# Board Votes to Terminate Land Purchase Agreement

On May 13, 2022, the board of directors entered into a purchase agreement for 159 acres located south of Hinckley, Minnesota, to determine whether the property was suitable to be developed as a permanent festival site for MBOTMA. The site seemed to offer several advantages, described in the materials that have been shared on the MBOTMA website, but the board was not in a position to inspect and investigate the property in detail unless a purchase agreement was in place.

The purchase agreement provided that MBOTMA could terminate the agreement and have its earnest money refunded if the organization determined, before the end of the 60-day inspection period, that the property was not suitable or not feasible for its purposes.

Following a May 14 site visit attended by board members and 10 or so guests with deep ties to MBOTMA, the board solicited feedback from all those who visited the site. The board also invited questions and comments from members in response to the information shared with them about the proposed purchase.

The board received a variety of positive, neutral, and negative reactions to the general idea of purchasing land. Members also shared thoughts about general economic conditions as well as the board’s process in planning for a land purchase.

The feedback specifically on this property did not express much enthusiasm for the site. Several concerns were raised, including the overall suitability of the property for MBOTMA’s needs; the power transmission lines passing prominently through the property; the presence of one or more wetlands in the woods, raising issues with environmental requirements; the upfront costs of the property (despite opportunities to significantly offset those costs); and the anticipated costs required to convert and maintain the property as a useable festival site.

Considering all of the feedback, there did not appear to be strong support on the board or among the members for the purchase of this property. Therefore, it did not seem to be in MBOTMA’s best interests, nor the seller’s, to continue to invest further time and resources into inspection and investigation of this property.

At the June 7 board meeting, therefore, the board voted to terminate the purchase agreement.

While input about this specific land is no longer needed, the board plans to involve members in continuing discussions and opportunities for input on the general idea of a land purchase and other issues relevant to MBOTMA’s long-term sustainability. Watch for more information in your email, at [minnesotabluegrass.org](https://www.minnesotabluegrass.org/), and in future issues of *Minnesota Bluegrass*.