



February 2018

SITE INVESTIGATION FOR WORLD-CLASS SHOOTING RANGE SITE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Overview

Per Laws of 2017, Chapter 93, Section 3, Subdivision 6, the Department of Natural Resources request[ed] proposals to contract with a private entity to search for a site to construct a world-class shooting range and club house for use by the Minnesota State High School League and for other regional, statewide, national, and international shooting events. The facility should preferably be within the 7-county metro area. Other sites outside the 7-county metro area will be considered if they are located on a major thoroughfare that provides accessibility. The siting search process must include a public process to determine if any business or individual is interested in donating land for the facility, anticipated to be at least 500 acres.

The process to identify a site started with Representative David Dill's desire to build and maintain a "world class" shooting range in the metro area that would provide easy access to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport, lodging, and restaurants. This facility would be used for international, national, regional, and local shooting sports. The drive to identify a site and build this facility came from Representative Dill and his son's weekend travels all over the country to attend different competitions. It was their love of these competitions that fueled the original vision for this project.

In 2001, Jim Sable embarked on a journey that no one thought would result in the project and passion that it has today. Looking back to the 1990s, recreational shooting as a sport was losing steam among the general public and was non-existent as an officially sponsored activity in our schools. That same year, Jim began mentoring five students in Orono. The intention of Jim's mentoring was just that: to foster a guiding relationship with a small group of students exhibiting a need that wasn't being filled either at school or at home. At the same time, as a leader of the Plymouth Gun Club, Jim had been experiencing a perceived decline of the sport of recreational shooting. In general, the members of these types of clubs were aging and Jim foresaw a future in which these activities didn't exist anymore. Local gun clubs were closing and the future for the sport wasn't optimistic. When Jim Sable had the idea to take this group of high school mentees to the local trap range, he didn't foresee the positive impact this decision, along with his supervision and guidance, would have on so many youth. Fifteen years after Jim started this informal trap club, and now as the founder and director of the USA High School Clay Target League, Jim helps to manage more than 11,000 participants just in the state of Minnesota. This Minnesota league has helped to start leagues across the country with similar activities, and leagues now operate in 22 states. In 2018, the first national tournament will be held in Michigan. Many believe that if Minnesota had a venue that could accommodate the thousands of participants, the inaugural national tournament for clay targets would be held here, in Minnesota, where it all started.

Currently, the Minnesota State High School Clay Target league is Minnesota's fastest-growing and safest sport, with more than 20 million shots fired and zero injuries in the history of the league. With the increased level of participation and the existing clay target venues far exceeding capacity during tournaments, 800 students were turned away from the program last year in Minnesota due to the lack of space and to accommodate all the interested teams at local gun clubs. The need for a new local venue to support the interest in the sport is clear.



In response to the increased number of students participating in sport target shooting and the need for a facility in Minnesota that could host international, national, regional, and local shooting sport competitions, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) engaged with KLJ to identify potential sites for a new sport shooting facility. To begin the process of project feasibility and conceptual planning, the project team for the last few months, have been researching potential locations for this facility. The proposed facility will require a site that may include several hundred acres of land potentially up to 1,000 acres, preferably located within the seven-county metro area, and/or within approximately an hour's drive of the Twin Cities.

Goal

It is the goal of this project that a report be generated on sites identified to be purchased and/or donated for a shooting range facility.

BACKGROUND

Past Project Activities

In 2005, a study was prepared by Responsive Management for the MnDNR “to assist in determining the best location and features of shooting ranges in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area so that the DNR can most effectively allocate public resources.” The study entailed two focus groups (one with firearms safety instructors and another with hunters) and two telephone surveys (one of instructors and the other of hunters).

In 2009, Architectural Resources Inc. was engaged to complete a report detailing conceptual master and schematic plans for a potential Shooting Sports Facility. This study helped to identify potential site requirements for size, location, and desired amenities.

In 2010, the MnDNR published a Request for Information (RFI) to determine interest in and obtain information from local units of government and other vendors or private landowners that might be interested in researching the siting of a new shooting range complex on either public or privately-owned lands in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Site Identification Process

The following tasks and associated steps follow a basic outline of the process that the project team has taken in its approach to identifying and researching potentially available land within the 15-county metro area. Due to the investigative nature of this project, all tasks have occurred simultaneously and iterative where appropriate.

Task 1: Data Review, Agency Coordination, and Communication Plan

- Media and community engagement
 - Star Tribune Article – 11/3/2017 – approx. 800k daily readers (**Attachment A**)
 - Outdoor News Article – 11/3/2017 – (**Attachment B**)
 - The Big Wild Radio Show Interview – approx. 150,000 weekly listeners
 - The Big Wild - 11/17/17 (http://www.podcastgarden.com/episode/the-big-wild-111717_119475)
 - Ahlman’s Gun Club Newsletter – 1/13/2018 - 23,000 readers



- Suburban Gun Club Newsletter
- Community Engagement & Outreach
 - Receiving and responding to calls of interest
 - Responding to inquiries
 - Following up with landowner suggestions and contacts
- Data Review:
 - Prior project effort research and review
 - Land and jurisdictional research – based on individual sites
 - Meetings and/or discussions with 15 counties (not including cities and townships)
 - Follow-up on potential land parcels and permitting this use

Task 2: Site Visits and Landowner Discussions

- Outreach to interested parties and landowners
- Documentation of potential properties and contacts
- Land acquisition team follow-up where appropriate

Task 3: Report Preparation

- Assimilation of data received from interested parties and previous/current project contacts
- Mapping and site summaries
- Follow-up of on-going site investigation, discovery and contacts

The following locations are ranked from the location with the highest potential to host this facility to the location with the least potential. A table that summarizes the sites eliminated from further analysis is provided at the end of this section.



SITES RECOMMENDED TO BE CARRIED FORWARD FOR FURTHER REVIEW

This section contains summaries of the individual properties recommended for further assessment.

Each of these sites were analyzed based on the following criteria:

- Size of site and potential to meet previous conceptual design size options
- Distance from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities, as well as adequate local infrastructure to support large influx of visitors
- Adjacent land uses compatible with a shooting range facility
- Potential local support for or opposition to a facility of this nature
- Land acquisition potential – is property for sale or is the landowner open to donating

Each of the sites identified in Exhibit 1 - Recommended Sites are numbered (ranked) 1 to 10, with 1 being the property with the highest recommendation and 10 being the least.

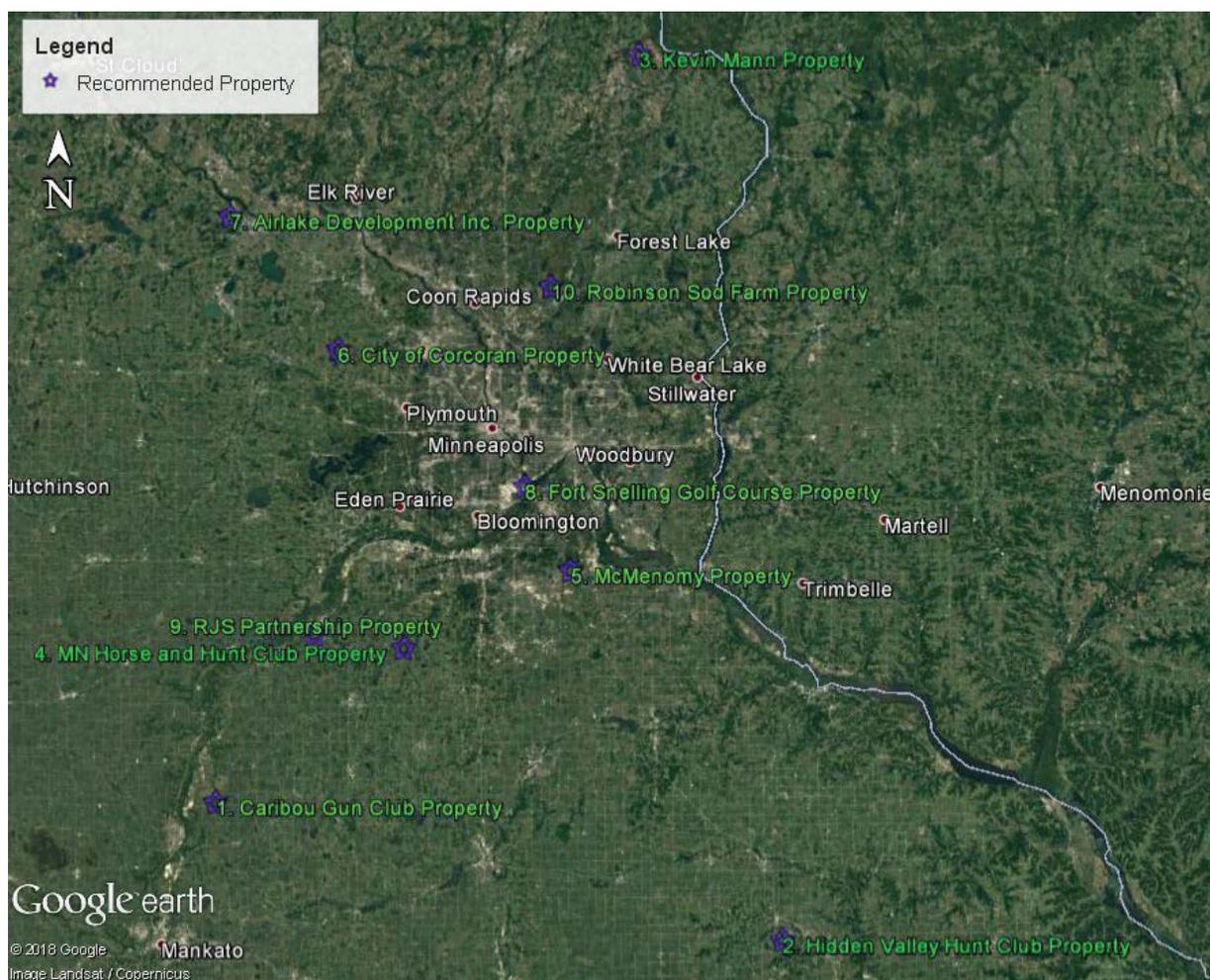


Exhibit 1: Recommended Sites



1. Caribou Gun Club Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – The Voss Family
Randy Voss, T: 507-381-2962

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 750 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

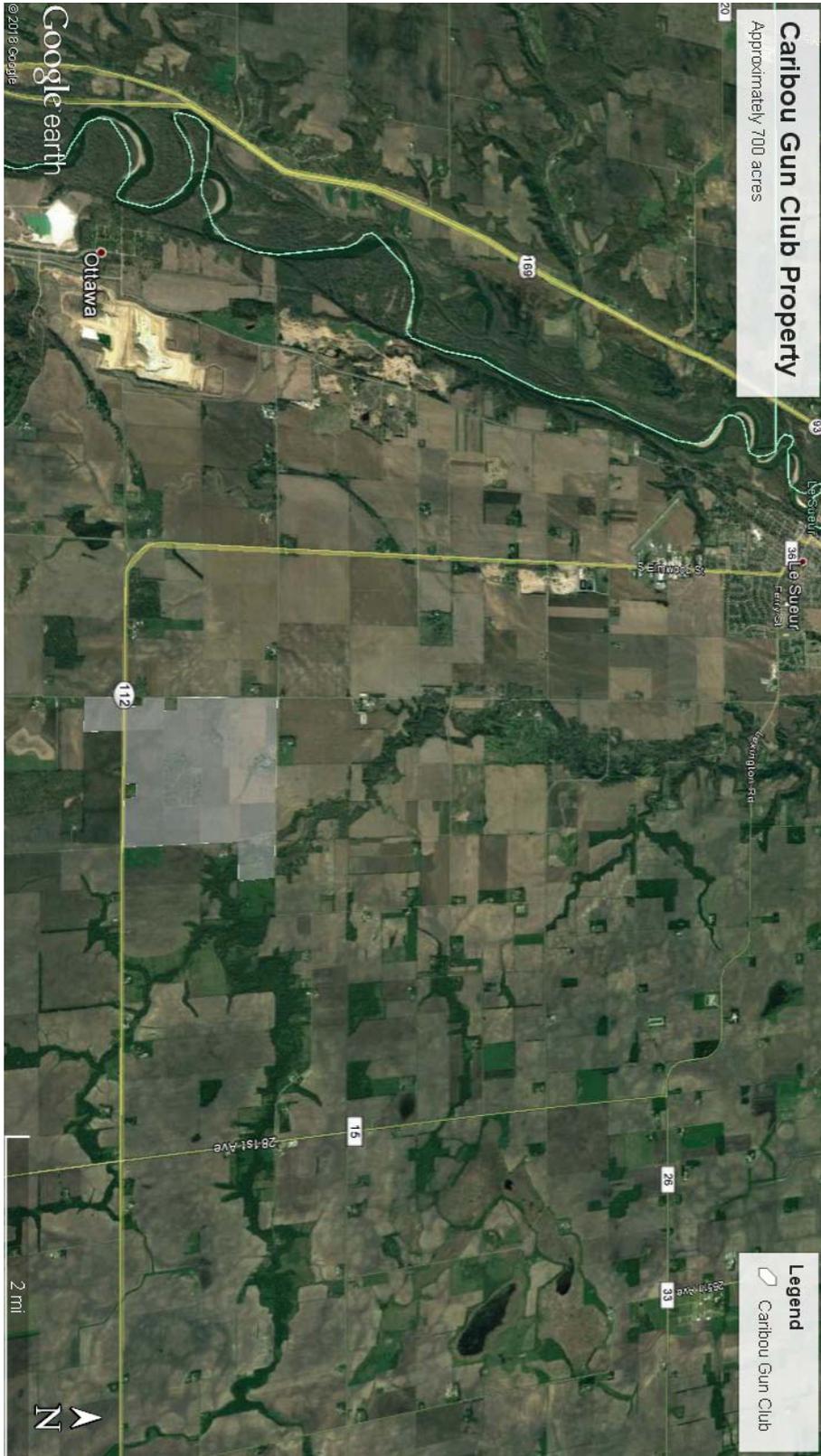
This property is in Le Sueur County, adjacent to Le Sueur County Road 69, approximately six miles southeast of the City of Le Sueur. This site can be described as flat to rolling with areas of farmland. Since this property has already been used as a gun club for the past 40+ years, current facilities on the site include up to 12 sporting clay courses, six trap ranges and one skeet field, a 25 to 500-yard rifle and pistol range, and 3 to 50-acre hunting fields. The property also has a log cabin for rental, 28 RV-hookups with electricity, and 350-seat banquet hall. This property has hosted several international, national, and regional shooting competitions as well as the Warrior Dash (a 5k obstacle course competition). The Gun Club is also used by four local high school trap teams. The land uses adjacent to the site are rural in nature with large areas of farmland and dispersed residences. The reason for the Voss family looking to sell this property is due to the father, who started and ran the business, passing away and the children are older and looking to retire from the business. Here is the link to the Gun Club's website: www.caribougunclub.com

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The Voss family reached out to DNR and KLJ after seeing Ahlman's newsletter.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to US Highway 169 and is located approximately 1 hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Le Sueur) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent land uses are rural in nature with scattered residential and agricultural operations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Currently this facility is being used for a gun club and there has been no local opposition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This location could have the potential for partial donation.





2. Hidden Valley Gamebird Hunt Club Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Listed for sale with Marcus and Millichap

Tom Gommels, Marcus and Millichap, T: 952-852-9734, Tom.Gommels@marcusmillichap.com

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 410 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This property is in Olmstead County, adjacent to Olmstead County Highway 5 which is currently being improved, approximately two miles southeast of the city of Pine Island and five miles west of the interchange with US Highway 52. This site can be described as a combination of rolling hills, grassy meadows, and old growth pine trees. There is a man-made pond on the property that has no liner and holds water year-round. For the past 30 years, this property has been used as a game farm. Areas of the property have also been rented for agricultural use or are in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The paved Douglas Biking/Walking trail is to the east of the property. The land uses adjacent to the site are similar in nature, with large areas of farmland and dispersed rural residences. The reason for selling this property is the landowner would like to retire, as well as the manager of the hunt club.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Tom Gommels from Marcus & Millichap contacted DNR and KLJ regarding this property.

PROPERTY RANKING



- The site is close but would not meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
- There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to US Highway 52 and is located approximately one hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Pine Island) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
- The adjacent land uses are rural in nature with scattered residential and agricultural operations.
- Currently this property is being used as a gamebird range, so there may be no local opposition.
- This location is for sale and could have the potential for partial donation.





3. Kevin Mann Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Kevin Mann

T: 612-986-9804

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 868+ acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

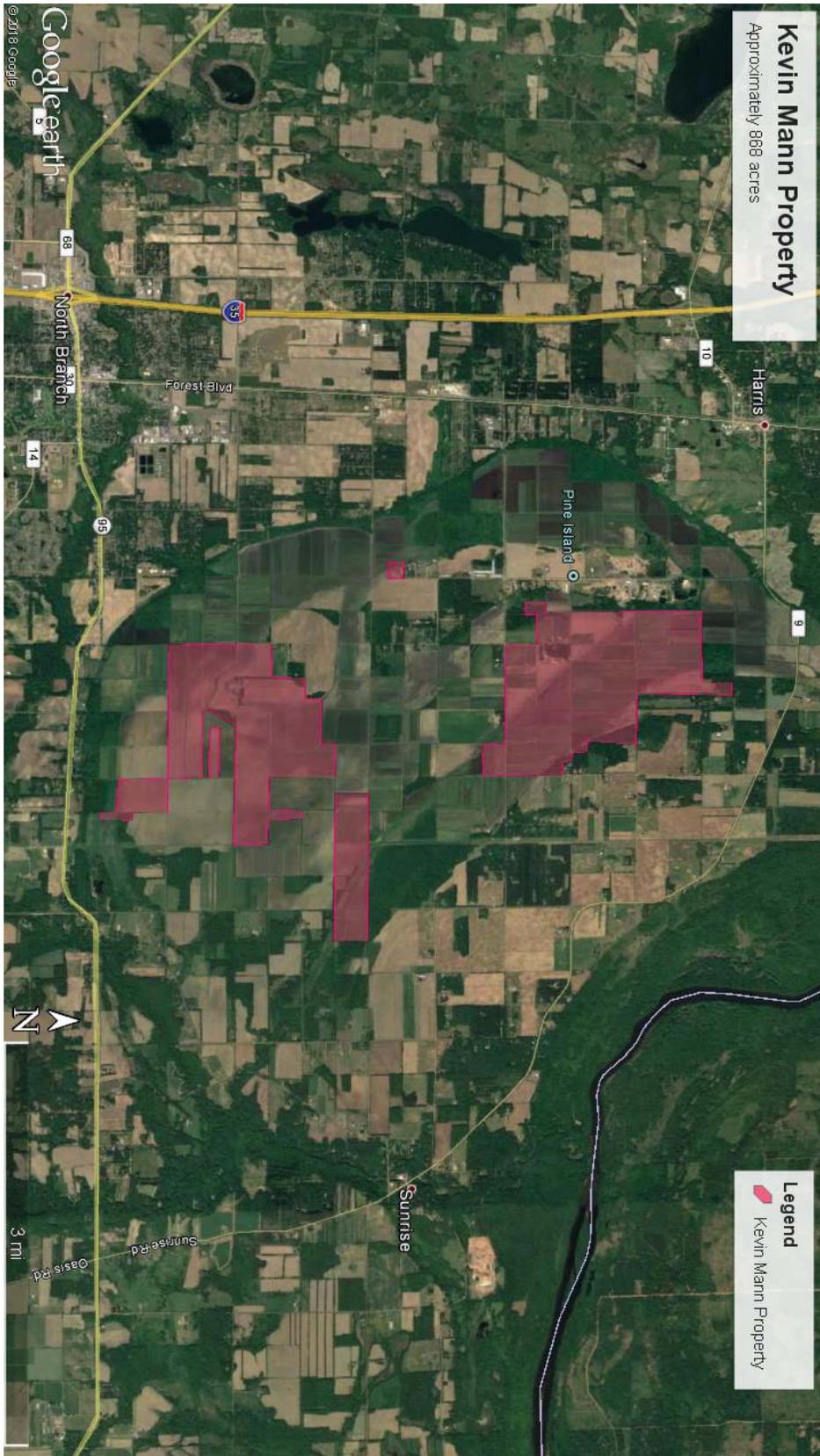
This property is located in Chisago County and consists of a few large clusters of parcels all within close distance of each other. The northern end of the site is 1.5 miles from Chisago County Road 9, approximately two miles southeast of the city of Harris and 2.5 miles from Interstate 35 and the southern portion of the site is 0.2 miles from Minnesota State Highway 95 and 3.0 miles east of North Branch. The site can be described as flat to rolling, used primarily for farmland with dispersed outbuildings and rural residences. There are pockets of wooded areas and a creek that runs on the eastern portion of one of the parcels. The land uses adjacent to the site are similar in nature, with large areas of farmland and dispersed rural residences. The landowner previously expressed interest in selling the property for wetland banking.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Chisago County brought this site to the attention of KLJ.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to Interstate 35 and is located approximately one hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Harris and North Branch) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent land uses are rural in nature with scattered residential and agricultural operations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chisago County is open to the project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This property would be for sale and the landowner may not be open to any donations.





4. Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Randy Travalier

T: 612-723-2135

PROPERTY SIZE

This site is more than 600 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club property is in Scott County, adjacent to County Road 81 and County Road 8, approximately six miles southwest of the City of Prior Lake. Minnesota Highway 282 and Minnesota Highway 13 are approximately four miles to the north of this site. This site has varying terrain but much of the site is relatively flat with existing ranges, courses, and access roads and trails. This property is currently used for trap, skeet, and sporting clay shooting, with 5-Sporting Clays Courses, 4-Trapshooting Fields, 2-Skeet Fields, and a 5-Stand Course. These facilities are open to the public. This property also includes an existing bar and restaurant, two large lodging facilities, outdoor spaces for events, and horse and dog boarding facilities. The land uses adjacent to this property are mainly rural residential, with large tracts of agricultural land or open spaces.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

This property was originally identified in the 2010 RFI.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to Minnesota State Highway 282/13 and is located within 45 minutes of the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities is adequate for holding a competition or event. There is an existing campground on the property.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent existing land uses are rural in nature with open space and agricultural activities with scattered residential. This site currently operates as an existing shooting range, club, and event center with a campground.•Due to this site being an existing shooting range, some remediation work may be required on soils with elevated lead levels. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed in the past and identified contaminated soils with elevated lead levels in the rifle and pistol ranges. The rifle and pistol ranges have not been remediated to date. Additional investigation will likely need to be completed to identify any other areas on the property that may require attention.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The property owner is a supporter of the project and Scott County is amenable to the project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This location could have the potential for partial donation.





5. Brian McMenemy Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Brian McMenemy
T: 612-202-1330, mac7694@hotmail.com

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 393 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The property is in Dakota County, adjacent to 132nd Street West and Highway 73 (Akron Avenue), approximately two miles northeast of the city of Rosemont. US Highway 52 is approximately three miles to the east of this site. The Flint Hills Refinery is directly east of this site on US Highway 52. The West End Gun Club is approximately two miles from this site in Eagan. This site consists of four parcels and is relatively flat, with the majority of the property used as farmland and the northern portion retained as a forested area with ponds and wetlands scattered throughout. There are some properties adjacent to the site that are similar in nature, with large areas of farmland or open space, including the Flint Hills buffer lands to the east. To the north, west, and south there is denser development, with a mix of residential and commercial either existing or planned.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Brian McMenemy contacted KLJ after seeing the article in Ahlman’s newsletter.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would not meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to US Highway 52 and is located approximately 30 minutes from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Rosemount, Eagan, and Apple Valley) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent existing land uses are rural in nature with open space and agricultural activities but likely to be developed for residential and commercial.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The property owner is a supporter of the project and Dakota County is open to the project as well.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This location would be for sale but could have the potential for partial donation.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Site Investigation for World-Class Shooting Range Site
February 2018



6. City of Corcoran Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – multiple owners

Brad Martens, City Administrator, T: 763-400-7030, bmartens@ci.corcoran.mn.us

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 500 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This property is located in Hennepin County, adjacent to Minnesota State Highway 50, approximately two miles west of the city of Corcoran. This site can be described as flat to rolling used primarily for farmland with dispersed rural residences. There are pockets of wooded areas and ponds within the site boundary. The land uses adjacent to the site are similar in nature, with large areas of farmland and dispersed rural residences. This site was proposed by Brad Martens, City Administrator for Corcoran. He noted that this is a potential site and will require negotiations with landowners. If this site did not work out, Mr. Martens noted there are several areas within and adjacent to the city of Corcoran that may provide a suitable site for the proposed shooting complex. He is proponent for this project and for locating it in his city.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Brad Martens, City Administrator for Corcoran contacted DNR and KLJ identifying a potential site within the City boundary.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate access to Interstate 94 and the site is located approximately 45 minutes from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities but the secondary roads and intersections to the site may cause traffic issues during events or competitions. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Corcoran) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent land uses are rural in nature with scattered residential and agricultural operations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Corcoran's mayor and city administrator are proponents for this project, there may still be local opposition and landowners were not previously consulted about the property.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The property would likely have to be purchased.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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7. Airlake Development Inc. Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Airlake Development Inc.

Dan Regan, T: 612-987-9966, dregan@launchproperties.com

PROPERTY SIZE

This Property is approximately 500 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION SITE

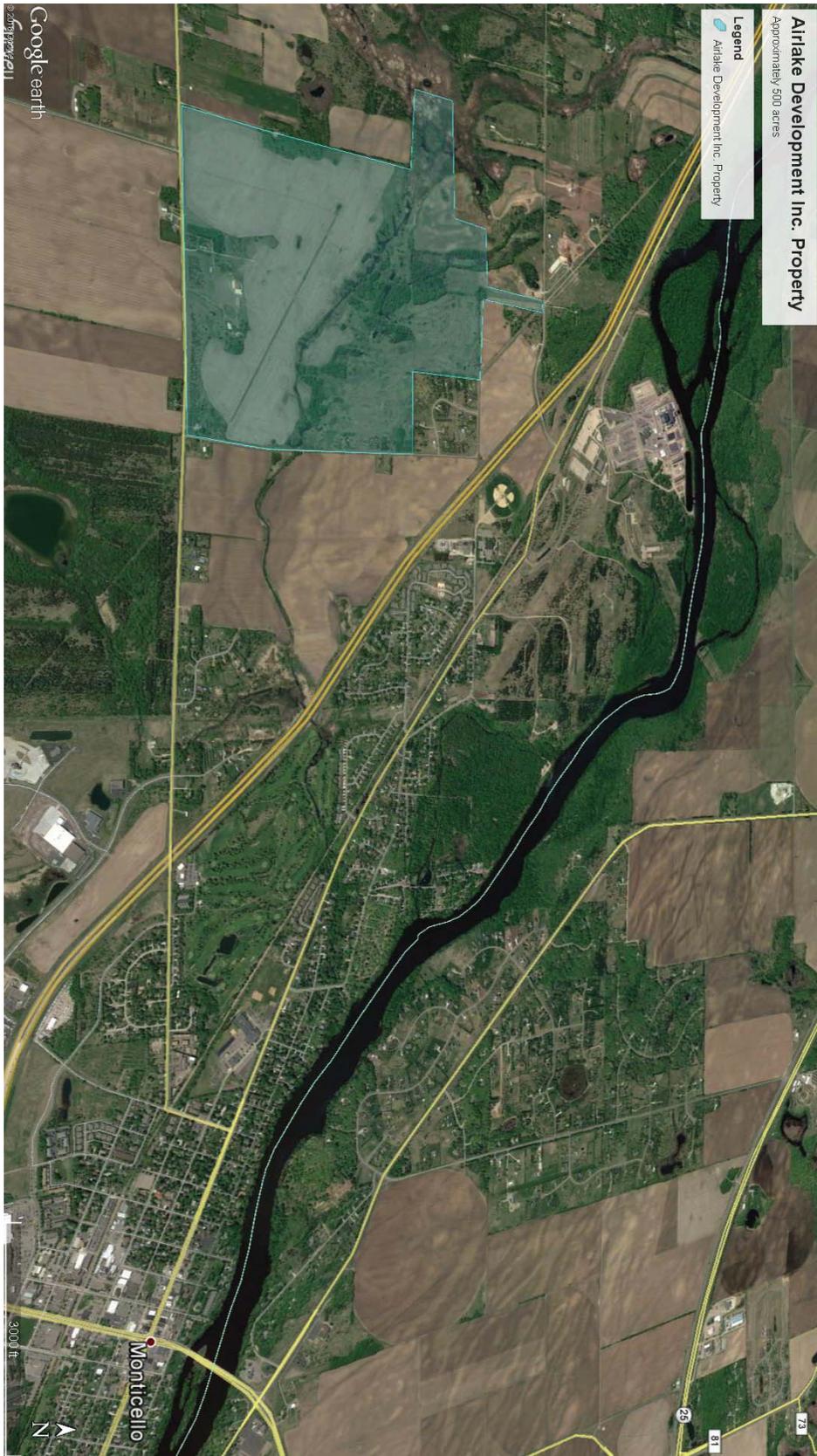
This property is in Wright County, adjacent to County Road 38 NE, approximately two miles northwest of the city of Monticello. Interstate 94 is immediately west of this property. Most of the property is relatively flat with a mix of farmland and open space. There are scattered wetlands and a creek that proceeds from the northwest to southeast of the site through the middle of the property. This property was formally used for the Silver Springs Golf Course but is no longer in operation. The facilities located on the property include an 18,000 square foot clubhouse, built in 1999, which has office space, bar and restaurant area, banquet room that can seat up to 350 guests, and a large commercial kitchen that can accommodate groups of up to 500 people. Additionally, other buildings on site include a 7,200 square foot metal storage building, the original clubhouse building now used for storage, a large outdoor covered picnic area, and a single-family home. The land uses adjacent to this property are mainly rural residential, with large tracts of agricultural land or open spaces. This property did have a solar farm proposed on it but the City of Monticello denied this development due to local opposition.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

This property was originally identified in the 2010 RFI.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The property would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to Interstate 94 and is located one hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting information on the property and in surrounding communities (City of Monticello) is adequate for holding a competition or event. Infrastructure on property may need updating.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent land uses are relatively rural with scattered residential and agricultural operations. Would need to mitigate for large wetland that crosses the middle of the property.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for local opposition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This location is for sale and likely has no donation option.





8. Fort Snelling Golf Course Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

State of Minnesota - Department of Natural Resources and is leased by City of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation

Michael Schroeder, City of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Assistant Superintendent,

T: 612-230-6467, mschroeder@minneapolisparcs.org

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 133 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

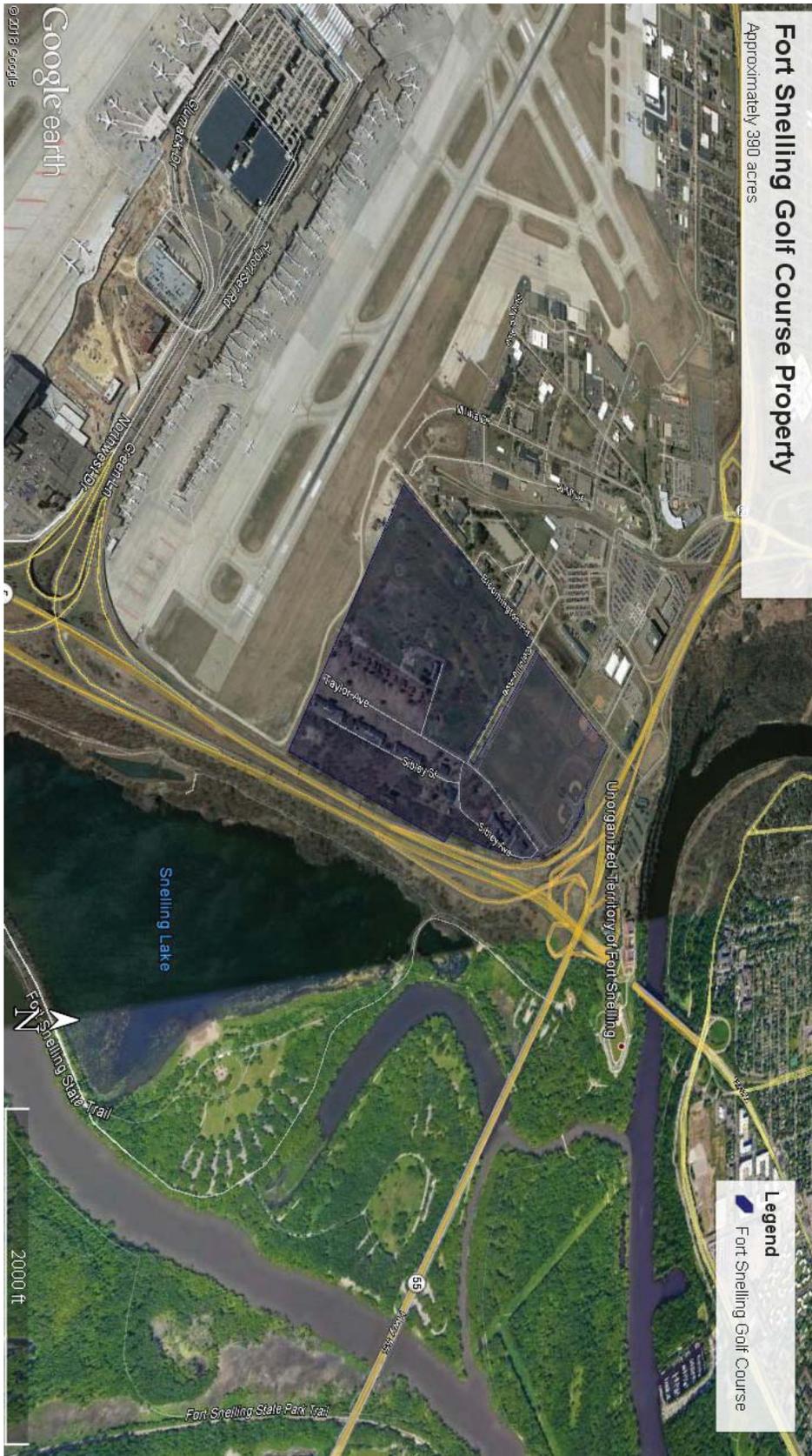
Fort Snelling Golf Course (FSGC) is in Hennepin County on Fort Snelling State Park, adjacent to the intersection of Minnesota State Highway 62 and Minnesota State Highway 5. The closest community to this site is Mendota Heights. This site is located to the southeast of the Minneapolis Airport Lindbergh Terminal 1. The general topography is relatively flat with large open areas used previously for the Fort Snelling Golf Course. Existing infrastructures include uninhabitable dormitories originally used by residents of Fort Snelling and existing recreation facilities that include baseball fields. The area adjacent to this site has been heavily developed, except to the south along the Minnesota River.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

This property was originally identified by Jim Sable and Gary Botzek.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would not meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, being within close proximity to Terminal 2 at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities is unlimited and other for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent land uses are MSP and Fort Snelling Historic Site. The Airport/FAA may oppose a shooting range adjacent to a main runway, despite historical compatible uses on adjacent base.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This property is also being proposed for an adventure camp by the DNR Parks and Recreation Division and Minneapolis Parks and Recreation. Trap shooting could be a component of the camp.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This location could have the potential for donation option.





9. RJS Partnership Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – RJS Partnership
Kristine and Roger Beuch, H: 952-492-6656, C: 612-868-0351, krjs10@hotmail.com

PROPERTY SIZE

This site is approximately 390 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

RJS Partnership site is in Scott County, adjacent to Minnesota State Highway 169, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the city of Jordan. The general topography of this site is relatively flat with the majority of the land used as farmland. A portion of the property was historically used for gravel mining which has created a bermed area. There is a wooded area comprised of a natural spring and varied terrain common to the shores of the old River Warren. A small area has been sold but the majority of the acreage remains for sale. The parcels are divided by Old Highway 169. Kristine Beuch is the managing partner of RJS Partnership. She confirmed RJS Partnership is open to discussing the potential use of this site for the shooting complex.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

This site was originally proposed in the 2010 Request for Information. This site was used previously by the River Valley Sportsman Club.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would not meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to US Highway 169 and is located approximately one hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Jordan) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent existing land uses are rural in nature with residential and agricultural activities. A residential development is planned to the east and south and the area is growing and developing rapidly. In addition, since this was a gravel pit previously, reclamation work may be required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Since this area has residential development being rapidly deployed, may face local opposition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This property would have to be purchased.



10. Robinson Sod Farm Property

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Private – Multiple owners, listed for sale by Gaughan Companies
Tom Opsahl, Gaughan Companies, T: 612-702-3770, TomOpsahl@gaughancompanies.com

PROPERTY SIZE

This property is approximately 650 acres.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Robinson Sod Farm Property is in Anoka County, adjacent to Highway 14 (Main Street), approximately three miles north of Circle Pines and five miles northeast of Blaine. This site is flat, open sod fields with forested areas along the northern portion of the site boundary. It is being sold as three separate properties. The land uses adjacent to the site are similar in nature to the north and west, with large areas of farmland or open space and dispersed rural residences. To the south, there is denser development, with a mix of residential and commercial. This site is currently listed for sale by Gaughan Properties and was originally identified for a gated community. The property is sold with two houses, buildings, landscaping business, and equipment.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Was in 2010 RFI; Current listing agent also reached out to KLJ on tip from Star Tribune article.

PROPERTY RANKING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The site would meet the minimum acreage required based on previous concept designs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is adequate transportation infrastructure, with access to Interstate 35W and is located within 30 minutes of Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and other Twin Cities amenities. Supporting infrastructure in surrounding communities (Forest Lake) is adequate for holding a competition or event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The adjacent existing land uses are a combination of rural and developed with residential and commercial development occurring to the east, south, and west of the property.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Since this area has extensive residential development near the property and is zoned for future residential/mixed-use, the project may face local opposition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This property would have to be purchased at a high price.





In addition to the sites provided above, there were other sites that were presented; however, due to site location or other reasons, they were not included for further consideration at this time. Below is a summary of each of these sites:

- **ATK Orbital Property (approximately 3,200 acres) located in Anoka County.** ATK Orbital was a part of the original 2010 RFI. The area that was originally identified for the project is called the proving grounds. After speaking with a representative at ATK, KLJ was informed that ATK would be open to discussions about the project on this site. It is our suggestion that if none of the other sites were found to be viable through further analysis, that ATK should be approached.
 - Contact Information: Steve Rauschendorfer, O: 763-744-5594, C: 612-219-3623, Steven.Rauschendorfer@OrbitalATK.com

- **Kathy Hron Property (approximately 362 acres) located in Itasca County.** Kathy approached KLJ about this property as a potential location for the project. The site has been in her family for 110 years and is adjacent to state and federal lands, with opportunities for hunting and fishing, as well as access to recreational areas nearby. Kathy is selling this property because she is moving. Due to the distance from the Twin Cities, we have kept this site from being included above but this site would be worth approaching if determined a location in the Grand Rapids area is viable for the project. The property address is: 49785 County Rd 184, Deer River, MN 56636
 - Contact information: Kathy Hron, Clearwater Real Estate, T: 218-246-2284

- **Brainerd Lakes Area Property (approximately 480 acres) in Cass County.** KLJ was approached by Keller Williams (real estate representative for the landowner) about the property. This site is within proximity to the exclusive Gull Lake Chain, which has extensive hotel and resorts that could provide accommodations for out of town competitors. Due to the distance from the Twin Cities, we have kept this site from being included above. However, this site would be worth approaching if determined a location in the Brainerd Lakes area is viable for the project.
 - Contact Information: Jamie Magness, Keller Williams Realty Professionals, 218-838-4095, Jamie.magness@gmail.com

- **Winona Sportsman Club Property (approximately 100 acres) in Winona County.** Todd Looney, Treasurer for the club, responded to KLJ after seeing the Ahlman's letter. This club is very interested in the project and having this site used for the project. This facility currently has a club house with a full bar and kitchen, ample parking, five trap houses, two skeet fields, four pistol bays, handgun-rifle range and they were finishing a 100, 200, and 300-yard rifle range. Due to the distance from the Twin Cities, we have kept this site from being included above. However, this site would be worth approaching if determined a location in the Winona area is viable for the project.
 - Contact Information: Todd Looney, T: 507-454-8799, toddsref@hbc.com

- **Camp Ripley ACUB Property (approximately several hundred acres) in Crow Wing County.** Josh Pennington with Camp Ripley Environmental Supervisor approached KLJ about the project and how it may work with the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. He explained about the work that has been completed to date with partners to secure conservation easements and acquisition lands around Camp Ripley. Josh thinks this project may be a good fit for the ACUB.



Chuck Niska, with DNR, met with Josh and thinks there could be potential to work with Camp Ripley and ACUB. Due to the distance from the Twin Cities, we have reserved this site from recommendation above. However, this site is worth approaching if it is determined that a location in the Camp Ripley area is viable for the project.

- Contact Information: Joshua Pennington, T: 320-616-2720, Joshua.a.pennington4.nfg@mail.mil
- **UMore Park (approximately 4,700 acres) is in Dakota County.** KLJ reached out to internal contacts at UMore. Internal coordination would be needed between the DNR divisions for the University to properly be able to address this possibility within the Vermillion Highlands area of UMore. There potentially could be land for consideration outside of the Vermillion Highlands, but it would need to be at market-value, which could be prohibitive given potential for other types of development being proposed at UMore. It is our suggestion that if none of the other sites were found to be viable through further analysis, UMore should be approached.
 - Contact Information: Jon Dostal, U of M Real Estate, T: 612-626-9402, jrdostal@umn.edu

OTHER SITES REVIEWED/SITES RECOMMENDED FOR ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER REVIEW

Below summarizes the properties that were analyzed and eliminated as a potential site due to various reasons. It is recommended these sites not be further pursued.

- Rice County (these properties were suggested by the County to look into for the project):
 - **PID: 0201375001 Site:** A 58-acre site located northwest of Interstate 35W and 45th Street. Due to the minimal acreage of the property, this site was eliminated.
 - Contact Information: Minneapolis Post 435, 6501 Portland Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423
 - **Faribault Rifle & Pistol Club Property (PID: 0918175001):** This is a 65-acre property that has an existing rifle and pistol range on it. Although this facility already is used for recreational shooting activities, due to the small size of the property, this site was eliminated.
 - Contact Information: Faribault Rifle & Pistol Club, PO Box 252, Faribault, MN 55021, T: 507-332-8249
 - **Medford Properties (several different sites):**
 - PID: 0609200001, 0609225001, and 0609325002: Approximately 198 acres that was formerly used for gravel mining and agricultural purposes.
 - PID: 1533500001, 1532500001, and 1532475001: Approximately 183 acres located at the convergence of Highway 21 and Interstate 35W. This area was formerly used for gravel mining/agricultural lands. Due to this site being bisected by roads and other private properties, it was eliminated.
 - Contact Information: Don Redman, Medford Properties II LLC, PO Box 60, Medford, MN 55049, T: 507-455-2528
 - **Private Property (PID: 0608100001):** Approximately 236 acres, located adjacent to the Medford properties (not a Medford property). Due to location and minimal acreage available, this site was eliminated.



- Contact information: Danial L Nelson Et Al, 9145 Elmore Avenue, Lonsdale, MN 55046
- **Fox Den Farms Incorporated Property:** Approximately 311 acres. This cattle farm was approached but no response has been received to date from the landowner. This site has been eliminated from further consideration based on the non-responsiveness of the landowner to information provided about the project.
 - Contact Information: Fox Den Farms Inc.,11655 Gilbert Trail, Lonsdale, MN 55046; T: (507) 744-2025
- **Private Property (PID: 1517300001):** Approximately 106 acres. This property is primarily used for agricultural purposes and is surrounded on three sides by a 430-acre, State of MN - Wildlife Management Area (PID: 1517200001). This site has been eliminated from further consideration based on the non-responsiveness of the landowner to information provided about the project.
 - Contact Information: James W & Shirley Taggart, 25771 Elmore Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021
- **Circle Lake Trail Properties:** This property has 45 acres dedicated to Vosejka Wildlife Refuge, as well as the 100-acre island (PID: 0615351001 and 0622226001). This piece of property was eliminated from further consideration based on the size and location adjacent to residential development
 - Contact Information: Mesenbrink Construction & Engineering & Kimberly R Gensmer Trust, 7765 175th Street East, Prior Lake MN 55372
- **Private Property (PID: 1519200001):** This property is approximately 86 acres and due to the small size of the property, was eliminated from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Dennis & Susan Uittenbogaard, 4936 Echo Court, Faribault, MN 55021-7890
- **McCullough Park (PID: 0535225004):** This property is approximately 104 acres that includes a campground on Shield's Lake. This property is owned and managed by Rice County. In 2010, Rice County received a \$400,000 State grant from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment Funds to assist in redevelopment of this facility. This site is intriguing based on the location and recreational use, but it has been eliminated from further consideration based on the size and location.
 - Contact Information: Rice County Parks, Jake Rysavy, 507-332-6112
- **Shields Lake DNR Property (PID: 0903225001):** This 204-acre site is located on the east side of Shields Lake within the Shoreland Zoning District for the County. Due to the location in the shoreland district and the size of the property this site was eliminated from further consideration.
- **Private Property (PID 0925275002):** This 85-acre site is owned by brothers who run the State Bank of Faribault. It is within five miles from I-35W. Due to the size of the site and apparent existence of wetlands, it was eliminated from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: John R & Matthew C Carlander, 20080 Geneva CT, Faribault, MN 55021 and Paul S Gray Trust, 205 Western Avenue North, Faribault, MN 55021
- **Peterson Family Farm Property (PID 1101300001)** (approximately 343 acres): This property is currently being operated as a potato farm. KLJ contacted the landowner



about potential land holdings available or interest in the project and did not receive a response. This property was eliminated from further consideration due to lack of response.

- Contact Information: Art & Dan Peterson, Peterson Brothers Llp, 10299 90th Street East, Northfield, MN 55057, T: 763-263-2322
- **Shimbros Property.** This 215-acre property is adjacent to the south of the Fox Den Farm's property. The property has both tillable and wooded areas. Due to the location and adjacent uses, this property was eliminated from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Shimbros LLC, 22050 Panama Ave, Prior Lake, MN 55372
- **Broske Property (PID: 0612225001).** This 103-acre property is currently for sale for \$3.1M. This property has great access and visibility, but due to the cost and the limited size, this site was eliminated from further consideration at this time.
 - Contact Information: Viola P Broske, 10205 Bagley Ave, Northfield, MN 55057
- **McDonough Farms (PID: 1001425003, 1001400001, and 1106325001).** This 218-acre property is listed for sale by Metcon Properties. This property has great access and visibility, but due to the size and adjacent development/limitations, this site was eliminated from further consideration at this time
 - Contact Information: McDonough Farms LLC, 15760 Acorn Trail, Faribault, MN 55021
- **Degrood Properties (PID: 1402150001, PID: 1402400001).** This 360- acre property is listed for sale by landspecialists.com. This property is located directly adjacent to I-35W with great access and visibility, but there is existing and proposed development encroaching. Due to adjacent development concerns this property was eliminated from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: George J & Eileen T Degrood Jr Trust, 21126 Bagley Ave, Faribault. MN 55021
- **Aggregate Industries (Twin Cities Metro Area).** KLJ reached out to Aggregate regarding any potentially available properties for this project. Aggerate responded that they had no properties that would work for this project. Since there was no property available for the project, this company was eliminated from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Bob Bieraugal, T: 651-683-8123
- **Ahlman's Gun Club (Rice County).** This 120-acre property used for trap shooting was eliminated from further consideration due to the size of the property and density of residential nearby that would likely oppose a facility of this size. Larry Ahlman is supportive of the potential facility and was helpful in publishing about the project in his newsletter.
 - Contact Information: Larry Ahlman, T: 507-685-4243
- **Flint Hills-Koch (Dakota County).** KLJ reached out to Flint Hills regarding any potentially available properties for this project. The contact we spoke with discussed this project with upper management at Flint Hills who responded there were no properties available for this project. This company was eliminated from further consideration at this time.
 - Contact Information: Mercedes Mallinger, T: 651-437-0877



- **Hans Haagen (Twin Cities Metro).** KLJ reached out to an internal contact at Hans Haagen (now M&I) to see if the company had any available properties appropriate for this project. They responded they did not have any properties available appropriate for this project, thus M&I and its land holdings has been eliminated from further consideration at this time.
 - Contact Information: John Rask, T: 763-586-7200

- **Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club (Chisago County).** This 342-acre Club was identified based on its existing shooting facility infrastructure and proximity to the Twin Cities Metro. The proposed Project was taken to the board to discuss whether this site would be appropriate for this project. The Board decided they did not want to be directly involved in this project due to their own tax status (501 3C.), thus eliminating this site from further consideration at this time.
 - Contact Information: Lowell Rogers, T: 320-396-2771, lrogers@northlc.com

- **Sno Barons (Chisago County).** This 120-acre site was originally identified by Chisago County as a potential property for the project. After discussions with the event site, there was concern on how the project would affect the setup they have for Hay Days (an event held annually for snowmobilers during the summer months) and if lead shot were used, how this would affect their property value. Due to these concerns, the size of the site and the limitations to the project this site would impose, this site was eliminated from further considerations.
 - Contact Information: Russ Ernst, 612-701-3175

- **Waste Management (Twin Cities Metro).** KLJ reached out to waste management to see if they had any properties reclaimed or buffer lands that could be used as a potential site for this project. It was determined that Waste Management doesn't have any properties that would meet the acreage need for the project, thus eliminating their properties from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Jim Wilson, T: 630-572-8604, Jwilson7@wm.com

- **Patricia and Charles Webber Property (Carver County).** This 268- acre property in Chaska was originally identified in the 2010 RFI. After researching this property, it was determined the property had been sold and is being renovated into a wedding event center, thus eliminating it from further consideration.

- **Xcel Energy (Twin Cities Metro).** KLJ reached out to internal contacts at Xcel to see if there were any land holdings appropriate for the project which Xcel may be open to selling/donating for the project. Through internal discussions Xcel was unable to identify any lands that would fit the needs for the project, particularly with Xcel's internal policy regarding hunting and weapons, thus eliminating their properties from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Sarah Schwartz



- **YMCA (throughout Minnesota).** KLJ reached out to the YMCA’s real estate department to identify whether there were any properties in their holdings appropriate for this project. The contact responded that their largest land holdings are in Wisconsin and that there were no properties of adequate size and location available in Minnesota, thus eliminating this company from further consideration.
 - Contact Information: Amanda Novak, T: 612-465-0557

CONTACTS - PROJECT

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Chuck Niska	DNR	Shooting Range Coordinator	chuck.niska@state.mn.us	612-756-4165
Bob Meier	DNR	Assistant Commissioner- Enforcement, Policy & Government Relations	bob.meier@state.mn.us	
Rod Smith	DNR	Director - Enforcement	rodmen.smith@state.mn.us	
Larina Vosika DeWalt, PE	KLJ	Project Manager	larina.dewalt@kljeng.com	651-222-2176
Nicole Wallenta	KLJ	Environmental Planner	nicole.wallenta@kljeng.com	651-726-5033



CONTACTS—COUNTY

COUNTY	NAME	Title	Phone	Email
Anoka	Karen Skepper	Director of Community and Governmental Relations	763-324-3179	Karen.Skepper@co.anoka.mn.us
	NOTES: KLJ contacted Karen and provided information about the project. Karen responded that she would share this information with the county administrator, who would connect with the county commissioners. KLJ has followed up with Anoka County but has not received any return communication to date.			
Carver	Steve Just	Land Management Department Manager	(952) 361-1826	sjust@co.carver.mn.us
	NOTES: Carver County is open to the Project but the properties that would be viable sites for this project are in agricultural preservation right now, which means the project would not have an option to be constructed for eight or more years. If a site is identified in Carver County, Mr. Just suggested DNR meet with the township to discuss the project and gauge local support and opposition.			
Chisago	Kurt Schneider	Director of Environmental Services, Zoning & Parks	651-213-8370	Kurt.Schneider@chisagocounty.us
	Ken Roberts	Planner	651-213-8382	Kenneth.Roberts@chisagocounty.us
	NOTES: Chisago County is amenable to the project. Both Kurt and Ken suggested areas and potential properties of interest, including the Hay Days site east of Harris and sod farms near North Branch. They did note that the project may face local opposition. Recently there was local opposition to the soccer stadium proposed near North Branch and the County Board denied the Hay Days facility from hosting additional events outside of the current conditional use permit they hold. Areas that might be more agreeable to this project within the County are near Rush City on the east side of Interstate 35, Pine City, and Sunrise Township. Ultimate ownership and maintenance agreements are also an issue of concern for the County.			
Dakota	Kurt Chatfield	Office of Planning	952-891-7000	KURT.CHATFIELD@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US
	NOTES: Dakota County is amenable to the project. The properties identified by the County as appropriate sites for the project include the 470 acres for sale as part of UMore, the private Dakota Gun Club, and possibly the gravel mining adjacent to Vermillion Highlands Wildlife Management Area. Cemstone is currently operating the mine in a multiple year lease that, when the lease is up, the land will become part of Vermillion Highlands WMA. Due to the planned development throughout the County, these areas may face local opposition. The County suggests that if a site is identified in the County, that the DNR consult with the applicable Township and gauge public opinion.			
Goodhue	Michael Wozniak, AICP	Planner/Zoning Administrator	651-385-3104	michael.wozniak@co.goodhue.mn.us
	NOTES: Goodhue County is amenable to the project but may have local opposition due to large turkey farms throughout the County and the effects frequent shooting may have on the birds. If a site is pursued within the County, he suggests that DNR consult with the applicable Township to gauge local opinion and permitting requirements (some of the townships have their own zoning ordinances). Bill Danckwart was one landowner			



CONTACTS—COUNTY

	Mr. Wozniak suggested KJL talk to about the Project. Mr. Danckwart at one time wanted to donate his property to the DNR to be established for preservation. Mr. Wozniak was looking into additional properties for KJL to follow-up on but KJL has not been able to re-connect with Mr. Wozniak about additional locations to date.			
Hennepin	Katie Walker	Planner	612-348-2190	Catherine.walker@hennepin.us
	NOTES: Hennepin County is open to the project but due to limited properties that have land adequate for this facility, Ms. Walker provided a list of different communities to follow-up with including, Dayton, Maple Grove, Plymouth, Medina, Monticello, and Rogers. KJL followed up with these communities, not all responded but those that did, did not think their community would support this type of facility due to planned development or limited potential sites. Many of the gravel mines originally thought to be potential locations for the project to the northwest of the Twin Cities metro have been developed or are planned for mixed use development.			
Isanti	Trina Bergloff	Zoning Administrator	(763) 689-5165	trina.bergloff@co.isanti.mn.us
	NOTES: KJL reached out and provided information about the Project to Isanti County but have not been able to connect with the County since providing this information.			
Le Sueur	Kathy Brockway	Environmental Services Department Head		
	Michelle Mettler		(507) 357-2251	mmettler@co.le-sueur.mn.us
NOTES: Le Sueur County is open to the project, but Ms. Brockway was not aware of any blocks of land that would meet the size need for this facility. She was going to follow-up with the zoning and county administrators to see if they had any suggestions. Despite follow-up, no additional information has been provided to KJL regarding potential locations for the project to date.				
McLeod	Larry Gasow	Zoning Administrator	320-864-1218	Larry.Gasow@co.mcleod.mn.us
	NOTES: McLeod County is open to the project and provided a few different properties to look into including other gun clubs. He suggested that if a site is identified in McLeod County, to reconnect with him then to discuss any potential concerns and required permitting.			
Ramsey	Julie Kleinschmidt	County Manager	651-266-8000	scott.yonke@co.ramsey.mn.us
	Scott Yonke	Parks & Recreation - Director of Planning and Development		
	NOTES: Ramsey County is open to the project, but due to development density there is not much contiguous land available that would be compatible with this use. Each municipality in Ramsey County manages their own zoning and permitting. If a land opportunity is identified in the future in Ramsey County, we suggest reaching out to Parks for a potential partnership opportunity.			



CONTACTS—COUNTY

Rice	Trent McCorkell	Zoning Administrator	507-332-6113	RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us
	<p>NOTES: Rice County is very amenable to the Project. There are several shooting ranges already in the County including Morristown Gun Club and Suburban Sportsman. Other properties Mr. McCorkell identified included Medford properties, Fox Den Farms, Shields Lake area, Paul Gray Trust properties, and properties for sale off of Highway 3 near Faribault. Mr. McCorkell did suggest if a site is identified in Rice County, that the applicable Township be contacted since some of the Townships manage their own zoning/permitting independent of Rice County.</p>			
Scott	Brad Davis	Planning Manager	952-496-8654	bdavis@co.scott.mn.us
	Greg Wagner	Senior Planner	952-496-8360	GWagner@co.scott.mn.us
	<p>NOTES: Scott County is open to the project and already has existing gun clubs in the county, including Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club and Minneapolis Gun Club. There are old gravel mines located in Blakely Township that may be appropriate for the facility. The county parks department is working on an agreement with Met Council to set aside a couple hundred acres for a regional park in this area which could be a buffer area for the project if a site is identified adjacent to this area. The county did suggest that the Townships be consulted if a site is identified in the county. The incorporated townships are the authority for roads and tend to have more restrictive zoning. A new county planned land use map is supposed to be posted in the winter of 2017-2018 which will show where future expansion will occur in the county.</p>			
Sherburne	Nancy Riddle	Planning and Zoning Administrator	763-765-4450	zoning@co.sherburne.mn.us
	<p>NOTES: The county is not a proponent for this Project. It was discussed that a shooting range would be very controversial for the county since several housing developments exist or are planned. There are four existing shooting ranges in the county and if the project could be tied to one of the existing ranges then it may be possible for the project to succeed in the county. In the past, a shooting range was proposed in the Big Lake Area and 150 to 200 local community members attended the township meeting, with majority of attendees opposing the facility. The county suggested reviewing state owned properties in the county instead of private properties.</p>			
Washington	Colin Kelly, AICP	Senior Planner	651-430-6011	Colin.Kelly@co.washington.mn.us
	<p>NOTES: The County is open to the project but informed KJ that all zoning regulations is under the jurisdiction of the Townships and that for potential sites for the project, each Township should be contacted. KJ did reach out to the Maple Lake Hunting Club and Kelley Farms but has not received a response to date.</p>			
Wright	Stacy Marquardt	Planner/Planning Commission/Zoning Administration	763-682-7337	Stacy.Marquardt@co.wright.mn.us
	<p>NOTES: In discussions with the county, the concern with the project is whether the facility would be DNR owned because this use could affect the land use/permitting in the county. The county also noted that there would likely be challenges with permitting the projects through the townships and cities. The County has seen local opposition to other types of projects including solar power developments and believes this project would likely see opposition as well.</p>			



CONTACTS – PRIVATE

Below is a list of other contacts that were made regarding the project and the purpose of the contact.

Contact/Company	Phone	Email	Notes
Ryan Bronson Vista Outdoors	763-323-3827	ryan.bronson@VistaOutdoor.com	Ryan was originally the contact for the ATK Orbital property in the 2010 RFI. KLJ spoke to him about contacts at ATK.
Les and Bette Bensch Viking Valley Hunt Club	701-212-0366	les.bensch@hotmail.com	KLJ spoke with Les about the project.
Gary Botzek Capital Connections	651-293-9295	gary@capitolconnections.com	KLJ spoke with Gary about the project.
William (Bill) Danckwart Danckwart Tractors	651-345-2846		KLJ tried to contact this landowner multiple times based on the landowner's historic desire to donate his property in Goodhue County to the DNR for a wildlife management area.
Lisa Diehl Diehl and Partners - Owner		Lisa.diehl@closethediell.com	Contacted KLJ to learn more about the project and offer Real Estate Broker services
Bob Eckstein	763-494-6993		Contacted KLJ to learn more about the project and offer suggestions.
Le Roy Johnson Jr. Dennis Johnson	612-229-0153 763-238-8205		KLJ tried to contact landowner about their property as a potential site but received no response back to date. This property was originally identified in the 2010 RFI.
Clay Montgomery	612-280-5968	clymntgmry@aol.com	Clay was suggested as a contact with interest.
Jim Sable USA Clay Target League	612-554-2936	jsable@usaclaytarget.com	KLJ has communicated with Jim about potential locations/needs for the project and its history.
Dave Sundheimer Suburban Sportsman Inc	952-890-1844	WONBZ@comquest.net	KLJ spoke with about newsletter and publishing information about the project.
Terry Dreblow Suburban Sportsman Inc	952-807-3336	Tdreblow@q.com	KLJ spoke with about newsletter and publishing information about the project.
Rick Wild Metro Gun Club	763-786-5880		KLJ spoke with about the project. Rick is against the project because he thinks it will be detrimental to other shooting facilities in the Metro area, including Metro Gun Club.
Wild Wings	651-439-4287		KLJ spoke with the Tyler, who runs the business when Jeff the owner is out of Town. He disclosed that a group of investors within the club were recently working to purchase the entire club including buildings, business and 537.5 acres for \$8 million. The owner of the club has been running the club for 46 years and is looking to retire.



ATTACHMENT A: STAR TRIBUNE ARTICLE

OUTDOORS

Search starts to find site for world-class shooting range

By Tony Kennedy (<http://www.startribune.com/tony-kennedy/10645191/>) Star Tribune |

OCTOBER 31, 2017 – 8:18PM

The Department of Natural Resources has officially kicked off the process for finding a location to potentially build a world-class shooting range and clubhouse to be used by state high school trapshooters and to attract other statewide, regional, national or international events.

Larina Vosika DeWalt, a spokeswoman for the firm hired by the DNR to assist on the roundup and evaluation of potential sites, said the agency has begun to actively seek owners of large land parcels. The project team will consider sites from a few hundred acres to more than 1,000.

“We’re starting to gauge where the land is,” DeWalt said. “We are trying to drum up interest.”

The Legislature authorized the DNR to identify possible sites and study the feasibility of a large shooting range.

Alexandria has been the home of the increasingly popular championship tournaments hosted by the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League, but the events have begun to outgrow the facility and there’s interest to build a bigger shooting range and clubhouse.

When the idea of a massive new shooting range first emerged a couple of years ago, “people came out of the woodwork” with possible sites, DeWalt said.

Since being tabled, the project is restarting with the goal of producing a feasibility and site identification report by March 1.

“The more ideas the better,” said DeWalt, a representative of KLJ Engineering and Planning Services.

She welcomes inquiries from private landowners and municipal authorities at KLJ’s office in St. Paul. Preferably, the range would be built somewhere in the metro area, she said.

“To accommodate new participants and teams, the sport requires a new facility that can provide greater accessibility and accommodations,” DeWalt said in a news release.

tony.kennedy@startribune.com 612-673-4213 [tonykennedy](#)



ATTACHMENT B: OUTDOOR NEWS ARTICLE

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

St. Paul firm hired to track down location for metro shooting range

By Tim Spielman
Editor

St. Paul — Visions of a “world-class” sport shooting facility in or around the Twin Cities were renewed this past legislative session when funding was provided to research a location for such an undertaking.

Recently, the state DNR agreed to spend that \$30,000 with a St. Paul company, KLJ, a planning and engineering firm charged with finding a location for a facility that could host anything from high school sporting clays events to firearms training for peace officers.

KLJ’s Larina DeWalt, project manager, said locating such a facility in the metro has been an ongoing process for about 20 years. Lately, she said, the push has become greater, mainly because of the rapid increase in the number of high school clay target shooters. It’s estimated that about 14,000 high school students took part in state clay target league shooting this year.

“It’s exciting to be a part of this,” she said.

DeWalt and other officials admit finding a large parcel of land upon which to fire guns is no small undertaking in a metro area. Most believe at least 500 acres would be needed for a building and various shooting ranges. It could include up to 1,000 acres, according to a press release issued by KLJ. That said, she’s optimistic.

“We’re in the early stages, trying to drum up some interest,” said DeWalt, who’s worked in commercial real estate for a number of years, among other things tracking down profitable locations for Target stores. “It would be easiest if someone came up to us with (a land option) we would deem a perfect fit.”

She said a land lease would be considered, as would a donation, which could have tax benefits for the entity willing to donate.

According to the press release, “The Minnesota DNR and KLJ are seeking landowners or those with ownership equity in a site within the Twin Cities metro area ... interested in discussing land donation or sale opportunities to the DNR for this purpose.”



The effort to build a world-class shooting range in the Twin Cities metro area has been renewed. A company is being paid \$30,000 to find a location that’s big enough and willing to host the facility. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League

But, DeWalt acknowledges it’s possible they might need to expand the search, given metro limitations.

“Other areas located outside of the seven-county metro may also be considered if the sites are located on a major thoroughfare to provide convenient access,” the release says. “Potential sites within the following counties will be considered: Wright, Sherburne, Isanti, Chisago, Rice, Goodhue, McLeod, and Le Sueur.”

While finding the available land in the Twin Cities could be a potential hurdle, so could launching a shooting facility where no doubt neighbors might have concerns. However, DeWalt said it also could be a welcome addition, bringing additional economic activity to an area during events. Further, more people are seeing the positives in the sport of shooting.

“There’s such an interest in the state in sport shooting,” DeWalt said. “I think there will be a lot of support for it.”

One longtime supporter

of such an initiative is Gary Botzek, retiring executive of the Minnesota Conservation Federation. Of his long list of to-dos, the metro shooting range has been near the top for some time now. Eventually, he expects the facility would be a private venture.

He also said it would look like a rendering of such a facility drawn up some eight years ago by Architectural Resources, Inc., for the DNR. That plan included outdoor ranges (trap fields, skeet fields, sporting clays, archery and pistol ranges, a campgrounds, an office and educational building, storage buildings, and more).

Botzek said the number of acres needed isn’t set in stone. But officials say the money provided by the Legislature to hire a search firm is a step in the right direction. “There’s a lot of work to do,” he said.

Editor’s note: DeWalt can be reached at (651) 222-2176. For more about the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League, visit mnclaytarget.com

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