



STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION AGENDA

Administration Center - 630 Florence Avenue – Owatonna, MN 55060

*Steele County's Mission:
Driven to deliver quality services in a respectful and fiscally responsible way.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 at 4:00 PM
County Boardroom, Steele County Administration Center

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. PowerOn Midwest Transmission Line Presentation (Great River Energy and ITC Midwest)
Rod Pritchard, ITC Midwest Manager – Marketing and Communications
Derrick Johnson, Great River Energy
3. 4-H Youth Development Presentation
Lisa Dierks, Regional Director
Tracy Ignaszewski, Local Educator
Kelsey Erf, Local Educator
4. Beaver Lake Archeological Study Phase II
5. Discussion regarding Finance Director Search Process
6. Human Services Update (time permitting)

Adjourn

Disclaimer: This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming meeting of the Steele County Board of Commissioners. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.



PowerOn Midwest

Steele County

October 14, 2025

Utility team

Great River Energy | ITC Midwest | Otter Tail Power Company | Xcel Energy



PowerOn Midwest

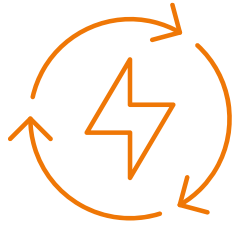
Electricity use is growing throughout the Upper Midwest and **demand is expected to increase significantly** over the next two decades.

This increase in electric use, combined with the changing ways electricity is generated, requires new long-term solutions to meet the needs of our communities, states, and region to ensure we can continue delivering the reliable service you need to power your daily lives.

PowerOn Midwest—tomorrow's reliability starts today.



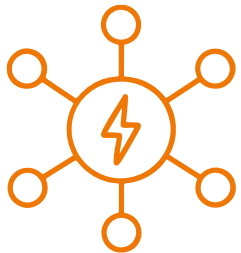
Project benefits



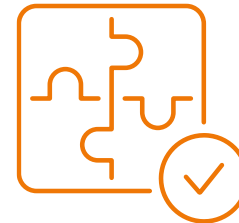
**Continued
electric reliability**



**Customer and
economic benefits**

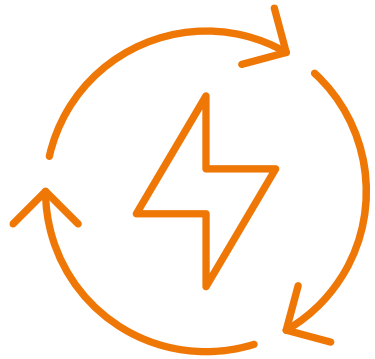


**Prepares the grid
for future growth**



**Access to new
generation**

Project benefits



Continued electric reliability

We know our customers and cooperative members expect:

- Consistent power delivery in any season, under any conditions.
- Access to cost-effective generation such as wind and solar.
- A grid that enables new technologies and supports technologies that reduce emissions.

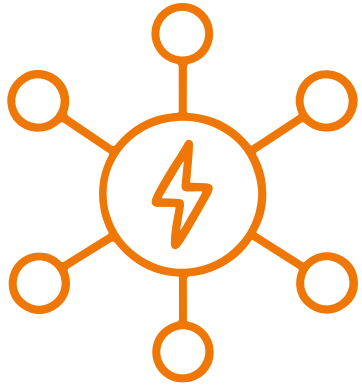
Project benefits



Customer and economic benefits

- Enabling cost-efficient generation and improving reliability compared to other more expensive solutions.
- Between \$11 billion and \$25 billion in economic benefits, a return of about \$1.60 and \$3.10 for each dollar invested.
- PowerOn Midwest will help our local communities and region can continue to grow.

Project benefits



Prepares the grid for future growth

Electricity demand is expected to grow significantly over the coming decades.

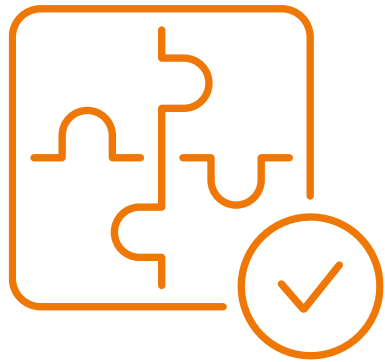
This growth is driven by:

- New and expanded manufacturing.
- Expanded electrification of our homes and businesses.

The current transmission system cannot handle this level of growth without significant upgrades.

PowerOn Midwest is the answer, a 765 kV backbone able to carry more power from where it's generated to where it's needed.

Project benefits



Access to new generation

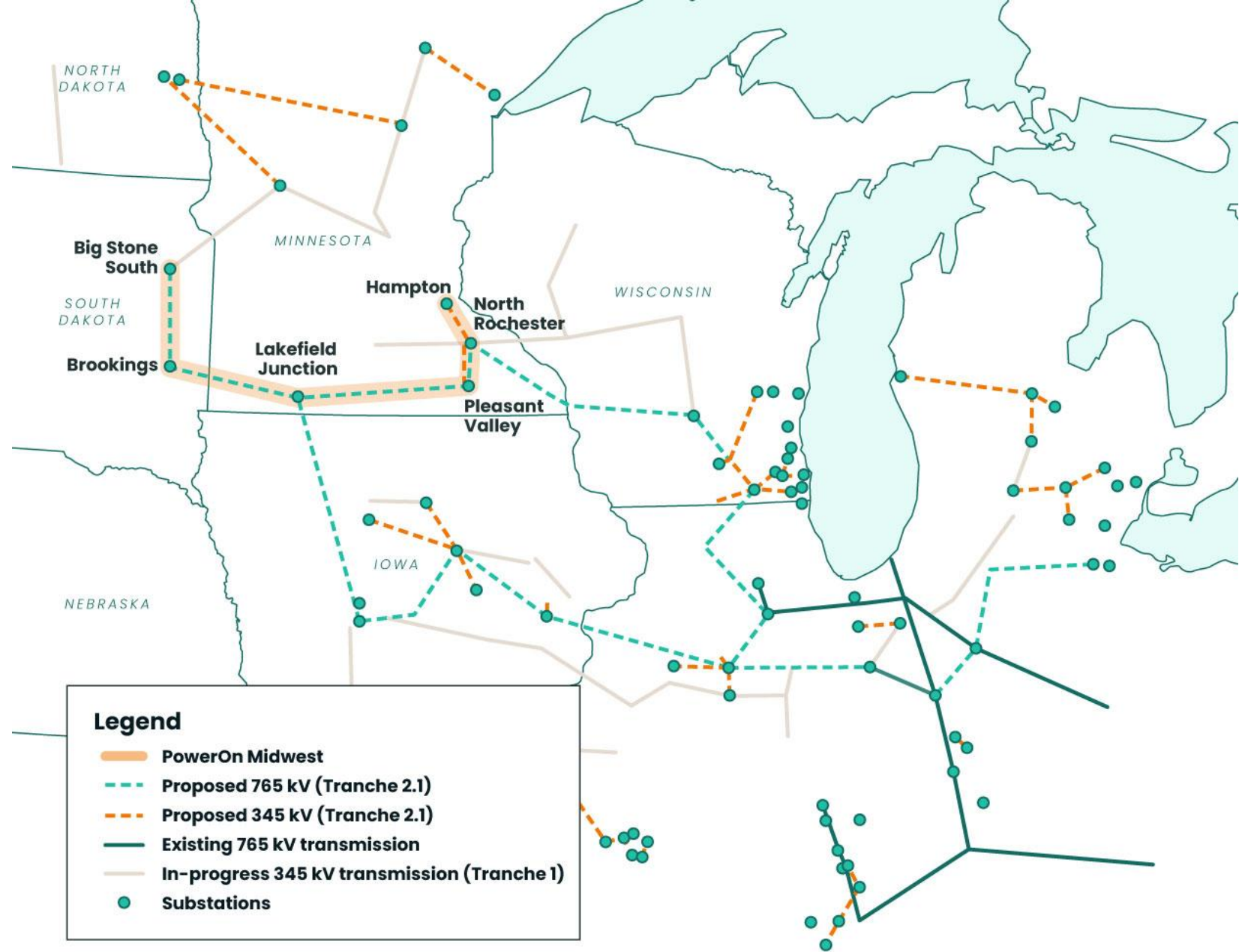
The way we generate power is changing.

Over the past two decades, many coal plants have been retired across the Upper Midwest and this is expected to continue.

Much of this energy generation will be replaced with:

- Geographically dispersed renewable energy
- New, always-ready natural gas plants
- Other emerging technologies

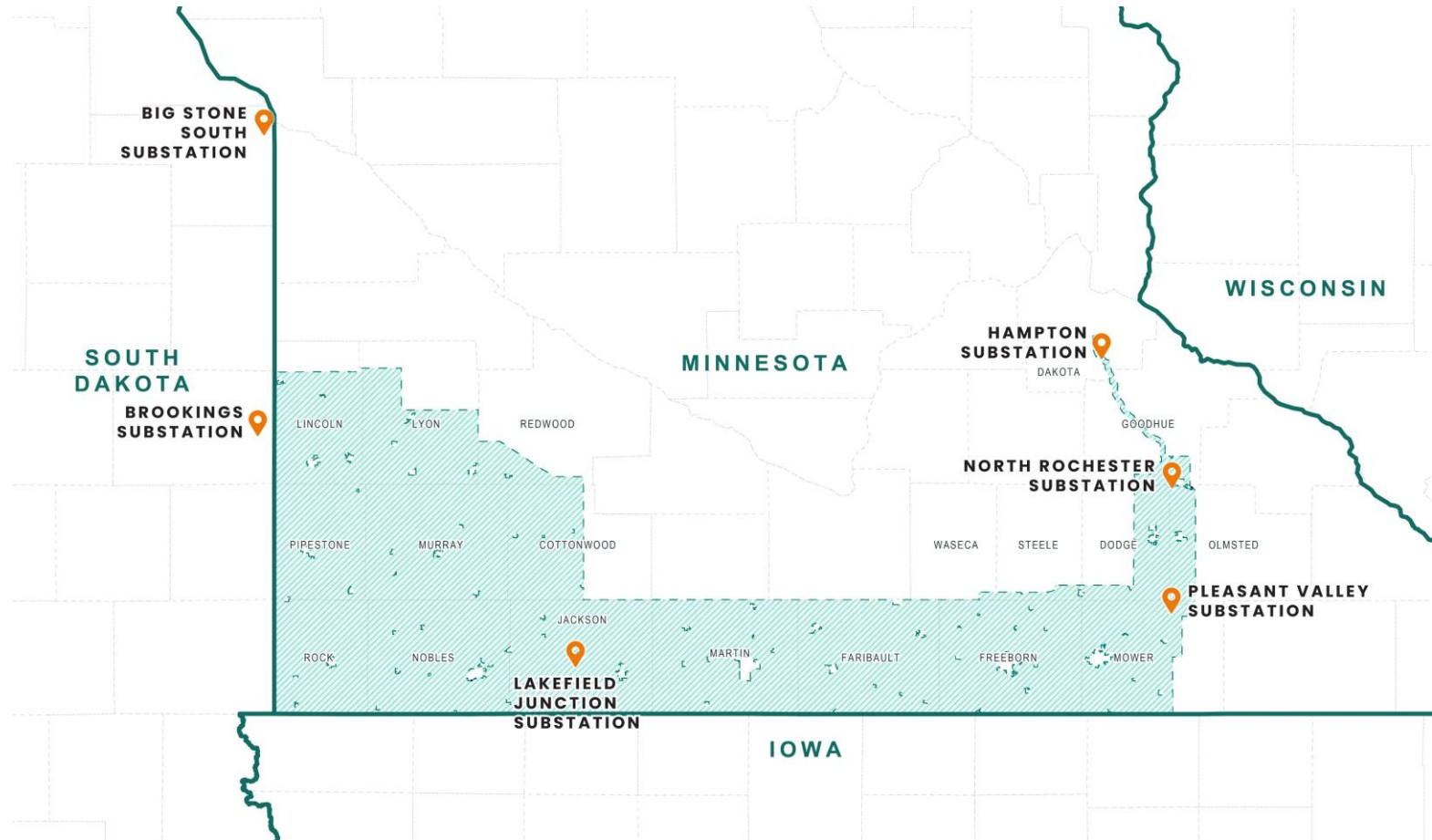
MISO Tranche 1 & 2.1



Study area

The Certificate of Need includes:

- Big Stone South-Brookings County-Lakefield Junction 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#22)**
- Lakefield Junction-MN/IA border 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#23)**
- Lakefield Junction-Pleasant Valley-North Rochester 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#24)**
- Pleasant Valley-North Rochester-Hampton 345 kV **(MISO LRTP#25)**



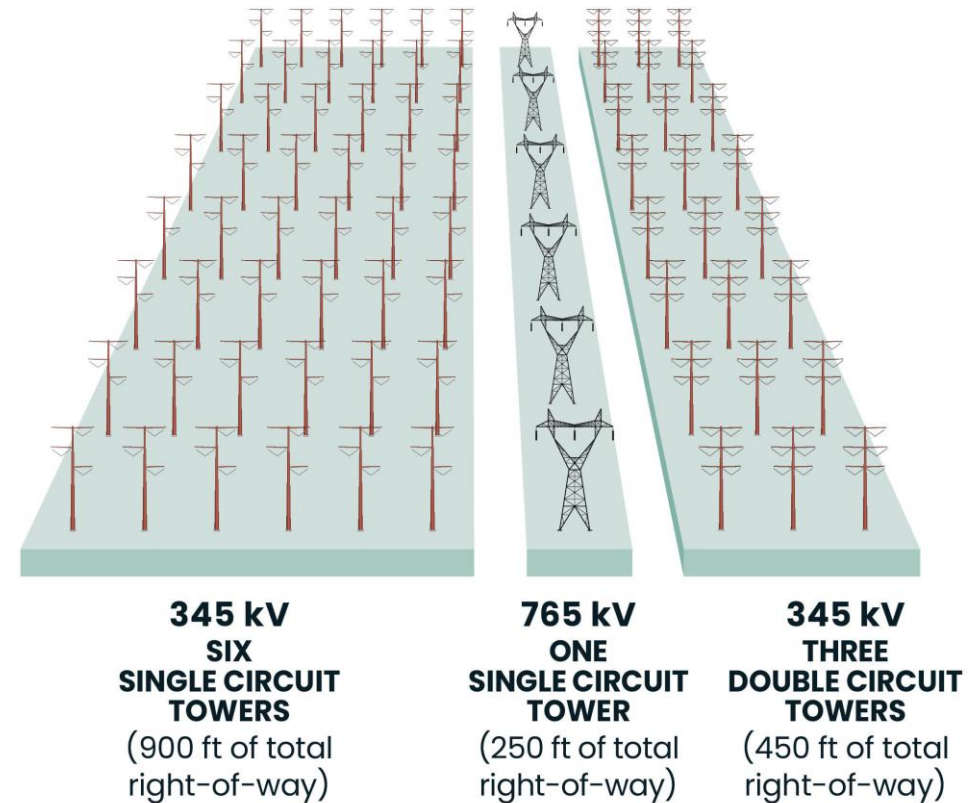
Technology

765 kV was identified in the planning process as the preferred solution for PowerOn Midwest, presenting several advantages:

- Efficiently carries power over long distances
- Fewer transmission lines needed to carry the same amount of power
- Fewer structures per mile reduces impact on communities and environment
- Resilient infrastructure that can consistently deliver power
- Provides backup power pathways

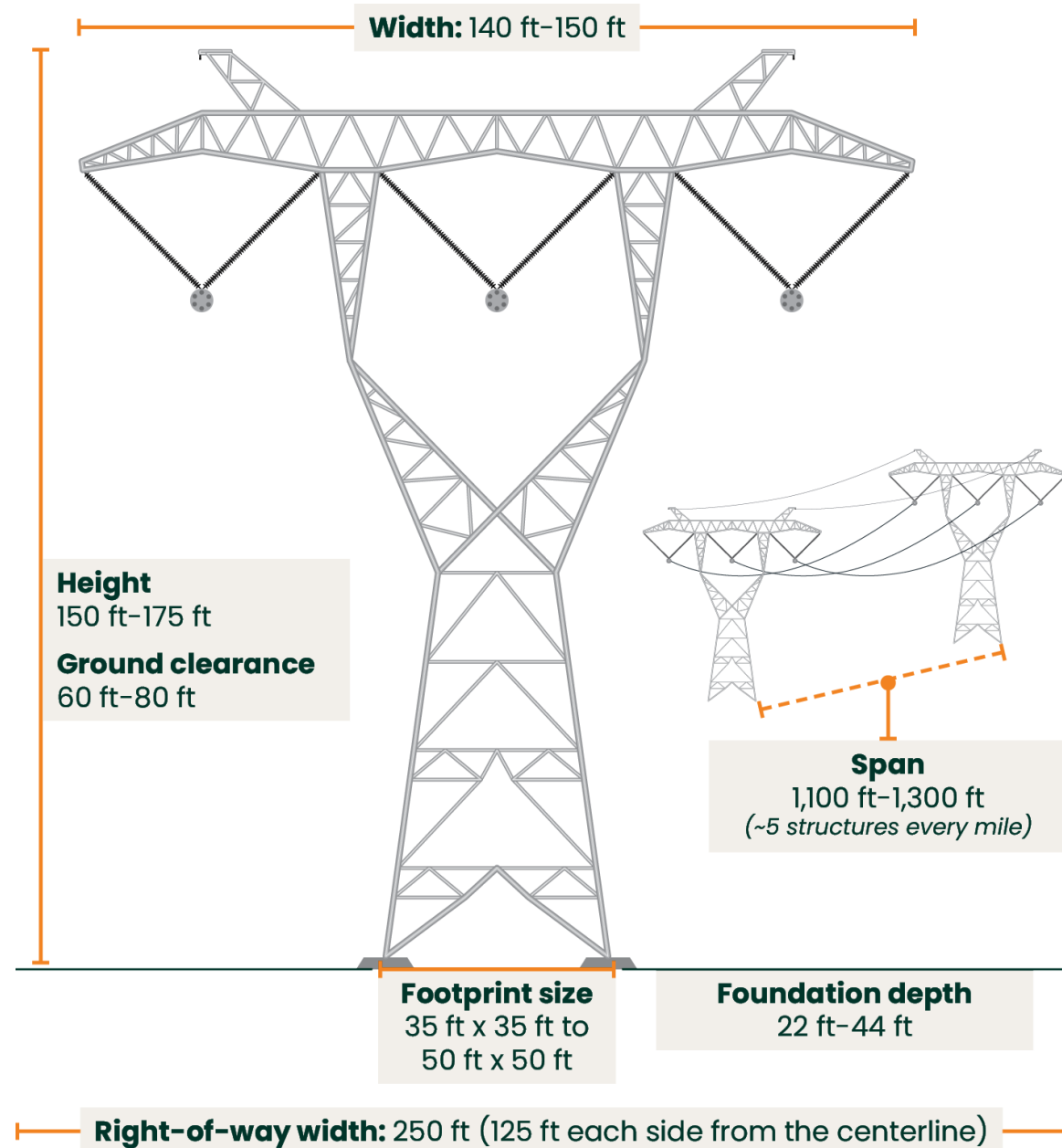
A 765 kV transmission line can carry as much power as:

- **Six single circuit 345 kV lines**
- **Or three double circuit 345 kV lines**



765 kV Structure

- Typical structure shown



PowerOn Midwest permitting

Requires two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission – Certificate of Need and Route Permits

Certificate of Need

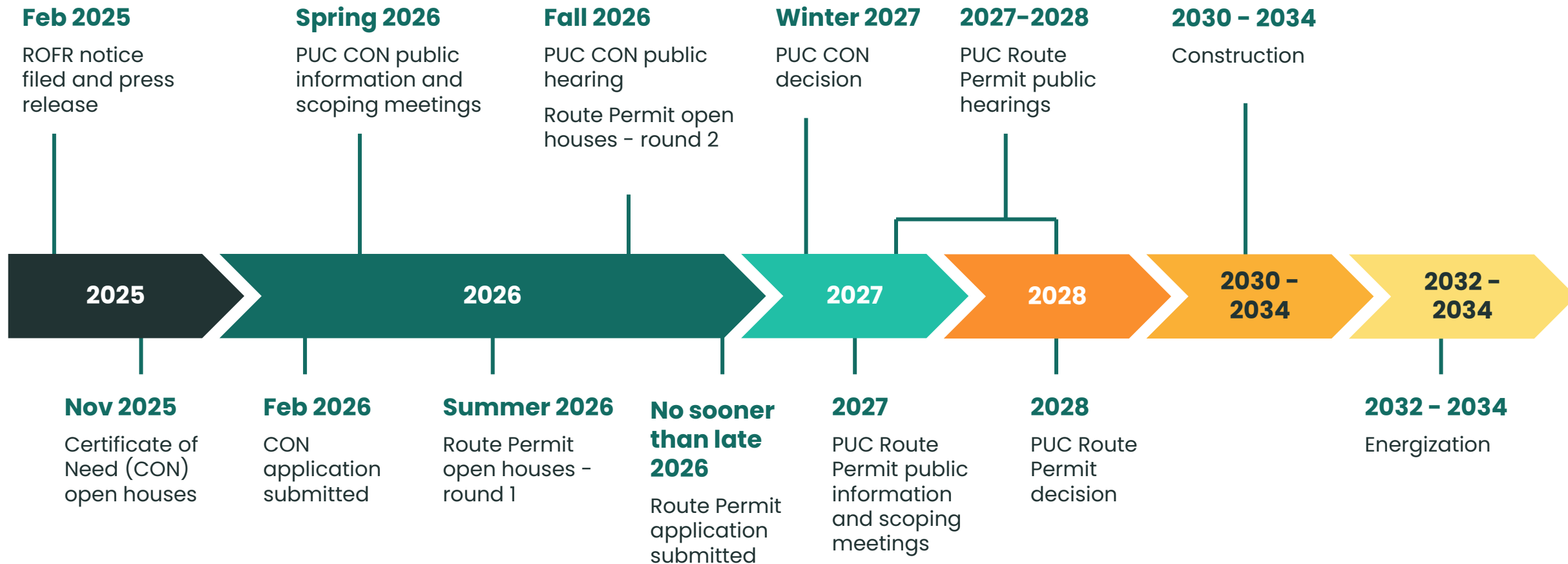
(typically a 12-15-month process)

Route Permits

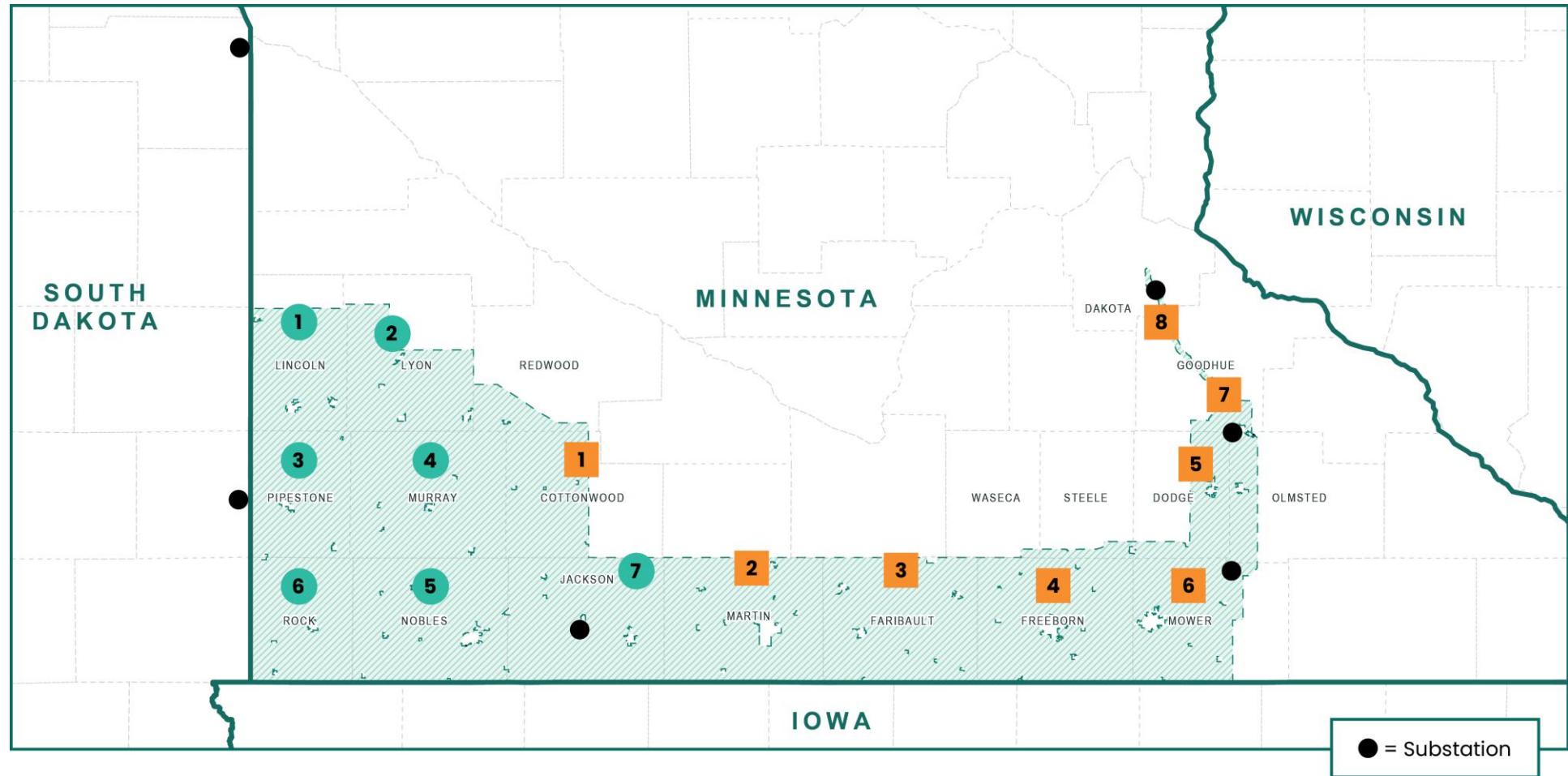
(typically a 12-15-month process for each permit)



Preliminary schedule



Upcoming open houses



Open house schedule – week 1

	Date	Time	County	Location
1	Monday, November 3	10 am – 12 pm	Lincoln	Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center, 114 Center St. S, Lake Benton, MN 56149
2	Monday, November 3	4 pm – 6 pm	Lyon	Five Family Ranch, 2717 County Road 6, Marshall, MN 56258
3	Tuesday, November 4	10 am – 12 pm	Pipestone	Hiawatha Lodge, 201 4th St. NW Pipestone, MN 56164
4	Tuesday, November 4	4 pm – 6 pm	Murray	American Legion, 106 W Front St., Fulda, MN 56131
5	Wednesday, November 5	10 am – 12 pm	Nobles	Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Dr., Worthington, MN 56187
6	Wednesday, November 5	4 pm – 6 pm	Rock	Generations Events Center, 105 S. Estey St., Luverne, MN 56156
7	Thursday, November 6	10 am – 12 pm 4 pm – 6 pm	Jackson	Heron Lake Community Center, 312 10th St., Heron Lake, MN 56137

Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn and provide feedback.

PowerOnMidwest.com



Open house schedule – week 2

	Date	Time	County	Location
1	Monday, November 10	10 am – 12 pm	Cottonwood	Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56101
2	Monday, November 10	4 pm – 6 pm	Martin	Knights of Columbus, 920 East 10th St., Fairmont, Minnesota 56031
3	Tuesday, November 11	10 am – 12 pm	Faribault	Naseic Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097
4	Tuesday, November 11	4 pm – 6 pm	Freeborn	Wedgewood Cove, 2200 W 9th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007
5	Wednesday, November 12	10 am – 12 pm 4 pm – 6 pm	Dodge	Events by Saker, 401 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944
6	Thursday, November 13	10 am – 12 pm	Mower	Hormel Nature Center, 1304 21st St. NE, Austin, MN 55912
7	Thursday, November 13	4 pm – 6 pm	Goodhue	Zumbrota VFW, 21 E 1st St., Zumbrota, MN 55992
8	Friday, November 14	9 am – 11 am	Goodhue	Grand 02 Event Center, 32057 64th Ave., Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn and provide feedback.

PowerOnMidwest.com



Connect with us



Engagement opportunities

- For additional information, please visit our website.



PowerOnMidwest.com



Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com



888.283.4678



Thank You





Steele County 4-H

Tracy Ignaszewski and Kelsey Erf, 4-H Extension Educators

4-H Youth Development is the largest youth-serving organization in Minnesota



Goals of the Minnesota 4-H Youth Development program

1

LEARN

Youth will learn by developing a passion in their areas of interest

2

LEAD

Youth will lead by being innovators and change agents

3

CREATE

Staff and Adults will create high-quality, culturally-responsive learning environments





Youth learned by doing

Across Minnesota over **95%** of 4-H'ers reported applying what they learned through 4-H in other parts of their lives



Youth shared their learning

26,450 youth across
Minnesota showcased
learning at local, regional
and state events,
demonstrating their growth
and mastery in project
areas



411 youth showcased their learning through 1,992 projects at our county fair



"I love showing because it gives me the opportunity to show off my hard work and dedication to my 4-H projects. It teaches me how to be responsible for something greater than myself."

~ **Brooklyn L. - Steele County 4-H'er**



4-H prepares youth for post-secondary education and careers

In a survey of recent 4-H graduates in Minnesota, **99%** reported having a plan for their future career or post-secondary education



90% of recent 4-H graduates plan to pursue a higher education



“4-H has let me explore the project areas I am passionate about. Without 4-H, I would not be studying animal science at a four year university or even looking for careers related to swine.”

~ **Lexi S. - Steele County 4-H Alumnus**



**Minnesota 4-H
programs thrive with
the help of over 8,600
volunteers statewide**

Our dedicated volunteers
help us reach more youth,
and bring their expertise to
increase youth learning

Volunteers help youth feel a sense of belonging

“They learn how to participate in a meeting with adults and not be timid. They learn math skills, food safety skills, production factors like making sure the lettuce won’t wilt, plus finding a role that fits them. I learned a lot of skills in 4-H and wanted these kids to do the same.”

~**Andrea**, Minnesota 4-H volunteer



Youth are leaders in Minnesota and beyond

This year, 8 out of 10 youth said they had opportunities to lead in their 4-H programs



Empowering youth to lead *today*



"4-H has taught me that being a true leader is more than just holding a leadership position, it is learning to work with and uplift others and making your community a better place."

~ **Bella N. - Minnesota 4-H
Ambassador**

Youth are changemakers

92% of 4-H youth
said they believe they
make a difference in
their communities



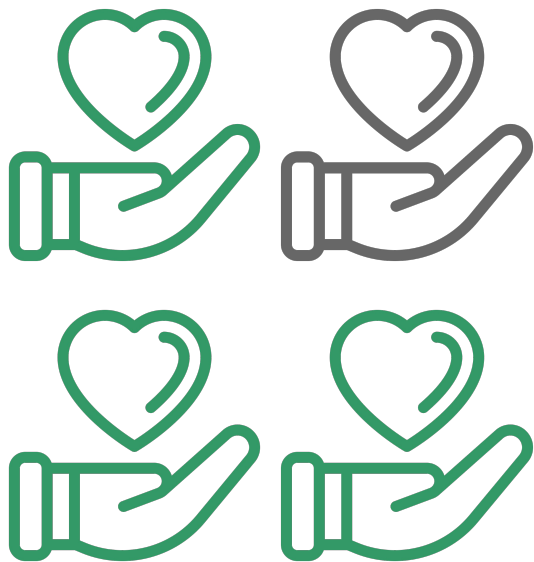
Encouraging youth to participate in their communities



“Steele County 4-H is fantastic because they offer so many opportunities and experiences. This peregrine falcon project has sparked my passion for helping this endangered species by educating about their habitat. 4-H has definitely helped prepare me for being a good citizen”

~ **Cody S. - Steele County 4-H'er**





3 in 4 Minnesota 4-H'ers
volunteered this year,
contributing to the vitality of
their communities

Building a sustainable program across Steele County

954 total youth enrolled

189 first-year members with 2/3 of whom are first-generation 4-H families

Retained more than 92% of eligible youth from 2024





Beyond Ready

Building a ready generation
in a world of change.



Our mission is to reach 10 million youth

For our youth the road ahead may be challenging, yet 4-H'ers are succeeding. Data shows that compared to their peers they're:

- 2x more likely to have the goal of being a leader
- 3x more likely to participate in community service
- 2x more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose

**Tufts University longitudinal study of Positive Youth Development, 2021*

**#4HBeyondRead
y**



It takes a team!



Abby Wagner
Regional Extension Educator,
Volunteer Systems



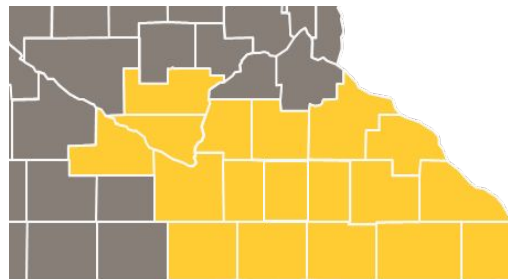
Darcy Cole
Regional Extension Educator,
Program Operations



Karen Beranek
Regional Extension Educator,
Quality Program Development



Katie Johnson
Regional Extension Educator,
Animal Science



Kristina Griebenow
Regional Extension Educator,
Civic Engagement & Leadership



Patrick Jirik
Regional Extension Educator,
STEM



Kristen Hurley
Southeast Program Leader,
Youth Development



Thank you for supporting and helping Minnesota youth thrive!

© 2024 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This document is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to 612-624-2116.



Steele County Agenda Item

Request for Board Action

Subject: Phase II Archaeological Investigation for CSAH 28 and Beaver Lake Park Improvements

Department: Highway

Committee: Public Works

Committee Meeting Date: October 14, 2024

Work Session Date: N/A

Board Meeting Date: October 14, 2024

Consent Agenda: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Resolution: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Policy Committee Recommendation:

N/A

Recommendation:

Approve Amendment No. 4 to Professional Services Agreement with WHKS for Completion of a Phase II Archaeological Investigation for CSAH 28 (South Beaver Lake Road to North Beaver Lake Road) and Beaver Lake Park Improvements in the amount Not-to-Exceed \$87,228.

Background (*Including Budget Impact*):

The County has programmed the reconstruction and realignment of CSAH 28 (South Beaver Lake Road to North Beaver Lake Road) and improvements to Beaver Lake Park for construction in 2025.

In 2024, Steele County retained WHKS in partnership with HKGi to complete the final design of the preferred Alternative 2B from the 2022 Feasibility Study. The study ultimately recommended a major realignment of CSAH 28 with basic park improvements to move most of the park between the road and the lake.

The County secured funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trail Connection Grant which required completion of a phase I archeological study. This study was conducted in 2025 by Bear Creek Archeology. The results of this study were summarized in a report dated June 2025 states that the project may contain significant and historic cultural deposits. Please see the attached memorandum outlining why a Phase II Archeological Study is necessary.

WHKS proposed completing the work for a Billed Hourly with a Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$87,228 including expenses. The cost of the Phase II Archaeological Study could be paid for using State Aid Funding.

Attachments:

Memorandum – Beaver Lake, Phase II Archaeological Investigation

Amendment No. 4 To Professional Services Agreement

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. – Letter Archeological Phase I Results



AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, **Steele County Highway Department** (Client) and **WHKS & Co. (WHKS)** executed a Professional Services Agreement dated **October 18, 2021** for certain engineering services for **CSAH 28 (MN 30 to CSAH 21) and Beaver Lake Park Improvements** (Project), and

WHEREAS, the Agreement described a scope of services and was based on completion of certain services, and

WHEREAS, the Client has requested **Design Engineering** services for the **CSAH 28 (MN 30 to CSAH 21) and Beaver Lake Park Improvements** as described in more detail, and

NOW THEREFORE, the Client and WHKS hereby agree the amended compensation for services shall be increased by the following:

Scope of Services

WHKS shall perform the following additional described services for the Client:

- **Fieldwork, data review, analyses, report preparation and all other tasks necessary to complete a Phase II survey that will meet or exceed the current guidelines for archeological investigations in Minnesota. Phase II survey services will be performed by Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., a subconsultant to WHKS.**
- **Coordination with MnSHPO and USACOE to determine recommended actions to the project based on the findings of the Phase II survey. Scope includes 68 hours of coordination time.**
- **Scope assumes Bear Creek Archeology has permission from the property owner to enter the area of interest and perform the Phase II survey.**

Basis of Compensation

For the services described above, the Client shall remunerate WHKS as follows:

Billed Hourly with a Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$87,228 including Expenses. Expenses billed at actual cost and mileage at the current published IRS rate per mile. External expenses include an administrative charge of 10 percent.

Executed this _____ day of September 2025

Steele County Highway Department

***WHKS* & CO.**

By: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronald Gaines, P.E., County Engineer

FROM: Brandon Theobald, P.E.

DATE: September 29, 2025

RE: Beaver Lake, Phase II Archaeological Investigation

This memo seeks approval for completion of a Phase II archaeological investigation for the CSAH 28 and Beaver Lake Park project in Steele County. The proposed study is the next step in evaluating the cultural and historical significance of previously identified archaeological resources within the proposed project area.

Background

The County secured funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trail Connection Grant which required completion of a phase I archeological study. This study was conducted in 2025 by Bear Creek Archeology. The results of this study were summarized in a report dated June 2025 states that the project may contain significant and historic cultural deposits. The phase I study recommends the completion of a phase II study.

A Phase I archaeological study is the first step in identifying and evaluating potential cultural resources within a project area. Its scope of work is designed to determine whether any archaeological sites exist and whether they may be eligible for protection under laws like the National Historic Preservation Act. Phase 1 included the following:

- Background Research
- Field Survey
- Site Identification
- Reporting
- Compliance and Coordination

Why Phase II Is Necessary

The phase I study indicated the presence of potential archaeological resources. A phase II investigation is now recommended by the archaeological consultant and regulatory agencies to determine the eligibility of this site for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and to guide future land use decisions.

Federal and state laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, require evaluation of cultural resources before development or land alteration. The representative from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) section responsible for administering the USACOE 404 permit for discharging fill into a wetland also recommends completion of the Phase II Investigation. Compliance with Minnesota State Regulations is administered through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Phase II investigations help prevent inadvertent damage to significant cultural sites by identifying and documenting them before construction or land use changes. Results will inform county planning, conservation efforts, and recreational development around Beaver Lake.

Phase II - Scope of Work

The Phase II investigation will include:

- Controlled excavations and site testing
- Artifact analysis and documentation
- Evaluation of site integrity and significance
- Recommendations for preservation or mitigation

Possible Outcomes

- Site is found to be low value and no protection is necessary.
- Site requires some mediation with minimum impact to proposed right of way.
- High value site requiring selecting a different alternative that doesn't impact the site.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Steele County Board approve the initiation of a Phase II archaeological investigation at Beaver Lake and allocate appropriate funding to support this effort. This action will ensure compliance with preservation laws, safeguard our cultural heritage, and support responsible stewardship of county lands.



July 7, 2025

Stanley Thompson Estate
14375 SW 72nd Ave
New Richland, Minnesota 56072

Re: Archeological Survey of 21ST0057 along Beaver Lake near Ellendale, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to your request for information regarding the archeological investigation conducted by Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. (BCA) at site 21ST0057 on your property within the NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄ of Section 22, T105N, R21W, Steele County, Minnesota. Site 21ST0057 was identified and investigated as part of a Phase I archeological survey conducted for road improvements. Set around 30 m (98 ft) east of the western shore of Beaver Lake, the site extends along very gently to moderately sloping (1–9%) portions of an upland baseslope and the adjacent low-lying area associated with the Straight River and Beaver Lake outlet. The site area measures approximately 30 x 60 m (98 x 197 ft), covering 0.1 ha (0.3 ac). At the time of investigation, the site was covered by grass and a few trees, offering <25% ground surface visibility.

The fieldwork at 21ST0057 was conducted on May 21 and 29, 2025. The site was identified while excavating one shovel test (ST 1) and three auger tests (ATs 2–4) at 15 m intervals along a single L-shaped transect. All four of the subsurface tests (ST 1 and ATs 2–4) contained precontact artifacts, resulting in the documentation of 21ST0057. Seven additional subsurface tests (four shovel tests and three auger tests) were subsequently dug within and adjacent to the site at 7.5–15 m intervals, three of which were positive for precontact artifacts (AT 5, AT 6, and ST 7). In total, five shovel tests and six auger tests were completed in and around the site. These tests were dug to depths of 60–160 cm below the surface. Seven of these 11 subsurface tests contained precontact artifacts (ST 1, ATs 2–6, and ST 7).

The geomorphic context of the site is highly variable. Aerial photographs indicate that most of the site area appears to have been cultivated in the past in association with the use of the low-lying area as a hayfield (Jane and Barry Braaten, personal communication, May and June 2025). Surficial disturbances (Ap horizons) were encountered in every subsurface test excavated at and near the site, extending to depths from 25–40 cm below the surface. The highest elevated portions of the site (i.e., the southwestern part) were found to be heavily disturbed (ST 1 and SP 4). On the other hand, most of the central portion of the site exhibited largely intact, relatively thick soil sequences beneath the surficial disturbances that may have included precontact feature deposits (ATs 2–4, AT 6, and ST 7). The sediments exposed in AT 5, however, were somewhat anomalous, possibly relating to colluvial or alluvial forces that postdated the precontact occupation of the site. The northwestern border of 21ST0057 abutted the base of the roadbed/inside ditch slope associated with County Highway 28, and said roadbed/inside ditch slope appeared to relate to a cut and fill episode that resulted in very heavy disturbances (SP 5).

Artifacts were found at 21ST0057 from 0–120 cm beneath the surface. Excluding the artifacts recovered from AT 5, which occurred in ambiguous contexts, the archeological resources encountered from 40–120 cm below the surface at the site were likely recovered from intact contexts. Further, some of the artifacts found from 20–40 cm beneath the surface at the site were also probably retrieved from intact contexts as well. Most (about 80% by count) of the artifacts found at 21ST0057 were encountered from 20–70 cm deep, with the highest concentration (about 53% by count) occurring from 40–70 cm below the surface.

A total of 119 artifacts were collected from 21ST0057 during the Phase I investigation, all of which represent precontact materials. All precontact artifacts encountered at the site during the Phase I survey were collected. A heavily corroded wire fragment, likely a nail shaft, was also observed in one of the subsurface tests completed at the site (AT 5) but not collected. The 119 artifacts retrieved from 21ST0057 are accounted for by five pottery sherds, two chipped-stone tool fragments, 14 pieces of lithic debitage, 15 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and 83 bone fragments. The lithic debitage from the site is represented by flake fragments and shatter made of Grand Meadow Chert ($n = 3$), Galena Chert ($n = 2$), Tongue River Silica ($n = 2$), unidentified chert ($n = 2$), unidentified till-derived chert ($n = 1$), Prairie du Chien Chert ($n = 1$), Red River Chert ($n = 1$), Cedar Valley Chert ($n = 1$), and Swan River Chert ($n = 1$). Heat-treatment is present on the Cedar Valley Chert and Swan River Chert debitage, and some of the Galena Chert ($n = 1$) and Grand Meadow Chert ($n = 1$) debitage is heat-treated as well. Both pieces of the Tongue River Chert debitage are burned. Most of the pieces of fire-cracked rock (13 pieces totaling 1,713.4 g) are granite, but a couple (two pieces totaling 3.4 g) are rhyolite. The two chipped-stone tool fragments from 21ST0057 are represented by a Grand Meadow Chert sidescraper and a Shell Rock Chert biface. The Shell Rock Chert biface fragment is too small to be confidently typed more specifically. Of the 83 bone fragments from the site, 50 pieces (totaling 37.5 g) represent mammal, and 33 pieces (totaling 10.3 g) relate to turtle. All but two pieces of the turtle bone fragments, weighing a combined 2.4 g, are accounted for by shell (i.e., carapace), while most (42 pieces totaling 36.8 g) of the mammal bone fragments appear to be associated with large mammals (e.g., deer or bison) but were too small for further identification. Just nine of the mammal bone fragments (3.3 g combined) are burned. All five of the pottery pieces found at the site are grit tempered, cordmarked body sherds with thicknesses of 2–4 mm. The artifacts from 21ST0057 are being temporarily held at BCA until the review of the project is complete, after which they will be returned to you.

The site appears to represent the northern edge of a Woodland Tradition habitation that extends along an upland rise situated outside of the project area to the south and southwest. Supporting this interpretation, Edwin Jensen had found a number of projectile points within the vicinity of the house on the summit of the upland rise to the southwest of the site and project area, which are currently housed at the Steele County Historical Society, and also in the agricultural fields beyond the site and project area to the east (Jane and Barry Braaten, personal communication, May and June, 2025). The hypothesis that 21ST0057 relates to a habitation is also supported by the diversity of raw materials represented relative to the small size of the lithic assemblage, the density of fire-cracked rock, and the presence of grit tempered pottery. The Woodland Tradition affiliation is based on the presence of the grit tempered pottery. Further, given the landform position of the identified portion of the site, the finds of Edwin Jensen, and the relative amounts of bone fragments within the artifact assemblage, 21ST0057, as currently defined, likely relates

to the edge of a larger habitation more properly situated to the south and southwest. The identified portion of 21ST0057 may be associated with more specific activities than the habitation proper (e.g., butchering and/or refuse). To the southwest of the site, the project area is comprised of very heavy disturbances associated with a two-track access and ditch, defining the southwestern edge of the site. A negative shovel test was also dug within the project area to the southwest of the site, further establishing this border. The remainder of the southern limits of 21ST0057 are defined by the edge of the project area, and the site likely extends in this direction. The eastern edge of the site is also established by the limits of the project area. The northwestern border of the site is defined by very heavy disturbances associated with County Highway 28. Between County Highway 28 and Beaver Lake, the project area is also marked by very heavy disturbances relating to said road, the beach, and boat access. The northeastern limits of 21ST0057 are defined by negative subsurface tests and a landform transition (i.e., transition from the upland baseslope position to the more poorly drained low-lying area).

BCA recommends that portions of 21ST0057 are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria D (the site may be likely to yield information important to history or prehistory). The southwestern part of 21ST0057 (i.e., the portion associated with ST 1 and SP 4) is heavily disturbed and unlikely to contribute to the potential eligibility of the site as a whole; however, the remainder of the site is potentially NRHP-eligible. As such, BCA recommends no further archeological work for the portion of 21ST0057 associated with ST 1 and SP 4, but BCA does recommend avoidance or further archeological work (i.e., a Phase II investigation) for the remainder of the site.

Attached you will find additional information regarding 21ST0057, including the official Minnesota Archaeological Site Form and associated maps, as well as the catalog sheets for the artifacts recovered from the site. Additionally, please note the following:

Information contained in this document relating to the nature and location of archeological sites is considered private and confidential and not for public disclosure in accordance with Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC § 307103); 36 CFR Part 800.6(a)(5) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's rules implementing Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (54 USC § 100707).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Anderson', with a stylized, looping flourish extending from the end.

Josh Anderson
Principal Investigator

Minnesota Archaeological Site Form

Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111 (612) 725-2729

Agency/Field #:

SHPO RC #:

Date(s) of This Fieldwork: May 21st & May 29th, 2025

NRHP Status: ☐ Listed ☐ Determined Eligible ☐ CEF(106) ☐ CNEF(106) ☒ Undetermined

SHPO Sub-Region: 2e
(see map in instructions)

Township: 105N	Range: 21W	Section: 22	¼ Sections (at least 2): NW¼ of NW¼
Township:	Range:	Section:	¼ Sections (at least 2):
Township:	Range:	Section:	¼ Sections (at least 2):

Point 5: Easting Northing

Maximum Cultural Depth (if known): 1.2 m

☐ single artifact ☐ lithic scatter ☒ artifact scatter
☐ burial mound (number of mounds) ☐ non-mound lone grave ☐ non-mound cemetery
☐ petroglyph ☐ pictograph ☐ petroform
☐ surface features (list below)
☐ other:

Inferred Site Function (*vall that apply*): X habitation ___ mortuary ___ farm ___ industrial ___ transportation
Other (*list*): _____ unknown

_____ cultivated _____ fallow _____ commercial _____ recreational _____ industrial _____ residential
 _____ woodland _____ 100 grassland _____ water-covered _____ other: _____

_____ excellent _____ good _____ fair _____ 100 poor/none

50 minimal 25 moderate 25 heavy _____ completely destroyed _____ unassessed

erosion ☒ development ☐ agricultural ☐ other: ☐ none known ☐

SITE #: 21-ST0057

Site Name:

Agency/Field #:

CULTURAL/TEMPORAL AFFILIATION(list all that apply by level of certainty: 1 = confirmed; 2 = probable or √ "not determined"):

Period: ☐ not determined ☐ Contact (1650-1837)
 ☒ Precontact (9500 BC - 1650 AD) ☐ Post-Contact (1837-1945)

Precontact Context: (list all that apply by level of certainty; if unable to discern specific context, √ here ☐)

Paleoindian Tradition ☐ not determined ☐ Folsom ☐ Lanceolate Point/Plano
 ☐ Clovis ☐ Eastern Fluted ☐ other: _____

Archaic Tradition ☐ not determined ☐ Prairie ☐ Riverine
 ☐ Shield ☐ Lake-Forest ☐ other: _____

Woodland Tradition ☒ not determined ☐ Fox Lake ☐ Laurel
 ☐ SE Mn Early ☐ C Mn Transitional ☐ Lake Benton
 ☐ Brainerd ☐ Blackduck-Kathio ☐ Psinomani/Sandy Lake
 ☐ Havana-Related ☐ SE Mn Late ☐ Rainy River Late
 ☐ other: _____

Plains Village Tradition ☐ not determined ☐ Cambria ☐ Great Oasis ☐ Big Stone
 ☐ other: _____

Mississippian Tradition ☐ not determined ☐ Silvernale ☐ other: _____

Oneota Tradition ☐ not determined ☐ Blue Earth ☐ Orr ☐ other: _____

Contact Context: (list all that apply by level of certainty; if unable to discern specific context, √ here ☐)

American Indian ☐ not determined ☐ Dakota ☐ Ojibwe ☐ other: _____

Euro-American ☐ not determined ☐ British ☐ other: _____
 ☐ French ☐ Initial US

Post-Contact Context: (list all that apply by level of certainty; if unable to discern specific context, √ here ☐)

☐ Indian Communities & Reservations (1837-1934) ☐ St. Croix Triangle Lumbering (1830s-1900s)
☐ Early Agriculture & River Settlement (1840-1870) ☐ Railroads & Agricultural Development (1870-1940)
☐ Northern MN Lumbering (1870-1930s) ☐ Iron Ore Industry (1880s-1945)
☐ Tourism & Recreation (1870-1945) ☐ Urban Centers (1870-1940)

Approximate Post-Contact Occupation/Site Formation Date(s): _____

Context Assignment/Dating Methods (√ all that apply):

☒ artifact type/style ☐ feature type ☐ radiometric ☐ relative stratigraphy ☐ geomorphology
☐ historic accounts (list) _____
☐ historic maps (list) _____
☐ other(s) (specify): _____

(For radiometric dates, attach photocopies of laboratory sheets if available.)

MATERIALS PRESENT (√ all that apply):**Basic Artifact Categories**

<u>Ceramics</u>	<u>Lithics</u>	<u>Biological Remains</u>	<u>Historic Materials</u>
☒ Aboriginal	☐ projectile points	☒ animal	☐ glass
☐ Euro-American	☒ other chipped stone tools	☐ human	☐ metal
	☒ debitage	☐ unidentified bone	☐ brick
	☐ ground/pecked stone	☐ seeds/nuts	☐ other: _____
	☒ FCR	☐ charcoal	
	☐ aboriginal copper	☐ wood	

SITE #: 21-ST0057

Site Name:

Agency/Field #:

Major Exotic Materials (*√all that apply*):

☐ catlinite ☐ native copper ☐ Hixton orthoquartzite
☐ Knife River Flint ☐ obsidian ☐ other: _____

Diagnostic Artifacts:

Ceramics: Prehistoric Types/Wares/Temper: cordmarked, grit tempered body sherds
 Historic _____

Prehistoric Lithics: _____

Glass: _____

Metal: _____

Other: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA **Current Topographic Setting** (*√all that apply*):Away from Water

☐ general upland
☐ terrace edge
☐ hilltop
☐ glacial beach ridge
☐ rock outcrop
☐ other: _____

Riverine

☐ fan
☐ terrace/bluff top
☐ stream-stream junction
☐ bluff-base
☐ cave/rockshelter
☐ floodplain
☒ other: general riverine

Lacustrine

☐ inlet/outlet
☐ peninsula
☐ island
☐ isthmus
☒ general shoreline
☐ bog/slough/lake bottom
☒ other: baseslope & marsh/swamp

Topographic Feature Name from USGS Map: _____

OWNERSHIP INFORMATIONSource and Date of Ownership Information (*e.g., plat map, county recorder's office, personal communication, etc.*): Online property recordsOwnership Type (*list approximate % for all that apply; if unknown √here* _____):

☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ Local (public) ☐ Tribal 100 Private

Land Owner (*name and address if known*): Stanley Thompson Estate, 14375 SW 72nd Avenue, New Richland, MN 56072**CURRENT INVESTIGATION INFORMATION**Methods/Techniques Employed (*all that apply*):

☐ informant report ☒ small diameter soil coring (1" diameter) ☐ surface survey
☒ shovel testing ☐ formal test units ☐ mechanical testing max. test depth 1.6 m
☐ geomorphological survey (*specify*): _____
☐ geophysical survey (*specify*): _____
☒ other: auger testing

Informant Name and Address (if known): Jane and Barry Braaten (see landowner address)

Known Collectors/Collections: Edwin Jensen (deceased father of the landowner)/Steele County Historical Society

Artifact Repository (*name and accession numbers or repository agreement number*): The artifacts will be returned to the landowner after review of the project is complete

Most Recent Survey Report – Title, Author, Date: Phase I Archeological Investigation for the Grading and Realignment of County Highway 28 Along Beaver Lake in Steele County, Minnesota, Josh Anderson, 2025, BCA 3656, Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Cresco, Iowa

Major Previous Bibliographic Reference(s) to Site: None

Principal Investigator (*name and affiliation*): Josh Anderson, Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.Form Completed By (*name and date*): Josh Anderson 6/3/25

MAPS: Attach/include original scale copy of 7.5' USGS map with site location clearly outlined or designated. Attach a sketch map if surface features present, if sub-surface testing done, or if complicated boundaries/setting. Sketch map must have re-locatable datum, scale, north arrow, and legend if symbols are used.

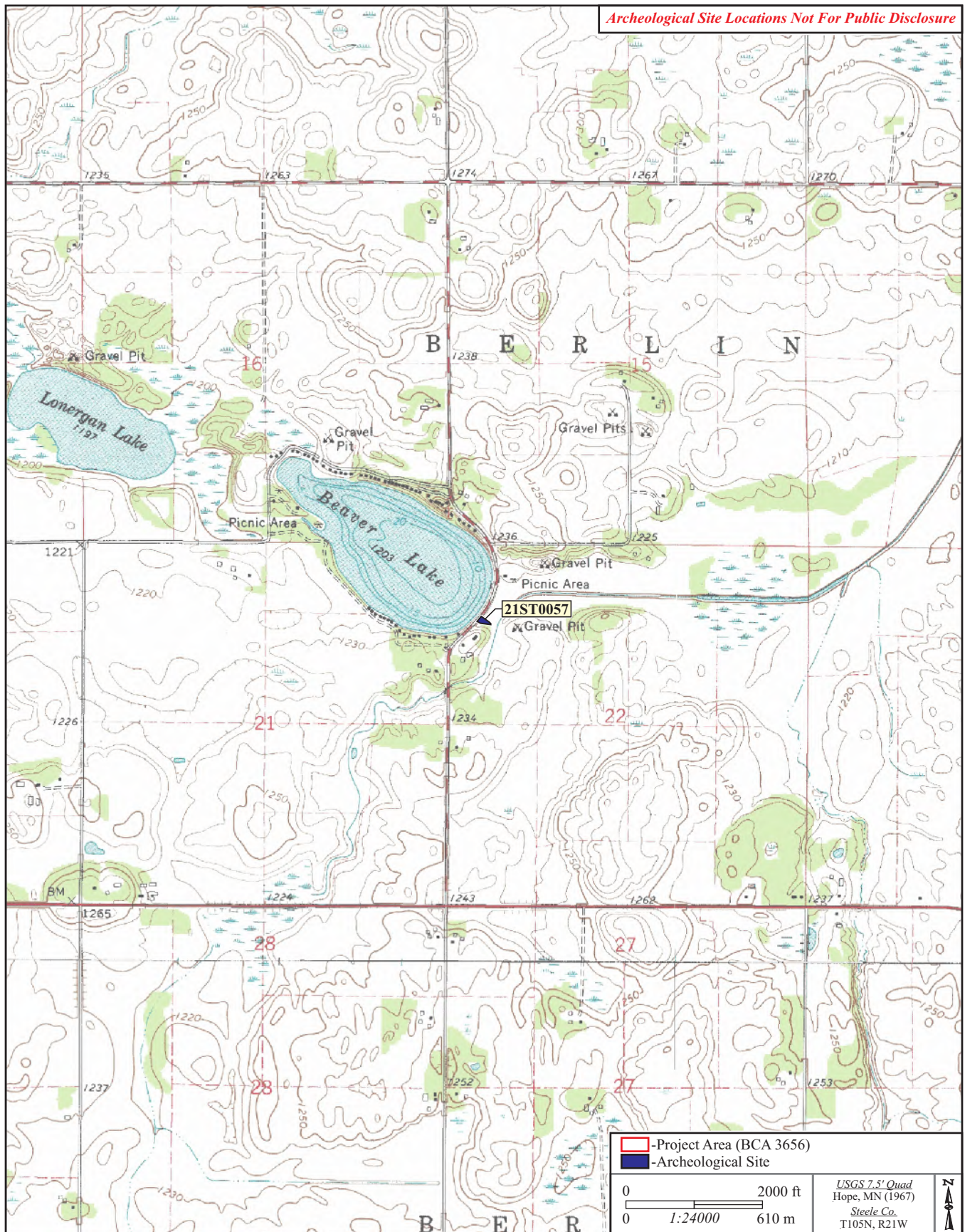
SITE #: 21-ST0057

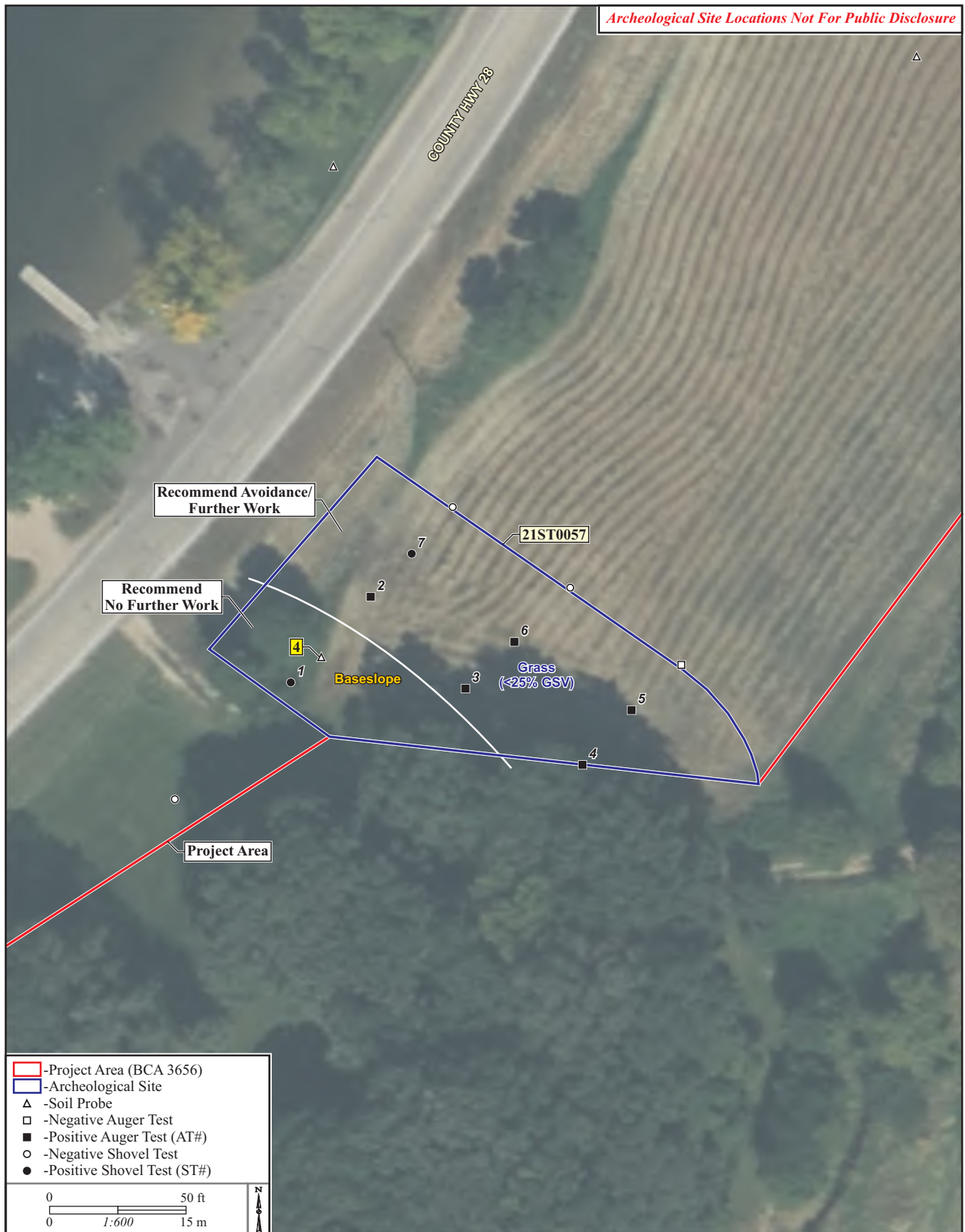
Site Name:

Agency/Field #:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION *(Reason for Update or Survey, Location, Site Characteristics, Materials Present, Setting, Archaeological Methods, etc.; attach extra sheets as needed.)*

The site was discovered while excavating subsurface tests (shovel and auger tests) at 7.5–15 m intervals along a grassy baseslope and adjacent low-lying area. A total of 11 subsurface tests (five shovel and six auger tests) were completed at and near the site, of which seven contained precontact artifacts. The sediments encountered at the site varied and were difficult to interpret, but at least some of the precontact artifacts were recovered from intact contexts. In general, the southwestern portion of the site appeared heavily eroded, while parts to the north and east were more intact. The site likely represents the edge of a habitation that extends over more elevated landform positions to the southwest. Supporting this interpretation, the landowner's father (Edwin Jensen) had found a number of projectile points in the vicinity of the house on the summit of the rise to the southwest of the site, which are currently housed at the Steele County Historical Society (Jane and Barry Braaten, personal communication, May and June, 2025). Mammal bone fragments, turtle bone fragments, pieces of fire-cracked rock, pieces of lithic debitage, chipped-stone tools (a sidescraper and unidentified biface fragment), and grit tempered, cordmarked pottery body sherds with thicknesses of 2–4 mm ($n = 5$) were found at the site during the current investigation, occurring from the surface to a depth of 1.2 m. It is the opinion of the author that the site is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). As such, in relation to the proposed development project (the grading and realignment of County Highway 28), the author recommends the site be avoided or Phase II work be conducted to formally assess its NRHP eligibility.





Scale map of 21ST0057.

Catalog Sheets

Catalog Sheet - Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Accession No. _____

Site No. 21ST0057

Site Name _____

Contractor/Sponsor
WHKS and Company

Principal Field Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Principal Lab Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Catalog Number	Specimen Category Specimen Description		No. of Artifacts	Area/Field Test/Test			Depth Below Surface	Fieldwork Date, Field Archeologists, Remarks	
1	FD	1 flake fragment, 0.2 g; 1 secondary thinning flake fragment, 0.8 g: Grand Meadow Chert	2		ST B4	ST 1	0-10 cm	5/29/25 JA	
2	FD	secondary thinning flake fragment, Swan River Chert, heat-treated, 0.7 g	1		AT B5	AT 2	0-10 cm	5/29/25 SG	
3	POT	body sherd, grit temper, cordmarked, 1.7 g	1		AT B5	AT 2	0-10 cm	5/29/25 SG	
4	UBO	1 bone fragment, 0.5 g; 2 carapace fragments, 0.4 g: large turtle	3		AT B5	AT 2	30-40 cm	5/29/25 SG	
5	POT	body sherds, grit temper, cordmarked, 1 g	2		AT B5	AT 2	40-50 cm	5/29/25 SG	
6	UBO	carapace fragments, small turtle, 0.5 g	6		AT B5	AT 2	40-50 cm	5/29/25 SG	
7	CST	biface, fragment, Shell Rock Chert, 1.3 g	1		AT B5	AT 2	60 cm	5/29/25 SG	
8	UBO	long bone fragments, large mammal, 0.6 g	4		AT B5	AT 2	50-60 cm	5/29/25 SG	
9	FCR	granite, 9.8 g	2		AT B5	AT 2	60-70 cm	5/29/25 SG	
10	POT	body sherd, grit temper, cordmarked, 0.3 g	1		AT B5	AT 2	60-70 cm	5/29/25 SG	
11	UBO	3 cancellous bone fragments, 0.7 g; 1 long bone fragment, 0.4 g: large mammal; 3 carapace fragments, small turtle, 0.2 g	7		AT B5	AT 2	60-70 cm	5/29/25 SG	
12	POT	body sherd, grit temper, cordmarked, 0.4 g	1		AT B5	AT 2	70-80 cm	5/29/25 SG	
13	FD	flake fragment, till-derived chert, 2.5 g	1		AT B6	AT 3	0-10 cm	5/29/25 JA	

Catalog Sheet - Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Accession No. _____

Site No. 21ST0057

Site Name _____

Contractor/Sponsor
WHKS and Company

Principal Field Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Principal Lab Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Catalog Number	Specimen Category Specimen Description		No. of Artifacts	Area/Field Test/Test			Depth Below Surface	Fieldwork Date, Field Archeologists, Remarks	
14	FD	secondary thinning flake fragment, unidentified chert, 0.2 g	1		AT B6	AT 3	20-30 cm	5/29/25 JA	
15	FCR	granite, 7.3 g	2		AT B6	AT 3	30-40 cm	5/29/25 JA	
16	FD	primary decortication flake fragment, Cedar Valley Chert, heat-treated, 6.7 g	1		AT B6	AT 3	110-120 cm	5/29/25 JA	
17	UBO	carapace fragment, large turtle, 3.7 g	1		AT B6	AT 3	110-120 cm	5/29/25 JA	
18	FCR	granite, 1,505 g	4		AT B7	AT 4	30-40 cm	5/29/25 SG	
19	UBO	possible rib fragments, small mammal, burned, 0.4 g	6		AT B7	AT 4	40-50 cm	5/29/25 SG	
20	FCR	granite, 7.7 g	1		AT B7	AT 4	50-60 cm	5/29/25 SG	
21	CST	sidescraper fragment, Grand Meadow Chert, 8 g	1		AT B7	AT 4	60-70 cm	5/29/25 SG	
22	UBO	carapace fragment, small turtle, 0.1 g	1		AT B7	AT 4	70-80 cm	5/29/25 SG	
23	UBO	long bone fragment, large mammal, 0.8 g	1		AT B14	AT 5	40-50 cm	5/29/25 SG	
24	FD	shatter, Red River Chert, 3 g	1		AT B14	AT 5	70-80 cm	5/29/25 SG	
25	UBO	1 carapace fragment, medium turtle, 0.2 g; 1 scapula fragment, large mammal, 1.2 g; 1 bone fragment, unknown mammal, 0.2 g	3		AT B14	AT 5	70-80 cm	5/29/25 SG	
26	UBO	2 carapace fragments, medium turtle, 0.2 g; 2 long bone fragments, large mammal, 1.2 g	4		AT B14	AT 5	80-90 cm	5/29/25 SG	

Catalog Sheet - Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Accession No. _____

Site No. 21ST0057

Site Name _____

Contractor/Sponsor
WHKS and Company

Principal Field Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Principal Lab Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Catalog Number	Specimen Category Specimen Description		No. of Artifacts	Area/Field Test/Test			Depth Below Surface	Fieldwork Date, Field Archeologists, Remarks	
27	UBO	1 carapace fragment, large turtle, 0.7 g; 1 long bone fragment, large mammal, 1.1 g	2		AT B14	AT 5	90-100 cm	5/29/25 SG	
28	FCR	rhyolite, 3.4 g	2		AT B13	AT 6	10-20 cm	5/29/25 SG	
29	UBO	long bone fragments, large mammal, 1.3 g	2		AT B13	AT 6	10-20 cm	5/29/25 SG	
30	UBO	1 carapace fragment, small turtle, 0.1 g; 2 bone fragments, 10.9 g; 4 cancellous bone fragments, 3.2 g; 7 long bone fragments, 7.2 g: large mammal	14		AT B13	AT 6	20-30 cm	5/29/25 SG	
31	FD	1 tertiary thinning flake fragment, Prairie du Chien Chert, 0.1 g; 1 tertiary thinning flake fragment, unidentified chert, 0.1 g	2		AT B13	AT 6	30-40 cm	5/29/25 SG	
32	UBO	2 cancellous bone fragments, large mammal, 0.2 g; 1 bone fragment, unknown mammal, burned, 0.1 g	3		AT B13	AT 6	30-40 cm	5/29/25 SG	
33	UBO	4 carapace fragments, medium turtle, 0.4 g; 2 cancellous bone fragments, 0.6 g; 1 long bone fragment, 0.2 g: large mammal	7		AT B13	AT 6	40-50 cm	5/29/25 SG	
34	FD	shatter, Tongue River Silica, burned, 0.5 g	2		AT B13	AT 6	50-60 cm	5/29/25 JA/SG	
35	UBO	long bone fragments, large mammal, 1.9 g	2		AT B13	AT 6	50-60 cm	5/29/25 JA/SG	
36	FCR	granite, two pieces refit, 163.3	3		AT B13	AT 6	60-70 cm	5/29/25 JA/SG	
37	UBO	4 carapace fragments, medium turtle, 0.8 g; 2 long bone fragments, large mammal, 1.3 g	6		AT B13	AT 6	60-70 cm	5/29/25 JA/SG	

Catalog Sheet - Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Accession No. _____

Site No. 21ST0057

Site Name _____

Contractor/Sponsor
WHKS and Company

Principal Field Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Principal Lab Archeologist
Josh Anderson

Catalog Number	Specimen Category Specimen Description		No. of Artifacts	Area/Field Test/Test			Depth Below Surface	Fieldwork Date, Field Archeologists, Remarks	
38	FD	secondary thinning flake fragment, Galena Chert, 0.2 g	1		ST B12	ST 7	0-10 cm	5/29/25 JA	
39	FCR	granite, 20.3 g	1		ST B12	ST 7	20-30 cm	5/29/25 JA	
40	UBO	long bone fragment, large mammal, burned, 1.7 g	1		ST B12	ST 7	20-30 cm	5/29/25 JA	
41	UBO	long bone fragment, large mammal, burned, 1.1 g	1		ST B12	ST 7	30-40 cm	5/29/25 JA	
42	FD	1 secondary thinning flake fragment, Galena Chert, heat-treated, 0.1 g; 1 secondary thinning flake fragment, Grand Meadow Chert, heat-treated, 0.3 g	2		ST B12	ST 7	40-50 cm	5/29/25 JA	
43	UBO	1 cancellous bone fragment, 0.3 g; 1 long bone fragment, 0.8 g; large mammal; 1 bone fragment, large turtle, 1.9 g	3		ST B12	ST 7	40-50 cm	5/29/25 JA	
44	UBO	carapace fragments, small to medium turtle, 0.3 g	3		ST B12	ST 7	50-60 cm	5/29/25 JA	
45	UBO	2 carapace fragments, small to medium turtle, 0.3; 1 long bone fragment, large mammal, 0.2 g	3		ST B12	ST 7	60-70 cm	5/29/25 JA	
			119						



Steele County Agenda Item

Request for Board Action

Subject: Finance Director Search

Department: Administration Office

Committee: Choose an item.

Committee Meeting Date: Enter a date.

Work Session Date: October 14, 2025

Board Meeting Date: October 14, 2025

Consent Agenda: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Resolution: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Policy Committee Recommendation:

.

Recommendation:

Approve plan to conduct search for new Finance Director

Information (including rationale, if applicable):

The County contracted with DDA to conduct a search for a Finance Director in 2024. The contract provided that DDA would assist with a new search if the candidate placed left the county's employment within 2 years. There are some fees associated with the search and the estimate of actual costs is \$3500-\$5000.

Similar to the previous search, Liza personally screens candidates based on initial resume and cover letter and selects a handful of candidates to do video interviews and take a work personality index (similar to strength finders). The interviews and personality index are forwarded to the decisions makers. Decision makers select finalists to interview face to face. For finalists, Liza does criminal, credit, and education verifications. Finalists also do a verbal reading and math assessment online, and a report from this assessment is sent to the decision makers. Personal References are checked via actual conversation with references (approx. 30 min per reference) A narrative to this is shared with decision makers. DDA doesn't currently have a lot of searches so could start our search soon. Advertising period is one month. Interviewing, backgrounding, and hiring takes about 2 months. Anticipated start date would be January.

According to Liza, Finance Director recruitment is extremely difficult, even the City of Rochester with a much larger salary struggled. So I would like to discuss with the Board an alternative plan for finance management. I would also like to discuss with the board a modified interview structure, similar to what we used for the Public Works Director.

Additional information will be provided to the Board at the work session.

I am seeking Board consensus to move the search to the regular board meeting with authorization to retain DDA, Board direction on an alternative plan for finance operation leadership and Board direction on the candidate selection and interviewing process.