



9/24/15

Proposed Shooting Star Casino location in Star Lake Township

Over the past several months the Star Lake Twp. Board has received numerous questions regarding a rumored sale of a large tract of land located primarily in Section 15 and portions of Sections 10 & 16. Generally this is land east of Cty. Hwy. 41 and south of 380th Street (aka Peterson Point Road/Spruce Lodge Road/Camp Joy Road. The narrow strip of land on the north side of 380th along Star Lake is also included.

The rumors have varied widely and attempts to obtain any public records regarding the purported sale(s) have been difficult and frustrating. However, some progress on this front has been made and the purpose of this article is to share with township residents what we know as fact, and to initiate a process to keep residents informed as the situation develops.

It does now appear that the White Earth Nation is in the process of planning an “off-site” expansion of the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, to a location within Star Lake Township. This information is based upon the public minutes of a 2/9/2015 meeting of the White Earth Nation that were obtained by a Star Lake resident from the White Earth Nation website. See below for a copy of what was obtained.

It is important to note that this is a “copy of a proposal and a map” that are nearly 8 months old. It does not verify/confirm what may have happened since.

From Feb 9th Meeting Minutes of the White Earth Nation.

Shooting Star Casino - Klaus Robinson Report Off Site Proposal

Nicholas Valentine, SSC CFO was introduced to the Council. Scott Omlid, Bill Marsh, and Mindy Iverson were present. The study of the market potential for future development of the Shooting Star Casino complex was presented and reviewed. The letter presented gave a brief summary of conclusions and recommendations in completion of phase I of the engagement; this does not constitute the full feasibility report, which will be completed in phase II and will include substantial additional supporting data and analysis. The preliminary financial projections are based on various estimates and assumptions derived from knowledge of the industry and research of the market.

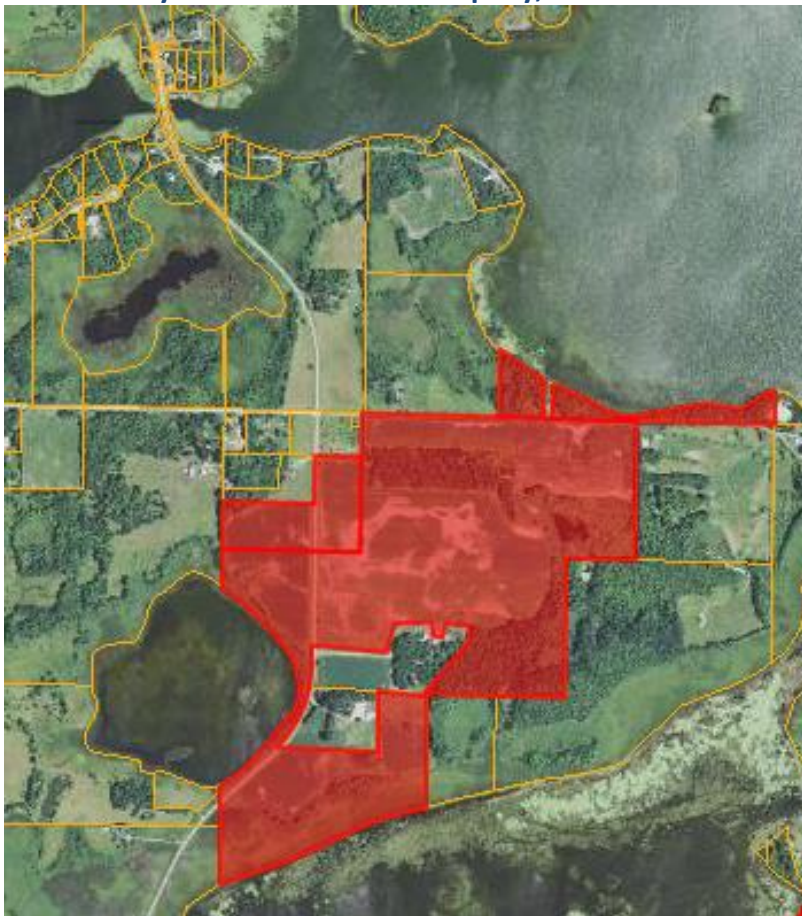
Question was raised as to how this plan is different from the previous master plan presented by Ed Hanson. A lot of master plan components are in this presentation; plan would have to be re-evaluated to see whether or not they coincide. Erma stated she liked the **Star Lake Site** information. Joe Plumer stated there would be no issues at this location as it is trust land status; would need to look at access the parcels Would also need to maintain accessibility for the rickers. **Ottertail County** will need to be approached as to plans; it was stated **Ottertail** is very pro-business and interested in development in the area. Question was raised as to what the



process would be if we are not allowed access to our trust land; Joe stated condemnation would be the process - a code would need to be developed as well and would be a lengthy process. Alternative access to the site would also be an option. Trust lands purchased after 1988 cannot be utilized for Tribal gaming.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to move forward with Phase II planning of the process, SSC renovation, **Bagley/Ebro** and **Star Lake** gaming expansion, Seconded Tara Mason. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against. It was stated that details will be needed to justify any financing associated with any future construction. Joe Plumer will follow up on land purchased around/near the trust land location. Bill stated Phase II timeframe will be to have a full written report within two - three weeks.

Land held by Central MN Land Company, LLC shown below



This is the end of the website information regarding the 2/9/2015 White Earth Nation meeting.

Again it should be pointed out the map shown above is from a February 2015 meeting and may or may not accurately reflect the actual situation today.



The Star Lake Township board did confirm with the Otter Tail County Auditor in early September that 218 acres of land in Section 15 had in fact been sold for \$1,950,000.00 to the Central Minnesota Land Company, 1117 Minnesota Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. The only name listed for the company is Joe Plummer, whose name is also mentioned in the meeting minutes.

Additionally, it was confirmed in late September that the narrow plot of land on the north side of 380th (essentially the wooded area running from the open pasture land to Spruce Lodge) has also been sold to the Central MN Land Co. . The 12.3 acre plot sold for \$350,000.00. The total acreage of these documented sales plus the existing tribal land is approximately 245 acres.

While the caption on the above map states that the indicated land is “held” by the Central MN Land Co., as of 9/23/15 the only sales confirmed by an internet search of Otter Tail County records are the two noted here. As mentioned earlier, it’s important to remember that the White Earth Nation meeting minutes are about 8 months old – so they may or may not be totally accurate.

The minutes did reference a new casino location in Bagley, MN and an 8/6/15 KFGO Radio report would seem to confirm that. The text of that report follows:

“The Shooting Star Casino plans to build a new casino near Bagley, MN. Construction is expected to begin next month, with completion planned for the spring of 2016. The hotel and entertainment complex is owned and operated by the White Earth Nation. The new casino is expected to create 40 jobs.”

We have met with Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson and shared what we have found out to date, and what some of our concerns may be going forward. The County Commission and Staff just learned of this situation this week upon receiving the same email message shared above.

This will obviously be a fluid situation on-going, and will likely be a lengthy process. The Town Board will continue to follow this situation and provide updates as more facts become known via the township website at <starlaketownship.org>.



This development is surprising and could have long term impacts to our township residents and property owners. The board's intention is to keep the township residents and property owners informed with the facts, but we will restrain from offering opinions and/or unsubstantiated rumors. There are a host of questions to be asked & resolved and we will do our best to keep you abreast of the developing situation.

Respectfully,

Star Lake Township Board