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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



GUN LAKE TRIBE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2014 SHARING PAYMENTS

On Monday, June 9, 2014, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians ("Gun Lake Tribe") announced details of its spring revenue sharing payments to the State of Michigan and local governments. According to the Gun Lake Tribe's announcement, over \$7.9 million will be shared with the state (\$6,316,920) and the Local Revenue Sharing Board (\$1,597,230). The semi-annual payments, distributed pursuant to the terms of the Gun Lake Tribe's tribal-state gaming compact, are calculated from electronic gaming revenues. The figures noted above reflect the reporting period from October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

The spring payments bring the total amount of revenue sharing payments made by the Gun Lake Tribe to \$52,235,219 since opening in February 2011. Chairman of the Gun Lake Tribe, D.K. Sprague, noted that "[t]his revenue sharing distribution marks a very significant milestone. Today, we have given over \$50 million to state and local governments in support of many worthwhile causes. The Tribe is proud to continue making meaningful contributions to the community."

Under the tribal-state compact, payments are calculated as percentage of the net win from electronic gaming devices, with the Local Revenue Sharing Board's share equal to 2 percent while the state's share is calculated on a sliding scale between 8 and 12 percent.

The Local Revenue Sharing Board receives and distributes payments to fund local municipalities in accordance with Board-established by-laws governing the process and pursuant to the mandatory funding requirements of the tribal-state gaming compact.

FORMER MHHA PRESIDENT HOPES TO REVIVE HARNESS RACING IN JACKSON

Former Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association ("MHHA") President Brett Boyd's plan to bring harness racing back to Jackson County took a step forward on Wednesday, June 17, 2014 when the Jackson County Board of Commissioners ("Board") voted unanimously to approve leasing the racetrack at Jackson County Fairgrounds to Boyd's company, Jackson Raceway, LLC. Boyd had been in discussions with members of the Board during recent months and formally brought the issue before the Board in May.

The lease approval is seen as the first step in reviving the Jackson Harness Raceway, which closed in 2009. The next step is renewing the county's racing license with the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB").

According to recent reports, Mr. Boyd has stated his intention to conduct racing on a limited basis (four or five race dates) in Jackson County this year, but indicated that he will need a legislative exception in order to do so. The deadline to renew a 2014 racing license with the MGCB occurred in September of 2013. Boyd has said that he believes there is precedent for a legislative exception and has contacted two state representatives to explore the possibility. In the meantime, plans to move forward with a full racing schedule (approximately 40 race dates) in 2015 at the fairgrounds are reportedly underway, but subject to MGCB approval.

SAULT TRIBE FILES LAND INTO TRUST APPLICATIONS

On Wednesday, June 11, 2014, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians ("Sault Tribe") announced that it had made formal application to the U.S. Department of the Interior to place certain land into trust in both Lansing and Huron Township. The application follows Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's recent withdrawal of the State of Michigan's Petition for a Writ of Certiorari for U.S. Supreme Court

review in the matter of *Michigan v. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, tribes may only conduct gaming operations on "Indian lands", and, approval by the Secretary of the Interior to take the land into trust on behalf of the Tribe is one way to satisfy the "Indian lands" requirement, particularly for off-reservation land.

In Lansing, the Tribe has asked that certain lands that it owns in downtown Lansing, adjacent to the Lansing Center, be taken into trust. In Wayne County, the Tribe has asked the Secretary to take a 71-acre parcel located at Sibley Road and I-275, southwest of Detroit Metro Airport, into trust on its behalf.

The Sault Tribe believes that a federal law called the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act will lead to the Secretary of the Interior taking these lands into trust because the lands were purchased with funds from this Act.

Although proponents of these potential casino projects, including Lansing Mayor Virg Benero, are expressing optimism, opponents, including Attorney General Schuette and other Michigan tribes, have publicly stated that the Sault Tribe's current plans nonetheless violate a revenue-sharing provision of Tribe's gaming compact with the State of Michigan, that would require an agreement to be reached to share revenue with other tribes.

GLOBAL GAMING EXPO 2014 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

On Tuesday, June 10, 2014, the 2014 Global Gaming Expo (G2E) announced that it is now accepting registration for this year's G2E conference, to be held September 30 through October 2 at the Sands Expo & Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

To register, [Click Here](#).

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the G2E. The conference is the largest gaming industry

trade show, bringing together industry professionals from around the world.

G2E provides an in-depth look at new products, technologies, insights and innovations within the gaming industry and is attended by nearly 26,000 industry professionals from around the world.

To learn more about G2E, including full conference schedules, please visit

<http://www.globalgamingexpo.com/>

The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to thank Jack Weyers for his contributions to this Newsletter.