

Vermillion Township
Special Meeting Minutes
Dakota Aggregate/Sobiech
Review of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)
May 6, 2026

Attendance:

Chairman Jeramy Ladzun
Supervisor Lyle Fritz
Planner Nate Sparks
Clerk Cynthia Ladzun

Chairman Ladzun opened the meeting at 6:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Planner, Nate Sparks stated that Dakota Aggregates intends to apply for a mining permit on the Sobiech property (PID 39-01900-25-020) and per MN Rule 4410 an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was mandatory due to the size of the proposed mine. The EAW is an environmental review of a project that covers various areas of analysis to determine if significant environmental impacts exist and identifies mitigation measures for those potential impacts. If mitigation cannot be achieved, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would need to be completed.

Dakota Aggregates prepared the EAW, and the township hired their own consultants to review. The EAW was then sent to the MN Environmental Quality Board where it was published in the Environmental Quality Board Monitor, and comments from following departments and individuals were received during that process:

- MN Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Metropolitan Council
- Dakota County
- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Two Vermillion Township Residents

Dakota Aggregates reviewed the comments that were received as they came in and provided responses with the township's hired consultant reviewing and providing comments as well.

The following findings of fact came from this EAW review process:

- Future reviews and approvals needed:
 - Vermillion Township
 - MPCA
 - Dakota County SWCD
- Groundwater monitoring needs to be determined during review of the Interim Use Permit (IUP) application.
- Tree/shrub removals to be avoided April 1 – August 15
- Grassland disturbance to be avoided May 15 - August 15

- Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment to be completed
- Fugitive Dust Control Plan to be included in IUP application
- Noise mitigation to be identified during IUP review
- Final wetland boundaries to be approved in Summer 2026
- Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve Program - property owner to seek removal during IUP application review process.

The responses to the comments that were received showed Dakota Aggregates' willingness to address these matters, and based on that, the township's hired consultant has confidence that an EIS is not needed as the potential for impacts could be addressed during the IUP review process. This does not mean there are no concerns of a mining operation on this site, it just states that the township can handle the concerns adequately through the IUP review process.

Resident, Kim Abel wants confirmation that the township not requiring an EIS, does not mean that the mining application is being agreed to and/or accepted. Ladzun explained that the findings of fact will need to be addressed on the IUP application. Sparks further stated that the variables in this case are known, so an EIS would be another step that would theoretically produce the same outcome.

Resolution No. 26-06 stating a negative declaration of the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sobiech pit was presented to the Board for review. Ladzun motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Fritz seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Ladzun motioned to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Fritz seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Cynthia Ladzun
Vermillion Township Clerk