

March 16, 2017

Warren Goetsch & Doug Owens
Illinois Dept of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Dear Mr. Goetsch and Mr. Owens:

Many residents in Isabel Township have written letters, sent e-mails, and/or made phone calls to your Department outlining their concerns and voicing their opposition to the Memory Lane Acres, LLC project. This proposed mega-hog confinement would be located in a populated area of Isabel Township that is in close proximity to many rural farms, occupied homes, non-farm businesses, and gathering places. In addition, its location poses a severe threat to our area's natural resources in terms of air quality, water pollution, and soil contamination.

The points listed below highlight the omissions and inaccuracies in the applicant's setback map and its related documents submitted by Memory Lane Acres, LLC in their "Intent to Construct." These points have been aligned with Exhibits A, B, and C on pages 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

Point #1 - The Isabel Township plat map (2017 publication) included as Exhibit A shows there are more than 10 occupied residences comprising a populated area as outlined in the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA). The Memory Lane facility will be located less than one-half mile from the populated area comprised of more than 10 occupied residences. The application for this site must be denied.

Point #2 - The area we have marked as map number 1 on Exhibit B (Bob Harn Memorial Park) qualifies under the LMFA as a populated area in that it has been used for many years as a community-gathering area visited by at least 50 people per week during the time this area is open. This location is used for community gatherings, camping, and recreational activities. This location is also a market for local vendors during the Scenic Drive Festival each fall, which would be classified as a non-farm business. This festival draws thousands of tourists to our area. It is a historical event in Fulton County that will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. We will provide the names of those who have used the park in the past and those who use it in the future at the Department's request. The existence of this common place of assembly and non-farm business within the setback for a populated area requires that the Department deny the application at this time.

Point #3 - The blue dashed line on the map in Exhibit B shows the Spoon River Trail System hiking path Boy Scout troops follow through this township as they travel from Anderson Lake in southern Isabel Township to Elrod on the Spoon River. The area we have marked as map number 2 on Exhibit B (Tippey Campsite) is used for overnight camping by Boy Scout troops during their hiking treks through Isabel Township. During the time this campsite is open, it is attended by at least 50 people. This qualifies the area as a common place of assembly under the LMFA located within the setback area and requires the Department to deny the application.

Point #4 - VanHorn is listed on the applicant's map as the closest non-farm business, but the company is no longer in business at that location. Map number 3 on Exhibit B indicates the location of a non-farm business. This business deals in antiques and collectibles with steady business especially during the weekends of the Spoon River Scenic Drive each October. This non-farm business is in the populated area outlined in Point #1 above and the facility's presence has the potential to have a negative impact on this business.

Point #5 - Field tiling was done on this property in the fall of 2016 and is not listed or shown on the map. The presence of subsurface tiling contradicts the statement listed below the map that there are "no subsurface drainage lines within 100 feet." Photographic images taken by neighbors after Timewell

Drainage completed their entire tract installation illustrate the presence of the subsurface tiling and are available upon request. The application for this site must be denied.

Point #6 - Two abandoned wells are located on this property and are not listed on the map. Their presence contradicts the statement on the original setback map that "there are no abandoned wells within 1000 feet." The application for this site must be denied.

Point #7 - The original setback map incorrectly labeled the nearest potable well as 4500 feet. A potable well located adjacent to the farm-owned house [Exhibit B map number 4] appears to be within 100 feet of the facility. Further research shows there are numerous potable wells located within the 3520 foot setback for a populated area. The application for this site must be denied.

Point #8 - The Isabel Township plat map (2017 publication) shown in Exhibit C documents the location of a stream (a tributary for the Spoon River) that flows all 12 months of the year and is not shown on the original setback map. This stream is EAST of the proposed facility and is not Otter Creek, the one to the west of the facility marked as "Stream" on the applicant's original setback map and labeled on the edited setback map in Exhibit C with a red arrow. This stream begins in the middle of the Memory Lane project property and travels to the EAST to the Spoon River. The dashed blue line on the Isabel Township plat map in Exhibit C shows the topography of the land to verify the eastward flow of water in this location. In addition, existing subsurface tiles installed in 1996 by a previous owner of this land run from west-to-east under the property as well as from north-and-south along Memory Lane. Both of these subsurface tile systems feed the stream which serves as an important water source for livestock on adjacent farms. The statement on the original setback map regarding the "surface water flow is west away from the buildings" is incorrect based on this data. Also, the presence of the subsurface drainage lines within 100 feet of the proposed facility contradicts the statement "there are no subsurface drainage lines within 100 feet". The application for this site must be denied because there are subsurface drainage lines within 100 feet of the proposed facility.

Point #9 - Isabel Church [Exhibit B, map number 5] is a historical location in our township. It was established in 1884 and has been in operation since that time. It hosts regular Sunday services and serves as a gathering place for community meetings and family celebrations. The congregation has been focusing on expanding their membership and updating the facilities. The church is located less than a mile from the facility. Its close proximity would have a negative impact on the church and its membership.

In our opinion, the concerns detailed in this document clearly demonstrate the need for the applicant to resubmit a setback map that makes the necessary corrections before its application is deemed complete.

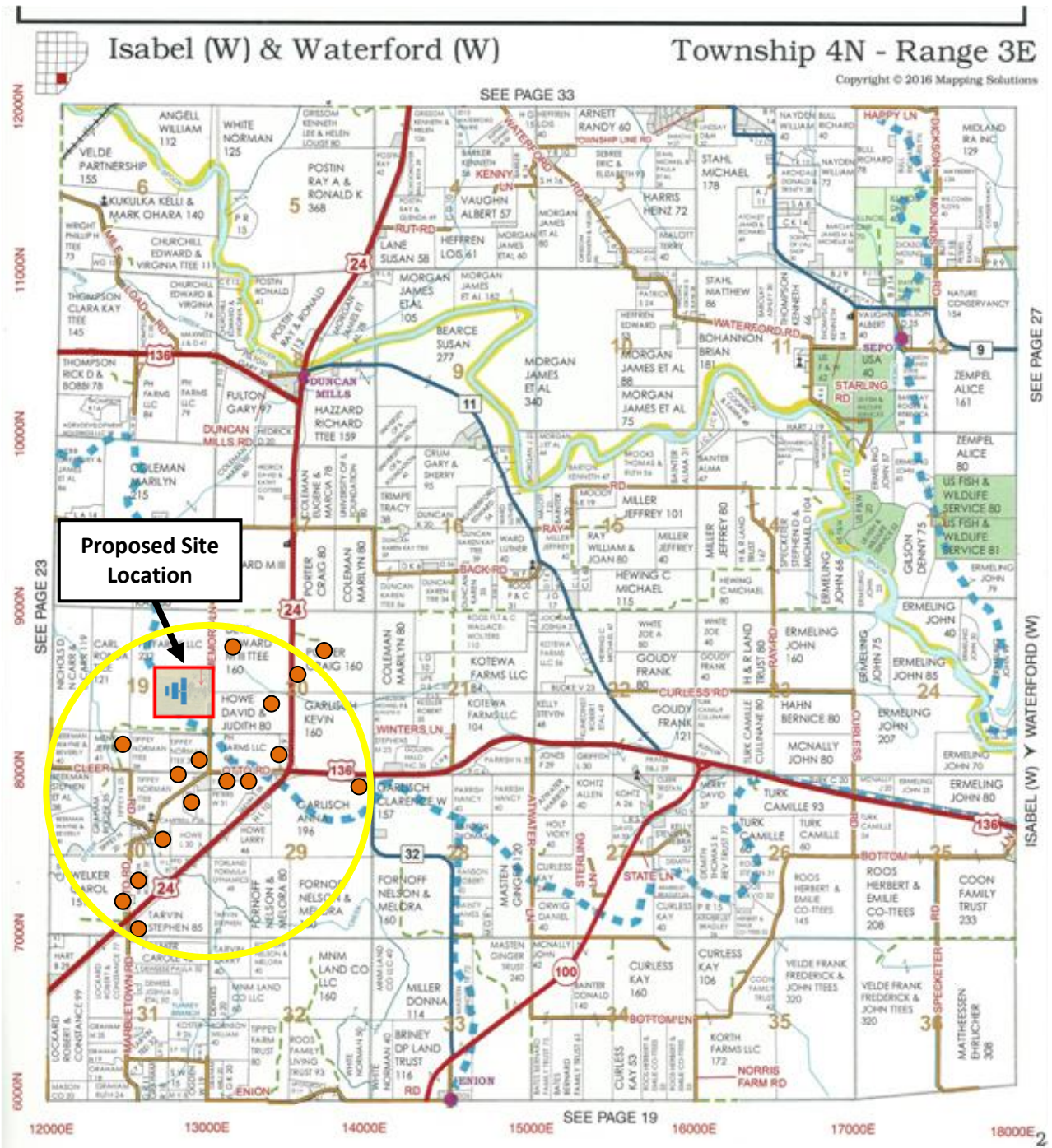
Furthermore, when that is done, it will become clear to the Department that the proposed site cannot comply with the setback distances required by law and other siting criteria. We respectfully request that the Department deny the application based on these facts.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the concerned citizens of Isabel Township,

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14002 E Back Road
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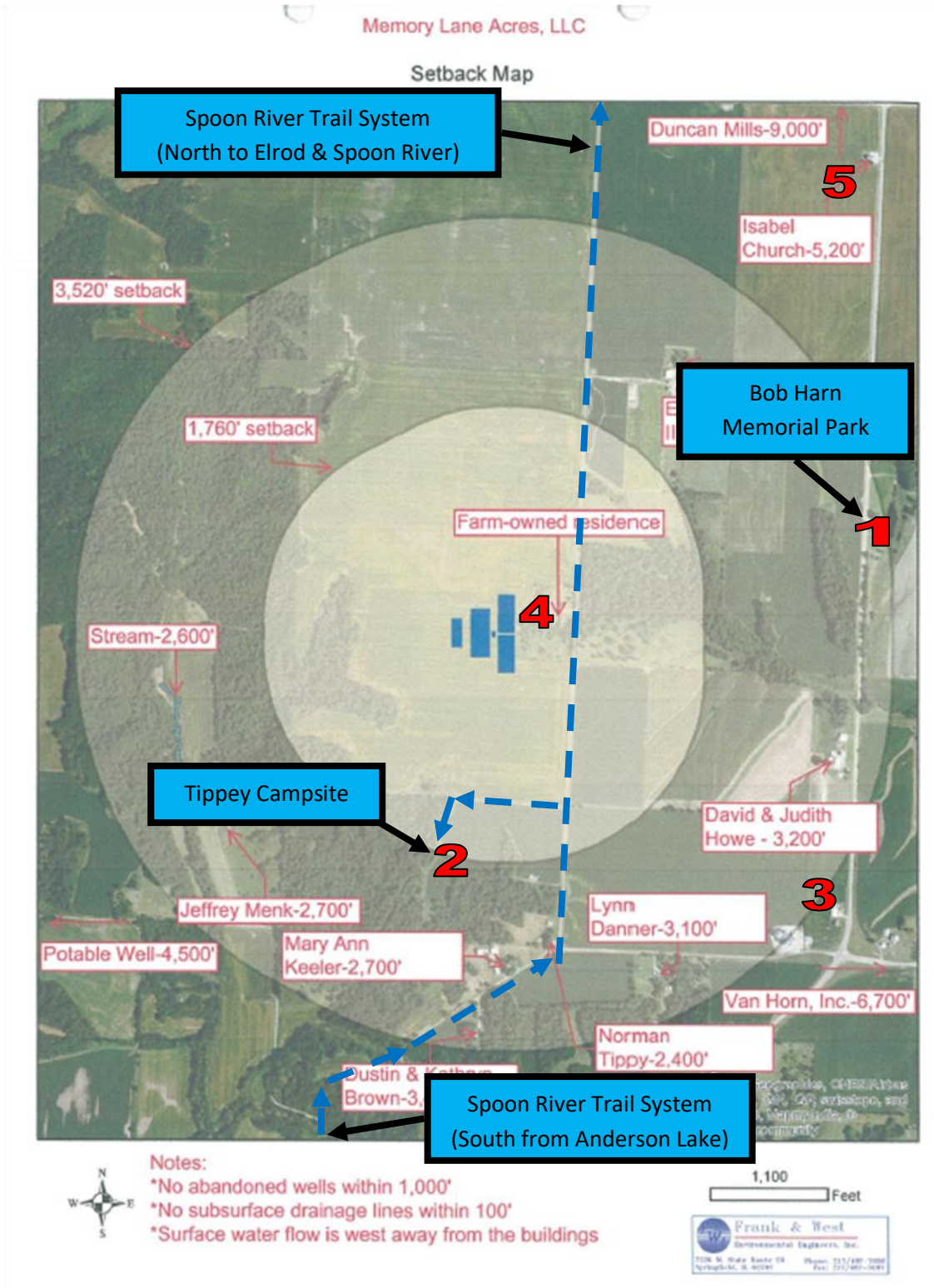
Isabel Township
P.O. Box 168
Lewistown, IL 61542

Exhibit A: Isabel Township Plat Map (2017 Publication)



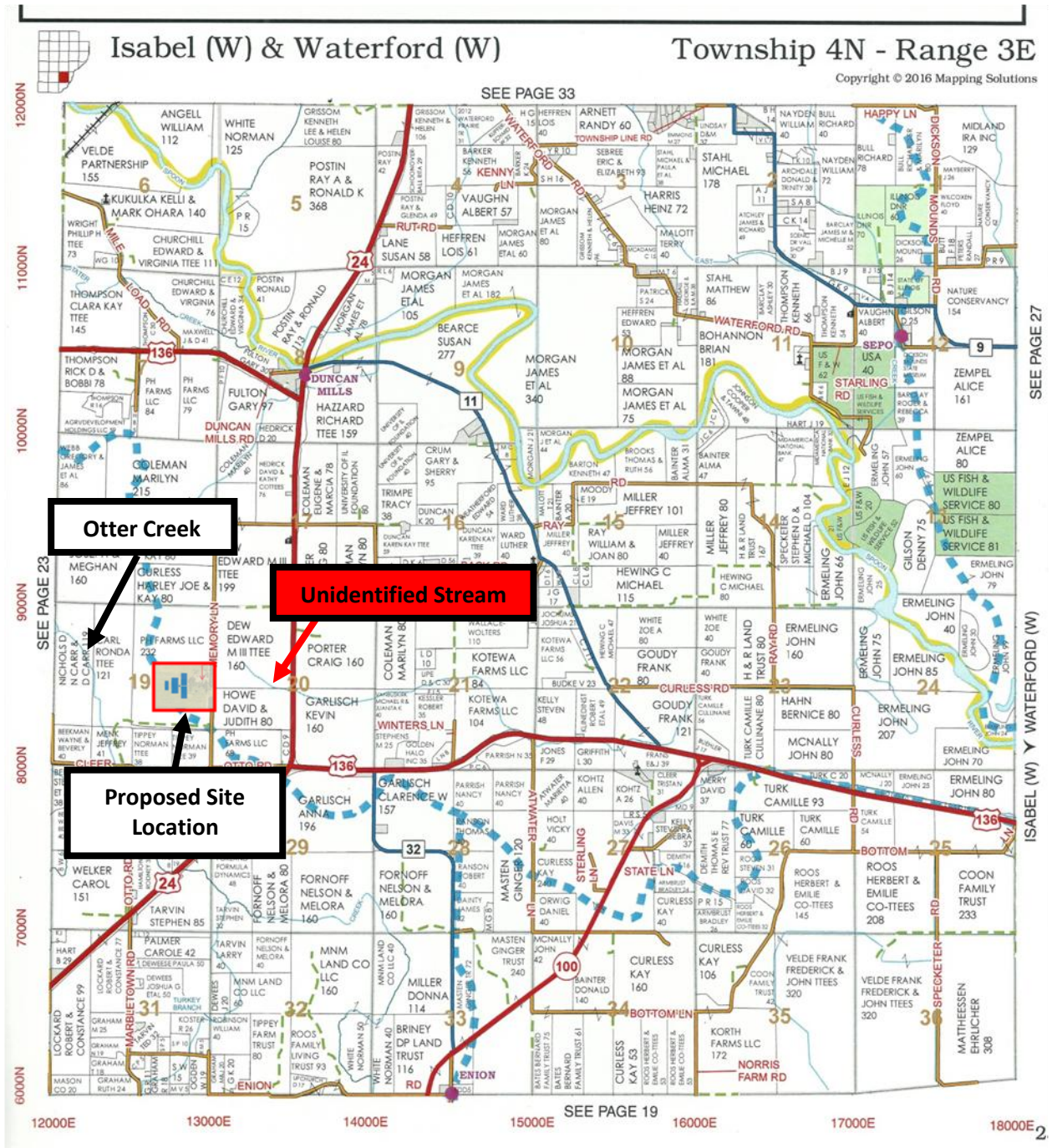
Note: Orange circles (●) indicate the location of occupied residences. The inset (red bordered image) is copied from the original setback map and superimposed in the approximate location on the plat map.

Exhibit B: Edited Setback Map (Edited by neighbors)



NOTE: The *Memory Lane Acres, LLC* Map is shown in 'green' and 'red' ink. We have shown the corrections and/or additions with RED numbers [reference markers only] which match the locations that are listed below in numerical order. The blue dashed line shows the path of the Spoon River Trail System.

Exhibit C: Isabel Township Plat Map (2017 Publication)



Note: Red arrow indicates the location of the stream described in Point #8. The inset (red bordered image) is copied from the original setback map and superimposed in the approximate location.