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CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kristina Handt, Administrator, City of Scandia

**FROM:** Jed Chesnut, Wetland/Natural Resource Specialist

**DATE:** October 8, 2015

**RE:** **Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project – Monitoring and Inspection Report  
2015 Inspection #6 –September 23, 2015**

As per the contract (15-01) between the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and the City of Scandia (City), WCD staff performed site inspection and monitoring tasks pertaining to Technical Services of Exhibit B. This memorandum serves as a summary of applicable activities and reviews. The site inspection took place on September 23, 2015. Christina Morrison of Tiller Corporation (Tiller) was present and provided a descriptive tour of the project area. Each service area is listed below with a summary description of results.

1. Technical Service 2 – Wetland Boundary Monitoring
  - a. Task 1 – On-site review of wetland boundaries
    - i. The Technical Evaluation Panel met with Tiller representatives to review the wetland boundaries of wetlands A-C.
    - ii. Tiller’s consulting ecologists had flagged the wetland boundaries for comparison to the original delineation in 2010.
    - iii. Portions of all three wetlands were checked. All areas that were inspected showed no change to the wetland boundaries.
2. Technical Service 3 – Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections
  - a. Task 1 – Site Inspection
    - i. Active mining was not occurring during the site visit. However there was activity within the mine that consisted of moving material in preparation for mining and preparing and mixing material for the next phase of reclamation.
    - ii. Silt fence that had been installed in 2013 as per the stormwater pollution and prevention plan (SWPPP) was in good shape. The silt fence throughout the project area was still effective for perimeter control.
    - iii. Nearly the entire mine site now drains internally, with one exception where the landowner’s driveway exits the mine area and begins its descent towards the river. This area had sufficient perimeter control for erosion and sediment control.
    - iv. Tiller’s representative noted that a portion of silt fence on the eastern project limit had been damaged. The silt fence had been immediately repaired and the repair was done well. The damaged silt fence was well away from any mining activity so there is no threat of stormwater or sediment discharge off the site in the area of the damaged and subsequently replace silt fence (see picture).
3. Technical Service 4 – Threatened and Endangered Species
  - a. Task 1 – Conduct Site Reviews to Document Compliance with Blanding’s Turtle SOP
    - i. The site was in compliance with the mitigation measures as listed in Appendix C of the Zavoral Mine FEIS.
  - b. Task 2 – Annual Inspection of Site and Monitor T&E Listing Status of Butternut Tree
    - i. The status of the butternut tree (*Juglans cinerea*) had been changed to “endangered” on August 19, 2013. As a result, removal of a butternut tree after August 19, 2013

would require permitting from the Department of Natural Resources. One non-diseased tree has been identified on the property, outside of the mine limits. WCD did not verify its presence during the September site review.

4. Technical Service 5: Reclamation Plan Review and Inspection
  - a. Task 2 – Conduct Site Inspections to Verify Implementation of the Restoration Plan
    - i. Grading of Reclamation Phase II had begun and the northern section of Phase II was at final grade and ready for the topsoil.
    - ii. One of the 25 transplanted white pines appeared dead during the 2014 site inspections suggesting that it was not successfully transplanted. This tree was checked and has no indication of live growth. It is dead and therefore was not successfully transplanted.
    - iii. A revised plan for the wooded transition zone (left uncut and planned to be managed) between the mine and the undisturbed forest was approved by the City on August 19, 2014. Initial implementation had begun including selective removal of non-native herbaceous vegetation. The transition area had been planted prior to the May inspection. Tiller planted a significant number of trees and shrubs along the wooded edge of the mine in accordance with the transition zone plan (see attached photos). These trees and shrubs appeared to be healthy.
    - iv. A significant amount of the required organic soil and mixed material was stockpiled on site and ready for final placement into the reclamation areas. Ragweed had grown on the stockpile. WCD recommended in the July and August inspections that this ragweed be controlled to minimize spreading into the reclamation areas. Tiller did act upon this recommendation and physically removed the ragweed from the large stockpiled organic soil.
    - v. Based on observations during this inspection, it appears that the native prairie in Reclamation Phase 1 is establishing well. Native forb and grass species were abundant and dominant throughout the reclamation area.

This ends the reporting of WCD's September 2015 monitoring activities. Overall, the site is performing well and in compliance with the applicable conditions of the permit. Please call me with any questions at 651-330-8220 x25.





Moving material

Site drains internally





Repaired silt fence.