

October 12, 2005



Mr. Bob Block  
Chairman, Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners  
Government Services Center, 515 Fir Avenue West  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RECEIVED  
OCT 17 2005  
LAND & RESOURCE

Dear Mr. Block:

Mr. Doug Martin of the Dead Lake Association has requested that I comment on the proposed Blue Heron Bay Development on Dead Lake. As State Archaeologist, I have no official role in the EAW or EIS process, but I do have a general responsibility to help protect archaeological resources in the state as well as a specific responsibility under Minnesota Statutes 307.08 to protect unmarked cemeteries. I am therefore giving you my expert advice with regard to potential archaeological impacts to archaeological sites and unmarked cemeteries within the Blue Heron Bay development.

In September of 2002, a cultural resource management firm, 4G, conducted an archaeological survey of the Blue Heron Bay development area. I have reviewed the 4G report and find that it is inadequate both with respect to field methods and reporting. Even using sub-standard methods, the 4G survey crew found archaeological evidences. This is not surprising considering peninsulas in major lakes have a very high potential to contain remains of Indian village sites.

While there are no recorded Indian burial mounds within the development area, central Otter Tail County is known to contain hundreds of such mounds, some in locations similar to the development area on Dead Lake. In addition, several members of the public have reported possible mounds in the development area. The presence of an Indian cemetery within the development area is speculative at this point and I am hesitant to require that a cemetery survey be done until I have additional information from a general archaeological survey of the area.

As State Archaeologist, I recommend that an adequate archaeological survey be completed of the Blue Heron Bay development in order to help fully assess the impacts of this development on archaeological sites and unmarked cemeteries.

Sincerely,

Scott Anfinson  
Minnesota State Archaeologist (651-297-4418)

Cc: Doug Martin, Dead Lake Association  
Bill Kalar, Otter Tail County Land and Resource Director  
David Arbeit, Minnesota Department of Administration