

# Project Details

- Up to 176 single family homes
- 120 detached townhomes
- 115 acre site
- Developed by Excelsior Group over the next 2-5 years
- Guided for Low Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan



# What is an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)?

- ▶ Is required by Minnesota Rules when a development reaches a certain threshold for units.
  - ▶ The Lakes and Parkside North are examples of other projects that required an EAW.
- ▶ Lays out basic facts of a project to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.
- ▶ Provides public information about the project and helps identify ways to protect the environment.



# What is Included in an EAW?

- Identification including project name, project proposer, and project location.
- Procedural details including identification of the RGU, EAW contact person, and instructions for interested persons wishing to submit comments.
- Description of the project, the purpose of the project, methods of construction, quantification of physical characteristics and impacts, project site description, and land use and physical features of the surrounding area.
- Resource protection measures that have been incorporated into the project design.





# What is Included in an EAW?

- Major issues sections identifying potential environmental impacts and issues that may require further investigation before the project is commenced, including identification of cumulative potential effects.
- Known governmental approvals, reviews, or financing required, applied for, or anticipated and the status of any applications made, including permit conditions that may have been ordered or are being considered.
- An assessment of the compatibility of the project with approved plans of local units of government.



# What is the EAW Process?



- ▶ EAW is prepared by the Responsible Government Unit (RGU), which is the City of Blaine, and is submitted to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). **Action Tonight**
  - ▶ In this instance, the EAW was prepared by the developer's consultant, on behalf of the City of Blaine.
- ▶ Public comment period from 6/29-7/29. Comments are provided to the RGU.
  - ▶ Comments can be received by the public.
  - ▶ EAW is also sent to U.S. Corps or Engineers, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service and other similar agencies for comment.
- ▶ Based on comments, RGU makes a determination whether an EAW is sufficient or if an EIS is required. **(August 16 City Council Action)**