



STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Steele County Administration Center – 630 Florence - Owatonna, MN 55060

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

Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. – Steele County Boardroom

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Spatenka at 7:00 pm. Present were Hasen, Pool, Gillis, Spatenka, Queen, Cole, Commissioner Brady, and staff member Brooks.

Agenda:

Motion by Queen, second by Hansen to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Motion by Hansen, second by Cole to approve the March 2nd, 2026, minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Building Permits:

The building permits for February/ March 2026 were reviewed.

CUP #445 Northern Natural Gas (Fill In Floodplain)

This request: Monica Entinger on behalf of Northern Natural Gas to request a permit to place fill in a floodplain on property located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 29, Lemond Township on property owned by Northern Natural Gas. The Property address is 8801 88th St SW.

Questions and comments of the commission.

Spatenka- Has it ever flooded here before?

Brooks- *With the data that I have in the packet there has been some flooding at one point in history.*

The public hearing was opened.

As there were no more questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Discussion by the planning commission.

Motion by Queen, second by Hansen to recommend approval of CUP #445 Northern Natural Gas (Fill in Floodplain) with the following condition: (underlined is added, ~~strikethrough~~ is deleted)

1. Fill and all similar materials deposited or stored in the flood plain shall be protected from erosion by vegetative cover, mulching, riprap or other acceptable methods.

Motion passes

IUP 2020-04 JJD (Jirele Pit)

This request: Dan Niles on behalf of JJD Companies LLC has requested a permit to mine sand and gravel in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 33, Aurora Township on property owned by Gary Jirele.

Questions and comments of the commission.
There was a discussion on bonds for gravel pits.

The public hearing was opened.

As there were no more questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Discussion by the planning commission.

Motion by Queen, second by Pool to recommend approval of IUP 2020-04 JJD (Jirele Pit) with the following 19 conditions: (underlined is added, ~~strikethrough~~ is deleted)

1. Mining and processing is limited to the areas identified in the application. Before excavation can begin the boundary of the area shall be clearly marked onsite at the corners and a minimum of every 300 feet along all perimeters.
2. Mining is limited to a bottom elevation of 1310 feet.
3. Before excavation can begin, the permittee or operator shall furnish bond or other financial surety as approved by the county, for potential haul road repair and for site restoration. The bond or other financial surety shall be in an amount of \$5,000 per permitted acre for a total amount of ~~\$90,000~~ \$75,000 and remain in place for 6 years from the from date of issuance of the permit.
4. Before excavation can begin the permittee shall obtain an access permit from the Steele County Highway Department and comply with all conditions of that permit.
5. The excavation of material shall be setback a minimum of 30 feet from all property lines and 50 feet from the road right of way. Any erosion within this setback shall be immediately corrected by the permittee. Overburden may be stored within the setback area but cannot be done in a manner that causes water runoff or siltation onto neighboring property, impedes the natural overland flow of water, or backs water up onto neighboring properties.
6. The dewatering of the pit shall be prohibited.
7. Equipment shall only be operated between the hours of 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Monday thru Saturday.
8. The access shall be gated to deter unauthorized access.
9. Signage warning of truck traffic shall be located along County Road #4 if required by the County

Highway Department. The size and placement of these signs shall be at the direction of Steele County Highway Department.

10. Trucks shall not track material from the pit onto the public road.
11. Trucks hauling material to and from this site shall not use “jake brakes”
12. Operator is responsible to maintain dust control in the pit and on the access road so it does not negatively affect neighboring properties or highway traffic.
13. Operator shall maintain the viability of any existing private drainage system at all times during the operation of the pit.
14. Storage piles of recyclable aggregate materials shall not exceed 30,000 cubic yards. These piles shall not remain onsite more than 5 years unless crushed. The State of Minnesota has additional requirements concerning recyclable aggregate stockpiles.
15. The applicant shall follow their submitted reclamation plan. Final reclamation shall include grading slopes to a 4:1 slope or flatter and replacing topsoil.
16. This permit remains valid during times when the owner/operator is current on all tax obligations including but not limited to aggregate taxes. In addition, if notified by the Auditor of a delinquency, the owner/operator is required to either pay the tax or file an appropriate challenge within 30 days or else the permit is null and void.
17. Applicant is responsible to obtain and follow all other federal, state, and local permits and regulations including but not limited to NPDES permits, DNR Water Appropriation Permits, and Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act regulations.
18. This permit expires on June 1st, ~~2025~~ 2030. All reclamation shall be completed unless the permittee has initiated the renewal of this permit before this date.
19. Once issued, this IUP may be revoked, following notice and hearing, and upon finding(s) established by the Planning Commission that the Subject Property and/or use is not in compliance with the Conditions of Approval as stated herein.

Motion passes

IUP 2010-05 JJD (Meixner Pit)

This request: Dan Niles on behalf of JJD Companies has requested to renew their permit to mine sand and gravel on property located in the NE ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 2, Lemond Township, owned by JJD Companies.

Questions and comments of the commission.

There was a discussion about Bonds on gravel pits owned and operated by the same entity. Dan Niles from JJD- Requested that the bond is for 4 years, and expires in 2029.

The public hearing was opened.

As there were no more questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Discussion by the planning commission.

Motion by Pool, second by Gillis to table discussion of IUP 2010-05 JJD (Meixner Pit) to allow time to discuss the Bonding on Gravel Pits.

Motion passes

Adjournment:

Motion by Hansen, second by Cole to adjourn at 08:12 pm. Motion passed.

DRAFT