



STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP E - BULLETIN #16

SUBJECT: CASINO UPDATE

DATE: 09/08/17

This update on developments related to the proposed Star Lake Resort & Casino is a continuation of the Star Lake Township (SLT) Board efforts to keep SLT taxpayers informed on this important local issue. The content of this update is largely taken from the Star Lake Concerned Citizen website, which along with the Otter Tail County (OTC) website, remain to be good sources of current and reliable information on this subject. We encourage the interested public to visit these sites often.

OTC MTG RECAP: On Tuesday, Sept 5th, the OTC Board of Commissioners discussed the proposed casino project. Their discussion was primarily around the following:

- **RECORD of DECISION / FINDINGS of FACT:** As follow-up to their decision on August 22nd pertaining to the need for an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) a Record of Decision document was prepared that contains Findings of Fact (i.e., the rationale behind the EIS decision), as well as supporting materials consisting of the Public Comments and Responses. This 177-page PDF can be found on the OTC website:
Link: <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/10465>
- **ESTIMATE OF EIS SCOPING COSTS:** The first task in the EIS process was to estimate the costs associated with the scoping process (i.e. identifying the specific issues to be addressed in the EIS). The scoping costs are estimated to be \$29,595. The estimated scoping costs must be paid by the proposer before any EIS scoping work can begin. The estimate, as well as some additional info about the scoping process, is included in a Technical Memorandum posted on the OTC website:
Link: <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/10472>

OTC NEXT STEPS: Once the scoping costs have been paid, OTC will prepare a draft scoping document, followed by a public information meeting to provide information on the scoping document and to receive public comments/input. This is an extremely important opportunity for the public to weigh in on the scope of

the EIS! We will let you know about this meeting when the date, time and location have been determined, and OTC will publish a notice as well.

FEDERAL: Separately from this week's OTC action, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is still evaluating the proposer's responses to the environmental issues that they required further information on. This relates to the "Dredge & Fill Permit" that USACE must issue prior to start of construction on the tribal trust land.

INFORUM ARTICLE: On Sept 4th, the following article by Winona LaDuke, a well-known Native American activist, appeared in the InForum, "LaDuke: We need an economy based on our wealth, not our deprivation"

<http://www.inforum.com/opinion/columnists/4321035-laduke-we-need-economy-based-our-wealth-not-our-deprivation>

We call this out, as there appears to be a growing controversy within the White Earth Nation regarding this proposed development.

We will keep you posted on the concurrent OTC & Federal processes as significant developments occur.

On an unrelated note – we are starting to think about WINTER; property owners - please remove any & all items that may be in the road right-a-way that may act to catch or hold snow. We especially need the cooperation of Seasonal residents.

Thank You.

Lee Mindemann, Chairman
Star Lake Township Board