

QUATERNARY STRATIGRAPHY

By
Angela S. Gowan

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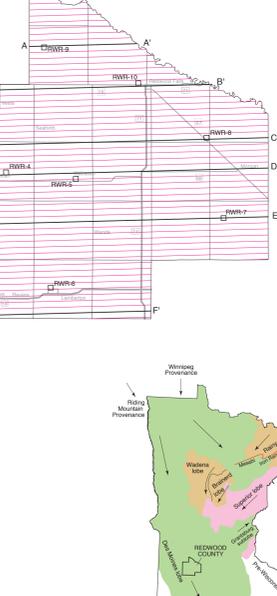
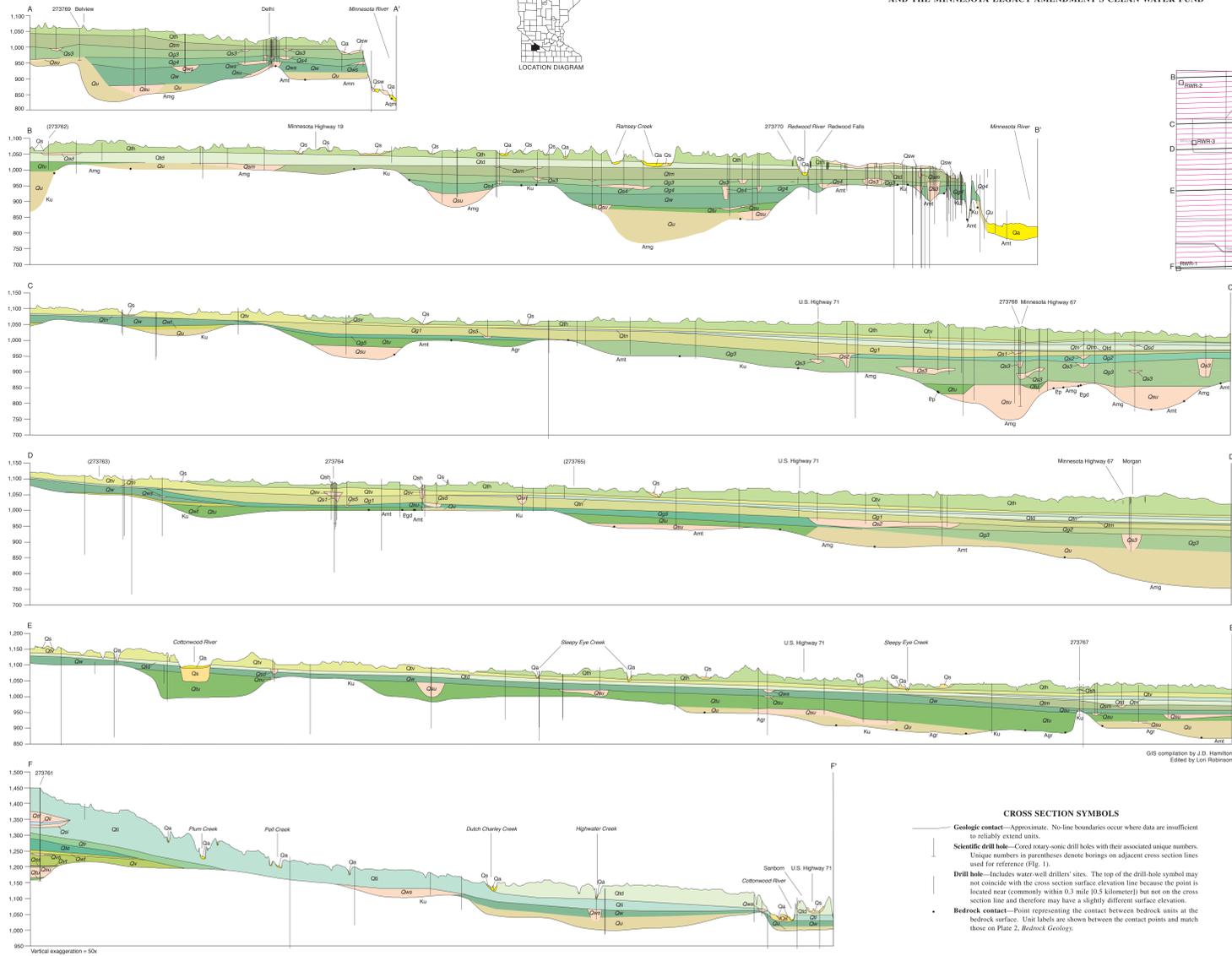


Figure 1. Location of 57 cross sections, constructed at 10-mile (16-kilometer) intervals, used to create a three-dimensional model of the Quaternary deposits of Redwood County. The locations of cross sections A-A' through F-F' are shown here, and are also shown on Plate 3, *Surface Geology*. Black squares depict the locations of ten Minnesota Geological Survey (RWR-1 to RWR-10) rotary-sonic core sites.

Figure 2. Location of major provenances (source regions) and the distribution of ice-lobe materials at the land surface. Glacial sediments deposited in Redwood County derive their distinct material content from bedrock and sediment found in the region of these provenances. During the last glaciation, the late Wisconsinan, ice carrying debris of predominantly Rairy provenance (brown) covered portions of northeast (Rairy lobe) and central (Wabigoon and Riding Mountain lobes) Minnesota and the debris is discontinuously present in the subsurface as far north and west as the Minnesota River. After Wabigoon lobe ice melted, Redwood County was completely covered by deposits of at least advances of the northwestern-source Des Moines lobe (green).

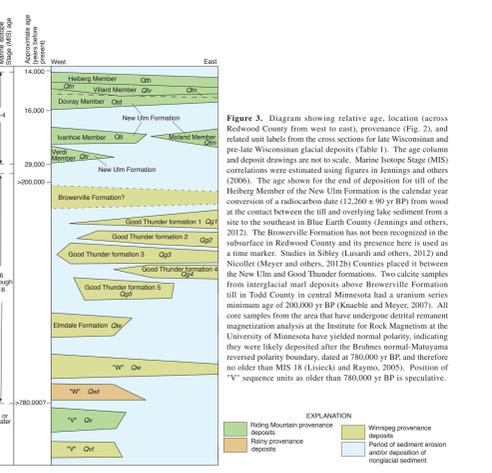


Figure 3. Diagram showing relative age, location (across Redwood County from west to east), provenance (Fig. 2), and related unit labels for late Wisconsinan and pre-late Wisconsinan glacial deposits (Table 1). The age columns and deposit drawings are not to scale. Matrix texture (MIS) correlations were estimated using figures in Jennings and others (2006). The age column shows the relative age of the Heiberg Member of the New Ulm Formation in the calendar year conversion of a radiocarbon date (12,260 ± 90) by BP from wood at the contact between the till and overlying lake sediment from a site to the southeast in Blue Earth County (Jennings and others, 2012). The Bowerville Formation has not been recognized in the subsurface in Redwood County and its presence here is used as a time marker. Studies in Sibley (Laursen and others, 2012) and Nicolet (Meyer and others, 2012b) Counties placed it between the New Ulm and Good Thunder Formations. Two calcite samples from interglacial mud deposits above Bowerville Formation (Till 2) in Todd County in central Minnesota had a minimum age of 20,000 ± 800 BP (Knaeble and Meyer, 2007). All core samples from the area that have undergone detrital remanent magnetism analysis at the Institute for Rock Magnetism at the University of Minnesota have yielded normal polarity, indicating they were likely deposited after the Brunhes normal-Matuyama reversed polarity boundary, dated at 780,000 ± 80 BP and therefore no older than MIS 18 (Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). Position of "V" sequence units as older than 780,000 ± 80 BP is speculative.

INTRODUCTION

The *Quaternary Stratigraphy* plate shows the unconsolidated materials expected to be encountered between the land and bedrock surfaces in Redwood County. Cross sections A-A' through F-F' are representative of 57 cross sections (Fig. 1) that were constructed to create a three-dimensional model of the Quaternary deposits of Redwood County. The major sand bodies from this model are depicted on Plate 3, *Surface Geology*. The full model and all the cross sections used to develop it can be accessed through the digital files of the Minnesota Geological Survey. The Quaternary geologic units shown on the cross sections were defined from interpretation of new data collected for this study and from existing data from previous investigations. These include (in order of importance): rotary-sonic drill core from ten drill holes completed by the Minnesota Geological Survey; outcrop logs from Redwood River (Paterson et al., 1999) outcrops along Ramsey and Highway Crooks; rotary-sonic drill core in adjacent Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties; 54 shallow auger borings completed by the Minnesota Geological Survey for Plate 3, *Surface Geology*; shallow auger borings (Brossard and others, 1979); water well drill logs; and Minnesota Department of Transportation bridge logs (Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2014). Where there are more data along the cross section lines, all units tend to be discontinuous and variable in thickness and elevation over relatively short distances—which reflect accurately the actual complexity of glacial deposits, especially as older, deeper, and thus potentially more eroded and dissected units are examined. Where the above data are scarce along the cross section lines, units with similar characteristics are used as a substitute for the actual units. Unit thickness and minimal elevation change, and the less common, thinner, lacustrine, sand and gravel units are portrayed as discontinuous. Glacial till is portrayed as more widespread and continuous because the source ice typically carried abundant fine-grained sediment and spread it over broad areas. By contrast, sand and gravel units are depicted as more discontinuous because they were formed by streams flowing along isolated depressions or in front of proglacial lobes. These factors should be kept in mind when viewing the cross sections.

Cross sections shown on Figures 1 and 2 and on Plate 3, *Surface Geology*. Some cross section units match those on Plate 3, some new units appear only on the cross sections because they are present only in the subsurface or because the area of exposure on the surficial map is too small to be mapped (stream cut exposures), and other units are a combination of multiple units from Plate 3. Organic detritus (unit Qm from Plate 3), alluvial fan sand (unit Qf from Plate 3), modern lake sand (unit Qn from Plate 3), and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Figure 2 is a map showing the general up-to-date location of major provenances (source regions) for tills in Minnesota and the extent of the material, divided as it is described below and placed in one of three categories that designate the origin of the code, as indicated in parentheses after the description: 1. *Surface Geology*: units and units having an identified location on Plate 3, *Surface Geology*; see Figure 3 for the detailed descriptions; 2. New units: units that appear only on the cross section and have a unique label and color; 3. Modified units: multiple units that are combined into one unit on the cross sections (for example units Qa and Qb are combined into unit Qa). Contact lines that intersect the land surface on cross sections do not match all contact lines because some units (Qa, Qb, Qc, and Qd) from Plate 3 are too small to be shown on the cross sections. It should also be noted that all of the till units described below may include pods, lenses, and thin layers of outwash sand and gravel, and sand, as well as lacustrine units, silt, and clay.

HOLOCENE

Qa Sand, gravelly sand, silt and clay—aluminum modified units—Map units Qa and Qa' from Plate 3. May be thin (less than 18 inches) (18 centimeters) over bedrock or include bedrock in some areas where associated with unit Qb.

Qb Silt, sandy sand, sandy silt, gravelly sand, and sandy gravel—glacial-stream sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qb from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qc Colluvium—Unit Qc from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qd Loam till deposits with patchy areas of thin glacial-lake sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qd from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qe Sand, gravelly sand, and sandy gravel—glacial-stream sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qe from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qf Sand, gravelly sand, and sandy gravel—glacial-stream sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qf from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qg Sand, gravelly sand, and sandy gravel—glacial-stream sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qg from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

Qh Loam till deposits with patchy areas of thin glacial-lake sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Qh from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

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DESCRIPTION OF CROSS SECTION UNITS

Each unit on the cross sections is designated by a letter code, which is described below and placed in one of three categories that designate the origin of the code, as indicated in parentheses after the description: 1. *Surface Geology*: units and units having an identified location on Plate 3, *Surface Geology*; see Figure 3 for the detailed descriptions; 2. New units: units that appear only on the cross section and have a unique label and color; 3. Modified units: multiple units that are combined into one unit on the cross sections (for example units Qa and Qb are combined into unit Qa). Contact lines that intersect the land surface on cross sections do not match all contact lines because some units (Qa, Qb, Qc, and Qd) from Plate 3 are too small to be shown on the cross sections. It should also be noted that all of the till units described below may include pods, lenses, and thin layers of outwash sand and gravel, and sand, as well as lacustrine units, silt, and clay.

HOLOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE

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Ql Loam till deposits with patchy areas of thin glacial-lake sediment—(Borjesson Geology) Unit Ql from Plate 3, and colluvium (unit Qc from Plate 3) are not shown on the cross sections. May appear on the rotary-sonic logs (Figs. 4 through 13). Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models showing the interfaces between sand and till layers that could be processed to create sand distribution models on Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Renville (Knaeble, 2013) and Brown (Knaeble, in press) Counties were used for interpretation because they were near the drill holder and provided significant detail. These drill sites are not shown on the cross sections, but their unique well numbers are included in the digital data file. Core holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross sections. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits between associated thick beds (unit contact lines).

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