

# OTTER TAIL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Otter Tail County Government Services Center, 540 West Fir, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-998-8095

September 21, 2016

Meeting of the Otter Tail County Planning Commission was held on September 21, 2016, at 6:30 P.M. in the Commissioner's Room, Government Services Center, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

## **Roll Call:**

Members Present: Loren Bailey, Rod Boyer, Brent E. Frazier, Richard Gabe, Jack Rosenthal, Robert Schwartz, David Trites, David Wass and Rick Wilson.

Member Absent: Bert Olson.

David Hauser represented the County Attorney's Office and Bill Kalar represented the Land & Resource Management Office.

**Minutes of September 14, 2016:** A motion by Frazier, second by Gabe to approve the September 14, 2016 Minutes as presented. Voting: All members in favor.

## **Central Minnesota Land Co., LLC / White Earth Nation – Tabled Until Environmental Review Process is Complete:**

A Conditional Use Permit Application (*as stated by the Applicant on the Application*): Construction of a parking lot and storm water catch basins for a new resort, hotel and casino on adjacent property. Earth work to include 422,690 cubic yards of earth work, including 105,000 cy topsoil strip and replace, 250,600 cy movement/embankment excavation, and 67,090 cy import of new fill. The proposal is located in That Part of Government Lots 10 and 11 and That Part of Section 15 of Star Lake Township; Star Lake (56-385), GD.

Liz Foster Anderson, Sam Olbekson, Nick Valentine, Dan Hanson (Moore Engineering) & Eric Lagerquist represented the Application.

County Attorney David Hauser provided an overview of the process(es) the Planning Commission would follow as they consider the Conditional Use Permit Application for the topographical alteration necessary to construct a parking lot and storm water catch basins for a new resort hotel and casino. He stated the resort hotel and casino are located on Trust Land, therefore not within Otter Tail County's jurisdiction. Mr. Hauser also noted that a voluntary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) had been received.

Written correspondence was read into the record.

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comments: Stu Peterson indicated he is not opposed to thoughtful development on a lake, expressed concerns regarding compatibility with surrounding area, density, location and the sensitivity of the area; stating consideration should include the entire project. Aubrey Ebanks expressed concerns with impervious surface, wetland impact, historic preservation, stating the need for an EIS and consideration should include the entire project, he requested denial. Tim Lindgren expressed concern regarding the calculation of the impervious surface areas and the wetland impact. Jason Gorr stated that lakes are public, expressed concerns on the environmental impacts & irreversible effects, he requested denial. Kathy Lorsung expressed concerns regarding cultural issues and archeological findings. Lee Minderman requested denial, stated the EAW process must be followed and expressed concerns regarding the impervious surface

calculations, need for storm water pollution prevention and expressed concerns on the proposed location of the sewage lagoons. Brenda Ebanks expressed concerns on the notification requirements and had questions regarding the full scope of tonight's consideration, presentation of various plans and traffic. Deb Wallwork expressed concerns regarding wetland impact, the sensitivity of Star Lake (wildlife & aquatic vegetation), suitability and compatibility of the project, adverse effects on wildlife, impervious surface, lighting, and the need for an archeological study. Michael Donoho stated that development is inevitable, expressed concerns for the need to protect Star Lake and that all County, State & Federal Rules Laws and Regulations be followed by everyone. Eric Peters had questions regarding the proposed earthmoving and the need for the considerations listed in the Ordinance to be followed, requested an EIS on this project, indicating there are alternatives to this proposed development, he recommended denial. Rich Greenland expressed concerns on the lack of knowledge regarding the future phases. Jason Gorr expressed concerns regarding the need for information identifying the benefit to Otter Tail County.

**Motion:** A motion by Trites, second by Bailey to table until the Environmental Review process is complete and allow the Developer: 1. Time to consider a redesign minimizing both the ecological & other potential impacts on a highly sensitive area. 2. Time to validate the impervious surface calculations. 3. Time to provide information clarifying the 100 year rain event. 4. Time to provide a written response to the publics' comments provided at this hearing. It was recommended that once the date of the public hearing is determined, the public notification process will be followed. **Voting:** All Members in favor.

**Note:** Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not recorded.

**Adjourn:** At 8:40 P.M., Acting Chairman Wilson set the Meeting. The next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on October 12, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Bowman  
Recording Secretary