

Lake Elmo Airport

Environmental Assessment (EA)/ Environmental Assessment (EAW) Worksheet



January 16, 2018 – Community Engagement Panel Meeting #5
Environmental Effects & Draft EA/EAW Publication Updates



Agenda

- Environmental effects update
- Draft EA/EAW publication and public comment period timelines
- Plan for soliciting, documenting, and incorporating public comments
- Public hearing format and guidelines
- Panel discussion
- 10-minute public comment period



Environmental Effects Update

- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Farmlands
- Land use / wildlife hazards
- Water resources



Biological Resources

- **December 7:** US Fish & Wildlife Service concurred with FAA finding of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” threatened and endangered species.
- USFWS suggested MAC consider managing a portion of airport property as pollinator habitat. MAC is considering the following to determine whether to pursue this idea:
 - Benefits
 - Risks
 - Costs
 - Potential partnerships
 - FAA input



Cultural Resources

- **October 20:** FAA submitted determination of “no historic properties affected” to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- **December 28:** SHPO issued concurrence with FAA determination. Trees surrounding potentially historic building foundations to be hand-cut to avoid disturbance.



Figure 20. 1964 aerial photo of general project area and locations of 21WA0119 and 21WA0120 (Regents of the University of Minnesota 2017).



0 400 800 1,600 2,400 3,200 Feet

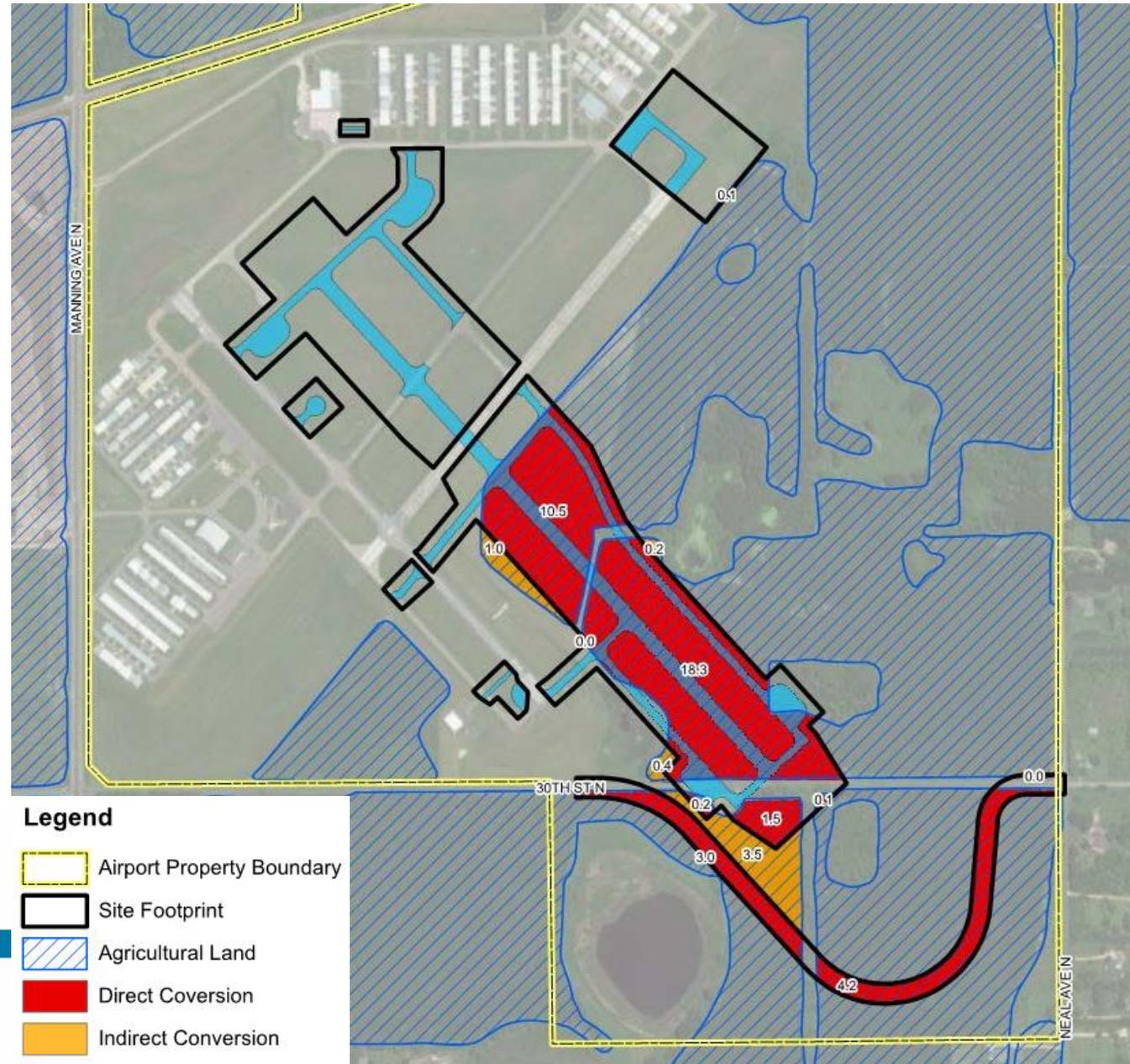
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St. Paul Stillwater & Taylor's Falls Railroad

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Farmlands

- **November 14:** U.S. Department of Agriculture completed Farmland Conversion Impact Rating calculations
- USDA findings indicate the preferred alternative would not have significant impacts to farmland



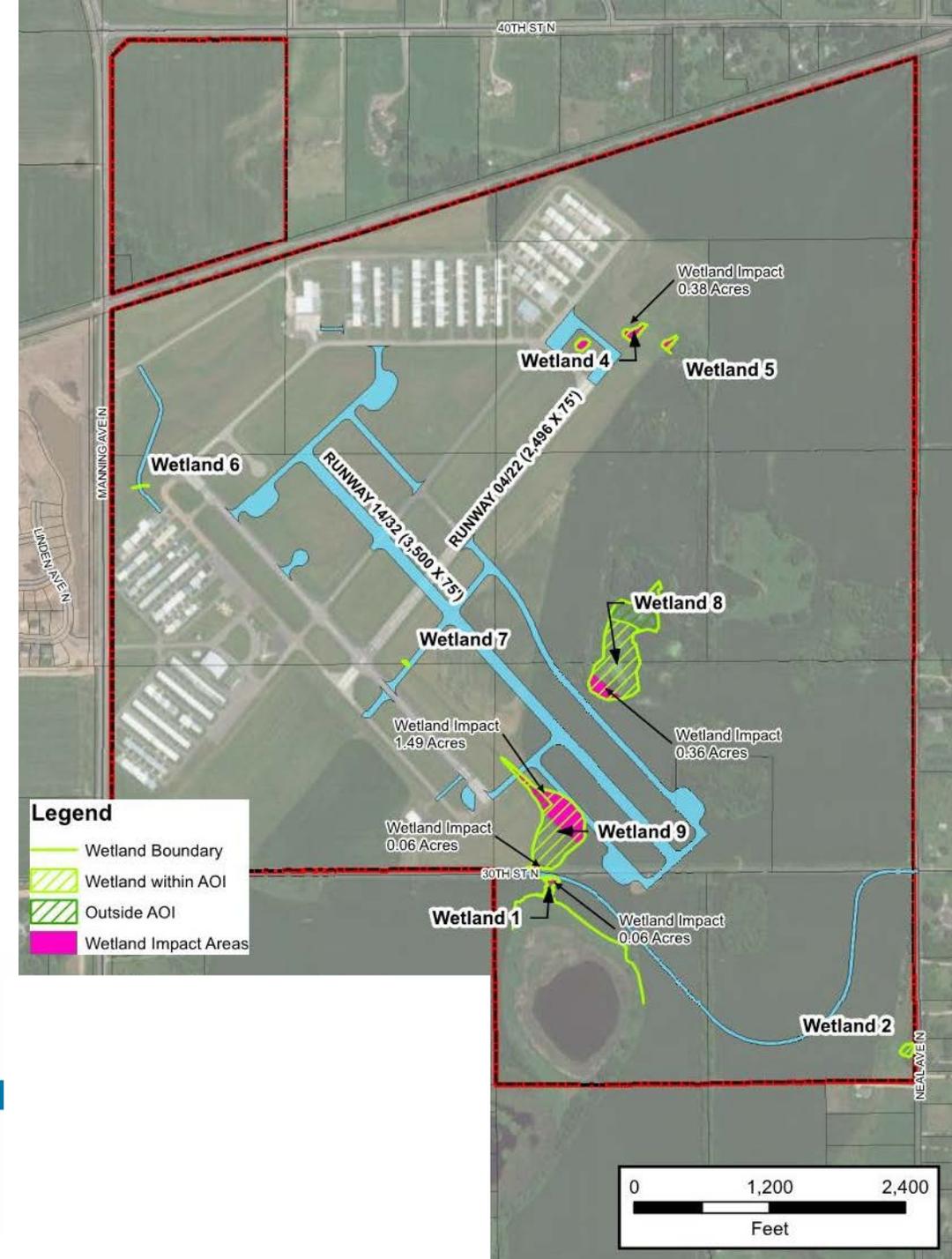
Land Use / Wildlife Attractants

- **October 18:** Mead & Hunt wildlife biologist completed field observations.
- **November 6:** Mead & Hunt findings submitted to USDA Wildlife Services.
- **January 3:** USDA Wildlife Services issued letter stating that the project is “unlikely to increase wildlife hazards” at the airport.



Wetlands

- **November 9:** Valley Branch Watershed District issued Notice of Decision approving wetland boundaries and types identified by Mead & Hunt.
- Notice of Decision was issued in consultation with:
 - Washington Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Exact impacts and required mitigation to be determined during project permitting and design.



Summary of Environmental Effects (FINAL DRAFT)				
Environmental Impact Category		Impacts: No-Action Alternative	Impacts: Preferred Alternative	Required Permitting/Mitigation & Associated Actions
Air Quality		None	Minimal impacts during construction	Implement EPA-recommended best management practices (BMPs) and control strategies during construction.
Biological Resources (including fish, wildlife, and plants)		None	Tree removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree removal to occur during NLEB dormant season (October 1 – April 30). Implement April 2015 USFWS/USDOT NLEB avoidance and minimization measures. Implement MnDNR Blanding's turtle avoidance measures.
Climate		None	None	None
Coastal Resources		NA	NA	None
DOT Section 4(f) Lands		NA	NA	None
Farmlands		None	42.28 acres directly converted	None
Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention		None	None	Dispose of construction materials and solid waste in accordance with state and local laws.
Historic/Architectural & Archeological Resources		None	None	Hand cut trees near archeological building foundations.
Land Use	Residential	Potential zoning conflicts	Potential zoning conflicts	Convene Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB) to develop an Airport Zoning ordinance.
	Ground Transportation	RPZ conflicts	Increased travel time on 30 th Street	None
	Wildlife Attractants	Wetlands near runway approach	Wetlands near runway approach	Use FAA-approved seed mixes in turf grass areas.
Natural Resources and Energy Supply		None	None	None
Noise and Compatible Land Use		None	None	Update voluntary noise abatement plan and hold educational briefings with pilots.
Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Children's Health & Safety		None	None	None
Visual Effects (including light emissions)		None	Existing light system relocations and new light systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install light baffles for REILs. Implement low, medium, and high intensity light settings to reduce frequency of light emissions.
Water Resources	Wetlands	None	2.36 acres direct wetland impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensatory Mitigation Plan (assume impact will be banked). USACOE 404 Army Corps Permit and Compliance with Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. MnDNR Public Waters permit.
	Stormwater	None	12.6 acres increased impervious area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Onsite Best Management Practices. MPCA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification and NPDES permit. VBWD permit.
	Floodplains	None	0.06-acre wetland fill in floodplain	VBWD permit
Cumulative Impacts		No substantial impacts	No substantial impacts	None

Federal/State Public Review & Hearing Requirements

- Federal EA requirements per FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*
 - Draft EA must be available for public review and notice of public hearing should be published at least 30 days before the public hearing.
- State EAW requirements per Minnesota Administrative Rules, Chapter 4410
 - A 30-day period for review and comment on the EAW shall begin the day the EAW availability notice is published in the EQB Monitor.
 - The responsible government unit (in this case, MAC) may hold one or more public meetings to gather comments “if necessary or useful.”
 - Reasonable public notice shall be given prior to the meetings.



Draft EA/EAW Publication Timeline

- **February 6:** Recommend Draft EA/EAW publication to MAC Planning, Development & Environment Committee
- **February 20:** Request MAC Board approval to publish Draft EA/EAW
- **February 26:** Publish Draft EA/EAW
 - The Draft EA/EAW will be available for download via the project website.
 - Hard copies will also be placed in the following locations:
 - Lake Elmo City Hall
 - Lake Elmo Public Library
 - Baytown Community Center
 - Notices will be placed in the following publications:
 - Minnesota State Register
 - St. Paul Pioneer Press
 - Stillwater Gazette
 - Oakdale/Lake Elmo Review
 - Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor
 - Notices will also be distributed via the project email subscription list.
 - Relevant federal, state, and local resource agencies will be notified via email with hard copies made available upon request.



Draft EA/EAW Comment Period Timeline

- **February 26 to March 28:** Required 30-day review period prior to public hearing.
- **Early April:** Public hearing (date and location to be determined).
- **Mid/Late April:** Close public comment period.



Public Comments

- Spoken comments will be recorded at the public hearing
- Written comments can be submitted:
 - Via electronic mail to ContactLakeElmoAirportEA@mspmac.org.
 - Via postal mail to MAC Environment Department.
 - In-person at the public hearing.
- All spoken and written comments received during the official comment period will be included in an appendix to the Final EA/EAW.
- Written responses to each comment will be provided in the Final EA/EAW.
 - Similar comments on a common theme may be grouped together and addressed with one collective response.



Public Hearing Format & Guidelines

- Hearing format
 - The MAC Planning, Development & Environment Committee will act as hearing officers.
 - A court reporter will be present to prepare a transcript of the proceedings.
 - An audio recording will also be made.
 - A half-hour open house will be held prior to the hearing.
 - A short presentation will be given prior to opening the hearing for public comment.
- Hearing guidelines
 - Anyone may fill out an “I wish to speak” slip and approach the podium.
 - Speakers will be asked to observe a time limit to allow everyone to speak.
 - Spoken comments will not be responded to during the hearing.
 - Written comments will be accepted up to 15 days following the hearing.



Discussion/Questions

- Final CEP meeting to be held following close of the public comment period and prior to publication of the Final EA/EAW.
- Main topic of final CEP meeting will be an overview of public comments and MAC/FAA responses.

