

# Report to the EDT & City of St. Cloud Regarding a Visit to Sites 78 & 104 on October 11, 2019

**Stephen G. Saupe, PhD**

*Biology Department  
College of St. Benedict/St. John's University  
Collegeville, MN 56321  
ssaupe@csbsju.edu; 320.363.2782*

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## **Introduction:**

In accordance with **Article 6, Section 4.2**, of the *St. Cloud Environmentally Sensitive Areas Ordinance 1871 (ESAO)*, this document provides a brief report on the visit of the EDT team to Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA's) Sites 78 and 104. These ESA's are located near the intersection of 33rd St. S and State Hwy 15, primarily on property owned by T. Klein (PIN: 82.44152.0616) (**see Figs. 1 & 2**). The northern portion of the Klein property, and ultimately Sites 78 & 104, are accessed from 33<sup>rd</sup> Street South, via parcels owned by the City.

The EDT team today consisted of representatives from the City of St. Cloud (Matt Glaesman, Scott Zlotnik), Ted Klein, his wife Jane, Larry Klein, and Mr. Klein's attorneys from Rinke-Noonan (Jane Esch, Gary Leistico), and me. We arrived at the site at 12:30 PM and spent approximately 45 minutes. We walked a loop through the area and ended with a brief conversation.

I was part of the previous EDT committee that was established to examine a site plan submitted by Mr. Klein/Johnson Materials in November 2017. The plan was to excavate the granite from the site. Ultimately the plan was rejected because it would destroy the existing natural rock communities without offering any alternatives. The EDT committee was reconvened for a second time a year later (November 2018) to assess damage to the site from logging. Reports from both of my visits are available on request.

## **Rationale for Visit:**

As I understand, there were two reasons for our visit today to the site: (1) to consider a plan, presented verbally on-site by Mr. Klein, to remove grout piles and to be able to access his land on the south side of the property; and (2) for the EDT to examine and assess the current biological status of the site after logging.

As a scientific advisor on the committee, my role is to "work in an advisory capacity to the owner/developer proposing [a] project (**Article 6. Section 3.5-1**)" and to report the findings to the EDT (**Article 6. Section 3.4-3**). The following is the report of my opinion concerning:

### **1. Plan to Remove Grout Pile(s) & Access Land on the South Side of the Property**

If I understood correctly, Mr. Klein proposed using the current/existing logging road to access the south end of the property. He also proposed removing one or more grout piles from the site.

Though I know that one of the piles is the one closest to the entrance at the north end, I'm still unclear to which other(s) he may have been referring.

In my opinion, using the existing logging road to access the south side of the property will not do additional new damage to the property so long as the road does not go on any rocky outcrop areas and remains to the west side of the property along the fenceline or as near as possible. Using this road should not cause damage to any sensitive biological communities that may remain on the property.

In my opinion, removing the northernmost grout pile near the entrance could be done in an environmentally friendly manner minimizing disruption to the rest of the site. If Mr. Klein accessed this pile from a road along the fence on the west side of the property as he proposed, and avoids the rocky areas, it should minimize further damage to the rocky outcrop communities. I am unaware of any biological reason the piles would need to be preserved. I have no opinion about any grout pile other than the northernmost one.

## **2. Current State of the Site**

Other responsibilities of the scientific member(s) of the EDT are to “help determine more accurately the boundaries of the ESA, connections of the natural communities present on and adjacent to the property, and the quality and significance of the identified environmentally sensitive areas (**Article 6. Section 3.4-1**).” Unfortunately, I am unable to make any specific conclusions about the current state of the site, including existing damage and the extent to which the site has recovered since November 2018, because it would require a longer and more extensive visit.

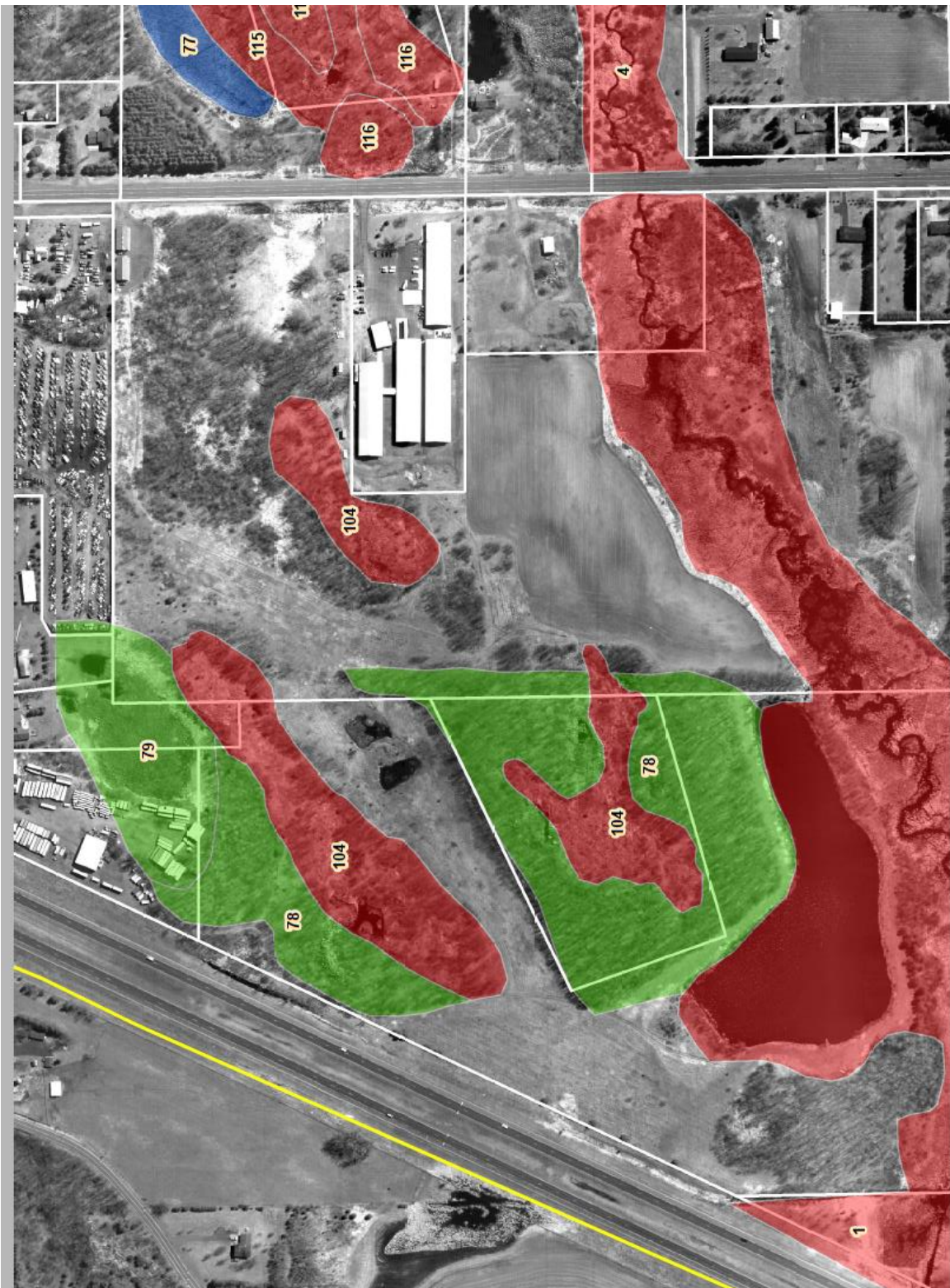


Figure 1. Map showing Natural Areas Inventory sites (including 78, 104). Map provided by the City of St. Cloud.





Figure 2. Aerial view of Sites 78 & 104 from the Stearns County Landuse Map. Accessed at <https://gis.co.stearns.mn.us/Landuse-Restriction/default.aspx> on December 13, 2017.