



## STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP E - BULLETIN #17

**SUBJECT: CASINO UPDATE**

**DATE: 11/20/17**

This update on the proposed Star Lake Casino project is largely taken from the Star Lake Concerned Citizen Group (SLCCG) website, which along with the Otter Tail County (OTC) website, remain as good sources of current and reliable information on this subject. We encourage the interested public to visit these sites often.

To our knowledge there have been no significant developments/actions either from Otter Tail County (OTC), state/federal agencies, or on behalf of the developer since our 9/8/17 recap. The proposed development appears at a standstill for now.

Here's a synopsis of the current situation:

- **8/22/17 OTC Board of Commissioners determine that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for a variety of concerns.**
- **ESTIMATE OF EIS SCOPING COSTS:** An early task in the EIS process was to estimate the costs associated with the scoping process (i.e. identifying the specific issues to be addressed within the EIS). The scoping costs were estimated to be \$29,595. The estimated scoping costs must be paid by the proposer before any EIS scoping work can begin. **To date, this has not been done.**

Once the EIS Scoping Decision is completed, a cost estimate of the work to complete the "actual" EIS will also be done, and that cost must also be paid in full by the proposer PRIOR to any work beginning.

- **FEDERAL:** To date, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has taken no action on the proposer's request for a "Dredge & Fill Permit", which must be issued prior to start of any construction on the tribal trust land.

- **TRIBAL CONCERNS:** Information gleaned from local newspapers, comments from OTC, and from 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources within the White Earth Band (WEB) indicate there is much discussion among the tribal members as to the viability of the proposed project for many reasons.

How all the above plays out will remain to be seen. What we know at this time is:

- the developers planned opening date of Sept. 2017 did not happen,
- the projected cost of the development has purportedly more than doubled,
- the needed federal, state, & county permits have not been obtained,
- the support of the White Earth people appears questionable,

We will continue to keep you posted as significant development occur.

Thank You.

Lee Mindemann, Chairman  
Star Lake Township Board