

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this meeting was to explain the intent and process of the project and to gather public input prior to beginning design.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Introduction***

Kevin Teague welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary of the origin and purpose of the project. Tom Teigen then elaborated on the county's purpose. Derrick then explained the overall project process and schedule. Then, after sharing some information about the site itself, he explained the program and design criteria. Following Derrick's explanation, Lorin Kramer described the special requirements and operation of each range type.

Following this introduction to the project, Derrick opened up the meeting to the public, eliciting comments and questions from the attendees. The following are their comments, organized here by topic:

## **COMMENTS**

### **Environmental Impacts**

- *Lead Contamination*
  - effect of lead on the groundwater wells
  - belief that lead will inevitably enter the water in such places as Marsh Creek, etc.
  - concern about the health risk to users and employees from exposure to lead
  - Will there be ongoing testing for lead in the water?
    - Lorin: Yes, it is regulated by the EPA (see "Outdoor Shooting Range" on the EPA Region 2 website).
    - There are methods and strategies to design for environmentally safe containment of lead

### **Safety**

- concern about accidents
  - How is the county preparing for people potentially getting hurt at/from the site?
    - potential to be hit by ricocheting rounds
  - fencing is necessary to prevent people from wandering onto the site
    - fencing should not be easily climbable
- northern orientation will avoid the wetlands and eliminate the risk for neighbors to the south
  - the range will be two miles away from the neighbors
- focus on ensuring that the facility is operated in a safe way
  - design is important but so is proper operation
  - safe use of facility is important
- personal security and safety is a concern

### **Impact on Neighbors**

- traffic
  - concern about increased traffic on the road
  - Sultan Basin Road is too small for a competition facility
- increased noise
  - A Canadian citizen vacationing at Lake Bronson was concerned that noise from the range could spoil vacations or keep visitors away from Lake Bronson
    - currently, shots sound close by
  - as development expands, noise may become an issue
- one attendee believed that there must be another site/area that will not impact neighbors
- neighbors will be critical of range operation

### **Illegal Shooting**

- people have been witnessed shooting on Sultan Basin Road
- many believe/hope that the new facility will reduce illegal shooting in the area
  - provides a good site and controlled facility
  - it will get currently illegal shooters into a controlled facility
  - better for neighbors
- concern that there will still be illegal shooting even after the new facility is constructed

### **Suggested/Desired Elements**

- indoor facility for Youth Shoot (50' range)
- black powder range
- crossbow accommodations on archery range
- 1,000 yd. range

### **Archery**

- the sport is growing
- very safe
- low impact (no lead in water)
  - question regarding feasibility of doing archery in the wetland area
- if archery could move to Steelhead Park, it would provide more space at Sky Valley

### **Range**

- many attendees have been waiting a long time for such a facility
  - happy to see a gun range since the county has put money into other forms of recreation
  - there used to be a range facility nearby but since it has closed, there is nowhere to shoot
  - the Department of Corrections would benefit from a range close by
- question regarding shorter length of range (only 400 yd. as opposed to 600 or 1,000 yd.)
  - concern that this is too short for those with more powerful rifles
  - hope for a range to be developed
- the range is a good idea but people's safety must be considered
- need more sheriff presence to keep illegal shooting away
- there will be range rules
  - proper range operation will help reduce the need for certain physical improvements
- any design that moves the existing DNR road onsite seems costly

### **Education**

- include an educational component as a part of wetland archery
- provide shooting education courses
- currently, there is no place in the area to teach hunting education with shooting practice
  - teaching does occur at VOA
  - belief that the facility will help the neighbors as it will provide a good site

### **Youth Involvement**

- desire to involve Sultan students in environmental programs
- need a safe live fire location for kids
- consider zip lines in for kids to ride

### **Funding/Development**

- investment in a shooting facility will likely be via a partnership with private entity
  - there was no cost to the county to get the property
    - it has been logged
    - concern regarding the cost of developing the site (power, etc.)
- Brad and CJ volunteered their time and labor
  - volunteer time to fund it
  - help fundraising efforts (CJ)

- suggestion for a fundraising webpage
- gratitude expressed to those putting in their time to make this happen

#### **Land Use**

- Do you have a plan now? No.
- close proximity to Lake Bronson is unfavorable
  - The 300+ acres of Lake Bronson land is the only site in the area with old growth timber
- most of the site seems to be unusable
  - regardless of what is developed, the land will be available for recreation of some sort
    - the site can only be used for recreation

#### **Other**

- the distance from neighbors to the site seems to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, not  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile
  - gate to gate, Sky Valley is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile
- range development will help small businesses within the area
- site currently represents peace and tranquility
- need to consider rain which will limit use
- planning should follow the rules of environmental review required by law
  - the county should follow the same rules that apply to the public
- question regarding curfew hours
- a contained facility will eliminate environmental impacts, greatly decrease unsanctioned shooting, and increase safety and security for people
- there needs to be a plan for the increase in trash/garbage

#### **CLOSING**

Kevin noted that the public will be informed of the next meeting date, time, and location. Tom Teigen then thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **POST-MEETING COMMENTS**

The following comments were provided to Bruce Dees & Associates via email on August 8, 2013 from ad hoc committee member Toni Reading:

- Serious consideration should be given to renaming the park to eliminate site confusion with nearby City of Sultan Sportsmen's Park and with gender discrimination in mind—our population is gender balanced and it would be very awkward (at best) to host the National Take Your Daughters to the Range Day (June 9) with such an exclusionary park descriptor. I would prefer clarity pertaining to park use such as Sky Valley Target Range Park or Sky Valley Shooting Range Park (if advantageous for park designation, otherwise that might be dropped as well).
- Investigation of the costs not only of increased traffic mitigation and safety upgrades (including Highway 2 and Sultan Basin Rd.) but potential hazardous material cleanup costs (such as incurred with the Index site) not only at the immediate site but the adjacent watershed area of Marsh Creek and the City of Sultan water supply that might possibly be affected. A percentage rate of 90% lead recycling was suggested but that will leave 10% not addressed and that should be mitigated as well. Power and sanitary facility procurement costs must also enter the county equation of use vs. need vs. budget for this project amidst the reality of a post Oso disaster county budget.
- A new and broadly scoped EIS should be required.
- Impacts to the surrounding environs, including cross valley and nearby towns/cities regarding weapon discharge acoustics must be thoroughly investigated, identified and mitigated.
- The activity of illegal shooting (occurring even as I attempted to investigate the site!) must be actively prohibited with fines as warranted. Responsible shooters should not be placed in harms way by illegal shooting activity occurring just down the road that could impact the safety of those at this facility. The cost to provide the additional mitigation of increased law enforcement activity due to increased complaints from facility staff/users must also be considered.

- The ability of the site to accommodate all features desired being problematic and the possibility of a request to DNR to reposition the road on site should be addressed prior to moving forward with any design including that idea. My understanding from DNR is that would be very prohibitive pertaining to cost.

*These are the minutes, as we understand them. If there are any additions or corrections, contact Bruce Dees & Associates immediately.*