

2008:

MN Department of Natural Resources presented the completed aggregate resource map to Mille Lacs County residents.

2010/11:

Mille Lacs County completed work on the county's GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping project, include the web application which allows the public to access information regarding land including:

- Aerial Photos
- Wetlands
- Ditches
- Shoreland
- Flood Zones
- Zoning Districts
- Zoning Documents
- Aggregate Resource Potential

The 2008 aggregate map was incorporated as a layer on the county's GIS web application:

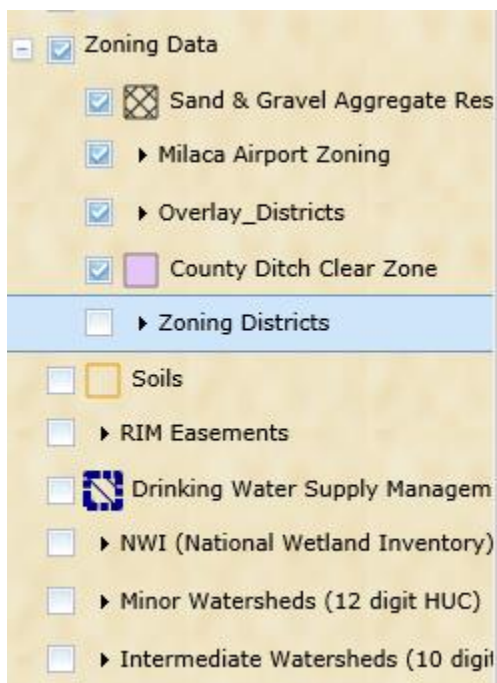


Figure 1, Excerpt from GIS web application

The aggregate map can be turned on or off like any other layer available to the public:

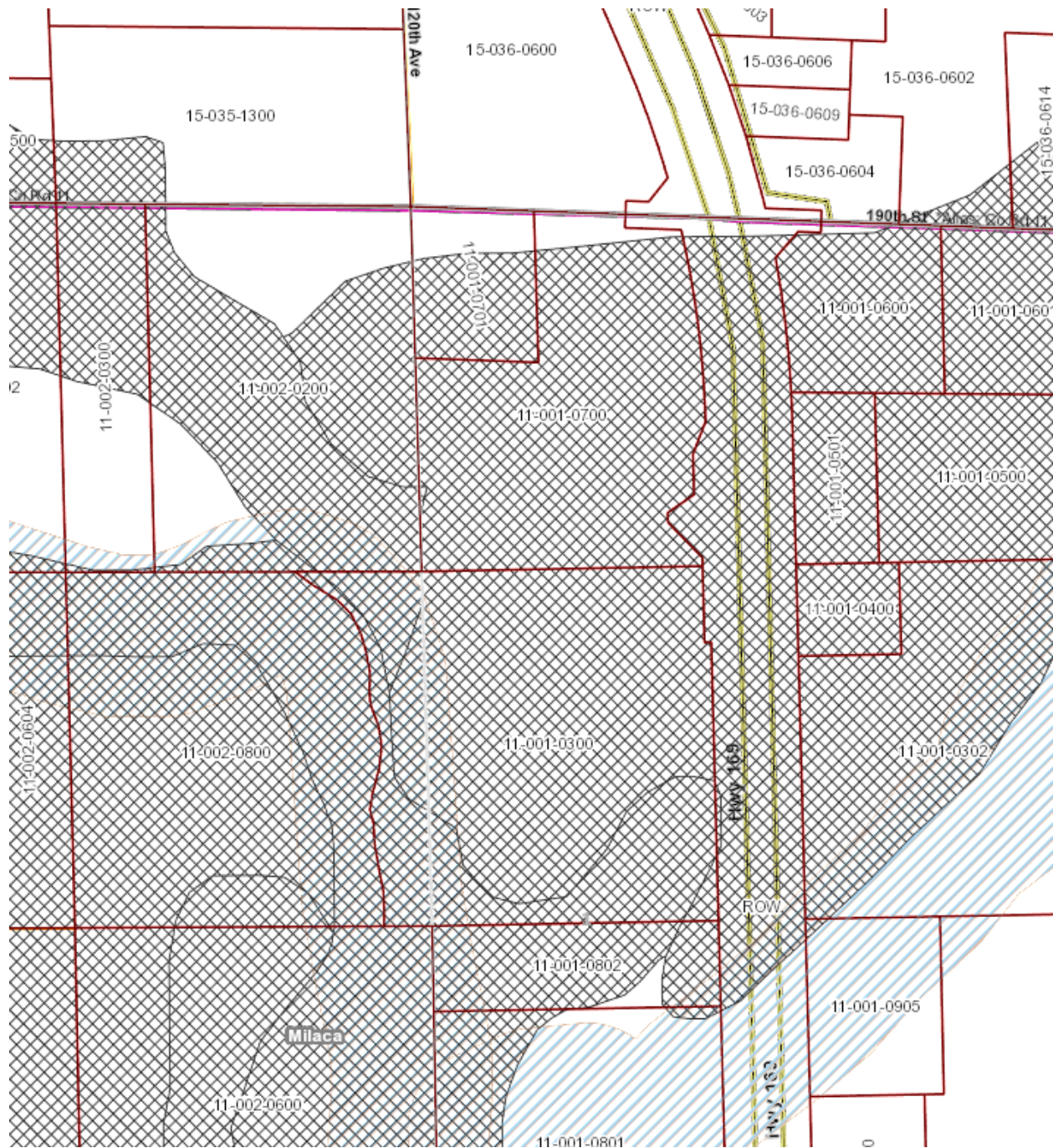


Figure 2: Excerpt from the GIS web application, aerial photo turned off.

The aggregate map layer only shows those areas with high sand and gravel potential.

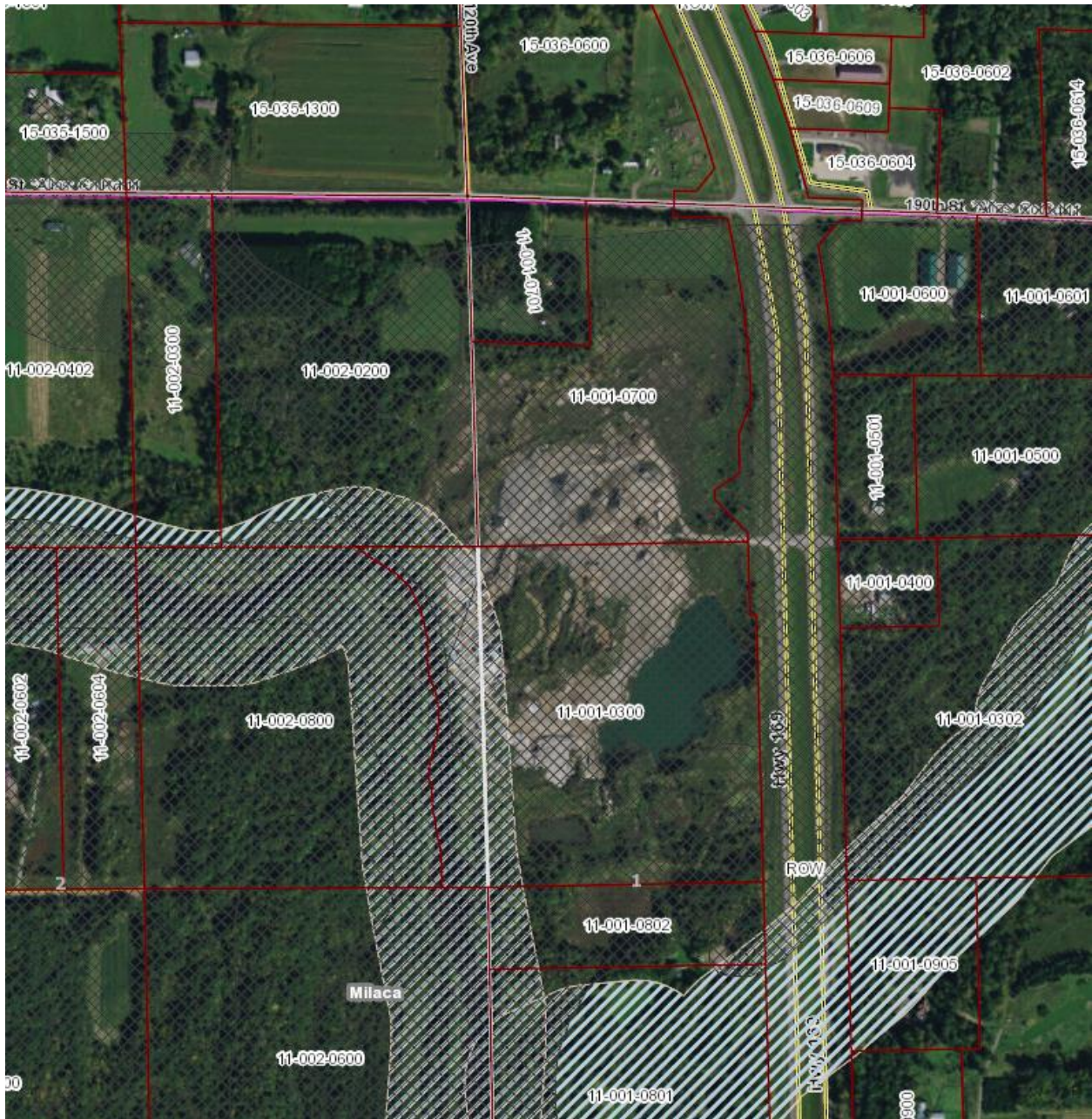


Figure 3: Same Excerpt from the GIS web application with the aerial photo turned on.



History of Aggregate Extraction Regulations

1972:

First interim zoning ordinance adopted by Mille Lacs County. Mining and extraction was a conditional use permit; there were no specific performance standards other than the general standards relating to issuance of a conditional use permit.

1978:

Mining and extraction remained a conditional use permit with a three (3) year time limit. Standards for application submittal were detailed and stringent, requiring information on areas within 500 feet of the site. Standards were confusing as “mining” was a permitted use in the Agricultural District, but all processing was a conditional use. Setbacks and hours of operation were established.

1992:

Significant revision to the entire Development Code. Mining and extraction clearly established as a conditional use permit with yearly review by the Zoning Administrator. Yearly reviews were difficult given that most conditions were limited to “yearly review by the Zoning Administrator” and were not always specific to the site or operational limitations. Application submittal requirements were relaxed somewhat as was the specific three (3) year time limit. The ordinance acknowledged a “renewal”, but there was no determination regarding what would trigger said “renewal”.

2004:

Significant revision to the mining provisions of the Development Code. Reestablishment of the three (3) year conditional use permit and the significant application requirements from 1978. Established the 10 acre open mine limitation, performance bond for reclamation purposes and prescriptive standards for dust control, fencing, screening and other operational requirements.

2008:

Mining and excavation became an interim use permit once that authority was granted to counties.

2015:

Adoption of an entirely new Development Ordinance. Mining and extraction became an allowed use in all districts except Shoreland which is specifically regulated by MN Rules 6120. Standards adopted for mining and extraction were reduced to the following:

- 504.22 Mining and Gravel Extraction, Extractive Use. Mining and gravel extraction, extractive uses are an allowed use, provided that the following requirements are met:
- A. All operations shall comply with the Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) standards in regards to slopes, working faces, safety fencing, and the like.
 - B. All operations may excavate, screen, crush, wash, and produce asphalt or concrete with portable plants.
 - C. To minimize adverse effects on neighboring properties, hours of operation shall be limited to 7:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday. No mining and processing operations shall occur on Sundays or holidays.
 - D. To minimize adverse effects on neighboring properties, operations shall be screened from the view of adjacent residential uses by the use of topography, stockpiles, or vegetation, or a combination thereof.
 - E. Processing of mined materials shall not be conducted closer than one hundred (100) feet to the property line or five hundred (500) feet to any residential dwelling located on an adjacent parcel.
 - F. Excavation of materials shall not occur closer than two hundred (200) feet from a residential dwelling located on an adjacent parcel.
 - G. Three-to-one (3:1) slopes shall be maintained adjacent to the property or right-of-way line. This standard may be waived with a written and executed agreement with the adjacent property owner. Such agreement shall be recorded in the Office of the County Recorder.
 - H. Once mining is complete, the site shall be restored with slopes not exceeding four-to-one (4:1), and vegetated. The operator shall maintain a bond or letter of credit in the amount of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars per active mining acre in favor of the County to ensure restoration is completed.