



## **Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan**

### **PMT Meeting #5 Summary**

**11:00 a.m., Thursday, August 18, 2016**

**Shooting Star Casino**

**777 S Casino Road, Mahnomon, MN 56557**

Attendees: See Attachment 1 - Sign-in Sheet

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

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

#### **2. Study Update**

The group discussed where the study is currently at and how things are coming to a conclusion with the study documentation and final open house meeting. Below are highlights from this discussion.

- Overview of the Limited Area Comprehensive Plan
  - The Plan covers a limited area of Otter Tail County.
  - It is an effort to document the standing planning priorities of the County and Townships while recognizing changing conditions, trends, and issues for the limited area it covers. Comprehensive Plans are a general and broad analysis of the interconnections between cultural, geographical, and natural components within the County, and the understood direction the County and/or Townships are developing or will develop over time. It provides a broad overview of transportation and future transportation needs, but is not a traffic impact study. It looks broadly at how to plan for future development as a whole.
  - The County commented that when we begin to talk about detailed improvement analysis, we start getting into an area that was never in the scope of this Comp Planning process. Detailed analysis is outside the bookends of this study. This Plan is a high level review, like any Comprehensive Plan, it doesn't look at certain specifics.
  - It was noted that a Conditional Use Permit hasn't been applied for yet for the parking lot and access roadways (a permit is not required for the resort and casino portion of the development) and yet there's a lot more information available because of this Planning process than there typically is for most developments.

- The group agreed that a key outcome from this Comp Planning process has been the process itself; the communication it has fostered between the White Earth Nation, the County, MnDOT, and the public may not have occurred with a typical process for a development request.
- SRF provided additional information regarding the recommended transportation system improvements. The following was discussed:
  - The small group of the PMT that was convened to work through the transportation improvements discussed the appropriate jurisdiction of the roadways, which is outlined in the draft Plan, and determined that White Earth Nation will be considered a contributing party when determining responsibility for improvement costs.
  - The draft transportation improvement recommendations were reviewed by this same small group and agreed as the appropriate measures to move forward with in the Plan. White Earth Nation solicited an independent review by a third party consultant to confirm the transportation improvements recommendations. The recommendations were confirmed and White Earth Nation agreed to move forward with them as a contributing partner.
  - “Jurisdictions” included in the improvement proportionment analysis include MnDOT, Otter Tail County and White Earth Nation. The Townships were considered but determined to not be a contributing partner due to their minimal contribution to traffic.
  - **The improvement locations were next discussed at length amongst the group.**
  - **County Highway 41 and State Highway 108 intersection** – agreed that a future feasibility study should be recommended for this location. **The intersection has known existing issues that may get worse with traffic growth.** Short-term improvements were initially considered and are being considered by MnDOT right now, but further detailed study is necessary to understand what should be done in the short and long term at this location. Potentially shifting the County Highway 41 alignment to the west will be considered along with repurposing the existing County Highway 41 roadway at its current location. MnDOT has already conducted some survey of the roadway and area surrounding the intersection to better understand grades, etc.
  - Much of the natural resources information that has been reviewed as part of the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan (LASLCP) can be used as part of a future feasibility study of this location.
  - The County and MnDOT are coordinating right now on when to conduct the feasibility study so that it is useful in the near term to mitigate some of the existing issues. Whether or not White Earth Nation participates in the feasibility study (monetarily or otherwise) is dependent on what the status is of their development proposal moving forward.
  - The group discussed that there are a number of grant money opportunities available to help fund the long-term improvements at the 41/108 intersection too. This grant money could help draw down each contributing party’s share of the improvement costs.

- Although this is recommended for a feasibility study the group reviewed the proportional share amount for each jurisdiction at this intersection.
- **County Highway 41 and 380th Street intersection** – the improvement recommendations for this intersection were presented and discussed. The group worked through what was presented and additional options to augment the improvement recommendations.
- PMT members questions whether the initial improvement recommendations would address the sight distance issues that have been raised to the south of 380th along County Highway 41. The county road was built in the mid 1950's and the sight distance from the intersection to the hill causing the issues is close but slightly inadequate based on today's calculations. This is not uncommon for older roadways.
- The group agreed to modify the recommended improvements to state that reducing the hill could be an alternative that should be considered as a long-term improvement.
- **County Highway 41 and Shooting Star Resort/Casino intersections** – the roadway and intersection improvements for these two intersections and the roadway in between and beyond are being designed and coordinated as part of the development proposal. The roadway and intersection improvements have been reviewed by the County and modified accordingly to best fit the County's design expectations.
- The group generally agreed with the design recommendations for these two locations. A couple of questions were asked regarding which access would be the primary access and whether or not the intersections would be controlled with a traffic light. The southern access point is billed as the primary access (and the northern access as the service entrance) and each access point will be controlled with standard static stop signs on the side-street approach.
- Some additional comments were made about design specifics that the White Earth Nation and the County will continue to coordinate on as the design progresses for this area.
- **County Highway 41 and County Highway 24** – the improvement recommendations at this intersection are relatively basic and do not include any modification of the intersection physically – only roadway lighting upgrades.
- **County Highway 41 and County Highway 35** – the group discussed the improvement recommendations for this location and agreed that in addition to the short-term improvements the implementation plan should include a long-term improvement recommendation to realign the intersection in order to remove the existing skew.
- The group agreed with this approach and that the long-term solution is what's best for the intersection in the long run.
- The group worked through a high-level review of the Draft Plan document. As part of this review the group provided feedback that will be used to update the document prior to posting it for public review and comment. Notes were taken directly in the document.
- The implementation plan component of the document was discussed at length. There are two implementation plan components – 1) roadway improvement implementation; 2) goals and objectives implementation.

- The roadway implementation plan elements were presented at the beginning of the meeting and recalled here as well to indicate the proportional share for each responsible jurisdiction. The group agreed that the responsible jurisdictions should be MnDOT, Otter Tail County, and White Earth Nation. All agreed that neither of the Townships would be included in the roadway improvement implementation plan from a monetary contribution standpoint.
- The group agreed with the methodology used to determine proportional share of improvement contribution and the timelines recommended for implementation. This will be presented to the public at the 9/8/16 open house meeting.

### 3. Other Items

- The group discussed the recent Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group meeting with the County Board, held 8/16/16.
  - White Earth Nation (WEN) understands the local resident concerns regarding area land use change and respects their opinions. The County Board has stated that they are committed to listening to the residents concerns.
  - WEN feels that this Limited Area Comp Plan process has resulted in significant information sharing amongst WEN and the public; they are thankful this process is going to yield a better product for them with the Public having been able to provide input.

### 4. Looking Ahead

- Brief overview of current study schedule; currently on schedule
- The third and final open house was discussed amongst the group, with an outline of what information will be shared was presented.
  - “About the Study” board
  - Contact information board
  - Comp Plan outline board
  - “What is a Comp Plan?” board
  - Transportation implementation plan board
    - Table with improvements and proportional share
    - Map with improvement locations and recommended timeframes
  - Environmental Maps board
  - Transportation Maps board
  - Goal statement preference w/ “dot exercise”
    - The public will be provided colored dots to apply to the goal statement that best represents their preference for short, medium, and high priority
    - Have two stations of the dot exercise set up in the room



- Updated WEN development information boards.
  - Site Plan updates
  - Waste water information
  - EAW schedule update (??)
  - Wild rice information (maintaining operations, etc.)
- The next PMT meeting will be held in early October to review public comments received on the draft Limited Area Comp Plan.



## Otter Tail County - Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan

PMT #5 Meeting - Attendees

August 18, 2016

Attended	Name	Agency	Email	Phone
X	Rick West	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:rwest@co.ottertail.mn.us">rwest@co.ottertail.mn.us</a>	218-998-8473
X	Larry Krohn	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:LKrohn@co.ottertail.mn.us">LKrohn@co.ottertail.mn.us</a>	218-998-8060
X	Wayne Johnson	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:waynej@loretel.net">waynej@loretel.net</a>	218-863-7500
X	Lee Rogness	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:leerogness@yahoo.com">leerogness@yahoo.com</a>	218-770-7066
X	Bill Kalar	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:bkalar@co.ottertail.mn.us">bkalar@co.ottertail.mn.us</a>	218-998-8105
X	Nick Leonard	Otter Tail County	<a href="mailto:nleonard@co.ottertail.mn.us">nleonard@co.ottertail.mn.us</a>	218-998-8057
X	Liz Foster-Anderson	White Earth Enterprises, LLC	<a href="mailto:liza@whiteearth.com">liza@whiteearth.com</a>	218-473-2145
	Joe Plummer	White Earth Tribal Attorney	<a href="mailto:joe.plummer@whiteearth-nsn.gov">joe.plummer@whiteearth-nsn.gov</a>	218-983-3285
X	Bill Marsh	Shooting Star Casino	<a href="mailto:wmarsh@starcasino.com">wmarsh@starcasino.com</a>	218-936-2701
	Mike Smith	Shooting Star Casino	<a href="mailto:gmsmith@starcasino.com">gmsmith@starcasino.com</a>	218-936-2640
X	Scott Stevens	Shooting Star Casino	<a href="mailto:sstevens@starcasino.com">sstevens@starcasino.com</a>	218-936-2521
X	Nick Valentine	Shooting Star Casino	<a href="mailto:nvalentine@starcasino.com">nvalentine@starcasino.com</a>	
X	Eric Lagerquist	Cunningham Group	<a href="mailto:elagerquist@cunningham.com">elagerquist@cunningham.com</a>	612-617-2985
	Tom Ollman	Woodstone Builders	<a href="mailto:tomo@woodstoneinc.com">tomo@woodstoneinc.com</a>	952-808-8662
X	Mike Donoho	Star Lake Property Owners Association	<a href="mailto:mtonoho@prtcl.com">mtonoho@prtcl.com</a>	
	Lee Mindemann	Star Lake Township	<a href="mailto:lee@mindemann.net">lee@mindemann.net</a>	218-298-2010
X	Shiloh Wahl	MnDOT District 4	<a href="mailto:shiloh.wahl@state.mn.us">shiloh.wahl@state.mn.us</a>	
X	Craig Vaughn	SRF Consulting	<a href="mailto:cvaughn@srfconsulting.com">cvaughn@srfconsulting.com</a>	763-249-6774
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	Molly Stewart	SRF Consulting	<a href="mailto:mstewart@srfconsulting.com">mstewart@srfconsulting.com</a>	763-452-4784