

POMROY TOWNSHIP

KANABEC COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE

PLAN

FINAL DRAFT of UPDATED PLAN

**REVIEWED BY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

JANUARY 21, 2010

**REVIEWED BY TOWN ATTORNEY
APRIL 7 and JUNE 30, 2010**

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POMROY TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Legal Authority

Towns within the State of Minnesota have the legal authority to develop comprehensive land use plans to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the town's residents. This authority is granted in Minnesota Statutes, sections 462.351 through 462.364.

Purpose of Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of Pomroy Township's Comprehensive Plan is to guide the Town Board, the Planning Commission, and the citizens in considering the future growth and development of the Town. By establishing a set of goals and policies, the Plan is the Town's public position regarding how the Town Board and the Planning Commission will manage public and private development within the Town.

Comprehensive planning is a continuous process. No person, whether town official, professional planner, or concerned citizen, can foresee all changes that may affect the town in the future. As new conditions and needs arise or the goals and policies of the Town change, the comprehensive plan must be revised to reflect these new conditions. It will be necessary to update and revise plans on an ongoing or periodic basis. The changes may or may not be crucial or dramatic, but updates allow for changing conditions to be taken into consideration. Therefore, a plan must be envisioned by government officials and citizens as a guide that will reflect and consider change when change is apparent and necessary, rather than as a strict unyielding document that locks a Town into a pattern that may no longer serve its needs or be beneficial to its existing and future residents.

A comprehensive plan provides the basis on which official controls such as a zoning ordinance and a zoning map are developed. Together these documents serve to implement the comprehensive plan. Since the comprehensive plan is intended to describe a desirable arrangement of land uses, the Planning Commission and Town Board should use the plan, the zoning ordinance, and the zoning map together as a reference and guide when making decisions about development in the Town.

Finally, amendments to the zoning ordinance and zoning map should align with the comprehensive plan's goal and policies for future land use. Conversely, if changes are made to the comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance and zoning map should be reviewed to determine if amendments are needed. If conditions warrant such changes, they should be considered simultaneously in order to maintain a current, effective, and legal planning program.

Elements of Comprehensive Plan

Pomroy Township's Comprehensive Plan consists of three main sections: the Survey and Analysis, Goals and Policies, and Development Plan.

The **Survey and Analysis** section describes factors which have and will continue to influence development. These factors include the Town's location, population demographics and density, housing characteristics, the social and economic characteristics of the population, the physical environment, existing land use, transportation, and public facilities and services. The Survey and Analysis may include a discussion of deficiencies in the existing system which should be corrected.

The **Goals and Policies** section reflects the expressed values and desires of the community relative to the growth and development of Pomroy Township. The Goals and Policies establish a public position which guide the Planning Commission and Town Board in their decision making.

The **Development Plan** section presents a plan for future land use that reflects the existing conditions identified in the Survey and Analysis and the Goals and Policies sections. The Development Plan includes a future land use plan map which geographically locates the desired land uses and development densities within the Town. It also includes a plan for the future development and/or improvement of public facilities and services, if any.

II. SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

Location

Pomroy Township is located in northeastern part of Kanabec County and adjacent to Pine County. The Town is eleven miles northeast of the City of Mora and seven miles west of the City of Hinckley. The Town is approximately seventy-five miles north of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and seventy-five miles south-west of Duluth. Pomroy Township's regional location is shown on Map 1, and its location in Kanabec County is shown on Map 2.

Population

The demographics of the Town are an important consideration in planning for future land uses. An analysis of past population trends and the projection of future populations can provide an insight into factors which have influenced past growth and those which will affect future growth. Table 1 shows the past and current estimated population data for Pomroy Township.

**TABLE 1
POPULATION OF
POMROY TOWNSHIP AND KANABEC COUNTY
1930 – 2009**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POMROY TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>KANABEC COUNTY</u>	<u>POMROY AS % OF KANABEC COUNTY</u>
1900	Data not available	4,614	Not applicable
1910	Data not available	6,461	Not applicable
1920	462	9,086	5.1
1930	382	8,558	4.4
1940	423	9,651	4.3
1950	382	9,192	4.2
1960	304	9,007	3.4
1970	281	9,775	2.9
1980	342	12,161	2.8
1990	321	12,802	2.5
2000	390	14,996	2.6
2008 (estimate)	390	16,091	2.4
2009 (estimate)	415	15,899	2.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1 indicates that, overall, Pomroy Township's total population has fallen 10% since 1920, while that of Kanabec County has increased 75%. During the same period, Pomroy Township's share of the County's total population was reduced by nearly one-half.

Despite the overall decline in population, Table 2 shows that Pomroy Township experienced three decades in which there was population growth: 1930-1940, 1970-1980, and 1990-2000. By contrast, Kanabec County's growth pattern has been consistently upward.

TABLE 2
POPULATION CHANGE (PERCENT) FOR
POMROY TOWNSHIP AND KANABEC COUNTY, 1940 - 2000

	<u>1920- 1930</u>	<u>1930- 1940</u>	<u>1940- 1950</u>	<u>1950- 1960</u>	<u>1960- 1970</u>	<u>1970- 1980</u>	<u>1980- 1990</u>	<u>1990- 2000</u>
Pomroy Twp.	-17%	+11%	-10%	-20%	-8%	+22%	-6%	+21%
Kanabec County	-6%	+13%	+5%	-2%	+9%	+24%	+5%	+17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3 illustrates population density in Pomroy Township and in Kanabec County in 1990 and 2000. Pomroy Township's population density increased 22% between 1990 and 2000, and housing unit density increased 17%. By comparison, density in Kanabec County increased at a lower rate with population density increasing 17% and housing units 12%.

TABLE 3
DENSITY PER SQUARE MILE OF LAND AREA
POMROY TOWNSHIP AND KANABEC COUNTY, 1990 and 2000

		<u>1990</u>		<u>2000</u>	
	Land Area in square miles	Population	Housing units	Population	Housing units
Pomroy Twp.	37.60	8.5	4.2	10.4	4.9
Kanabec County	524.93	24.4	11.6	28.6	13.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Characteristics

The following data profile the characteristics of housing in Pomroy Township in 2000:

Occupied Housing Characteristics

- Total housing units - 185
- Total occupied units - 144
- Total owner occupied units - 133 (92.4%)
- Total renter occupied units – 11
- Total number of mobile homes – 33 (18.8%)
- Average household size – 2.71 persons
- One-person households – 13.2%
- Households with householder 65 years and over – 22.9%

Structural and Facility Characteristics of All Housing Units

Median number of rooms – 5.0
Lacking complete plumbing facilities – 16.5%
Lacking complete kitchen facilities – 10.8%
Built between 1990 and March 2000 – 20.5%
Built 1939 or earlier – 18.8%
Median year structure built – 1973
Median value for all owner-occupied housing units -- \$102,900
Median value for mobile homes -- \$36,900

Unoccupied Housing Characteristics

Total unoccupied/vacant units – 41
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use – 34
For sale only – 1
Rented or sold, not occupied – 1
Other vacant – 5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Social Characteristics

The 2000 Census provides the following information on the social characteristics of the Township's residents.

Fifty-five percent of Pomroy Township's population is male, and 45% is female. The median age is 42.2 years, and 14% are 65 years and over.

Nearly all respondents -- 96% -- categorized their race as white.

Among the 144 households in Pomroy Township,

- 81% are family households.
- 37% have children under 18 years old.
- 69% of the family households are married-couple families.
- Average family size is 2.98 persons.

Of the population 25 years and over, 81% graduated from high school or higher, and 7% have a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent of the population 18 years and over are civilian veterans, and 17% of persons 5 years and over have a disability.

Economic Characteristics

According to the 2000 Census, two-thirds of Pomroy Township's population 16 years and older is in the civilian labor force. Of these persons,

- 91% were employed in 1999.
- 87% commuted to work via car, truck, or van.
- Only 3.3% of the 182 employed workers had occupations in farming, fishing, or forestry.

The mean travel time to work was 31.7 minutes.

Income levels for Pomroy Township residents in 1999 were generally higher than those of Kanabec County as a whole, but poverty rates were also higher.

**TABLE 4
INCOME
POMROY TOWNSHIP AND KANABEC COUNTY, 1999**

	<u>Pomroy Township</u>	<u>Kanabec County</u>
Per capita income	\$20,134	\$17,741
Median household income	\$41,429	\$38,520
Median family income	\$43,000	\$43,603
Median retirement income	\$16,466	\$12,890
Median earnings		
Male full-time, year-round workers	\$30,938	\$32,329
Female full-time, year-round workers	\$20,568	\$22,309
Percent of families below poverty level	8.8%	6.4%
Percent of individuals below poverty level	10.7%	9.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Physical Environment

Topography

The Town is 37.6 square miles in area. Topography is nearly level to gently sloping. The greatest relief is associated with Pokegama Creek and the South Fork of the Grindstone River, both located within the Town.

Soils

A soils map of Kanabec County is shown as Map 3; detailed maps along with a key to soil types are on file in the Clerk's office. The Town's soils consist of four associations. The predominant series is the Milaca-Ronneby Association, followed next by the Greenwood-Loxley-Beseman Association, Omega-Nemadji Association, and the Rosholt-Onamia Association.

The Greenwood-Loxley-Beseman Association, which is peat and muck soils, has physical properties conducive to flooding, low strength, poor percolation, frost action and other characteristics which make them hazardous to buildings or roads constructed upon them. Extensive development should be discouraged in areas of the Greenwood-Loxley-Beseman Association. The Milaca-Ronneby and Omega-Nemadji associations have areas of somewhat poorly drained soils, and a detailed site analysis should be conducted for any development proposals within these areas.

Shoreland

“Shoreland” is defined as the land within 1,000 feet from the normal high watermark of a lake, pond, or flowage and land within 300 feet of a river or stream or the landward side of a floodplain delineated by ordinance on the river or stream, whichever is greater. (Minnesota Statutes § 103F.205, subd. 4) The Minnesota Shorelands Management Act establishes minimum

lot sizes, building setbacks, and other provisions to protect the quality of the waters and adjacent lands. For this reason, the shorelands of the Town are identified as environmentally sensitive areas requiring special management. The shoreland areas in the Town are associated with the presence of Pomroy Lake, Peace Lake, and South Fork of the Grindstone River.

Existing Land Use

Forested land constitutes the major land use and cover. Marsh land is the next most common cover, followed by pasture and open land, and cultivated lands. One half of a section in the northwest corner of the Town is state-owned land in the Snake River State Forest.

Map 5 indicates land ownership and the location of residences.

Transportation System

The transportation system of Pomroy Township is shown on Map 6. This map indicates the jurisdiction of roads and road surface.

Of the approximate miles of roads within Pomroy Township, none are state trunk highways, 24.5 miles are county state aid roads, 4 miles are county roads, and 16.5 miles are Town roads. The Town Board currently contracts with a private company for the maintenance of the Town roads.

Public Facilities/Services

There are no public water or sewer systems within the Town. All existing water and sewer systems are on-site systems.

The Town does not provide any designated parks or recreational facilities.

The Town Hall is located on C.S.A.H. 20 in Section 11. The Town Hall, constructed in 2003, consists of a meeting room, an office for Town staff, a utility closet, and a bathroom. The Town Hall is used for meetings of the Town Board and Planning Commission and as a polling place during elections.

Fire and emergency services are provided through contracts with the Mora Volunteer Fire Department and the Hinckley Volunteer Fire Department. The Kanabec County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services.

The Pomroy Township Board of Supervisors, with the assistance of the Planning Commission and a Zoning Administrator, provides planning and zoning services.

III. GOALS AND POLICIES

As stated in the Introduction, goals and policies represent the values and desires of the citizens of the community concerning land use within and the growth and development of Pomroy Township. The goals and policies establish a public position to guide the recommendations of the Planning Commission and the decisions of the Town Board in managing public and private development within Pomroy Township. Either singularly or in combination, these goals and policies shall serve as the basis in the adoption of official controls, including zoning and other ordinances, to ensure consistent, planned, and orderly development and redevelopment within the Town.

Goals are broad statements that describe the physical and social environment desired.

Policies are statements of the values which will guide short- and long-term management practices leading to achievement of the goals.

Pomroy Township has adopted goals and policies in three areas:

- Natural Environment,
- Land Use, and
- Public Services and Utilities.

Natural Environment

Goal - To preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas and unique features from development.

Policies

1. The area's forests, lakes, streams, and other unique or historic features shall be appropriately managed to be preserved for future generations.
2. The quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater resources shall be preserved by the appropriate regulation of all development activities which have the potential of impacting the water resources of the Town.
3. Development that would have an adverse impact on wetland functions, such as storm water storage, natural drainage systems, nutrient removal, plant and animal habitat, and ground water recharge areas shall be in compliance with applicable state law.
4. Natural drainage systems and ground water recharge areas shall be preserved, and alterations to or actions on these systems which negatively affect infiltration and runoff of water shall be prohibited.
5. Slopes and areas of land susceptible to severe erosion shall be maintained in a natural

state. Areas of moderate erosion potential should be managed to minimize erosion.

6. The importance of significant natural and cultural features and characteristics to the quality of life shall be recognized and appropriately managed to be preserved for future generations.

Land Use

Goal – To allow limited development only in suitable areas, to prevent incompatible land uses, and to assure that land uses and development patterns are appropriate for the level of services and facilities available.

Policies

1. The importance of open space and the rural character of the area on the quality of life shall be recognized and maintained.
2. Development shall be discouraged in those portions of the Town which have significant areas of unsuitable soils or topography for structures.
3. No structural development shall be permitted on soils with severe or very severe limitations unless acceptable engineering safeguards are employed. These limitations include:
 - a. Slope in excess of 12 percent.
 - b. Wetlands, peat and muck areas.
 - c. Areas of exposed bedrock (soil depth less than six feet).
 - d. High water table.
 - e. Soils subject to severe wind and water erosion.
 - f. Soils of low permeability.
4. Any development shall be of the type, scale, and location as to be adequately served by the existing range and level of public services, including transportation, at the most economical cost to the County, Town and School District. Developments which result in a negative fiscal impact to the Town and other governments due to increased service requirements shall be discouraged.
5. Development may be accommodated, but shall be consistent with the needs and desires of the Town; be located on or have direct access to existing, maintained roads; and not

adversely impact any existing land uses.

6. Open space and agricultural land uses shall be the primary land uses within the Town. All other uses, including residential uses, shall be considered as secondary or conditional. Agricultural uses shall occur on lots of adequate size as to not adversely impact adjacent lots. Any residential development shall be in acceptance of the existing rural agricultural environment with limited services.
7. The Town will encourage quality housing for its residents by establishing minimum standards for dwellings.
8. The open storage or accumulation of materials, equipment, or vehicles shall be limited to prevent nuisances, depreciative effects on adjacent properties, and threats to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Public Services and Facilities

Goal - To provide for a cost-effective, suitable level of services consistent with the rural characteristics and land use goals and policies of the Town.

Policies

1. Any development will be guided to occur in patterns and locations where services presently exist. Development in remote areas or development patterns which require additional services and facilities, including new roads, will be discouraged.
2. The Town shall maintain a limited level of public services and facilities, consisting primarily of fire protection and road maintenance. The Town's public service and facility standards shall be maintained and improved only when necessary to accommodate existing and planned development as allowed by the Town's Comprehensive Plan and ordinances.
3. The public investment in and mobility of the existing transportation system shall be protected by controlling land use, density, building setback, and access so that the system's capacity is not exceeded or its functionality reduced.

IV. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Future Land Use Plan

The Future Land Use Plan contains the future land use patterns and development densities desired by Pomroy Township. The plan is based on the issues, factors, and values and desires of the Town discussed in the preceding Survey and Analysis and Goals and Policies Sections.

The Future Land Use Plan identifies two development areas as shown on Map 7 -- Agricultural-Residential Area and Shorelands Area.

Agricultural-Residential Area

The Agricultural-Residential Area is characterized by forests, lowlands, agriculture, and scattered residences. A considerable portion of the area consists of soils not conducive to development.

Due to the limited transportation system and public services serving this area, existing land uses, and physical characteristics of the land, open space, and agriculture shall be the predominant land uses of the area. Residential uses shall be limited to low densities and shall be located in suitable sites served by existing public roads.

Shorelands Area

This area is subject to special management under the State Shorelands Management Act and the Kanabec County Shoreland Management Ordinance, administered by Kanabec County.

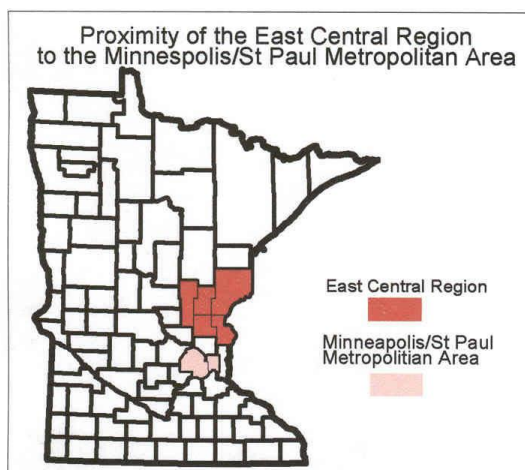
Public Services, Facilities Plan

The Town will provide a minimum level of services to accommodate a limited amount of rural development. Development proposals will be limited to the capability of the existing rural level of public service and facilities.

The existing level of public services and facilities will be maintained; there are no plans for expanding them.

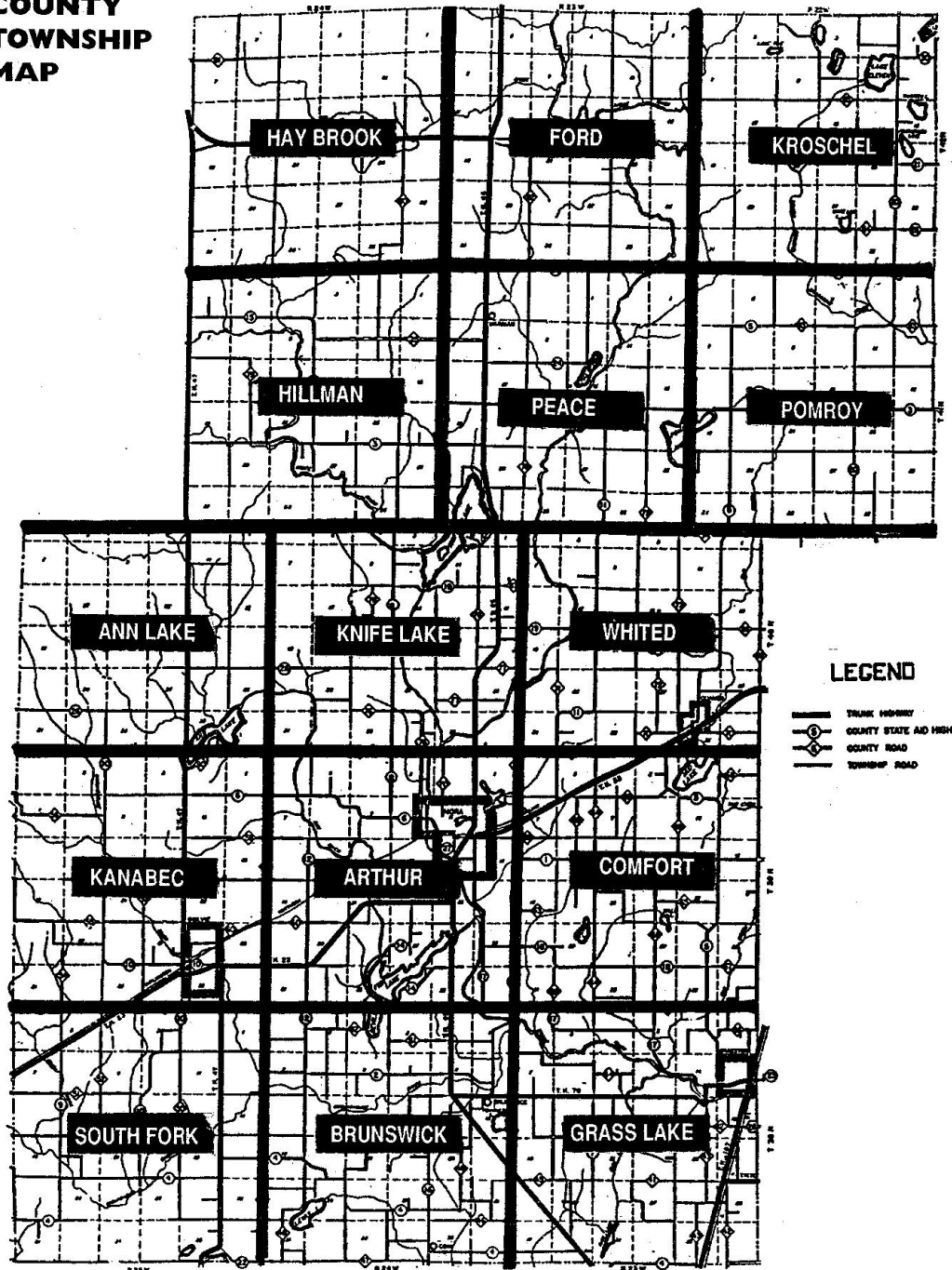
The existing transportation system will be maintained, but no new roads are planned. Services such as public water and sewer systems are not planned for the foreseeable future.

Map of Minnesota counties showing the proximity of the East Central Region to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The map includes county names, major cities, and a compass rose. The East Central Region is highlighted in the upper right corner, including counties like Birch Creek, Sturgeon Lake, Windmere, Kerrick, and Nickerson. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area is highlighted in the lower left corner, including counties like Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington.



MAP 2 COUNTY LOCATION MAP

KANABEC COUNTY TOWNSHIP MAP



MAP 4

SOILS MAP, POMROY TOWNSHIP, KANABEC COUNTY SECTIONS 3, 4, 9, 10

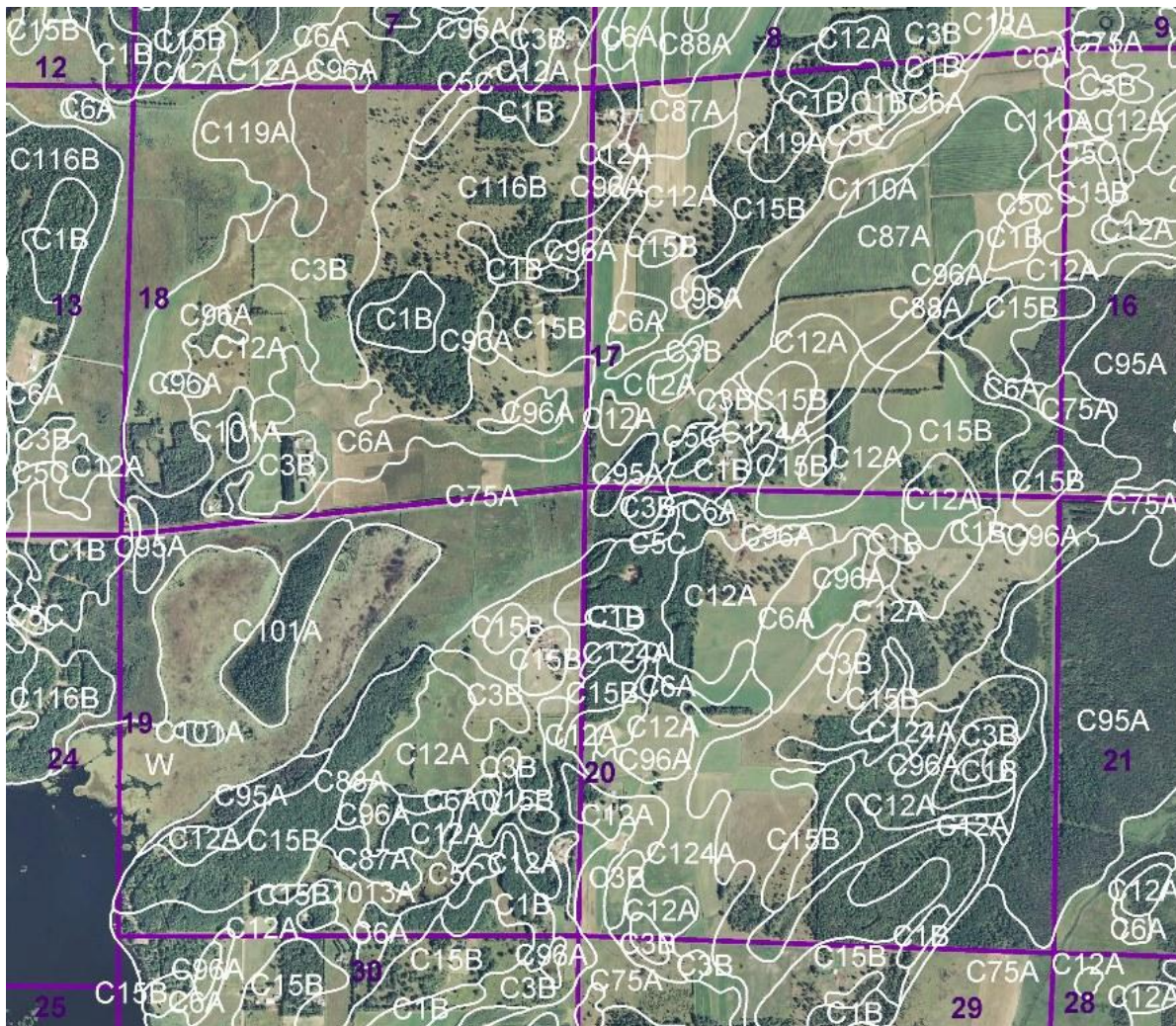
Source: Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District



MAP 8

SOILS MAP, POMROY TOWNSHIP, KANABEC COUNTY SECTIONS 17, 18, 19, 20

Source: Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District



MAP 10

SOILS MAP, POMROY TOWNSHIP, KANABEC COUNTY SECTIONS 27, 28, 33, 34

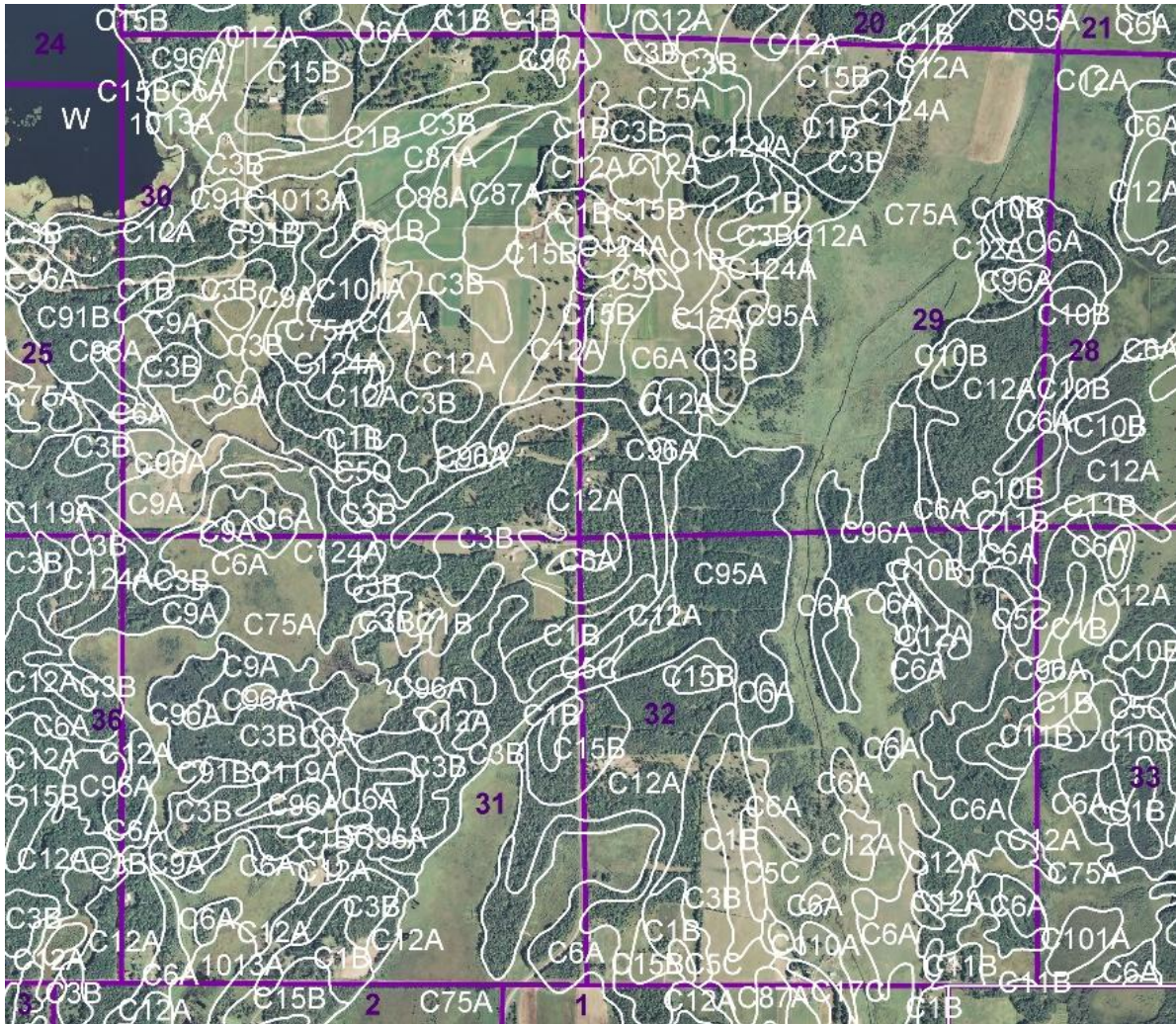
Source: Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District



MAP 11

SOILS MAP, POMROY TOWNSHIP, KANABEC COUNTY
SECTIONS 29, 30, 31, 32

Source: Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District



SOILS MAPS

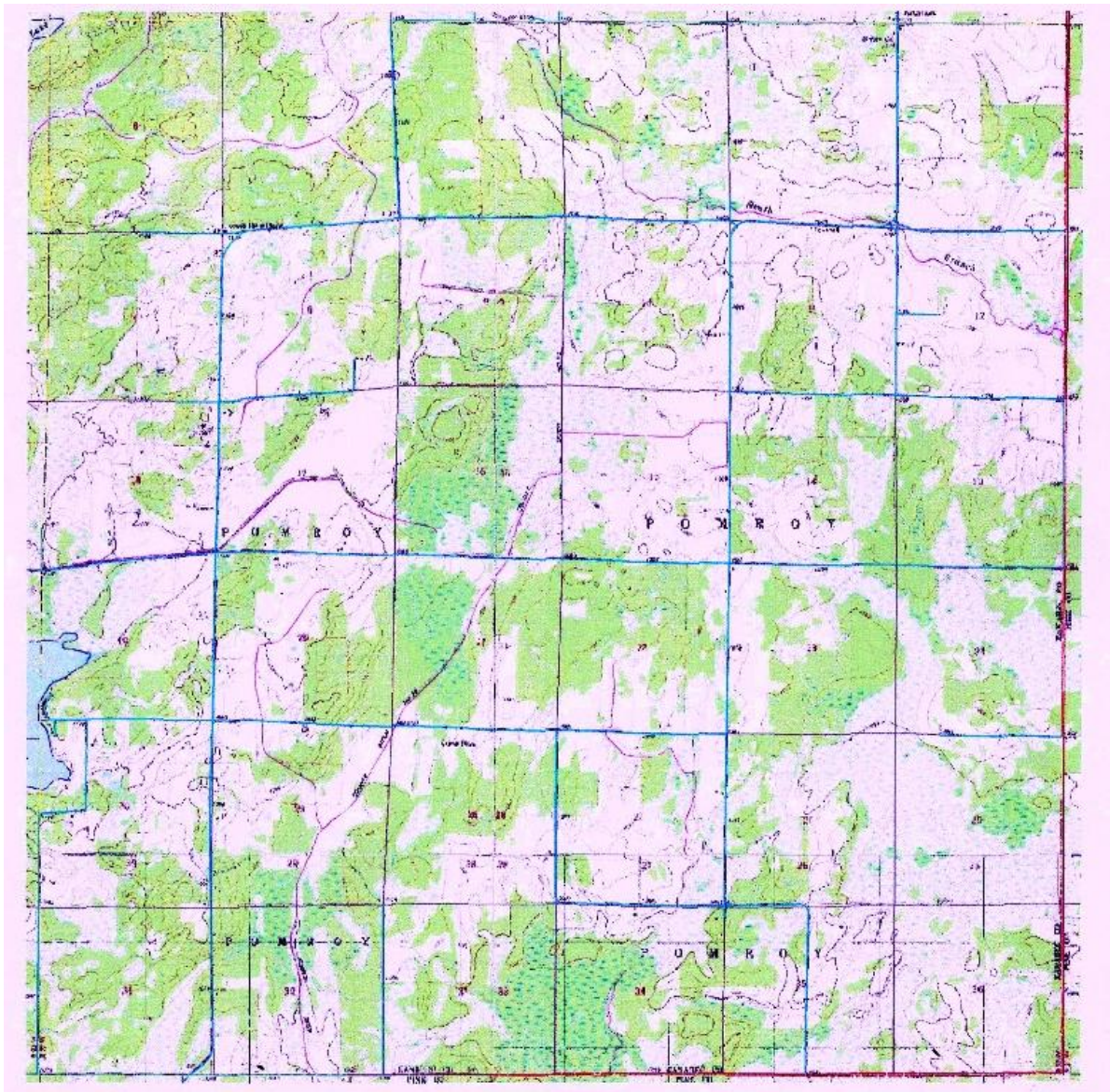
MAP UNIT LEGEND

KANABEC COUNTY

Map symbol	Map unit name
C3B	Mora fine sandy loam, 3 to 6 percent slopes, stony
C9A	Mora, wet-Cebana complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes, stony
C10B	Brennyville complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes, stony
C11B	Mora-Brennyville, wet, complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes, stony
C12A	Brennyville, wet-Cebana complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes, stony
C15B	Brennyville-Mora complex, 3 to 6 percent slopes, stony
C17B	Rosholt-Chetek complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes
C17C	Rosholt-Chetek complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes
C23B	Antigo-Chetek complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes
C24A	Billyboy-Ossmer complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C27A	Oesterle-Scott Lake complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C35A	Ossmer-Billyboy complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C40A	Scott Lake fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C75A	Seelyeville and Cathro, Milaca catena soils, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C86A	Aftad-Plover complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C87A	Plover fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C88A	Fenander fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
C91B	Milaca, stony-Chetek complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes
C91C	Milaca, stony-Chetek complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes
C95A	Seelyeville and Cathro (Milaca catena) soils, wooded, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C96A	Cathro, Twig, and Giese, stony, soils, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C97A	Cathro, sandy substratum, and Seelyeville soils, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C101A	Greenwood mucky peat (Milaca catena), 0 to 1 percent slopes
C103A	Cathro, sandy substratum, and Seelyeville soils, wooded, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C107A	Fenander fine sandy loam, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes
C108A	Hulligan loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
C110A	Annriver silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
C116B	Mora, stony-Brennyville, stony-Cathro complex, pitted, 0 to 6 percent slopes
C119A	Brennyville, stony-Cebana, stony-Cathro complex, pitted, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C124A	Cebana, stony-Cathro complex, pitted, 0 to 2 percent slopes
C130B	Mora, stony-Chetek complex, 2 to 6 percent slopes
C133A	Brennyville, stony-Scottlake complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
C139A	Minocqua silt loam, depressional, thick solum, 0 to 1 percent slopes
GP	Pits, gravel-Udipsamments complex
W	Water

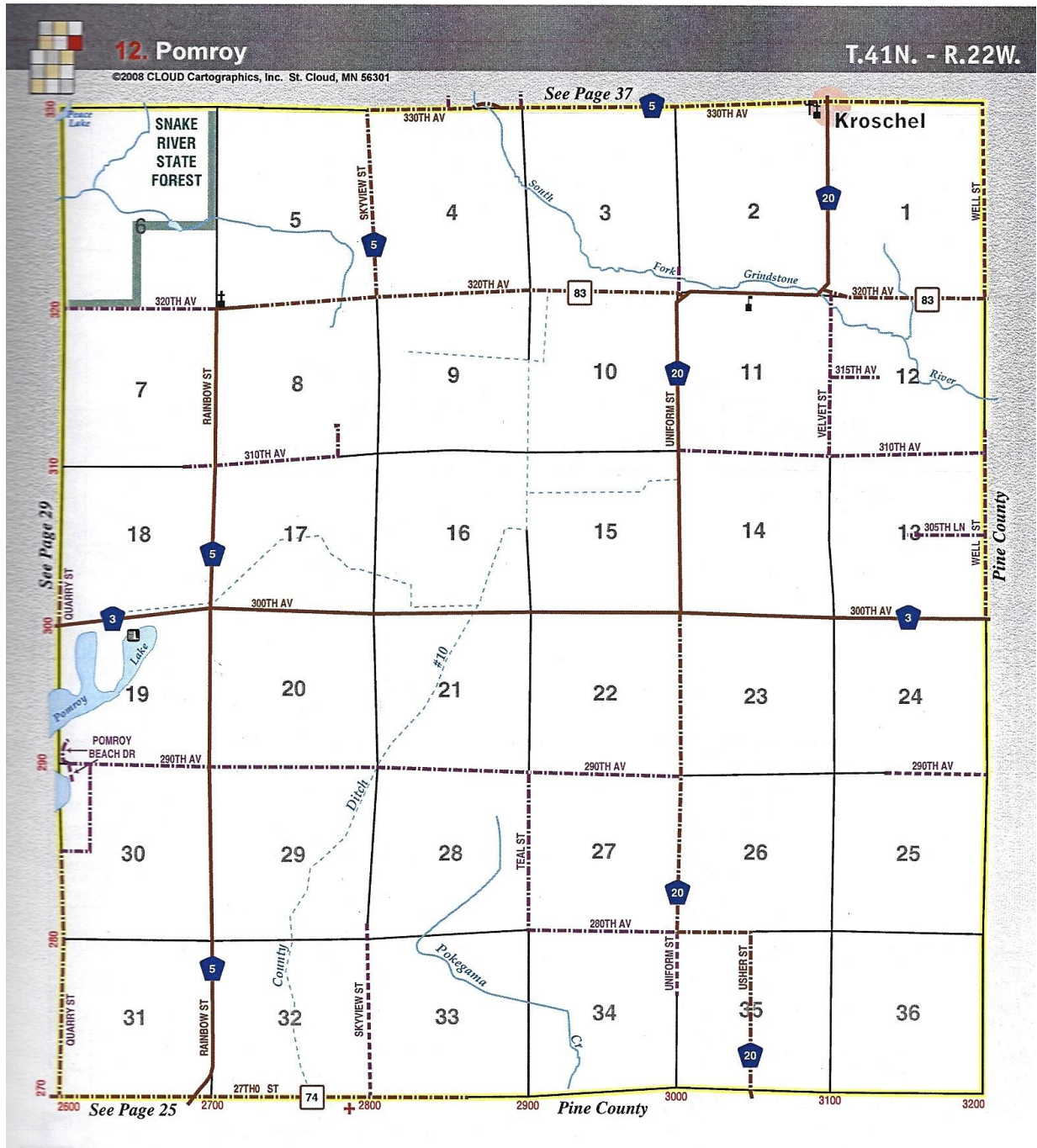
MAP 12

**TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
POMROY TOWNSHIP, KANABEC COUNTY**





MAP 14 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MAP



Source: Kanabec County, 2009 *Land Atlas & Plat Book*