



Otter Tail County – Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan PMT Meeting #6

10:00 a.m., Monday, December 12, 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. Study Update

White Earth Nation and Shooting Star Resort and Casino representatives provided an update on the current status of their development (and its process). Below are highlights from this discussion.

- The US Army Corps of Engineers review period of the EAW was extended due to Environmental Protection review time needed. The time extension ends today, 12/12/16.
- The third set of revisions will be given to the consultant preparing the EAW for review.
- Reviewing necessary changes to the wastewater treatment facility.
- Conducting well-production water quality in mid-December.
- Depending on progression of various reviews, intention is to start construction in March 2017 and complete construction by May 2018.
- Temporary electrical and internet has been brought to the site for construction purposes.
- White Earth Nation has continued to explore sizing the sites wastewater treatment facility to accommodate the homes along Peterson's Point.
 - Have a preliminary understanding of size differential with and without the additional home capacity.
 - Question remains if it is feasible to connect the homes in this area; do the homes in this area want to be connected? At what price do these connections occur?
 - There are different funding options; all of which include home owner participation.
 - White Earth Nation agrees additional discussion is necessary to determine if the residents in this area have a desire to connect and if it can be cost effective for all parties involved.

The group discussed the Open House and General Public Review of Project Documentation

- Had over 100 people in attendance at the last open house in September.

- Many of the public comments received were directed specifically at the proposed development and not the Draft Plan document.
- Received a comment regarding lake classifications. This is relevant to the DNR and previous discussions regarding varying classifications within a single lake body. The County has not adopted this and it is not in effect.
- The DNR provided a letter outlining their review of the Draft Plan from September 2016.
 - The DNRs review/response had questions regarding the intent of the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan and the environmental review component of this activity. The DNR was not aware of the Voluntary EAW being conducted, nor were they aware of the Plans intent as an initial review of the many features in the Star Lake (and Dead Lake Township) area as a whole. Many comments were relative to the proposed development specifically, which is not the sole or direct intent of the Plan.
 - Therefore, this line of questioning and subsequent response resulted in development of a more explicit Plan Intent section in the document and explanation of what the Plan is and is not.
 - The County and White Earth Nation followed up with the DNR over the phone to discuss their review and the appropriate response for many of the questions. Furthermore, the County developed a response letter to the DNRs comments to outline their position and address many of their questions. Comments that could be addressed in the draft Plan document were clarified in the final document.
 - The PMT members all received a copy of the DNR letter and draft County response for their approval and further comment. PMT agreed to submit comments on the County response letter by 12/16/16. **ACTION**
 - Comments were received during the meeting as well that will be addressed in the final County response letter.
 - White Earth updated the DNR on the forthcoming EAW and the DNR comments would be better suited for this document. Also noted was the DNR letter was provided to the consultant preparing the EAW for White Earth Nation and the proposed Resort and Casino development.

3. Final Document Review

- Brief discussion about general comments on the overall document before discussing in detail the Implementation Plan section of the document. No significant comments were received from the PMT members.
- The PMT worked through each of the Overall Implementation Plan section.
 - The discussion began with an explanation of the Primary and Secondary Entity Responsible column. Star Lake Township is concerned with the resources the Township has available to implement any of the items identified (if money is needed to facilitate activity).
 - Further, there was discussion about a lake organization that could help provide oversight for future development considerations beyond what can be done at the Township or County level – Lake Improvement District (LID).

- A LID could be organized and purchase land for preservation purposes.
- While a LID was previously discussed for this area it may be beneficial to revisit and identify the pros/cons of forming one. This activity would be the responsibility of the current Lake/Neighborhood Association and Township.
- The PMT continued through each section of the Overall Implementation Plan providing comments on the draft presented during the meeting. The group agreed to provide additional comments (after receiving an updated draft section from SRF based on meeting comments inserted) by 12/16/16. **ACTION**

4. Next Steps

- The PMT agreed to finalize the Plan document for web posting by 12/31/16. **ACTION**
- Hard copies of the document will be provided to the County, White Earth Nation, and Star Lake Township.
- In other news the PMT discussed a brief update of the current activity regarding the County Road 41 Feasibility Study (includes the intersection of County Road 41 and State Highway 108).
 - The feasibility study is reviewing potential options for relocating the existing County Road 41 connection to State Highway 108 further west of its current location.
 - MnDOT is also reviewing potential options for the current intersection location – what potential improvements could be implemented (based on preliminary recommendations contained in the Limited Area Star Lake Comprehensive Plan). This will include a drawing of the potential improvement(s) and an estimated cost to construct.
 - Access in the area of the intersection will be reviewed as part of this activity (potential modifications or closures).
 - SRF Consulting is coordinating with the County and MnDOT on this effort. Anticipated that draft information will be shared for the potential realignment concepts and the existing intersection at the end of January OR early February.



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Attend	Name	Agency	Email	Phone
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	Joe Plummer	White Earth Tribal Attorney	joe.plummer@whiteearth-nsn.gov	218-983-3285
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	Mike Smith	Shooting Star Casino	gmsmith@starcasino.com	218-936-2640
x	Eric Lagerquist	Cunningham Group	elagerquist@cunningham.com	612-617-2985
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x	Lee Mindemann	Star Lake Township	lee@mindemann.net	218-298-2010
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