Sever's Festival EAW
April 29, 2019

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

This Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) form and EAW Guidelines are available at the Environmental Quality Board's website at:
http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm. The EAW form provides information about a project that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. The EAW Guidelines provide additional detail and resources for completing the EAW form.
Cumulative potential effects can either be addressed under each applicable EAW Item, or can be addresses collectively under EAW Item 19.
Note to reviewers: Comments must be submitted to the RGU during the 30-day comment period following notice of the EAW in the *EQB Monitor*. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that warrant further investigation and the need for an EIS.

1. Project title: Sever's Festival

2. Proposer:

Contact person: Mitch Michaelson
Title: Officer
Address: 15900 Flying Cloud Drive
City, State, ZIP: Eden Prairie, MN, 55347
Phone: 952-261-8182
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3. RGU

Contact person: Jesse Krzenski
Title: Environmentalist II
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City, State, ZIP: Shakopee, MN, 55379
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Fax:
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4. Reason for EAW Preparation: (check one)

Required:
☐ EIS Scoping
X Mandatory EAW

Discretionary:
☐ Citizen petition
☐ RGU discretion
☐ Proposer initiated

If EAW or EIS is mandatory give EQB rule category subpart number(s) and name(s):

4410.4300, subpart 34 - Construction of a new sports or entertainment facility designed for or expected to accommodate a peak attendance of 5,000 or more persons, or the expansion of an existing sports or entertainment facility by this amount

5. Project Location:

County: Scott County
City/Township: Louisville Township
Location (¼, ¼, Section, Township, Range): Section 33 Township 115 Range 023
Watershed (81 major watershed scale): Lower Minnesota River Watershed
GPS Coordinates: 44. 73' 26.24" N, 93. 58' 59.32" W
Tax Parcel Number: 07-933-0111, 07-933-0112, 07-934-0011

6. Project Description:

a. **Provide the brief project summary to be published in the *EQB Monitor*, (approximately 50 words).**

Sever's proposes to purchase 104 acres of agricultural land in Louisville Township, Scott County and develop 40 acres of the 104 acres into a seasonal entertainment and event venue. Sever's entertainment and events are centered on using the existing agricultural land for a fall festival, winter carnival, and event venue.

b. **Give a complete description of the proposed project and related new construction, including infrastructure needs. If the project is an expansion include a description of the existing facility. Emphasize: 1) construction, operation methods and features that will cause physical manipulation of the environment or will produce wastes, 2) modifications to existing equipment or industrial processes, 3) significant demolition, removal or remodeling of existing structures, and 4) timing and duration of construction activities.**

Project Description:

Sever's proposes to utilize 40 acres of agricultural land as a seasonal entertainment and event venue, please see Figure 1 Location and Figure 2 Site map.

Sever's Fall Festival is an annual event that occurs from late August through the middle of November, with hours of 8:30am – 10pm.

At the current facility in Shakopee, the days of operation for the Fall Festival are 8 weekends per year (plus MEA Thursday and Friday) early September through October, Fridays 1pm - 8pm, Saturdays 10am-8pm, Sundays 10am-6pm. The intention is to follow a parallel business model with the winter festival.

Fall festival activities include (please see Figure 3 Activity Pictures): corn mazes, jumping pillows, corn pits, live music, obstacle course, petting zoos, magic shows, wildlife shows, entertainment shows, jugglers, pig races, pumpkin blasters, zip lines, gourd walk, spider web, straw bale maze, parakeet landing, tire mountain, ropes course, picture boards and photo opportunities, kiddie train, play structures, hay rides, giant slides, arcade, pony rides, camel rides, antique tractor and fire truck displays, food and beverage sales, the sale of event and seasonal goods.

Sever's Winter Festival is is a proposed annual event that would occur for 6-8 weekends from the middle of January through the end of February.

Winter Festival activities include: ice castle(s), winter/holiday market, ice carving, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, ice skating, sleigh rides, sledding, snow tubing, snow & ice sculptures, luges, live music, obstacle courses, petting zoos, entertainment shows, snow ball shooters, zip lines, tire mountain, low ropes course, picture boards and photo opportunities, kiddie train, play structures, and slides, food and beverage sales, the sale of event and seasonal goods.

Sever's event venue is a proposed site that would provide a space for weddings and events, such as parties, celebrations and corporate/company events, birthday parties, anniversary parties, corporate/company holiday parties, or bat mitzvah to take place. The events would only take place within the same operating hours as the winter and fall festivals. The venue would include agriculture space (orchards and fields) as well as temporary tents to host weddings and events.

Initial Construction Activities:

The development of this site would include installation of a 200' paved vehicle entrance, an unpaved parking area established with high traffic vegetation, construction of temporary facilities and stages, landscaping, installation of a culvert to provide vehicle access to parking. On-site water supply would be provided for irrigation. The festival and events are seasonal and therefore on-site septic systems will not be installed, instead portable toilets would be available during the festival. Other on-site utilities would include electricity and gas propane tanks.

On-going Construction/Agricultural Activities:

The proposed site for Sever's Festivals will have two primary uses; agriculture and an entertainment venue. Agriculture will be the primary use of the space for the majority of the year. Entertainment venue space will utilize the agriculture areas while the events take place. Examples are as follows: Parking area**(s)** and Festival Grounds will be seeded into a high traffic alfalfa and grass mixture; these area(s) will be operated with standard agriculture practice throughout the spring, summer and fall. Two or three harvests (cuttings) will be made from these areas from June - September. In preparation for the fall and winter events the parking and festival ground areas will be cut and harvested at a time to coincide with the opening of the events. This allows us to get a harvest of the crop and also make the areas usable for the events. The Corn Maze area will be planted with corn. The Buffer areas will be planted with corn. The Apple orchard will be planted with apple trees. The Field**(s)** will be planted with varying crops depending on necessity and crop rotation. Some of the likely crops the field area(s) could have include: pumpkins, squash, gourds, sweet corn, tomatoes and other vegetables, corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat. Throughout the spring, summer and fall the crops in all the areas will be seeded, maintained and harvested using standard agriculture practices.

Farm machinery and equipment will be used as needed and necessary throughout the spring, summer, fall and winter for field preparation, planting, crop and field maintenance and harvest. When farm machinery and equipment is not being used onsite it will be stored and maintained off site in sheds and at existing storage locations. Equipment and machinery used for the setup, operation and take down of the entertainment venue will be stored onsite for the duration of the season. Some of this equipment and machinery could include: truck(s), skidsteers, mowers, forklifts, tractors, etc. When event equipment and machinery is not being used onsite it will be stored off site in sheds and at existing storage locations.

The project will be utilizing a variety of different temporary buildings/structures on site. Most of the buildings/structures are dual purpose for festival and storage use. Building/structures are utilized during the operation of the festival(s) for: food vending, ticket sales, first aid, food and beverage storage, retail and live music, among other things. While the festivals are not operating the buildings/structures are utilized for the storage of all the necessary things needed to operate the festival. These temporary buildings/structures provide storage that helps the property remain neat and organized for the majority of the year when the festival(s) are not operating.

1) **Construction, Operation Methods and Features That Will Cause Physical Manipulation of the Environment or Will Produce Wastes.**

Initial construction activities that will cause physical manipulation of the environment will be development of the vehicle entrance, establishment of an unpaved parking area, installation of a box culvert crossing for vehicles, and landscaping (installation of a tree buffer). The site is relatively flat and therefore no grading will be needed.

Potential odors generated during initial construction include, but are not limited to diesel fumes from construction equipment, specifically asphalt truck for paved entrance. Dust generated during initial construction will be minimized through standard dust control measures such as applying water to exposed soil and limiting the extent and duration of exposed soil conditions. Noise generated during initial construction will be limited to 7am to 10pm.

Any materials or debris generated from construction will be disposed of in accordance with State and County regulations and applicable rules.

After initial construction of the site, the project does not entail any physical manipulation of the environment. Each festival season temporary structures will be put in place and then removed/stored.

2) Modifications to Existing Equipment or Industrial Processes.

The project would not include modifications to existing equipment or industrial processes.

3) Significant Demolition, Removal or Remodeling of Existing Structures.

Not Applicable.

4) Timing and Duration of Construction Activities.

Sever's intends to relocate the festival by 2019 from the existing location at 1100 Canterbury Road in the City of Shakopee to a site generally located at the southeast corner of Trunk Highway 169 and County Road 14 in Louisville Township.

Preparation of the site may take 6 months. Plans to begin in spring of 2019 and will likely be working on the site on a regular basis up until the fall event opens in September of 2019. Preparation of the site could include but would be limited to things like: planting trees and landscaping, planting and preparation of parking areas, planting and preparation of festival grounds areas, installing utilities, moving temporary/mobile buildings and structures into place, planting apple orchard, traditional agriculture planting and practices, installation of box culvert and water way crossing.

c. **Project magnitude:**

Table 1 – Magnitude

Total Project Acreage	104 acres
Total Attendance	35,000 – 60,000
Daily Attendance	1,000-5,000/day
Linear project length	Not Applicable

	(N/A)
Commercial building area (in square feet)	N/A
Industrial building area (in square feet)	N/A
Institutional building area (in square feet)	N/A
Festival Grounds (parking, grounds, corn maze)	63.42 acres
Structure height(s)	7'-14'

d. **Explain the project purpose; if the project will be carried out by a governmental unit, explain the need for the project and identify its beneficiaries.**

Sever's needs to vacate the property it has been operating at (1100 Canterbury Road) due to the development of Canterbury Commons. Sever's is a major attraction in the southwest metropolitan area.

e. **Are future stages of this development including development on any other property planned or likely to happen? □ Yes X No**
If yes, briefly describe future stages, relationship to present project, timeline and plans for environmental review.

f. **Is this project a subsequent stage of an earlier project? □ Yes X No**
If yes, briefly describe the past development, timeline and any past environmental review.

7. Cover types:

Estimate the acreage of the site with each of the following cover types before and after development:

Please see Figure 4 Land Use Before Development and Figure 5 Land Use After Development

Table 2 – Cover Types

	Before	**After**		**Before**	**After**
Wetlands	0*	0*	Lawn/landscaping	0	0
Deep water/streams	1.23	1.23	Impervious surface	0	.39
Wooded/forest	8.49	7.57	Stormwater Pond	0	0
Brush/Grassland	0	0	Festival Grounds	0	19.01
Cropland*	67.61	28.22	Grass Parking	0	34.26
Nursery Trees	23.5	0	Corn Maze	0	10.15
			TOTAL	**100.83**	**100.83**

*Wetland delineation to be completed, see Section 11 for more details

8. Permits and approvals required:

List all known local, state and federal permits, approvals, certifications and financial assistance for the project. Include modifications of any existing permits, governmental review of plans and all direct and indirect forms of public financial assistance including bond guarantees, Tax Increment Financing and infrastructure. All of these final decisions are prohibited until all appropriate environmental review has been completed. See Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4410.3100.

Unit of Government	Type of Application	Status
MN Department of Natural Resources	Water Appropriation Permit	Applied
Scott County	Conditional Use Permit	Not Applied
Scott County	Grading Permit –Culvert	Not Applied
Scott County	Sign Permit	Not Applied
Scott County	Erosion Control	Not Applied
MN Department of Health	Food, Beverage and Lodge License	Not Applied
MN Department of Health	Well Construction	Applied
Scott County	Driveway Permit	Not Applied
Scott County	Building Permit	To be applied

Cumulative potential effects may be considered and addressed in response to individual EAW Item Nos. 9-18, or the RGU can address all cumulative potential effects in response to EAW Item No. 19. If addressing cumulative effect under individual items, make sure to include information requested in EAW Item No. 19

9. Land use:

a. Describe:

i. Existing land use of the site as well as areas adjacent to and near the site, including parks, trails, prime or unique farmlands.

Project Site

All three parcels defined as the project site are currently agricultural and upon review of past aerial photos, it has been agricultural as far back as 1937. The review of aerial photos displayed an apparent farm house that was demolished sometime between 1970 and 1980 on the easternmost parcel. Due to the existence of a former building on the project site, if any unused/unsealed wells were to be found, then a licensed well contractor will be hired to properly seal and abandon any wells on location. The project site is designated as prime farmland by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project proposes to keep the site for agricultural use, with the festivals a seasonal use. Currently, there are no parks or trails on the property.

Adjacent to or near the site

Residential lots are located immediately east of the site. Residential and commercial/industrial uses are north of the site. To the south is a cabinet business and agricultural land. Louisville Swamp, a Federal Wildlife Refuge is located approximately ¼ mile to the west on the opposite side of Trunk Highway 169. This project however will not have any interaction or impact on

Louisville Swamp. Renaissance Festival is located approximately one mile north of the site. Shakopee Sands mining operation is located approximately half a mile south of the site.

ii. Plans. Describe planned land use as identified in comprehensive plan (if available) and any other applicable plan for land use, water, or resources management by a local, regional, state, or federal agency.

The Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan designates the project site as Commercial Reserve and Urban Transition (easternmost parcel) and the land use adjacent to the site is commercial/industrial and urban expansion. Scott County anticipates that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update will be adopted this spring. Definitions of the land use as identified in both the 2030 and 2040 are list below.

2030 Comprehensive Plan:
Commercial/Industrial Reserve Area
The purpose of this planning category is to reserve land for future commercial and/or industrial development with urban services.

Urban Transition Area
The purpose of this planning category is to reserve areas for future urban development beyond the 2030 planning horizon when planned regional sanitary sewer service capacity is increased to serve western and central Scott County.

2040 Comprehensive Plan:
Rural Business Reserve
The purpose of this planning category is to reserve land for future rural commercial and/or industrial development served with on-site utilities and appropriate road access. The land will be limited to residential development at a very low density until frontage or backage roads and suitable on-site well and septic utilities can be provided.

Transition Area
The purpose of this planning category is to reserve areas for future urban development beyond the 2040 planning horizon when planned regional sanitary sewer service capacity is increased to serve western and central Scott County.

iii. Zoning, including special districts or overlays such as shoreland, floodplain, wild and scenic rivers, critical area, agricultural preserves, etc.

The zoning is currently Urban Business Reserve, and will become Rural Business Reserve in 2019. Please see Figure 6 Zoning

As described, this project would be classified by the Scott County Zoning Ordinance as a "Day Park", which is a use for "day recreational activities, which do not include overnight camping of any type."

Portions of the western and southern site lie within the 100 year floodplain. This project is not proposing to have any structures that are deemed to be not flood proof within this area. These types of structures include open tents and temporary stands. Photos of these structures can be seen in Figure 3. There will also be no storage of any kind within the floodplain. Please see Figure 12 Wetlands and Floodplain.

b. Discuss the project's compatibility with nearby land uses, zoning, and plans listed in Item 9a above, concentrating on implications for environmental effects.

The main focus of the proposed use is a corn maze and festival that is seasonally operated over 8 weekends in September and October. The applicant has also indicated adding winter weekend festival activities for 8 weekends in January and February. These events would be during daytime hours and evenings. Outside of the festival weekends the site would continue to be mainly agricultural during most of the year, which may be less of an impact to adjacent residential land uses than industrial businesses.

The zoning designations of the project area in both the 2030 and 2040 Comprehensive Plans set forth by Scott County would allow this project as described to be operated with no conflict from nearby uses or the zoning currently in effect or planned to take effect.

c. Identify measures incorporated into the proposed project to mitigate any potential incompatibility as discussed in Item 9b above.

Increased traffic, noise, and lights from the festival are a concern of adjacent neighbors. The applicants are working with Scott County to have turn lanes installed off of County Road 14 (150th Street West) for vehicles entering and exiting the property in order to mitigate traffic congestion. Noise from live music and other amenities will be directed towards Trunk Highway 169 and away from the residential properties. Noise generation will need to be within established State noise standards. Any lighting will need to meet Scott County zoning regulations so as not to direct light at or on adjacent properties.

10. Geology, soils and topography/land forms:

a. **Geology - Describe the geology underlying the project area and identify and map any susceptible geologic features such as sinkholes, shallow limestone formations, unconfined/shallow aquifers, or karst conditions. Discuss any limitations of these features for the project and any effects the project could have on these features. Identify any project designs or mitigation measures to address effects to geologic features.**

The site of the project is located on surficial alluvial fan deposits as well as a glacial river terrace. The glacial terrace ranges at approximately 50' above the current floodplain levels which comprises the western half of the site, while the eastern portion displays soils typical of alluvial deposits including loam to loamy fine grained sands.

The depth to bedrock varies across the site. According to the Depth to Bedrock plate in the Scott County Geologic Atlas, published by the University of Minnesota, you can see the depth increases from west to east. The west side of the site can show depths of 0'-100' to bedrock while the east side can reach depths of greater than 200'. Please see Figure 7 Geology.

The varying depth to bedrock correlates to varying uppermost bedrock contacts. The site has three different formations present as the uppermost bedrock contact. The Jordan Sandstone is most prevalent in the western and northern portions of the site. A band of the St. Lawrence Formation runs diagonally in plan view from the southwest to the northeast of the site. The east to southeast portion of the site is dominated by the Tunnel City Group (formerly known as the Franconia Formation).

The Jordan Sandstone is approximately 80 to 120 feet thick. It contains two facies, a medium-to coarse-grained quartz sandstone and fine-grained feldspathic sandstone with lenses of siltstone and shale. The St. Lawrence Formation is made up of dolomite cemented, very fine-grained sandstone and siltstone. Intermittent shale and dolostone beds are also commonly found in the bottom half of the formation. The overall thickness of the St. Lawrence Formation is 55 to 80 feet. The Tunnel City Group consists of sandstone, siltstone, shale, and intermittent beds of sandy dolostone. The formation is approximately 120-140 feet thick.

The site of the project is located in an area of high susceptibility to groundwater contamination. Please see Figure 8. The project does not produce or store hazardous waste therefore there is no concern of contamination of the site. The project does not entail any excavation therefore will not have any effect on geologic features. The project does not have any sensitive geological features.

b. **Soils and topography - Describe the soils on the site, giving NRCS (SCS) classifications and descriptions, including limitations of soils. Describe topography, any special site conditions relating to erosion potential, soil stability or other soils limitations, such as steep slopes, highly permeable soils. Provide estimated volume and acreage of soil excavation and/or grading. Discuss impacts from project activities (distinguish between construction and operational activities) related to soils and topography. Identify measures during and after project construction to address soil limitations including stabilization, soil corrections or other measures. Erosion/sedimentation control related to stormwater runoff should be addressed in response to Item 11.b.ii.**

Soil types found within the project area are listed below in Table 3. Please see Figure 9 to see the soil type as they appear mapped on the site. The three soil types that make up almost all of the soil within the site are all typically found within floodplain settings. The alluvial land soils have moderately well drainage characteristics while the comfrey silty clay loam has poor drainage characteristics. All three are described as showing no frequency to ponding. As a part of the project no soil disturbances such as grading or excavating are proposed. The planting of high traffic natural grasses along with crops will deter any erosion from the site.

Table 3 - Soils

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
AaA	Alluvial land, 0 to 2 percent slopes	34.9	29.0%
Ab	Alluvial land, frequent overflow, 0 to 6 percent slopes	28.7	23.8%
Cc	Comfrey silty clay loam	44.0	36.5%
Dd	Dorchester silty clay loam	0.1	0.1%
HaF2	Hayden loam, 22 to 40 percent slopes	0.0	0.0%
HbD2	Hayden sandy loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	1.1	0.9%
Sc	Stony land	0.4	0.4%
TbD	Terril loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes	0.2	0.2%
TcB	Terril loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	3.5	2.9%
TcC	Terril loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes	7.5	6.2%

11. Water resources:

a. **Describe surface water and groundwater features on or near the site in a.i. and a.ii. below.**

i. Surface water - lakes, streams, wetlands, intermittent channels, and county/judicial ditches. Include any special designations such as public waters, trout stream/lake, wildlife lakes, migratory waterfowl feeding/resting lake, and outstanding resource value water. Include water quality impairments or special designations listed on the current MPCA 303d Impaired Waters List that are within 1 mile of the project. Include DNR Public Waters Inventory number(s), if any.

Picha Creek (AUID: 07020012-579) is listed on the current MPCA 303d Impaired Waters List and it runs through the project site. Picha Creek is listed on the MPCA Impaired Waters List for fish bioassessments. The project does not propose to alter or impact this water in any way. Please see Figure 10 Existing Drainage Conditions.

Sand Creek (AUID: 07020012-513) is listed on the current MPCA 303d Impaired Waters List. The site eventually discharges to Sand Creek through Picha Creek. Sand Creek is listed on the MPCA Impaired Waters List for aquatic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, chloride, fish bioassessments, nutrient/eutrophication biological indicators, turbidity, and E.coli. The project does not propose to alter or impact this water in any way.

ii. Groundwater – aquifers, springs, seeps. Include: 1) depth to groundwater; 2) if project is within a MDH wellhead protection area; 3) identification of any onsite and/or nearby wells, including unique numbers and well logs if available. If there are no wells known on site or nearby, explain the methodology used to determine this.

The depth to groundwater varies across the site due to the wide range of surficial cover and the depth to bedrock. The Minnesota Well index was used to identify on-site and nearby wells. Table 4 shows the neighboring wells found on the Minnesota Well Index and the depth to groundwater found at that location. Please see Figure 11. There are no wells found within the project site, so only wells from nearby could be reviewed. The depth to groundwater ranges from 27’ (west of project site) to 195’ (east of project site). It appears the depth to groundwater mimics the depth to bedrock across the site, shallower in the west and deeper in the east. The site is not located within a MDH wellhead protection area.

Table 4 – Nearby Wells

Unique Well ID	Well Depth	Depth to Static Water Level	Aquifer	Depth to Bedrock
213577	369’	43.3’	Multiple	20’
211863	147’	27’	Jordan-St. Lawrence	9’
211865	132’	29’	Jordan-St. Lawrence	12’
211864	127’	-	Jordan	58’
633567	155’	75’	Quat. Buried	-
544964	301’	71’	Tunnel City	217’
544957	281’	49’	Tunnel City	198’

620608	420’	131’	Tunnel City	266’
705100	308’	190’	Quat. Buried	-
614814	260’	195’	Quat. Buried	-
569344	162’	30’	Jordan-St. Lawrence	36’

b. Describe effects from project activities on water resources and measures to minimize or mitigate the effects in Item b.i. through Item b.iv. below.

i. **Wastewater - For each of the following, describe the sources, quantities and composition of all sanitary, municipal/domestic and industrial wastewater produced or treated at the site.**

1) If the wastewater discharge is to a publicly owned treatment facility, identify any pretreatment measures and the ability of the facility to handle the added water and waste loadings, including any effects on, or required expansion of, municipal wastewater infrastructure.

2) If the wastewater discharge is to a subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS), describe the system used, the design flow, and suitability of site conditions for such a system.

3) If the wastewater discharge is to surface water, identify the wastewater treatment methods and identify discharge points and proposed effluent limitations to mitigate impacts. Discuss any effects to surface or groundwater from wastewater discharges.

The project will generate sanitary wastewater. This wastewater will be maintained via portable toilets. The Scott County SSTS ordinance allows portable toilets for seasonal uses only. This project will only have temporary structures, permanent building with plumbing is not proposed. There will be no industrial wastewater produced at this site. The company maintaining the portable toilets will dispose of the wastewater according to Minnesota State laws.

ii. **Stormwater - Describe the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff at the site prior to and post construction. Include the routes and receiving water bodies for runoff from the site (major downstream water bodies as well as the immediate receiving waters). Discuss any environmental effects from stormwater discharges. Describe stormwater pollution prevention plans including temporary and permanent runoff controls and potential BMP site locations to manage or treat stormwater runoff. Identify specific erosion control, sedimentation control or stabilization measures to address soil limitations during and after project construction.**

The site is part of an approximately 9,461 acre tributary drainage area to Picha Creek which flows through the southern portion of the site. Picha Creek flows from southeast to northwest across the site. The contributing drainage area is primarily farmland with some forested and rural residential areas. Picha Creek discharges from the site into two large box culverts under Trunk Highway 169 and into a series of culverts under the Union Pacific Railroad track discharging first to Sand Creek and eventually to the Minnesota River.

Proposed land uses will remain largely agricultural which will not impact the existing drainage patterns, volumes, and rates to a large extent. Temporary buildings and structures onsite will be considered disconnected impervious area and will not have a measurable impact on the site

drainage. There is no proposed grading alteration that would significantly alter site drainage patterns.

The propose site access improvements will be below the threshold for needing to provide onsite stormwater management features. One acre of new impervious area is needed onsite before stormwater management is required under Chapter 6 of the Scott County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed site access is less than one acre of new impervious area. Any future improvements to the site that result in the creation of more than one acre of impervious area will result in the need for stormwater management on the site to control rates and volume in accordance with Chapter 6. The current proposed impervious areas will count towards the one acre threshold in the future.

The proposed culvert crossing of the drainage channel on the north end of the site has been designed to reduce flooding risk and sized in accordance with generally accepted engineering methods.

Site erosion and sediment control for the proposed site access and any other site disturbance will be provided in accordance with the current MPCA NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit standards.

iii. **Water appropriation - Describe if the project proposes to appropriate surface or groundwater (including dewatering). Describe the source, quantity, duration, use and purpose of the water use and if a DNR water appropriation permit is required. Describe any well abandonment. If connecting to an existing municipal water supply, identify the wells to be used as a water source and any effects on, or required expansion of, municipal water infrastructure. Discuss environmental effects from water appropriation, including an assessment of the water resources available for appropriation. Identify any measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects from the water appropriation.**

Sever's intends to install an irrigation well to irrigate the site. According to the Minnesota DNR a water appropriations permit is recommended when irrigating corn crops of 4 acres or more. Because of this a water appropriations permit will be applied for as the project will require an irrigation well to provide water for the corn maze as well as the other crops on location. There will be no dewatering at this site and with the water appropriations permit any impact to groundwater from the irrigation well will be mitigated through the permit.

iv. **Surface Waters**

a) **Wetlands - Describe any anticipated physical effects or alterations to wetland features such as draining, filling, permanent inundation, dredging and vegetative removal. Discuss direct and indirect environmental effects from physical modification of wetlands, including the anticipated effects that any proposed wetland alterations may have to the host watershed. Identify measures to avoid (e.g., available alternatives that were considered), minimize, or mitigate environmental effects to wetlands. Discuss whether any required compensatory wetland mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts will occur in the same minor or major watershed, and identify those probable locations.**

A desktop review of the US Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as well as a delineation report completed for the Trunk Highway 169 project was completed to determine if any wetlands are present within the site. Please see Figure 12 National Wetland Inventory and

Figure 13 Scott County Highway 169 Delineation, neither of which show that there are any wetlands located within the project limits. The Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) administers the Wetland Conservation Act and as a condition of the Conditional Use Permit from the County, a wetland delineation will be done at that time and any possible impacts to wetlands will be addressed and properly mitigated as approved through the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) process.

b) Other surface waters- Describe any anticipated physical effects or alterations to surface water features (lakes, streams, ponds, intermittent channels, county/judicial ditches) such as draining, filling, permanent inundation, dredging, diking, stream diversion, impoundment, aquatic plant removal and riparian alteration. Discuss direct and indirect environmental effects from physical modification of water features. Identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental effects to surface water features, including in-water Best Management Practices that are proposed to avoid or minimize turbidity/sedimentation while physically altering the water features. Discuss how the project will change the number or type of watercraft on any water body, including current and projected watercraft usage.

Picha Creek (AUID: 07020012-579) runs through the project site. A box culvert will be constructed for purposes of crossing the creek for vehicle access. The design for the box culvert is being completed by a professional engineer to meet all regulatory and safety standards. As a part of the Scott County Conditional Use Permit these plans will be reviewed. No impacts will be made to other surface waters as a part of this project.

12. Contamination/Hazardous Materials/Wastes:

a. **Pre-project site conditions - Describe existing contamination or potential environmental hazards on or in close proximity to the project site such as soil or ground water contamination, abandoned dumps, closed landfills, existing or abandoned storage tanks, and hazardous liquid or gas pipelines. Discuss any potential environmental effects from pre-project site conditions that would be caused or exacerbated by project construction and operation. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from existing contamination or potential environmental hazards. Include development of a Contingency Plan or Response Action Plan.**

A search within a 1000' radius of the project site was performed via both the MPCA What's In My Neighborhood database as well as Scott County's historical records to determine if any pre-existing environmental concerns exist within the area. There were no concerns identified on the property. The results concluded a nearby compost site to the northwest where tree and yard debris is composted, sand and gravel mine (Shakopee Sands) to the west, a cabinet making business to the south, and Minnesota Valley Landscaping to the north. The County's records detailed a small oil spill from 1991 at the sand and gravel mine, which was reported to the MPCA and cleaned up by thin spreading the spill on site and treating with high N fertilizer. As all of these businesses maintain permits through Scott County or the State no adverse effects will need to be mitigated or present any additional environmental hazards.

b. **Project related generation/storage of solid wastes - Describe solid wastes generated/stored during construction and/or operation of the project. Indicate method of disposal. Discuss potential environmental effects from solid waste handling, storage and disposal. Identify**

measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the generation/storage of solid waste including source reduction and recycling.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) would be the only solid waste generated on site during event setup, while the events are operating and during event take down. According to the Scott County Solid Waste Ordinance No. 2, municipal solid waste is defined as garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities. The MSW generated on site is mainly typical trash associated with food and beverage sales. MSW generated by the site and events shall not cause any adverse environmental effect as it is handled and stored properly on site and disposed of safely and properly off site. Sever's utilizes a recycling program to mitigate solid waste generated on site. Multiple trash and recycling bins will be located throughout the site in order to provide attendees with accessible outlets while attending an event in order to avoid any littering. MSW and recycling will be handled and disposed of by a state and county licensed solid waste hauler.

c. **Project related use/storage of hazardous materials - Describe chemicals/hazardous materials used/stored during construction and/or operation of the project including method of storage. Indicate the number, location and size of any above or below ground tanks to store petroleum or other materials. Discuss potential environmental effects from accidental spill or release of hazardous materials. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the use/storage of chemicals/hazardous materials including source reduction and recycling. Include development of a spill prevention plan.**

Hazardous materials are used in farming and agriculture. Diesel, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer are all common hazardous materials used in standard agriculture practice. As farmers and MNDA licensed applicators (Certification #P65372) Sever's will adhere to all guidelines and laws outlined by the Department of Agriculture for safe and secure; application, transportation, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials used for farming and agriculture will not be stored on site.

Sever's events use minimal hazardous materials. Diesel for trucks, tractors and equipment is used on site. Petroleum products are not stored on site. Trucks, tractors and equipment are refilled using standard portable devices. In the future if there is a need to utilize above ground petroleum tank storage, proper protocol would be used for tank placement (out of flood plain), storage container and spill prevention by way of the MPCA. In addition, an updated site map and notification to the county on the placement of the tank(s) would be completed. All state, county and local laws and ordinances will be followed if the need for a petroleum tank is ever needed.

d. **Project related generation/storage of hazardous wastes - Describe hazardous wastes generated/stored during construction and/or operation of the project. Indicate method of disposal. Discuss potential environmental effects from hazardous waste handling, storage, and disposal. Identify measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects from the generation/storage of hazardous waste including source reduction and recycling.**

There will be no hazardous wastes generated or stored on site. If a vehicle or tractor needs to be serviced or maintained on site, all proper precautions will be taken to ensure no spills are to occur and the waste will be properly disposed of by a licensed facility. If in the future it is decided to maintain or store any vehicles/farm equipment on site a Hazardous Waste license will be obtained from the county and all ordinances will be followed in regards to proper disposal and storage.

13. Fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources (rare features):

a. Describe fish and wildlife resources as well as habitats and vegetation on or in near the site.
Wildlife that would be found on this site includes animals typically found in woodlots and agricultural areas. It is expected that wildlife species known to exist locally would populate or migrate through the property. The most common include deer, coyote, turkey, raccoon, rabbit, squirrel, skunk, muskrat, pheasant, duck, geese and hawk. The creek provides minimal open water; therefore no fish or species that live in open water are within the project. The creek is surrounded by woodlands. The displacement of some wildlife would be expected during the initial construction and during festivals with the presence of people. The majority of the site's 140 acres has been agricultural crops since the 1930s.

b. Describe rare features such as state-listed (endangered, threatened or special concern) species, native plant communities, Minnesota County Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, and other sensitive ecological resources on or within close proximity to the site. Provide the license agreement number (LA-____) and/or correspondence number (ERDB _____) from which the data were obtained and attach the Natural Heritage letter from the DNR. Indicate if any additional habitat or species survey work has been conducted within the site and describe the results.

A search of the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) Database was conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to identify rare features within the project area. The NHIS database comprises locational records of rare plants, rare animals, and other rare features including native plant communities, geologic features, and animal aggregations (such as nesting colonies). In order to ensure future protection of these sensitive resources, the location information will not be provided in this document. Instead, this document generally identifies the sensitive resources and describes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to those resources. A review of the DNR Natural Heritage Inventory System database was conducted (ERD 20190199) for the project study area and within approximately one-mile of the study area. Correspondence with the DNR is included in Figure 14. The following were identified within a 1-mile radius of the project.

<u>Federally Listed Species</u>
Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), federally listed as threatened and state-listed as special concern, and little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), also state listed as special concern, have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project. During the winter these species typically hibernate in caves and mines. During active season (approximately April-October) they roost underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees; and in human structures such as buildings and bridges. Pup rearing is during June and July. Activities that may impact the species include, but are not limited to, wind farm operation, any disturbance to hibernacula, and destruction/degradation of habitat. As such, we recommend avoiding tree removal, if any, during active season.

<u>State Listed</u>
The Lark Sparrow (Chondestes grammacus), a state listed bird species of concern, has been documented within the vicinity of the project. This bird species is found in open, grass land areas with scattered trees and shrubs. They build their nest on the ground, in a shrub or a small tree. If feasible, avoid initial disturbance to grassland areas and tree/shrub removal from May 15th through August 15th to avoid disturbance of nesting birds.

c. Discuss how the identified fish, wildlife, plant communities, rare features and ecosystems may be affected by the project. Include a discussion on introduction and spread of invasive species from the project construction and operation. Separately discuss effects to known threatened and endangered species.

The site has operated as agricultural use as far back as 1937 and a significant portion of the site will still remain as an agricultural use so it is not expected that the project will have any impact on the ecosystem or plant communities within the site. The DNR protected creek that runs through the site will have a box culvert installed in order to provide a crossing, but this is not expected to introduce any adverse effects to the creek. No trees are to be demolished as a part of this project so the habitat shall remain intact for the areas wildlife. However, the nursery trees are proposed to be removed by the current land owner as a part of the sale of the land.

d. Identify measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources.

By following the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) (Appendix A) Rule for Non-Federal Activities it is determined a permit will not be required from the USFWS. Tree removal is not proposed as a part of the project and the project is not located within a northern long-eared bat hibernaculum.

14. Historic properties:

Describe any historic structures, archeological sites, and/or traditional cultural properties on or in close proximity to the site. Include: 1) historic designations, 2) known artifact areas, and 3) architectural features. Attach letter received from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Discuss any anticipated effects to historic properties during project construction and operation. Identify measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties.

Minnesota Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted to conduct a review of the Historic Structures Inventory and Minnesota Archaeological Inventory databases for known resources in the project area. This search identified zero archeological, historical or architectural properties within the search area. The letter from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office concluding their search revealed no properties of interest can be found as Figure 15.

15. Visual:

Describe any scenic views or vistas on or near the project site. Describe any project related visual effects such as vapor plumes or glare from intense lights. Discuss the potential visual effects from the project. Identify any measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate visual effects.

No scenic views or vistas are located within or near the project site.

Lighting will be provided around the site when the festival is open beyond the daylight hours until 10 pm when the festival closes. Lighting will be provided on portable masts and will be shielded to downcast the light where needed. Figure 16 shows the location of lighting. The lighting must meet the Scott County Ordinance 4-5 lighting standards. A lighting plan must be submitted to Scott County and approved as part of the permitting steps within a Conditional Use

Permit. The lighting standards are defined as in Appendix B and will be followed when the lighting plan is submitted, please see Figure 16 for draft lighting plans.

Possible receptors include residences and commercial business adjacent to the site. Residences are located along Minnesota Valley Bluff Drive to the east and 150th Street West to the north. Also two commercial business, one to the north on 150th Street and one to the South on Trunk Highway 169. West of the project site is Trunk Highway 169.

16. Air:

a. Stationary source emissions - Describe the type, sources, quantities and compositions of any emissions from stationary sources such as boilers or exhaust stacks. Include any hazardous air pollutants, criteria pollutants, and any greenhouse gases. Discuss effects to air quality including any sensitive receptors, human health or applicable regulatory criteria. Include a discussion of any methods used assess the project's effect on air quality and the results of that assessment. Identify pollution control equipment and other measures that will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects from stationary source emissions.

It is not anticipated that stationary source emissions would be transmitted from the events.

b. Vehicle emissions - Describe the effect of the project's traffic generation on air emissions. Discuss the project's vehicle-related emissions effect on air quality. Identify measures (e.g. traffic operational improvements, diesel idling minimization plan) that will be taken to minimize or mitigate vehicle-related emissions.

Motorized vehicles affect air quality by emitting airborne pollutants. Changes in traffic volumes, travel patterns, and roadway locations affect air quality as the number of vehicles and the congestion levels in a given area change. Traffic congestion resulting from attendees arriving and departing the events could contribute to air quality conditions in the area however due to the proposed turn lane improvements and proposed traffic mitigation it is not anticipated that vehicles will be idling long enough to produce significant emissions.

c. Dust and odors - Describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities, and intensity of dust and odors generated during project construction and operation. (Fugitive dust may be discussed under item 16a). Discuss the effect of dust and odors in the vicinity of the project including nearby sensitive receptors and quality of life. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate the effects of dust and odors.

The proposed project will not generate substantial odors during construction or operation of the festival. Potential odors will likely include exhaust from diesel engines. Dust generated during construction will be minimized through standard dust control measures such as applying water to exposed soils and limiting the extent and duration of exposed soil conditions. Construction contractors will be required to control dust and other airborne particulates in accordance with State regulations and County ordinance requirements.

After construction is complete, dust levels are anticipated to be minimal because the project does not propose to leave any unexposed soils throughout the site. However, if dust should become an issue dust control measures, similar to dust prevention during construction, can be taken.

17. Noise:

Describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities, and intensity of noise generated during project construction and operation. Discuss the effect of noise in the vicinity of the project including 1) existing noise levels/sources in the area, 2) nearby sensitive receptors, 3) conformance to state noise standards, and 4) quality of life. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate the effects of noise.

Initial construction activities associated with the proposed project are expected to produce noise levels that are associated with construction equipment mainly for the installation of the box culvert crossing and the paving of the driveway.

Noise generated while the festival is operating would include noise from festival activities. During the festival, noise would be produced from entertainment shows, ambient noise from attendees, pumpkin shooters (impulse noise), and tractors. Festival noise is anticipated 8:30 am – 10 pm Friday through Sunday for 16 weekends every year.

Below in Table 6 you can see the expected noise level to be created by certain activities and the distance to the nearest sensitive noise receptors.

1) Existing noise levels/ sources in the area

Existing sources of noise include traffic noise associated with Trunk Highway 169 and adjacent local roadways. Other existing sources of noise include the Union Pacific Railroad to the west of Trunk Highway 169 and those noises associated with mining (Shakopee Sands) and Renaissance Festival.

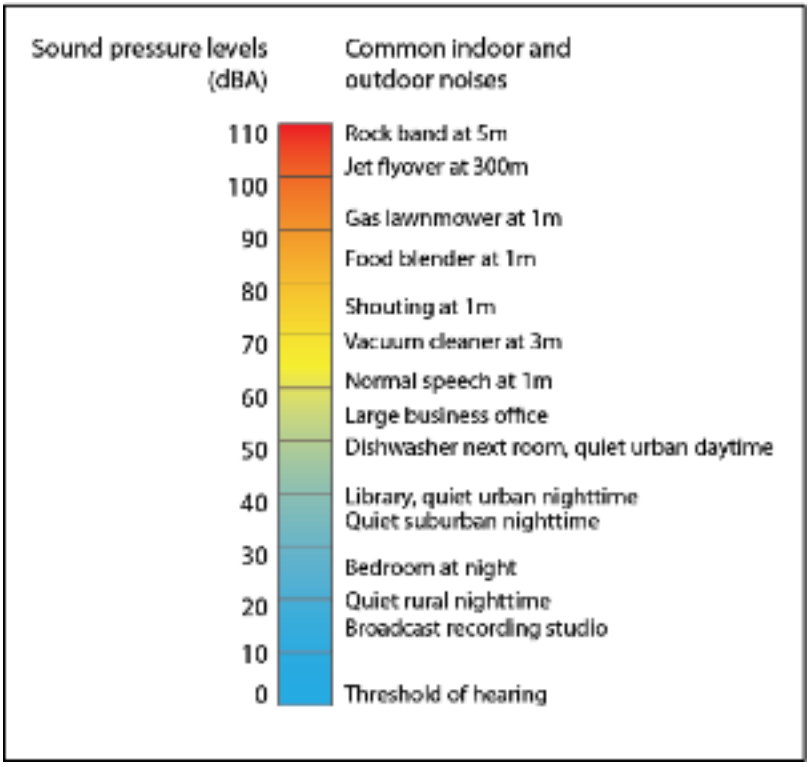
2) Nearby sensitive receptors

Sensitive receptors include residences and commercial business adjacent to the site. Residences are located along Minnesota Valley Bluff Drive to the east and 150th Street West to the north. Also two commercial business, one to the north on 150th Street and one to the South on Trunk Highway 169. West of the project site is Trunk Highway 169.

3) Conformance to state noise standards

Sound travels in a wave motion and produces a sound pressure level. This sound pressure level is commonly measured in decibels. Decibels (dB) represent the logarithm of the ratio of a sound energy relative to a reference sound energy. The human hearing organs do not hear all frequencies of sound equally; we hear some frequencies better than others. The A-weighting scale was created to apply more emphasis or weighting on the frequencies we hear best, and to de-emphasize or apply less weighting to frequencies we do not hear well. A sound increase of 3 dBA is barely noticeable by the human ear, a 5 dBA increase is clearly noticeable, and a 10 dBA increase is heard as twice as loud. For example, if the sound energy is doubled (i.e., the amount of traffic doubles), there is a 3 dBA increase in noise, which is just barely noticeable to most people. On the other hand, if traffic increases by a factor of ten times, the resulting sound level will increase by about 10 dBA and be heard to be twice as loud.

Table 5 below lists common noise levels from various indoor and outdoor sources



https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/noise-pollution

Noise is variable and it is therefore best measured and regulated using statistical descriptors. In Minnesota, noise impacts are evaluated by measuring and/or modeling the noise levels that are exceeded 10 percent and 50 percent of the time during the hours of the day (7 am – 10 pm) and/or night (10 pm – 7 am). These numbers are identified as the L10 and L50 levels, respectively. The L10 value is the noise level that is exceeded for a total of 10 percent, or 6 minutes, of an hour. The L50 value is the noise level that is exceeded for a total of 50 percent, or 30 minutes, of an hour. Minnesota state noise standards have been established for daytime and nighttime periods.

This project will only operate during daytime hours, 8:30 am – 10:00 pm as defined by the Minnesota Pollution Control, so only the daytime standards will be referenced in this document. For residential land uses (identified as Noise Area Classification 1 or NAC- 1), the Minnesota state standards for L10 are 65 dBA for daytime; the standards for L50 are 60 dBA for daytime. Table 5 lists state noise standards. Minnesota state noise standards apply to the outdoor atmosphere (i.e., exterior noise levels).

Table 6 Minnesota State Noise Standards (Daytime)

Noise Area Classification(NAC)	L10	L50
1	65	60
2	70	65
3	80	75
4	NA	NA

NAC-1 includes household units, transient lodging and hotels, educational, religious, cultural, entertainment, camping, and picnicking land uses.
NAC-2 includes retail and restaurants, transportation terminals, professional offices, parks, recreational, and amusement land uses.

NAC-3 includes industrial fairgrounds and amusement parks, manufacturing, transportation facilities (except terminals), and utilities land uses.
NAC-4 includes undeveloped and unused land

Table 6 – Project and Nearby Activity Sound Sources

Sound Source	Sound Level in Decibels (dB)	Distance to east property line(NAC-1)	Predicted sound level at east property line (dB)	Distance to south property line(NAC-2)	Predicted sound level at south property line (dB)
Pumpkin Shooter (Impulse noise)	100 dB at 10 feet ;70 dB at 500 feet	1700 feet	55	675	63
Tractor	78 dB at 6 feet	500 feet	40	50	60
Music	92 dB at 3 feet	850 feet	43	1150	40
Typical Highway Noise for Reference(not project related noise)	85 dB				

The noise created by the pumpkin shooters is an impulse noise and would not exceed the L10 or L50 due to the duration of the sound. Refer to Appendix C to see the noise specs provided from the manufacturer. See Figure 17 for sound calculations.

4) Quality of life

Noise generated while the festival is operating would include noise from festival activities. During the festival, noise would be produced from entertainment shows and ambient noise from attendees.

As shown above in Table 6 the sound levels produced from festival activities will not exceed the State Noise Standards at any of the nearest noise receptors. The proposed hours will also only coincide with daytime standards.

5) Measures to minimize or mitigate the effects of noise

Initial construction

- Construction equipment will be properly muffled and in proper working order. It is standard practice to require contractor(s) to comply with applicable local noise restrictions and ordinances. High-impact equipment noise would not result from the proposed project.

- No construction activities would occur during nighttime hours.

Festival

- The festival was organized on-site in a way that all sound producing activities, including ambient noise from attendees, are as far away from the nearest residential areas, ensuring a significant buffer to allow the sound to dissipate and not create any noise over the Noise Standards at any of the property lines. See Figure 2 Site Map,
- Festival activities all take place on the western side of the location. The western side of the location is bordered by Trunk Highway 169, which will be emitting noise constantly from traffic not related to this project.
- The pumpkin shooters have also been placed on west side bordering Trunk Highway 169 in order to provide a significant buffer zone to any of the residential homes to the east.
- The speakers for the live music will also be pointed in the opposite direction as any of the neighbors to the east.
- Also, as a part of the project, for noise and visual mitigation a row of trees is proposed to be planted on the eastern edge of the project site in order to provide another form of sound and sight mitigation.

In addition, if noises complaints are received the proposer may be required to do a noise study as a condition of the Conditional Use permit.

18. Transportation

a. Describe traffic-related aspects of project construction and operation. Include:

1) Existing and proposed additional parking spaces,
Parking will be built to hold an estimated 4,000 vehicles. The parking area will be sized to accommodate 60 percent more cars estimated to arrive based on the current site location in Shakopee.

2) Estimated total average daily traffic generated,
An assumed design event day of 3000 vehicles parked per day may occur two to four times per year. Typical daily attendance ranges from 1,000 to 5,000.

3) Estimated maximum peak hour traffic generated and time of occurrence,
The traffic model predicts MEA Week Event Hourly Traffic Volumes Profile determined that the design event peak hour is from 5:00-6:00pm and coincides with the commuter peak hour on a Friday during MEA week.

4) Indicate source of trip generation rates used in the estimates,

Refer to Appendix D for a Traffic Impact Study completed by SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Trip generation estimates for the MEA Week Friday design event day were developed based on an assumed design event day attendance of 5,000 persons and 3,000 vehicles per day. Traffic volume data from loop detectors on TH 169 north and east of the Canterbury Road interchange (the best available traffic data nearest the previous Sever's Festivals site) for the 2016 MEA Week Friday were compared and differentiated to typical non-event week Friday traffic data at the same locations, to develop estimated Sever's Fall Festival Event Hourly Traffic Volume Profiles (see Appendix A). The proposed Sever's Festivals site was assumed to open for the 2019 season. Based on the MEA Week Friday Event Hourly Traffic Volume Profile (see Appendix A)

it was determined that the design event peak hour is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. (see Table 5) and coincides with the commuter peak hour. The background p.m. peak hour commuter traffic on TH 169 combined with event-generated traffic, resulted in the highest combined vehicle volume during that hour on that day in that week. Results of the event-generated MEA Week Friday trip estimates combined with TH 169 background through traffic shown in Table 5 of the Traffic Impact Study, indicate that the proposed event is expected to generate a total of 483 inbound peak hour, 449 outbound peak hour, and 3,000 inbound/3,000 outbound daily trips**.**

Hour Beginning	Event Generated MEA Friday Traffic		TH 169 Future Background Traffic		Combined Volumes
	Inbound	Outbound	Northbound	Southbound	
9:00 AM	109	90	1,534	1,030	2,763
10:00 AM	367	196	1,375	1,161	3,099
11:00 AM	457	449	1,216	1,223	3,345
12:00 PM	483	251	1,178	1,197	3,109
1:00 PM	409	218	1,217	1,218	3,062
2:00 PM	345	377	1,256	1,352	3,330
3:00 PM	155	218	1,294	1,551	3,218
4:00 PM	28	25	1,333	1,843	3,229
5:00 PM	77	274	1,370	2,135	3,856
6:00 PM	158	438	1,148	1,478	3,222
7:00 PM	412	356	925	820	2,513
8:00 PM	0	109	651	636	1,396
9:00 PM	0	0	461	449	910
10:00 PM	0	0	269	358	627
	3,000	3,000			

(1) Yellow highlighted cells indicate the volumes under the specific volume categories during the peak combined volume design event peak hour of 5-6 p.m. Blue highlighted table cells indicate the highest event-generated peak hourly inbound and outbound volumes.

5) Availability of transit and/or other alternative transportation modes.
The Traffic Impact Study completed did not include researching alternative transportation modes.

b. **Discuss the effect on traffic congestion on affected roads and describe any traffic improvements necessary. The analysis must discuss the project's impact on the regional transportation system.**
If the peak hour traffic generated exceeds 250 vehicles or the total daily trips exceeds 2,500, a traffic impact study must be prepared as part of the EAW. **Use the format and procedures described in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Access Management Manual, Chapter 5** ***(available at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/accessmanagement/resources.html)*** **or a similar local guidance,**

Results of the year 2040 build conditions traffic operations analysis shown in Appendix D indicate that traffic operations at all of the study intersections will be at an acceptable overall LOS during the design event day, MEA Friday 5:00-6:00 p.m. peak hour, with no significant congestion, delay or queuing spillback. This is the hour that represents the highest event-generated traffic volume levels combined with the typical weekday traffic volumes on TH 169 (see Appendix D - Figure 7: Year 2040 Build Conditions).

As shown in Appendix D, the Traffic Impact Study as completed by SRF Consulting Group, Inc., summarizes that traffic generated from the proposed project will not create a significant long-term negative traffic impact to the area roadway system.

In addition, the study evaluated the cumulative traffic impacts form the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. The study states that Based on data provided by Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons (see Table 4), there is some operational overlap during September for the two special events. However, since the Minnesota Renaissance Festival attendance peaks in middle to late September and Sever's Fall Festival attendance peaks middle to late October (MEA Week) it is concluded that there would not be a long-term significant cumulative traffic impact associated with Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. While there is no apparent overlap or concurrence in peak events between Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, it is recommended that the event operators and area stakeholders work together to coordinate event traffic management plans and directional signing to avoid event day traffic confusion and congestion.

c. Identify measures that will be taken to minimize or mitigate project related transportation effects.

Sever's Festivals and Scott County staff have been working together to include in the design/build of the 150th Street (CSAH 14)/Louisville Road intersection (currently under construction) an eastbound right-turn lane and westbound left-turn serving the primary site access (see attached plan sheet). These site access left and right-turn lanes will be required in order for the proposal to move forward. Also, law enforcement officer control of the primary site access on 150th Street (CSAH 14) may be required. Law enforcement officers assigned to special event security will monitor traffic conditions at the primary site access and, if necessary, control the primary site access on 150th Street (CSAH 14) for short periods as needed to manage unusual conditions and emergency response situations.

19. Cumulative potential effects:

(Preparers can leave this item blank if cumulative potential effects are addressed under the applicable EAW Items)

a. Describe the geographic scales and timeframes of the project related environmental effects that could combine with other environmental effects resulting in cumulative potential effects.

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival operates approximately 1 mile to the northwest on a seasonal basis with an annual attendance of approximately 300,000. See Figure 2 Site Map to see a map displaying the location in reference to the project site. The event is held primarily only on weekends and takes place from mid- to late-August through early October each year from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Access is provided from US 169 and 145th Street and from TH 41. One-way traffic control is established during the Festival where patrons enter from 145th Street and exit to TH 41.

The Trail of Terror is another short term seasonal outdoor entertainment event with annual attendance that is significantly less than the Minnesota Renaissance Festival and takes place on select Fridays - Sundays, mid- to late-October through early November. Hours of operation are Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and Sundays from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The box office and attractions close at 10 p.m. and the operations close at 11 p.m. The Trail of Terror traffic utilizes access to TH 41.

The traffic analysis evaluated the cumulative traffic impacts form the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. The study states that Based on data provided by Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons (see Table 4), there is some operational overlap during September for the two special events. However, since the Minnesota Renaissance Festival attendance peaks in middle to late September and Sever's Fall Festival attendance peaks middle to late October (MEA Week) it is concluded that there would not be a long-term significant cumulative traffic impact associated with Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. While there is no apparent overlap or concurrence in peak events between Sever's Festivals and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, it is recommended that the event operators and area stakeholders work together to coordinate event traffic management plans and directional signing to avoid event day traffic confusion and congestion.

b. Describe any reasonably foreseeable future projects (for which a basis of expectation has been laid) that may interact with environmental effects of the proposed project within the geographic scales and timeframes identified above.

The US 169 Improvement project will be ongoing through the year 2020. During construction, traffic backups and congestion is assumed.

c. Discuss the nature of the cumulative potential effects and summarize any other available information relevant to determining whether there is potential for significant environmental effects due to these cumulative effects.

The Renaissance Festival brings in a significant amount of traffic on their operational days. This proposed project has operational hours which overlap with the Renaissance Festival and therefore will add to the traffic on Trunk Highway 169. A road project was developed to address the existing traffic issues along Trunk Highway 169, and that project is already in the construction phase. The improvements include an interchange at TH 169 and TH 41, an overpass at CSAH 14, frontage road connections to the interchange and overpass, and US 169 access closures. Construction began in 2018 with the majority of work to occur in 2019 and 2020. The improvements have been designed with consideration of local and regional traffic forecasts, including the traffic generated by Renaissance Festival, and are expected to increase freight mobility and commuter traffic a through the corridor and are expected to improve the traffic flow to acceptable levels for 2026 and beyond. As these improvements were designed to accommodate the growing traffic of the area, including the traffic generated from the Renaissance Festival, through 2026 and beyond it will be sufficient to address the additional traffic added from this proposed project and will therefore not become a significant environmental impact. In addition the Renaissance Festival is on lease at their current location and has proposed to relocate to a new location. By creating a much further distance between the two sites a potential for cumulative impacts would be negated.

20. Other potential environmental effects: If the project may cause any additional environmental effects not addressed by items 1 to 19, describe the effects here, discuss the how the environment will be affected, and identify measures that will be taken to minimize and mitigate these effects.

RGU CERTIFICATION. *(The Environmental Quality Board will only accept **SIGNED** Environmental Assessment Worksheets for public notice in the EQB Monitor.)*

I hereby certify that:

- The information contained in this document is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- The EAW describes the complete project; there are no other projects, stages or components other than those described in this document, which are related to the project as connected actions or phased actions, as defined at Minnesota Rules, parts 4410.0200, subparts 9c and 60, respectively.
- Copies of this EAW are being sent to the entire EQB distribution list.

Signature ___Kate Seelhammer _____ Date 4/22/19

Title _____