

12

RECEIVED  
APR 23 2012  
CITY OF SCANDIA

Zavoral Mine Draft EIS Coverage

Thanks to the Messenger for providing coverage of the proposal to reactivate the Zavoral Mine in Scandia. This is a very important issue for the future of Scandia, adjacent communities, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a national park unit. Unfortunately the April 11 article had some misquotes that require clarification. I provided a statement at the public hearing before the Scandia Planning Commission on April 3. I stated that I concurred with the findings of the specialists representing Take Action-Conserve Our Scandia (TA-COS). They pointed out a number of inadequacies in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) including the off-site ecological impacts of the mine, lack of detail in the reclamation plan, effects on groundwater, inadequate analysis of traffic impacts especially at the corner of 95 and 97, and an inadequate and flawed property value analysis. While the DEIS has inadequacies that must be addressed, I did not state the DEIS is "severely flawed and needs to be redone." I did say that the DEIS property value analysis "is severely flawed and needs to be redone". Scandia's residents deserve a better and more thorough approach to evaluating the potential loss of property value that will occur if this project goes forward. The city has done a terrific job providing information on this project through their website. I urge readers to visit the website and learn more about this project and its potential impacts. The attorney for Tiller Corporation stated this is "probably the most well studied gravel pit in Minnesota." It should be, it sits next to a National Park, in an important ecological corridor, next to a State Scenic Byway, and in the rural Scandia that we all cherish.

Randy Ferrin, Scandia

Published in the Country Messenger April 18, 2012 Volume 28, Number 51.

*Randy Ferrin  
rsferrin@frontiernet.net*