



Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

PMT Meeting #1

1:00 p.m., Thursday, February 25, 2016

Otter Tail County Government Services Center

520 Fir Ave W, Fergus Falls, MN

Attendees: See Attachment 1 - Sign-in Sheet

1. Welcome & Introductions

SRF and Otter Tail County welcomed the group. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Discuss Key Study Goals, Expectations, and Scope of Work

SRF provided an overview of the project scope of work and anticipated schedule. Below are highlights from this discussion:

- The group discussed the importance of keeping the project process transparent as a whole (within the Project Management Team (PMT) and as information is shared with the public).
- A summary of each PMT meeting will be posted on the County's website under a project specific web link for this project. SRF will distribute the meeting summary to the PMT prior to its posting on the project website **(ACTION)**.
- The PMT agreed that all public messaging must be consistent across the board (would like to avoid unofficial statements and misunderstandings); therefore, information will be disseminated to the public via the County's website under the project specific web link. The public will be directed to this location for updates, etc.
- The county needs to provide the project specific URL to the PMT **(ACTION)**.
- The PMT agreed on the timelines proposed in the schedule.
 - The importance of not drawing out the process was stressed. Diligence is key, while being efficient at the same time. Ensuring that correct, informed answers are provided to the public is important as well.
 - The Star Lake Property Owners Association has a meeting that typically occurs in mid-June. SRF will attempt to schedule the final neighborhood meeting at the same time as this meeting **(ACTION)**.
 - Star Lake Township meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.
- It is the PMT's intent to document the government regulations that apply to the White Earth Nation development. This information will be published on the project website so that the public is informed. SRF will assist the County with compiling this information for publication on the project website **(ACTION)**.

- White Earth Nation representatives commented that the proposed development is subject to the regulations established by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers (both federal agencies) for the 14 acres of White Earth Tribal land.
- White Earth Nation has engaged the architecture firm Cuningham Group to design the Resort and Casino. They feel strongly that the design of the facility is focused on environmental sustainability.
- The group asked and discussed - what shared benefits will the area realize due to the casino development, if any? The following was discussed:
 - Upgraded electric service - An additional sub-station will be added to meet the needs of the resort and casino development. The casino is dedicating 1 acre of land for this sub-station. The understanding is that the construction of the sub-station will not have environmental impacts and will not increase local resident utility rates, although the improvements to the electrical infrastructure is expected to improve reliability to other properties in the area.
 - Waste water treatment – County representatives noted that the development of a waste water plant could benefit the existing residents that have holding tanks on Peterson’s Point (67 units, approximately 30 of which have holding tanks). If a complete waste water plant is not developed, but rather a smaller (yet more robust than residential) septic system is developed that the residents of Peterson’s Point could connect to as well, shared benefit could be received.
 - High Speed Cable Internet – White Earth Nation representatives noted that an Arvig high-speed cable internet line will be installed. This will upgrade existing internet service for residents and is thought to be welcomed by residents.
 - Natural gas - It is thought that residents in the area are interested in natural gas coming to the area because of the casino development. White Earth Nation representatives indicated they may bring in natural gas. This is undecided at this time.

3. Discuss Data Needs / Data Gaps

The following is a summary of the data needs/gaps that were discussed:

- White Earth Nation representatives stated Shooting Star Casino has traffic data that could be shared with SRF for the purposes of this study. SRF will coordinate directly with Shooting Star Casino to obtain trip generation and origin-destination information **(ACTION)**.
- White Earth Nation representatives wanted to stress the difference with the Shooting Star Casino development being proposed in Star Lake. The Star Lake facility is intended to be more resort orientated whereas the Shooting Star facility in Mahnomen is more entertainment oriented.
- The Shooting Star Casino has a draft development plan. SRF will coordinate with Shooting Star Casino to obtain this information **(ACTION)**.



4. Present Preliminary Existing Conditions Mapping

The existing conditions maps were presented. The following is a summary of the discussion items:

- SRF presented the draft existing land use map, and requested feedback from the group on the accuracy of the information presented on the map. SRF will coordinate with local law enforcement and EMS regarding potential operations. Data on existing wetlands and streams within the study area will also be collected.
- Discussion took place regarding the surrounding local roads and the improvements needed. SRF will work with the Star Lake Township to identify the condition of the township roads so they can be added to the existing maps (**ACTION**).

5. Discuss Key Issues/Needs

The following are the key issues/needs that were discussed:

- It is thought that the public wants to understand the key issues surrounding the casino development and how these issues are being addressed (i.e. traffic, EMS, water quality, environmental impacts, light pollution, noise pollution, and public safety to name a few).
- The casino is not planning to impact the existing township road north of the proposed development (Spruce Loop Road). The casino is planning to have their main access point(s) to/from County Road 41 and not 380th Street. As the property is developed further in the future, there may be an access point onto 380th Street. However, that is not fully understood at this time.
 - It was pointed out that the curves on County Road 41 should be considered when determining the access point locations.
 - The group discussed potential routes that patrons may take to access the resort and casino. There are a number of different routes that can be taken to reach this location; some that include local township, city, county, and state routes. The study will address the potential routes that might be used.
 - Discussion needs to continue with regard to potential roadway realignment(s), capacity expansion, and/or additional development access needs.
- The White Earth Nation Public Works representative is planning to meet with MnDOT to discuss potential traffic impacts to State Highway 108. White Earth Nation anticipates most traffic will access the site from State Highway 108. The group agreed that engaging MnDOT as a PMT member to this study would be a good idea.
- The County is in the process of starting a County Master Trail Plan. The White Earth Nation would like to incorporate walking, biking, and snowmobile trails into their development plan. Therefore, coordination with the Trail Plan may be necessary to ensure connectivity is considered.



- The idea of sending a survey to the PMT group to gain feedback on key issues was discussed. SRF will send out a survey to the PMT group **(ACTION)**. It was noted that the Star Lake Property Owners Association sent out a similar survey to its membership within the past few weeks. Property owner representative will check with the board to see if the answers or feedback from this survey can be shared with the PMT **(ACTION)**.
- The White Earth Nation is in the process of conducting site assessments of the property for development purposes (i.e., soil tests, existing contamination issue assessment, etc.). There may be people on site conducting tests, performing site observations. This information will help determine the project characteristics.
- The East Otter Tail County Water and Soil Conservation District recently completed a study of Star Lake. Results from this analysis can be reviewed as well.
- Otter Tail County's Shore land Ordinance was discussed as it pertains to the property. SRF will coordinate with Otter Tail County and the White Earth Nation to document the review and approval process for the portion of the development that is outside the Tribal land, and compare that with the federal review process required on the Tribal land. This is mainly for the purpose of ensuring that all parties understand this process. White Earth Nation representatives feel that the storm water runoff issues at this site can be improved with the development and storm water management plan. County representatives initially concur.

6. Next Steps

- SRF will coordinate with the group to schedule the next PMT meeting in late March **(ACTION)**. Further, SRF will coordinate the first public outreach meeting for the end of March as well **(ACTION)**. The intent of this meeting is to meet with a subset of area residents to introduce the study and obtain feedback from this cross section of the public regarding issues and concerns. This does not take the place of the broader public engagement, but rather supplements the broader effort that will occur later in the process.



Attachment 1
Sign-in Sheet



Otter Tail County - Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

PMT Meeting #1 - Attendees

February 25, 2016

Attend	Name	Agency	Email	Phone
x	Rick West	Otter Tail County	rwest@co.ottertail.mn.us	218-998-8473
x	Wayne Johnson	Otter Tail County	waynej@loretel.net	218-863-7500
x	Charles Grotte	Otter Tail County	CGrotte@co.ottertail.mn.us	218-998-8475
x	Bill Kalar	Otter Tail County	bkalar@co.ottertail.mn.us	218-998-8105
x	Nick Leonard	Otter Tail County	nleonard@co.ottertail.mn.us	218-998-8057
x	Lee Rogness	Otter Tail County	leerogness@yahoo.com	218-770-7066
x	Liz Foster-Anderson	White Earth Enterprises, LLC	liza@whiteearth.com	218-473-2145
x	Eugene (Jeff) Vivier	White Earth Nation	Eugene.Vivier@whiteearth-nsn.gov	
x	Bill Marsh	Shooting Star Casino	wmarsh@starcasino.com	218-936-2701
x	Mike Smith	Shooting Star Casino	gmsmith@starcasino.com	218-936-2640
x	Mike Donoho	Star Lake Property Owners Association	mdonoho@prtcl.com	
x	Lee Mindemann	Star Lake Township	lee@mindemann.net	218-298-2010
x	Craig Vaughn	SRF Consulting	cvaughn@srfconsulting.com	763-249-6774
x	Cindy Gray	SRF Consulting	cgray@srfconsulting.com	701-893-7402
x	Molly Stewart	SRF Consulting	mstewart@srfconsulting.com	763-452-4784
x	Donald Galligan	SRF Consulting	DGalligan@srfconsulting.com	701-893-7431
x	Joe Plummer	White Earth Tribal Attorney	joe.plummer@whiteearth-nsn.gov	218-983-3285
x	Ron Peterson	Star Lake Township	repetersons@hughes.net	218-731-4683
x	Carol Peterson	Star Lake Township	repetersons@hughes.net	218-731-6796
x	David Hauser	Otter Tail County	dhauser@co.ottertail.mn.us	218-998-8406