

# WATERFORD TOWNSHIP



*"where the path from the past and the future meets"*

## **Resolution 2026-01 Adopting Ordinance 2026-01 Amending the Zoning Ordinance of Waterford Township Related to Mining**

**WHEREAS**, Waterford Township (hereinafter referred to as the **"Township"**) under Minnesota State Statute 365.02 (a) is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, the Waterford Town Board previously adopted and amended a Zoning Ordinance in 2001, 2019 and 2024 (the **"Waterford Zoning Ordinance"**), establishing permitting requirements, environmental review procedures and performance standards to regulate mineral extraction; and

**WHEREAS**, after extensive review by the Waterford Town Board of Commissioners and the Waterford Town Planning Commission, a revised Waterford Zoning Ordinance has been drafted and proposed for adoption (**"Zoning Ordinance 2026-01"**); and

**WHEREAS**, the Waterford Town Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding Zoning Ordinance 2026-01 and recommended that the Town Board adopt Zoning Ordinance 2026-01.

### **Section 1. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Waterford Zoning Ordinance is as follows:

In addition to the purposes stated in Section 2 and Section 7.01 of the Waterford Zoning Ordinance, it is intended that the provisions in the Waterford Zoning Ordinance, particularly Section 7.23, regulate mineral excavation to protect the agrarian Waterford community, to reinforce long term agriculture as contemplated by the Comprehensive Plan and balance the competing land use goals of mineral extraction and agriculture. It is the intent of this section to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community and its residents through the following objectives:

1. Ensure compatibility of mineral extraction activities with the Waterford Township Comprehensive Plan.
2. Establish regulations to minimize potential conflicts between mining and other existing and future land uses.
3. Protect and preserve the agricultural economy and social characteristics of the agricultural community.
4. Protect agricultural land from premature conversion to non-farm uses.
5. Protect residents from potential negative impacts associated with mineral extraction.

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6. Establish permitting requirements, environmental review procedures and performance standards to regulate mineral extraction.
7. Protect the natural environment and landforms from negative impacts and incompatible alterations due to mineral extraction activities.
8. Restrict mineral extraction activities that create permanent depressions in the natural landscape, which are not conducive to agricultural uses because of poor drainage, permanent ponding problems, or unworkable slopes.
9. Establish regulations and standards that restore or enhance extracted areas to suitable farmland conditions.
10. Protect and mitigate Township roads from unsafe conditions, overuse and potential damage from mineral extraction activities.
11. Establish standards and financial guarantees that ensure that mineral extracted land is restored to a condition compatible with adjacent properties and suitable for future land uses which are compatible with the Waterford Township Comprehensive Plan.

## Section 2. Findings.

2.01. The recitals and purpose set forth above are incorporated into this Resolution and findings.

2.02. Waterford Township finds that amending the Waterford Zoning Ordinance via Ordinance 2026-01 is necessary for the promotion and preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the community that mineral extraction and associated accessory uses and potential on-site and off-site impacts be controlled. Further, the Township finds:

1. it is necessary to rescind its prior mineral extraction ordinance and to enact a new, uniformly applied mineral extraction ordinance. The Township intends the Waterford Zoning Ordinance as amended via Ordinance 2026-01 to replace any prior mineral extraction ordinances;
2. it is necessary to clarify, via a zoning map amendment, the property within the community which is eligible for a mineral extraction permit subject to performance standards in the ordinance;
3. it is necessary to require uniform performance standards for granting of a mineral extraction permit through an interim use permit process;
4. it is necessary to have clear and concise regulations for granting of a mineral extraction interim use permit to protect owner's investments in their property;
5. it is necessary to have more stringent standards for mineral extraction to ensure groundwater and surface water are not adversely impacted by proposed extraction activities which can impact the agricultural uses within the community;
6. the implementation of permitted mineral extraction affects the public health, safety, and welfare of the community and appropriate performance standards are necessary;
7. the continued compliance, as reviewed on an annual basis, of permitted mineral extraction uses is of public interest and affects the health, safety and welfare of the community;
8. in consideration of Ordinance 2026-01, the Township through its Planning Commission, its Board of

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Supervisors, and its consultants have reviewed the proposed ordinance language on multiple occasions via public hearings, work sessions and meetings and has considered all submitted comments, both orally and in writing, from Township residents and others (with a list of written comments on file with the Town Clerk and such list of written comments being incorporated herein by reference) such that the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors believes that it has considered, reviewed and addressed all comments adequately in the record supporting Ordinance 2026-01.

## **Section 3. Adoption and Implementation.**

3.01. The Town Board hereby adopts and approves Zoning Ordinance 2026-01 as presented to the Town Board on this January 21, 2026.

3.02 The Town Board directs that the Chairman and Town Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and deliver this Resolution and Zoning Ordinance 2026-1 as necessary to implement this Resolution.

3.03. The Town Board directs Township staff to take any appropriate action and to prepare any appropriate documents to facilitate the directives of the Town Board as set forth in this Resolution and to take any and all additional steps and actions necessary or convenient in order to accomplish the intent of this Resolution.

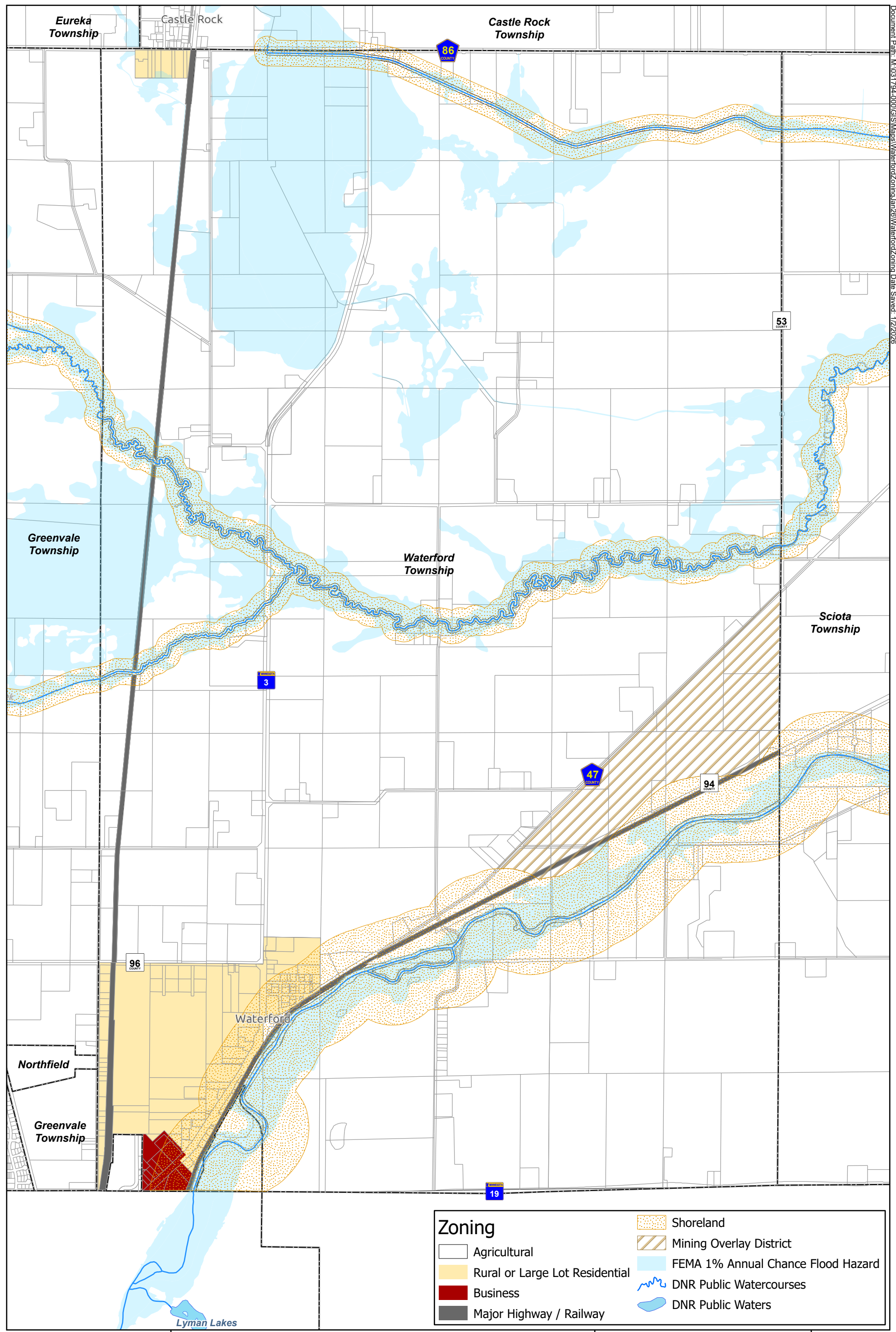
**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Town Board Resolution is effective upon the date of its adoption, January 21, 2026.

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Brett Stadler, Chairperson

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Tom Davis, Town Clerk



<b>Zoning</b>	
Agricultural	Shoreland
Rural or Large Lot Residential	Mining Overlay District
Business	FEMA 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
Major Highway / Railway	DNR Public Watercourses
	DNR Public Waters

**Waterford Township Zoning**

Dakota County, MN

