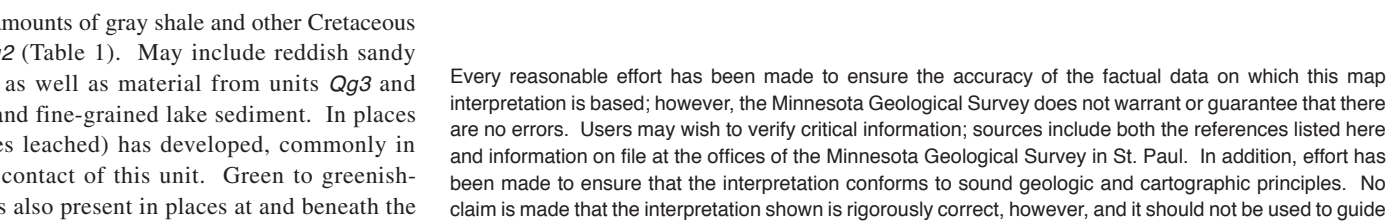
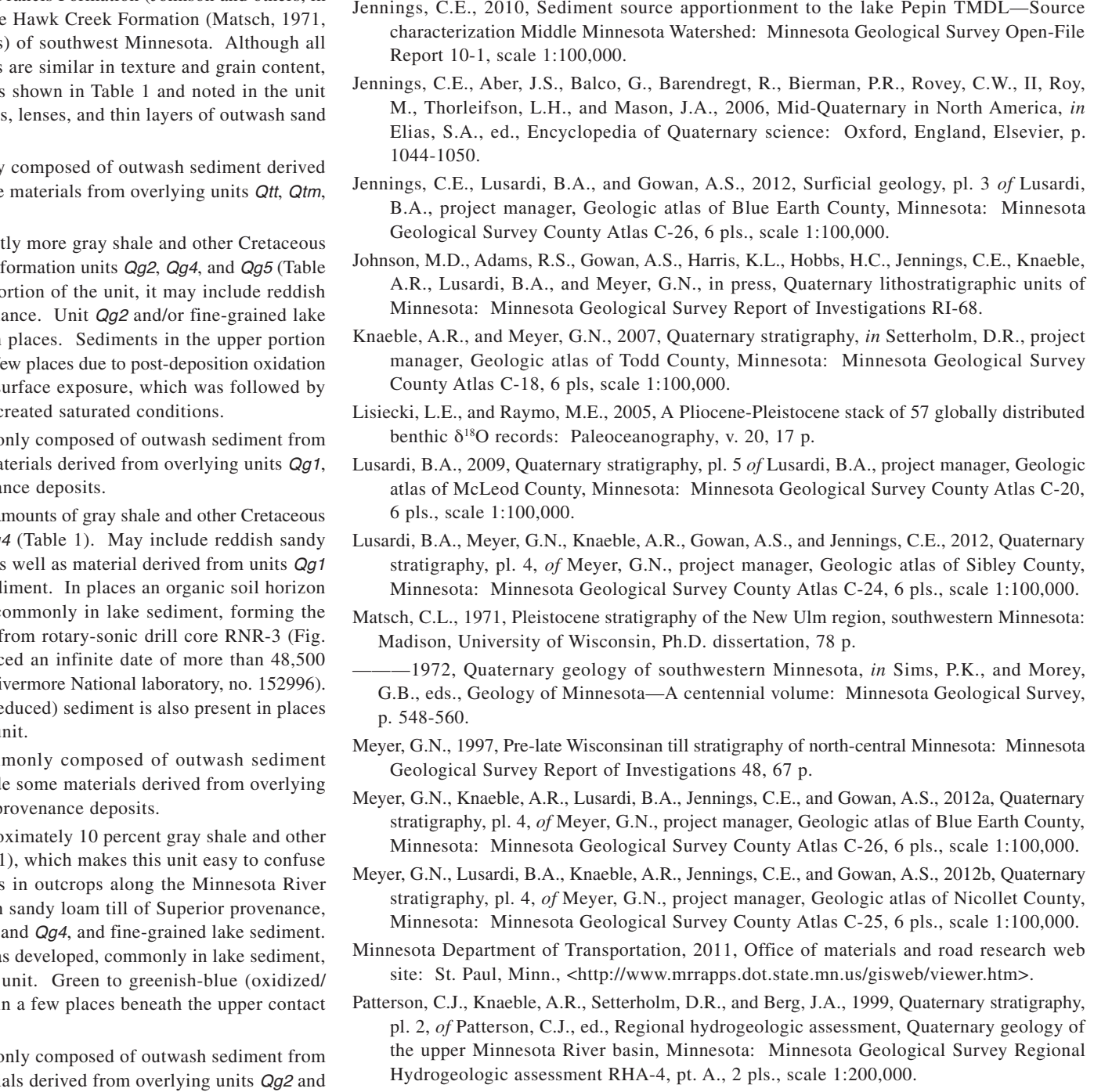
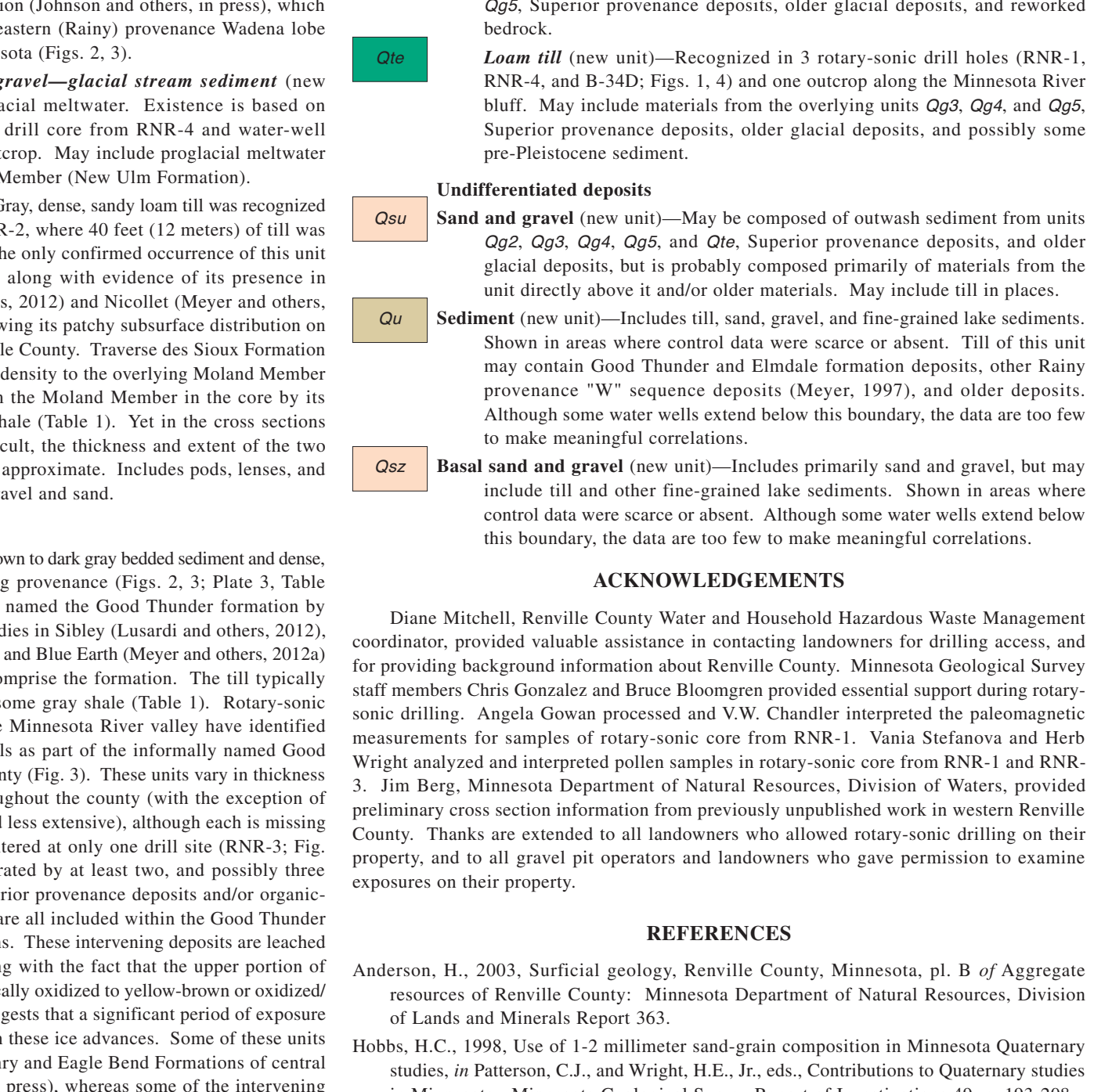
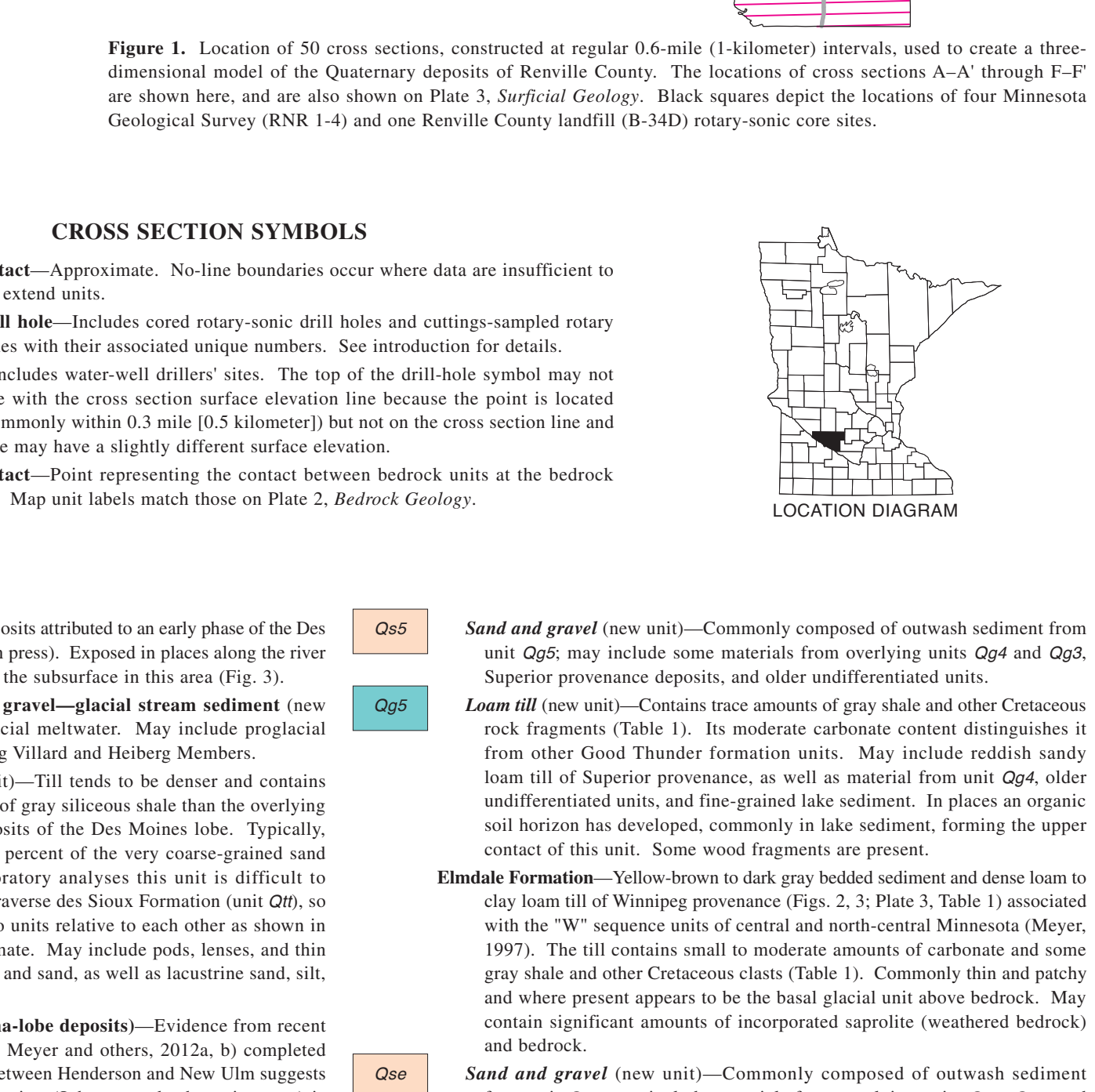
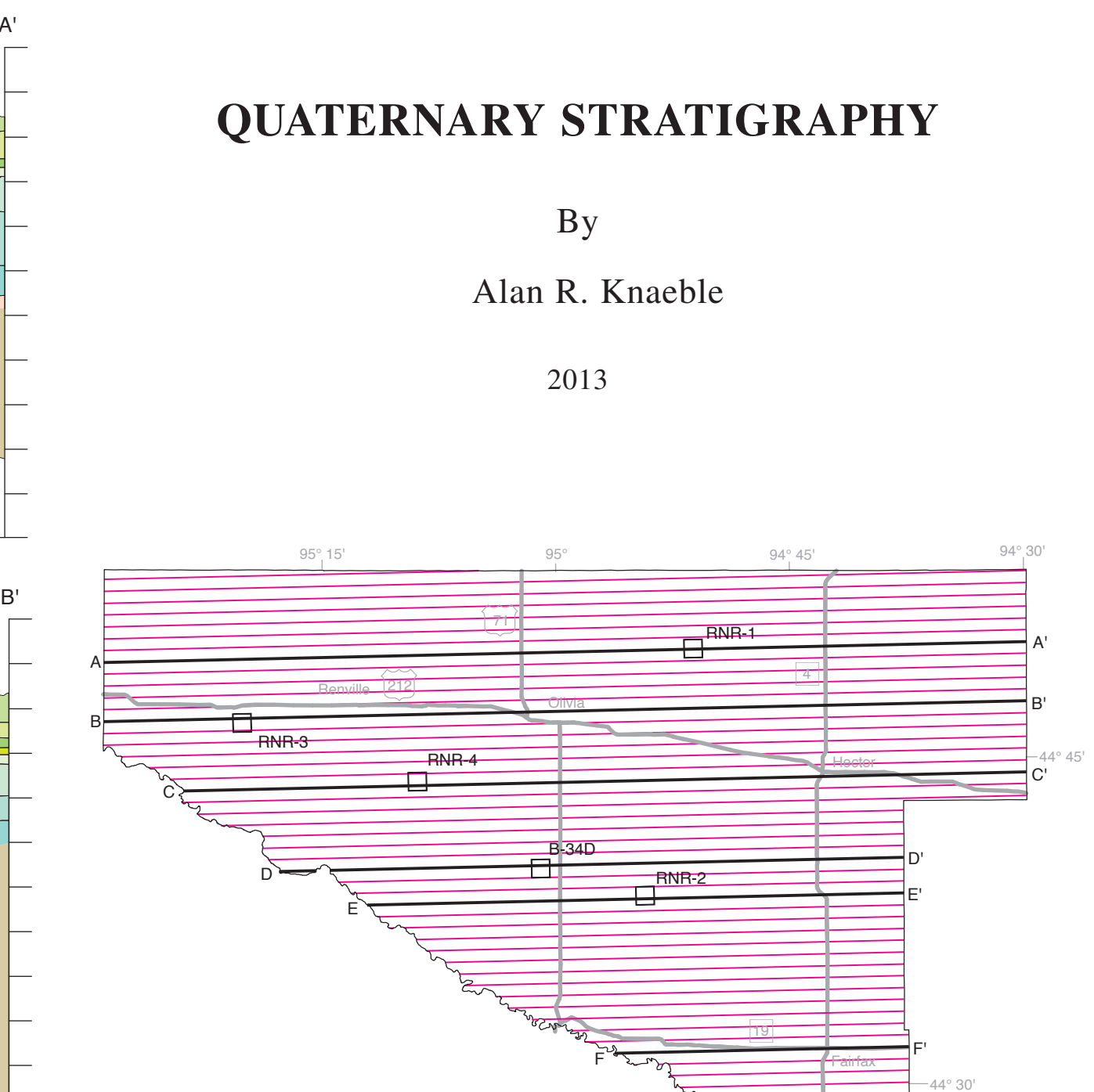
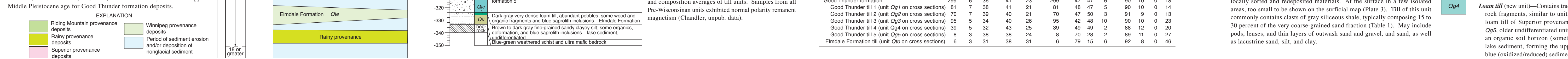
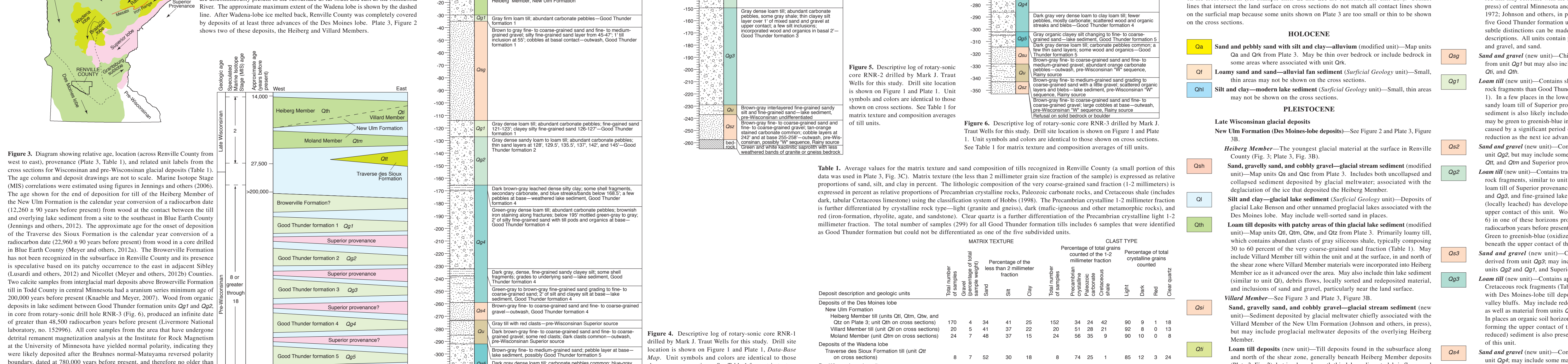
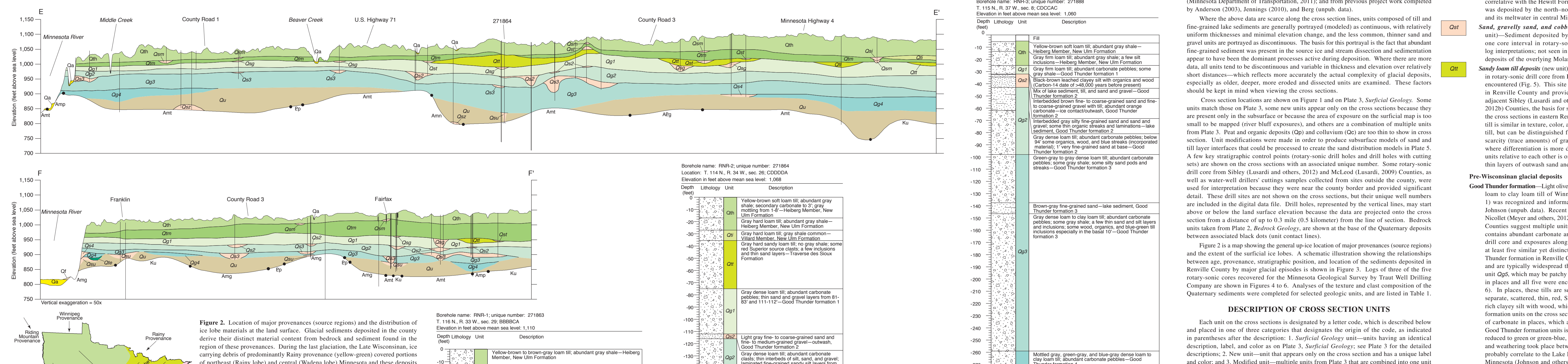
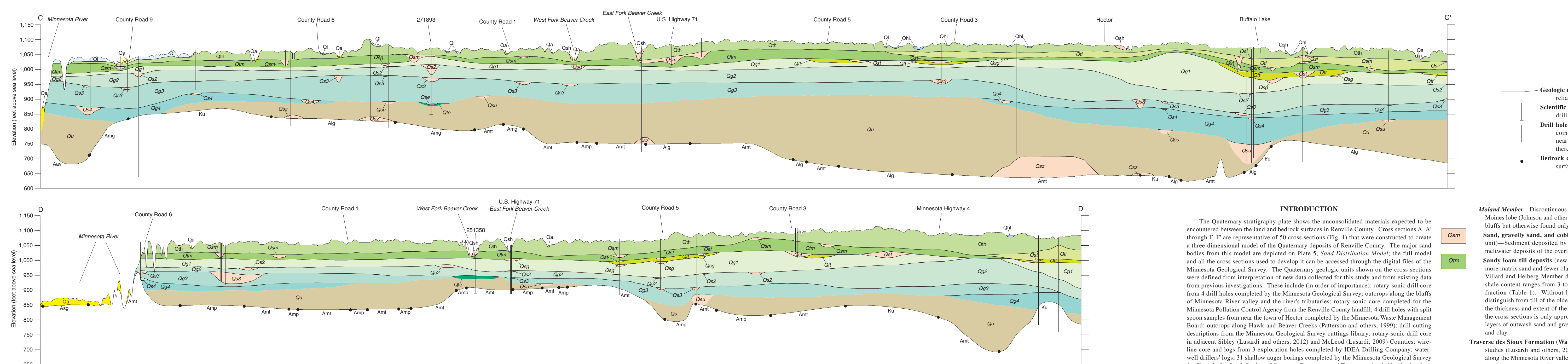
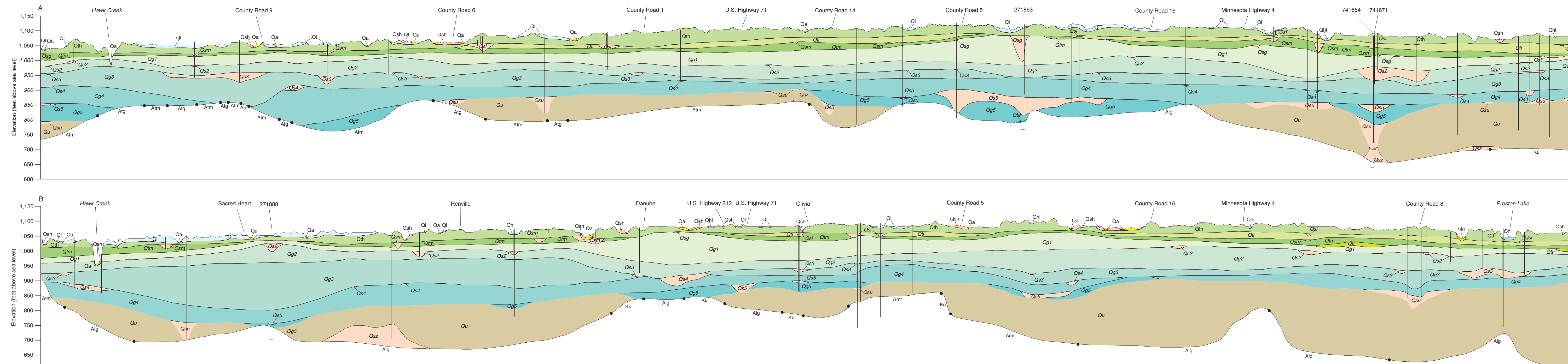


# QUATERNARY STRATIGRAPHY

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**CROSS SECTION SYMBOLS**  
Geologic contact—Approximate. No-line boundaries occur where data are insufficient to reliably extend units.  
Scientific drill hole—Includes core rotary-sonic drill holes and cuttings-sampled rotary drill holes with their associated unique numbers. See introduction for details.  
Drill hole—Includes water-well drillers' sites. The top of the drill-hole bore may not coincide with the cross section surface elevation line as it is located near (commonly within 0.3 mile (0.5 kilometer)) but not on the cross section line and therefore may have a slightly different surface elevation.  
Bedrock contact—Point representing the contact between bedrock units at the bedrock surface. Map unit labels match those on Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*.

**INTRODUCTION**  
The Quaternary stratigraphy shows the unconsolidated materials expected to be encountered between the land and bedrock surfaces in Renville County. Cross sections A-A' through F-F' are representative of 50 cross sections (Fig. 1) that were constructed to create a three-dimensional model of the Quaternary deposits of Renville County. The major sand bodies from this model are depicted on Plate 5, *Sand Distribution Model*, 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 4 drill holes completed by the Minnesota Geological Survey, outcrops along the banks of Minnesota River valley and the river's tributaries; rotary-sonic core completed for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency from the Renville County landfill; 4 drill holes with split spoon samples from near the town of Hector completed by the Minnesota Waste Management Board; outcrops along Hawk and Beaver Creeks (Patterson and others, 1999); drill cutting descriptions from the Minnesota Geological Survey cuttings library; rotary-sonic drill core in adjacent Sibley (Lasardi and others, 2012) and McLeod (Lasardi, 2009) Counties; wire-line core and logs from 3 exploration holes completed by IDEA Drilling Company; water-well drillers' logs; 31 shallow auger borings completed by the Minnesota Geological Survey for Plate 3, *Surficial Geology*; Minnesota Department of Transportation bridge boring logs (Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2011); and from previous project work completed by Anderson (2003), Jennings (2010), and Berg (unpub. data).  
Where the above data are scarce along the cross section lines, units composed of till and fine-grained lake sediments are generally portrayed (modeled) as continuous, with relatively uniform thickness and minimal elevation change, and the less common, thinner sand and gravel units are portrayed as discontinuous. The basis for this portrayal is the fact that abundant fine-grained sediments were present in the source ice and stream direction and sedimentation appear to have been the dominant processes active during deposition. Where there are more data, all units tend to be discontinuous and variable in thickness and elevation over relatively short distances—which reflects more accurately the actual complexity of glacial deposits, especially as older, deeper, more eroded and dissected units are examined. These factors should be kept in mind when viewing the cross sections.  
Cross section locations are shown on Figure 1 and on Plate 3, *Surficial Geology*. Some units match those on Plate 3, some are new units only on the cross sections because they are present only in the subsurface or because of the area of exposure on the surficial map is too small to be mapped (river bluff exposure), and others are a combination of multiple units from Plate 3. Post and organic deposits (Op) and colluvium (Co) are too thin to show in cross section. Unit modifications were made in order to produce subsurface models of sand and till layers interfaces that could be processed to create the sand distribution models in Plate 5. A few key stratigraphic control points (rotary-sonic drill holes and drill holes with cutting sets) are shown on the cross sections with an associated unique number. Some rotary-sonic drill core from Sibley (Lasardi and others, 2012) and McLeod (Lasardi, 2009) Counties, as well as water-well drillers' cuttings samples collected from sites outside the county, were used for interpretation because they were near the county border 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 files. Drill holes, represented by the vertical lines, may start above or below the land surface elevation because the data are projected onto the cross section from a distance of up to 0.3 mile (0.5 kilometer) from the line of section. Bedrock units taken from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*, are shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits associated black dots (unit contact lines).  
Figure 2 is a map showing the general up-to-date location of major provinces (source regions) and the extent of the surficial ice lobes. A schematic illustration showing the relationships between age, province, stratigraphic position, and location of the units deposited in the Renville County by major glacial episodes is shown in Figure 3. Logs of three of the rotary-sonic cores recovered for the Minnesota Geological Survey by Traut Well Drilling Company are shown in Figures 4 to 6. Analyses of the texture and clay composition of the Quaternary sediments were completed for selected geologic units, and are listed in Table 1.

**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 position on the unit label. The origin of the code is indicated in parentheses after the description: 1, *Surficial Geology*—unit having an identical description, label, and color as on Plate 3, *Surficial Geology*; see Plate 3 for the detailed description; 2, *New units*—units that were not depicted in the Heberg Member of central Renville County by major glacial episodes is shown in Figure 3. Logs of three of the rotary-sonic cores recovered for the Minnesota Geological Survey by Traut Well Drilling Company are shown in Figures 4 to 6. Analyses of the texture and clay composition of the Quaternary sediments were completed for selected geologic units, and are listed in Table 1.

**HOLOCENE**  
Qa and Qm on Plate 3. May be thin bedrock or include bedrock in some areas where associated with unit Qm.  
Qm on Plate 3. May be thin bedrock or include bedrock in some areas where associated with unit Qm.  
Qm on Plate 3. May be thin bedrock or include bedrock in some areas where associated with unit Qm.

**PLEISTOCENE**  
Late Wisconsinan glacial deposits  
New Ulm Formation (Des Moines-lobe deposits)—See Figure 2 and Plate 3, Figure 3B.  
Heberg Member—The youngest glacial material at the surface in Renville County (Fig. 2; Plate 3, Fig. 3B).  
Sand, gravelly sand, and obby gravel—glacial stream sediment (modified unit)—Map units Qm and Qm on Plate 3. Includes both uncollapsing and collapsed sediment deposited by glacial meltwater, associated with the deglaciation of the ice that deposited the Heberg Member.  
Silt and clay—glacial lake sediment (Surficial Geology unit)—Deposits of glacial lake silt and clay associated with the deglaciation of the ice that deposited the Heberg Member.  
Loam till deposits with patchy areas of fine-grained sand (modified unit)—Map units Qm, Qm, Qm, and Qm on Plate 3. Primarily loamy till, which includes abundant clasts of gray silty sand, typically comprising 30 to 60 percent of the very coarse-grained sand fraction (Table 1). May include Villard Member till within the unit and at the surface, and in north of the shear zone where Villard Member tills were incorporated into Heberg Member ice as it advanced over the area. May also include till lake sediment (similar to unit Qm), debris flows, locally sorted and repositioned material, and inclusions of sand and gravel, particularly near the land surface.  
Villard Member—See Figure 3 and Plate 3, Figure 3B.  
Sand, gravelly sand, and obby gravel—glacial stream sediment (new unit)—Sediment deposited by glacial meltwater chiefly associated with the Villard Member of the New Ulm Formation (Johnson and others, in press), but may include proglacial meltwater deposits of the overlying Heberg Member.  
Loam till deposits (new unit)—Till deposited in the subsurface along and north of the shear zone, generally beneath Heberg Member deposits (Plate 3, Fig. 2), but in places beneath this lake sediment, debris flows, and locally sorted and repositioned materials. At the surface in a few isolated areas, too small to be shown on the surficial map (Plate 3). Till of this unit commonly contains clasts of gray silty sand, typically comprising 15 to 30 percent of the very coarse-grained sand fraction (Table 1). May include pools, lenses, and thin layers of outwash sand and gravel, and sand, as well as lacustrine sand, silt, and clay.

**PRE-WISCONSINAN GLACIAL DEPOSITS**  
Good Thunder formation—Light olive-brown to dark gray bedded sediment and dense, loam till composed of outwash sediment from RNR-1 (unit Qm) was recognized and informally named the Good Thunder formation by Johnson (unpub. data). Recent studies in Sibley (Lasardi and others, 2012), Nicollet (Meyer and others, 2012a), and Blue Earth (Meyer and others, 2012a) Counties suggest multiple units comprise the formation. The till typically contains abundant carbonate and some gray silty sand (Qm). Rotary-sonic drill core and exposures along the Minnesota River valley have identified four to five similar yet distinct tills as a part of the informally named Good Thunder formation in Renville County (Fig. 3). These units vary in thickness and are typically widespread throughout the county (with the exception of unit Qm), which may be patchy and less extensive, although each is missing in places and all four were encountered at only one drill site (RNR-3; Fig. 6). In places, these tills are separated by at least two, and possibly three, separate, scoured, till, red, Superior province deposits and/or organic-rich clayey silt with wood, which are all included within the Good Thunder formation units on the cross sections. These intervening deposits are leached of carbonate in places, which along with the fact that the upper portion of Good Thunder formation units is locally oxidized to yellow-brown or oxidized/reduced to green or green-blue, suggests that a significant period of exposure and weathering took place between these advances. Some of these units are also present in the lower portion of the unit, it may include reddish sandy loam till of Superior province, as well as material derived from units Qm and Qm on Plate 3. Includes slightly more gray shale and other Cretaceous rock fragments than Good Thunder formation units Qm, Qm, and Qm (Table 1). In a few places in the lower portion of the unit, it may include reddish sandy loam till of Superior province. In places an organic soil horizon (locally leached) has developed, commonly in lake sediment, forming the upper contact of this unit. Wood from rotary-sonic drill core RNR-3 (Fig. 6) in one of these horizons produced an infinite date from 48,300 radiocarbon years before present, indicating that the Good Thunder formation is older than 48,300 years before present. In places, Good Thunder formation is also present in a few places beneath the upper contact of this unit.

**Sand and gravel (new unit)**—Commonly composed of outwash sediment derived from unit Qm; may include some materials derived from overlying units Qm, Qm, and Qm and Superior province deposits.  
**Loam till (new unit)**—Contains trace amounts of gray shale and other Cretaceous rock fragments than Good Thunder formation units Qm, Qm, and Qm (Table 1). In places an organic soil horizon (locally leached) has developed, commonly in lake sediment, forming the upper contact of this unit. Wood from rotary-sonic drill core RNR-3 (Fig. 6) in one of these horizons produced an infinite date from 48,300 radiocarbon years before present, indicating that the Good Thunder formation is older than 48,300 years before present. In places, Good Thunder formation is also present in a few places beneath the upper contact of this unit.

**Sand and gravel (new unit)**—Commonly composed of outwash sediment derived from unit Qm; may include some materials derived from overlying units Qm, Qm, and Superior province deposits.  
**Loam till (new unit)**—Contains trace amounts of gray shale and other Cretaceous rock fragments, similar to unit Qm (Table 1). May include reddish sandy loam till of Superior province, as well as material from units Qm and Qm on Plate 3. Includes slightly more gray shale and other Cretaceous rock fragments than Good Thunder formation units Qm, Qm, and Qm (Table 1). In places an organic soil horizon (locally leached) has developed, commonly in lake sediment, forming the upper contact of this unit. Wood from rotary-sonic drill core RNR-3 (Fig. 6) in one of these horizons produced an infinite date from 48,300 radiocarbon years before present, indicating that the Good Thunder formation is older than 48,300 years before present. In places, Good Thunder formation is also present in a few places beneath the upper contact of this unit—more than in other Good Thunder formation units.