

## ***Rural Initiative Scope***

### **BACKGROUND**

When rural initiatives were developed, the scope and concept were very limited. The approved project cost was limited to \$1M. This cost must include the cost of the land, the cost of design, and the cost of construction. In FY16, we will start planning and design of our first "true" rural initiative. The purpose of this paper is to reinforce the scope of the projects. It will show what we plan to build. It will also highlight the concern for keeping the project within \$1M.

### **DISCUSSION**

"A rural cemetery would just have an entrance gate feature, a main US flagpole, a smaller POW flagpole, a small memorial plaza ceremonial area. There won't be any public restrooms or other buildings, just a small rural cemetery that looks much like any other cemetery. It would have no kiosk either and possibly be surrounded by an ornamental fence."

Further clarification was also provided from the previous Undersecretary:

- Each site 3-5 acres inside an existing cemetery
- PPC's, inground cremation sites, and columbarium at each location
- NO committal shelter, services will be contracted out with portable graveside tents
- Main US flagpole, POW flagpole, and a memorial placement walk to create a small ceremonial area
- No public restrooms, no admin/PIC, no maintenance area.
- Due to limited space of rural initiatives columbaria niches could be incorporated into back sides of entrance wall features if those occur

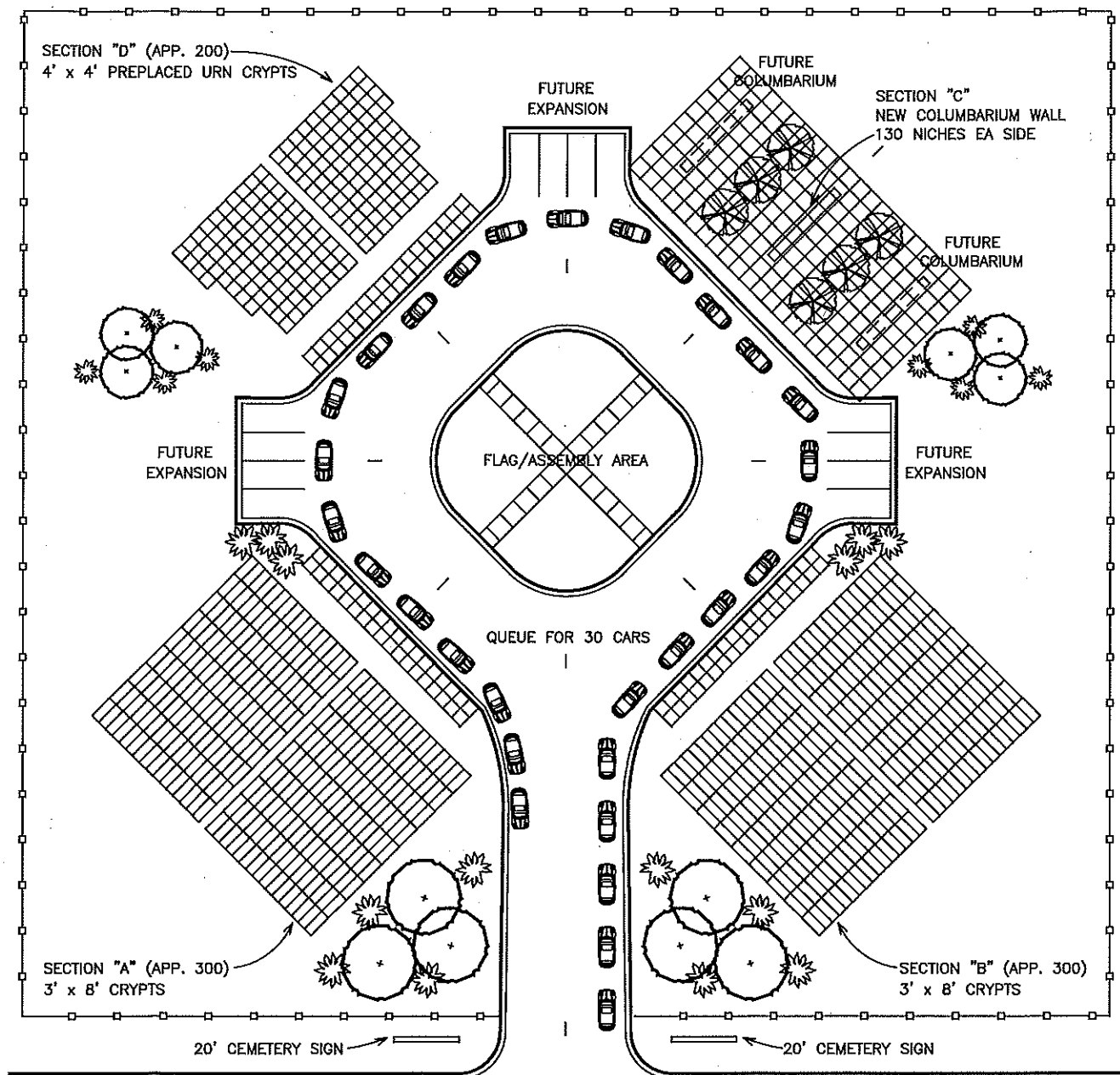
The attached sketch/prototype, highlights the salient features of the rural initiative.

We plan to start design of three new initiatives this year, Rhinelander WI, Machias ME, and Fargo NC. Rhinelander will be the first. The land is purchased. As we start master planning the site and designing it, we wanted to ensure the scope is clearly established. In other words, there is no intention for NCA to add any additional requirements after this project except for expansion of existing scope (for example adding niches or adding crypts as space allows).

Even with the limited scope we feel \$1M isn't enough money. We will have a better cost estimate once the preliminary concepts are established. Depending on the site, the costs associated with these projects could easily exceed \$1M by 50% to 100%.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

43B proceed with design of Rhinelander with the approved scope stated above. Once a good preliminary cost is established, we will seek appropriate funding and approval.



PROTOTYPE NATIONAL VETERANS BURIAL GROUNDS

10-9-13

OPTION "A" 2 ACRE SQUARE SITE

SCALE: 1" = 50'