observed Area:
Extent Known?:
Ownership Type: Unknown
Location Description: Kandiyohi County, MN
T120N R35W S11, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S10
Site Name: GLACIAL LAKES, DOVRE 14
Survey Site #/Name:

Last Observed Date: 2005-04-08
First Observed Date: 2002
Last Survey Date: 2005-04-08
Managed Area(s):
Survey Type: Qualitative ground survey
Surveyor(s): Gilbertson, B., Bolduan, B.

MN Status: Special Concern
Federal Status: LT,PDL
State Rank: S3B,S3N
Global Rank: G5
EO Rank: E - Verified extant (viability not assessed)

General Description: Nesting Area. Long Lake.
EO Data: EO represents two nests. The eastern nest was found and active in 2002 and inactive in 2005. The western nest was first observed in 2005, active.

Element Name and Occ. #: Najas marina (Sea Naiad) #9 **EO ID #: 27331**

Observed Area:
Extent Known?:
Ownership Type: Unknown
Location Description: Kandiyohi County, MN
T120N R35W S24, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S13, T120N R35W S23
Site Name: GLACIAL LAKES, DOVRE 24
Survey Site #/Name:
Vegetation Plot:

Last Observed Date: 2000-07-20
First Observed Date: 2000-07-20
Last Survey Date:
Managed Area(s):
Survey Type:
Surveyor(s): May, G., Bundy, M.

MN Status: Special Concern
Federal Status:
State Rank: S3
Global Rank: G5
EO Rank: Not ranked

General Description: PLANT COLLECTED IN POINT LAKE, A 164-ACRE LAKE APPROX 3 MILES NORTH OF WILLMAR.
EO Data:

Minnesota Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program
 Long Record Report of Element Occurrences within 1 mile radius of:
 TH 71/TH 23 Interchange Reconstruction Project
 Multiple TRS
 Kandiyohi County

Element Name and Occ. #: Platanthera praeclara (Western Prairie Fringed Orchid) #2

EO ID #: 5295

Observed Area:
Extent Known?: ? - Uncertain whether full extent of EO is known
Ownership Type: Unknown

Location Description: Kandiyohi County, MN

T121N R34W S32, T120N R34W S9, T120N R34W S7, T120N R34W S5, T120N R34W S4, T121N R34W S33,
 T120N R34W S6, T120N R34W S8, T121N R34W S31

Site Name: GLACIAL LAKES, GREEN LAKE 5

Survey Site #/Name: MCBS Site Number 90

Vegetation Plot:

General Description: The plant was found on a strip of country between Lake Henderson, Twin Lakes and Woodcock Lake.

EO Data: The plant was observed west of Spicer on stip of country between several lakes. Prairie near slough. There was also an additional collection on railroad tracks east of Spicer and woods out about a mile.

Last Observed Date: 1892-08-03
First Observed Date: 1892-08-02
Last Survey Date: 1892-08-03
Managed Area(s):
Survey Type: Qualitative ground survey
Surveyor(s): Frost, W. D.

MN Status: Endangered
Federal Status: LT
State Rank: S1
Global Rank: G2
EO Rank: H - Historical

Minnesota Natural Heritage & Nongame Research Program
 Short Record Report of Element Occurrences within 1 mile radius of:
 TH 71/TH 23 Interchange Reconstruction Project
 Multiple TRS
 Kandiyohi County

Element Name and Occurrence Number	Federal Status	MIN Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Last Observed Date
Kandiyohi County, MN					
<u>Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area (Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site) #206</u> Location Description: T120N R35W S23, T120N R35W S15, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S22		No Status	SNR	GNR	1980-05-
<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle) #2240</u> Location Description: T120N R35W S11, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S10	LT,PDL	SPC	S3B,S3N	G5	2005-04-08
<u>Najas marina (Sea Naiad) #9</u> Location Description: T120N R35W S24, T120N R35W S14, T120N R35W S13, T120N R35W S23		SPC	S3	G5	2000-07-20
<u>Platanthera praeclara (Western Prairie Fringed Orchid) #2</u> Location Description: T121N R34W S32, T120N R34W S9, T120N R34W S7, T120N R34W S5, T120N R34W S4, T121N R34W S33, T120N R34W S6, T120N R34W S8, T121N R34W S31	LT	END	S1	G2	1892-08-03

Records Printed = 4

Appendix C

Federally-Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

JUN 4 2007

Mr. Jason Alcott
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 620
St Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Alcott:

We have received your letter dated May 15, 2007, regarding the proposed improvements at the intersection of Trunk Highways 23 and 71 in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. The project is in the preliminary planning stage and the Department of Transportation (MDOT) is gathering information on potential environmental concerns to aid selection of a preferred alternative. It is not anticipated that the project will be constructed for 8-10 years.

Although there are no known federally listed or candidate species within the proposed project area at this time, MDOT has determined that the lag between this consultation and development of detailed alternatives as well as available bald eagle habitat does not allow a "no effect" determination. Instead, MDOT has determined that the project may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect the species. Given abundant existing nesting habitat for bald eagles in the proposed project corridor, and MDOT's commitment to re-evaluate the project closer to its actual construction date, the Service concurs with this determination.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed project. If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact project biologist, Ms. Laurie Fairchild, at (612) 725-3548, extension 214.

Sincerely,

R. Nicholas Rowse

Acting for
Tony Sullins
Field Supervisor



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Environmental Services
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 620
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Fax: 651/ 284-3754
Phone: 651/ 284-3750

May 15, 2007

Tony Sullins, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Request for Concurrence
State Project, 3412-17, Trunk Highways 23, 71
Local Infrastructure Improvements
Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Sullins:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) acting as the non-federal representative for the Federal Highway Administration, has determined that the above referenced action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species or designated critical habitat and is requesting concurrence that consultation with your Office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is complete.

Project Description

The action involves various local infrastructure improvements such as the construction of interchanges, frontage roads and secondary streets. The northern terminus of the action is the intersection of Trunk Highway 71 and County Road 23. The southern terminus of the action is the intersection of Trunk Highway 23/71 and County Road 90.

The proposed action is not currently programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Plan or the Mn/DOT District 8 10-year Work Plan. Currently, construction is anticipated to begin sometime between 2018 and 2024.

Listed Species/Designated Critical Habitat

According to the County Distribution of Minnesota's Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species list maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kandiyohi County is within the distribution range of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a federally-listed threatened species. Currently, there is no designated critical habitat listed in Kandiyohi County.

Known Occurrences

According to the information provided by the Natural Heritage Database (updated 5-14-07) maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Twin Cities Field Office, there are no known occurrence of federally-listed species in the general action area.

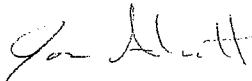
Tony Sullins
15 May, 2007
Page 2

Consultation

After coordination with Service staff, it was decided that a determination of may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, was the appropriate consultation path. In addition, because the project will not be built for several years, it was determined that consultation process will need to be re-visited and the action re-evaluated at a future point closer to the start of construction.

Based on early coordination efforts and the condition that the consultation process will be re-visited and the action re-evaluated at a later date, we have determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species. We request concurrence that consultation with your office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is complete. If you require additional information, please contact me at (651) 366-3605.

Sincerely,



Jason Alcott
Natural Resource Specialist

Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: USFWS- L. Fairchild
Mn/DOT- L. Flaten G. Larson
file

Appendix D

Farmland Conversion Form AD-1006



Natural Resources Conservation Service
209 West Mulberry Street
St. Peter, MN 56082-2029

*Helping People
Help the Land*

Phone: (507) 931-2530
FAX: (507) 931-4619

August 21, 2007

Joel Asp
SEH, Inc.
P.O. Box 1717
St. Cloud, MN 56302-1717

Re: Farmland Conversion – TH 23/US 71 Interchange Project

Dear Mr. Asp:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the TH 23/US 71 Interchange Project, north of Willmar, MN. If federal money is involved, and prime farmland is being converted to non-agricultural use, before construction begins, a FPPA form (AD-1006) should be filled out.

The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is to minimize the extent that federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The FPPA requires federal agencies involved in projects that may convert farmland, to determine whether the proposed conversion is consistent with FPPA.

I have completed Parts II, IV, and V of the AD-1006 forms you sent me for A1-A4 and N1-N4. A copy of the Kandiyohi Prime and Statewide Important Farmland list. Thank you for sending me the supporting documentation.

Please note that there was no calculation for N3 as the acres to be converted is 0.0. If there is any additional information you require, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Miller".

Douglas Miller
Area Resource Soil Scientist

Cc: Mike Taylor, District Conservationist, Willmar
Ross Harris, AICP, SEH, Minnetonka, MN
File

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 8/15/07	
Name Of Project Trunk Highway 23/US 71 Preliminary Design		Federal Agency Involved Mn/DOT District 8 & FHWA	
Proposed Land Use Right-of-way - Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B		County And State Kandiyohi, MN	
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <i>Complete info - 8/21</i>	
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).</i>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Major Crop(s) <i>Corn/soybeans</i>		Acres Irrigated <i>0</i>	Average Farm Size <i>324</i>
Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <i>314,800</i> % <i>63</i>		Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: <i>236,100</i> % <i>75</i>	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <i>LE</i>		Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS <i>8-21-07</i>	
Name Of Local Site Assessment System <i>N/A</i>			

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	31.6	34.8	21.8	22.7
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				
C. Total Acres In Site	31.6	34.8	21.8	22.7

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<i>21.5</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>20.4</i>
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	<i>9.6</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>2.3</i>
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.006</i>	<i>0.01</i>
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<i>40.3</i>	<i>87.7</i>	<i>40.3</i>	<i>40.3</i>

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)	<i>90</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>90</i>
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Maximum Points				
Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))					
1. Area In Nonurban Use	15	0	0	0	0
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use	10	0	0	0	0
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	20	20	20	20	20
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0	0	0	0
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area	0				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	0				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0	0	0	0
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	5	5	0	0
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	5	5	5
10. On-Farm Investments	20	5	5	5	5
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0	0	0
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	10	10	10	10
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	45	45	40	40

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	45	45	40	40
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	45	45	40	40

Site Selected: (No selection- see reason below)	Date Of Selection 8/15/07	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Reason For Selection:

An EIS is being prepared for the proposed project.

Build alternatives 1A (Site A), 1B (Site B), 2A (Site C), and 2B (Site D) are under consideration until a preferred alternative can be selected.

Connection Alternatives N1, N2, N3, and N4 (next sheet) will adjoin to the build alternatives and will also be screened to select a preferred alt.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 8/15/07			
Name Of Project Trunk Highway 23/US 71 Preliminary Design		Federal Agency Involved Mn/DOT District 8 & FHWA			
Proposed Land Use Connection Alt's N1, N2, N3, and N4		County And State Kandiyohi, MN			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <i>Complete into 8/21</i>			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated <i>0</i>	Average Farm Size <i>324</i>
Major Crop(s) <i>Corn/Soybeans</i>	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <i>314,800</i> % <i>63</i>	Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <i>236,100</i> % <i>75</i>			
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <i>LE</i>	Name Of Local Site Assessment System <i>N/A</i>	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS <i>8-21-07</i>			
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		4.9	5.7	0.0	0.3
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site		4.9	5.7	0.0	0.3
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<i>2.9</i>	<i>2.2</i>		<i>0</i>
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		<i>2.0</i>	<i>3.5</i>		<i>0</i>
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<i>0.002</i>	<i>0.002</i>		<i>0.00009</i>
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		<i>40.3</i>	<i>99.0</i>		<i>100</i>
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		<i>91.7</i>	<i>63.7</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>0</i>
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use	15	5	5	0	1
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use	10	5	5	0	1
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	20	20	20	0	5
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0	0	0	0
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area	0				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	0				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0	0	0	0
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	5	10	0	5
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	5	5	5
10. On-Farm Investments	20	0	5	0	0
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0	0	0
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	5	5	5	5
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	45	55	10	22
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100				
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	45	55	10	22
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	<i>45</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>22</i>
Site Selected: (No selection - see below)	Date Of Selection 8/15/07	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Reason For Selection: An EIS is being prepared for the proposed project.

Connection Alternatives N1 (Site 1), N2 (Site B), N3 (Site C), and N4 (Site D) are under consideration until a preferred alternative can be selected. Build Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B (previous sheet) will adjoin to the connection alternatives and will also be screened to select a preferred alternative.

** 0.0 acres cannot be calculated*

Prime and other Important Farmlands

Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
27B	Dickinson fine sandy loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
39	Wadena loam	All areas are prime farmland
94	Terril loam	All areas are prime farmland
106B	Lester loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
130A	Nicollet silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
130B	Nicollet clay loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
230A	Guckeen clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
230B	Guckeen clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
238B	Kilkenny clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
423	Seaforth loam	All areas are prime farmland
446A	Normania loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
446B	Normania loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
613	Grovecity loam	All areas are prime farmland
805B	Wadenill-Sunburg loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
807B	Koronis-Sunburg complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
897B	Seaforth-Swanlake loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
954B	Ves-Swanlake loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
L33B	Kandiyohi clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
L185B	Strout-Arkton complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
L201A	Normania loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland
35	Blue Earth mucky silt loam	Farmland of statewide importance
41A	Estherville coarse sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
238C	Kilkenny clay loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
413	Osakis sandy loam	Farmland of statewide importance
523	Houghton muck	Farmland of statewide importance
525	Muskego muck	Farmland of statewide importance
539	Palms muck	Farmland of statewide importance
548	Palms muck, sandy substratum	Farmland of statewide importance
559	Lena muck	Farmland of statewide importance
804B	Koronis-Hawick complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
804C	Koronis-Hawick complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
805C	Sunburg-Wadenill complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
806C	Guckeen-Arkton complex, 4 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
807C	Koronis-Sunburg complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
809	Lowlein-Estherville sandy loams	Farmland of statewide importance
819B	Regal-Hawick complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
833B	Wadenill-Sunburg-Hawick complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
833C	Sunburg-Wadenill-Hawick complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
875B	Estherville-Hawick complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
954C	Swanlake-Ves loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
999B	Ves-Swanlake-Hawick complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
999C	Swanlake-Ves-Hawick complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
L13A	Klossner muck, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
L166C2	Newlondon-Strout complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of statewide importance
L195A	Houghton-Klossner complex, depressional, firm substratum, complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
L200A	Klossner muck, depressional, firm substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Farmland of statewide importance
84	Brownton silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
110	Marna silty clay	Prime farmland if drained
112	Harps clay loam	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands

Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

Map symbol	Map unit name	Farmland classification
113	Webster silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
114	Glencoe clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
134	Okoboji silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
140	Spicer silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
336	Delft loam	Prime farmland if drained
392	Biscay loam	Prime farmland if drained
444	Canisteo silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
447	Harpster silty clay loam	Prime farmland if drained
810	Coriff-Fieldon complex	Prime farmland if drained
817	Canisteo-Seaforth complex	Prime farmland if drained
899	Harps-Okoboji complex	Prime farmland if drained
927	Harps-Seaforth-Okoboji complex	Prime farmland if drained
981	Canisteo-Harps loams	Prime farmland if drained
1900	Okoboji-Canisteo silty clay loams, depressional	Prime farmland if drained
L33A	Kandiyohi clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L34A	Cosmos silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L163A	Okoboji silty clay loam, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L164A	Lura silty clay, depressional, firm substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L184A	Corvuso silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L186A	Danielson-Danielson, overwash complex, 1 to 4 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained
L192A	Okoboji mucky silty clay loam, depressional, firm substratum, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Prime farmland if drained

Prime and other Important Farmlands

This table lists the map units in the survey area that are considered important farmlands. Important farmlands consist of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. This list does not constitute a recommendation for a particular land use.

In an effort to identify the extent and location of important farmlands, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with other interested Federal, State, and local government organizations, has inventoried land that can be used for the production of the Nation's food supply.

"Prime farmland" is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures.

A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

"Unique farmland" is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, and other fruits and vegetables. It has the special combination of soil quality, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect needed for the soil to economically produce sustainable high yields of these crops when properly managed. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Nearness to markets is an additional consideration. Unique farmland is not based on national criteria. It commonly is in areas where there is a special microclimate, such as the wine country in California.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be "farmland of statewide importance" for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable. Farmland of statewide importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by State law.

In some areas that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, land is considered to be "farmland of local importance" for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland is identified by the appropriate local agencies. Farmland of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance.

Appendix E

Mn/DOT Cultural Resources Letter



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Transportation Building
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

July 19, 2007

Mr. Lowell Flaten
Pre-Design Engineer
District 8
MS 080

Re: S.P. 3412-70 (TH 71 Interchanges, Willmar, Kandiyohi County)
T 119, R 35W, S 1, 2
T 120, R 34W, S 18, 19, 30
T 120, R35W, S 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36
OSA Chapter 138 License 07-024

We have reviewed the above-referenced undertaking pursuant to our FHWA-delegated responsibilities for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (36 CFR 800), and as per the terms of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the FHWA and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (June 2005).

TH 71 is presently a divided, four-lane expressway. It is an Interregional Corridor and is at risk for signal proliferation. Currently a Draft EIS is being prepared which will investigate several alternatives including the construction of one or two interchanges on this 3.5 mile section of TH 71. Several accesses on to TH 71 will be closed creating the need for frontage roads and possibly the realignment of a county road and several local roads. This may create the need to realign several hundred feet of a stream which connects two area lakes. At least one bridge will be constructed. There will be a considerable amount of grading and the addition of a significant area of impervious surface.

The FHWA consulted with Native American groups who have expressed an interest in reviewing projects in this part of the state. The groups contacted consisted of the Santee Sioux Nation, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, the Upper Sioux Community, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, the Lower Sioux Indian Community, the Prairie Island Indian Community, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Spirit Lake Dakota Sioux, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and the Fort Peck Tribes. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe responded that they had no objection to the project. The other tribal groups did not respond.

The area of potential effects (APE) for archaeology is the existing and proposed right of way boundaries associated with the planned diamond interchanges and local roadway construction as indicated on plans provided by District 8 in February 2007. Portions of the APE had moderate to high potential for containing archaeological sites, so Mn/DOT CRU hired Two Pines Resource Group, LLC to conduct an archaeological survey (please see enclosed report: 2 copies). The Phase I survey work was completed in May 2007 and two archaeological sites were identified. Site 21KH0138 (Hawkinson) is an isolated tertiary flake of Swan River chert within a cultivated field that has been plowed to subsoil. Site 21KH0139 (Tornquist) is an artifact scatter of chipped stone debris, utilized flakes, and fire-cracked rock within a cultivated field. As neither of these sites

produced diagnostic cultural materials, or retains sufficient archaeological integrity to yield information important to our understanding of the past, they were recommended as not eligible for listing on the National Register. We agree with this recommendation. There were three parcels that Two Pines was not able to get landowner permission to survey. Two Pines recommends that archaeological survey work be conducted on these properties if they end up in the final preferred alternative alignment. The parcels include: 1) the westernmost portion of Alternative N1 which is located on a narrow upland between Point Lake and South Long Lake; 2) revisions to the alignment of 24th Street that encompass a cultivated rise on the west short of Eagle Lake and 3) the area located immediately adjacent to the Hawk Creek waterway at the southwest corner of Eagle Lake. We agree with this recommendation that survey work be conducted in these areas if they are selected.

Mn/DOT CRU also hired Mead and Hunt to conduct a Phase I and II architectural history survey of properties in the APE, which was defined as the first tier of adjacent properties to the proposed roadway and interchange improvement areas not blocked by vegetation or topography (final report not yet completed). Eighty properties over 40 years old were identified and documented within the APE. The majority of those properties were seasonal or year-round residences on Eagle Lake, or farmsteads. There were also a limited number of commercial properties. No previously determined eligible or listed properties were located within the APE. Seventy-nine of the properties were recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register because they lacked sufficient architectural integrity, did not convey a significant association with twentieth-century recreation in central Minnesota, or lacked a known association with a significant person. A Phase II evaluation was completed on the Bethesda Homes Farm (KH-DOV-0069) located at 6072 and 6077 Long Lake Road. The Bethesda Homes Farm was recommended as not eligible due to lack of integrity (loss of the associated children's and elderly homes, changes in the layout of the farm, and loss or alteration to key farm buildings within the complex). We agree with the recommendation.

We have determined that there will be **no historic properties affected** by the project as currently proposed. As there are no historic properties within the project APE, the section 106 review of this project is now complete and no SHPO comment period and response are required under the terms of the new PA. If the project scope changes, please provide our office with the revised information and we will conduct an additional review.

Sincerely,



Kristen Zschomler, RPA
Historian/Archaeologist
Cultural Resources Unit (CRU)

encs.

cc: Dr. Scott Anfinson, State Archaeologist
Ross Harris, SEH (2 copies of archaeology report)
Michelle Terrell, Two Pines Resource Group, LLC
Chad Moffett, Mead and Hunt
Legislative Library (1 copy)
Joe Hudak, Mn/DOT CRU
Mn/DOT CO/CRU Project File