

Telephone conversation between John Anfinson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District Historian and Michelle Heller, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Nov 3, 1999.

Ms. Heller questioned Dr. Anfinson about his knowledge of the highway 55 project and of the background of the area and tribes.

Dr. Anfinson explained that his brother Scott is an archeologist in the SHPO office and they have talked about the case. The Corps has not been involved as there have been no permit issues for the area yet. Dr. Anfinson has experience dealing with Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) since there are 28 tribes in his Corps district.

Dr. Anfinson provided some background on the history of the area. He then stated that there is no basis to argue for the four trees or anything in the area as a TCP. He said that the spring supposedly had traditional cultural association but expressed that written evidence needs to be compared to oral testimony in determining whether this is a political move on the part of tribes.

Dr. Anfinson has been using bulletin 38 in his determination of what constitutes a TCP though he believes that this bulletin needs to be reworked. He explained that what constitutes a community needs to be defined. For example he asks, "Do eight or ten people out of a tribe of 100 constitute a community?"

He also questioned what would be considered as an adequate level of evidence and states that these things need to be defined by the National Register of Historic Places. He stated that the issue of the spring is a National Register question and suggested that we talk to Carol Schull. He believes that the evidence should be weighed to determine whether it constitutes a community interest to some Native American community. He doesn't believe that the evidence is there to support them.

He further went on to explain that this issue has been embarrassing to the Native American community because of the large amount of protesting with the lack of evidence to support the claim.