



# TILLER CORPORATION

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**Tiller Corporation**  
*and its affiliated companies*

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October 14, 2014

Kristina Handt  
City of Scandia  
14727 209<sup>th</sup> St. N  
Scandia MN, 55073

Re: Third Quarter Reclamation Report, Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project

Dear Kristina,

The purpose of this letter is to provide the City of Scandia with an update on the status of reclamation activities for the Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project. The Project consists of the mining and reclamation of a 64-acre site (Zavoral Site or Site).

**Status of Reclamation: Third Quarter**

For the third quarter of 2014, efforts focused on reclamation planning, maintenance activities and importation of reclamation materials late in the quarter. The project team anticipates reclamation activities will continue in the Phase 1 Reclamation Area with the development of the transition area and will be initiated in the Phase 2 Reclamation Area. Construction will continue on the main access road during 2014.

**Status of Transition Area Establishment**

On Tuesday, August 19, 2014 the Scandia City Council moved to accept the Transition Area Development Plan. Implementation of the Transition Area Development Plan began with the selective removal of non-native herbaceous species through a spot herbicide application in the transition area zone on September 25, 2014. Herbaceous species targeted for selective removal included white and yellow sweet clover, spotted knapweed, birds-foot trefoil, leafy spurge, smooth brome, and hoary alyssum. Herbicide was applied using a backpack sprayer and care was taken to avoid beneficial native herbaceous species.

**Year One Maintenance of Phase 1 Reclamation (2014)**

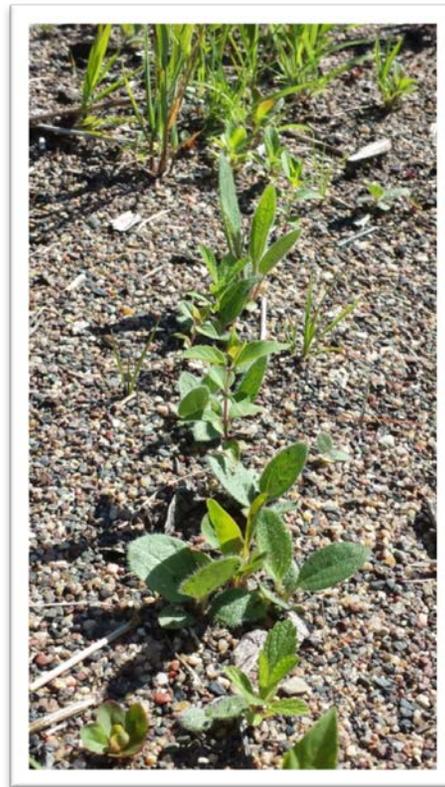
Tiller has contracted with Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) to provide maintenance services for Phase 1 Reclamation following installation. Site vegetation management within Phase 1 Reclamation during 2014 has followed the approved reclamation plan and included mowing and spot herbicide treatments of weed species that may establish. Critical Connections Ecological Services (CCES) has been working closely with MNL to oversee reclamation implementation and monitor the seeded reclamation area(s) during the 2014 season in order to determine optimum timing and extent of both mowing and spot spraying treatments.



On August 12, 2014 MNL mowed the Phase 1 Reclamation area. On September 25, 2014 CCES implemented spot herbicide treatments of weed species as necessary within the Phase 1 Reclamation area.

### **Monitoring in 2014**

CCES has monitored the progress of the native prairie seeding installed within Phase 1 Reclamation as well as the success of the trees transplanted along the north perimeter of the Site. The native prairie seeding is establishing as expected. As is typical of a first year planting, species including Canada wildrye, sideoats grama, black-eyed Susan, wild bergamot, and partridge pea were observed in abundance throughout the planting area. Additional species of warm season grasses were also observed in the planting area with rows of native species becoming evident throughout the planted area. A random meander survey of the planting area revealed that native seedling establishment was high, with at least one native seedling per square foot present in the areas that were sampled (an appropriate seedling density for a first year planting). As outlined above, weed pressure in the native planting area was controlled through mowing and spot herbicide application during 2014. The most abundant weed species in the planting area is yellow sweet clover which was targeted during 2014 weed treatment efforts. CCES will continue to monitor weed pressure in the planting area and manage weed species to ensure the successful establishment of the native prairie planting within the reclamation area.



The photograph on the left above depicts rows of native seedlings observed in the native planting area. The photograph on the right depicts common native species typical of a first year planting including black-eyed Susan, wild bergamot, and Canada wildrye.



At this time, one (1) of the twenty-five (25) transplanted white pines has proven to be unsuccessful. The remaining twenty-four (24) successfully transplanted white pine trees will continue to be monitored. Reclamation activity progress reports will continue to be submitted to the City of Scandia on a quarterly basis and will document progress of reclamation implementation activity, planning, monitoring, and corrective actions, if any, that need to be taken in 2014 for the newly planted native prairie or for the transition area.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call. I may be reached at (763) 425-4191.

Sincerely,

**Tiller Corporation**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Morrison'.

Christina Morrison  
Land Use and Permitting Coordinator