

**FIREKEEPERS LOCAL REVENUE SHARING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2010**

Present: Gene Adkins, Emmett Charter Township; Ken Tsuchiyama, City of Battle Creek; Greg Moore, Athens Township; Mike Rae, Calhoun County; Jim Dyer, City of Marshall; Jamie Stuck, Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Potawatomi

Also present: Eileen Wicklund, Counsel for City of Battle Creek; Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator/Controller; Richard Lindsey, Calhoun County Corporation Counsel; Bill Wolf, Berrien County Administrator; Jim Norlander, Counsel for Athens Township; John McFarland, Counsel for Emmett Charter Township

1. The first meeting of the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll call – all Board members present.
3. Member Rae introduced Bill Wolf of Berrien County, in attendance to offer assistance in developing bylaws for the Firekeepers LRSB. The Berrien County LRSB documents have been used as models for development of the Firekeepers LRSB compact, interlocal agreements and bylaws.
4. Kelli Scott, Calhoun County Administrator, stated the bylaws will be drafted with direction from the Board, ideally before the first payment is received from the Tribe in February.
5. Peter Rehm, Chair of the Berrien County LRSB, joined the meeting by telephone.
6. Bill Wolf thanked the Board for inviting him to be a part of their discussion. He explained to the Board that it would be easier to make decisions before the money is distributed because the pressure starts at distribution. The critical function right now is a meeting of the minds on how the money is distributed.
7. Peter Rehm suggested that the LRSB ask for projects to be presented in advance so the LRSB can decide if they will approve funding. That way no one is counting on funds the LRSB won't award them.
8. Richard Lindsey, Calhoun County Corporation Counsel, inquired how Berrien County solved the question of the definition of "immediate vicinity." Bill Wolf stated that they were fairly arbitrary, they used a radius of 5 miles. There was no specific geography in the Compact. The determination of costs relative to the casino was the most difficult. That's why decisions should be made before the money is received, because the pressure is great after the money is received. Some distributions could be from years earlier

because of the length of time that the casino was in development. Wolf suggested that the Berrien LRSB was fairly liberal with the first round of specific costs and then tightened up the requirements and showing a relationship to the development of the casino. Wolf reviewed the PILT and distribution of committed monies. He indicated that he believed there was no carry-over of funds. Requests are either accepted or denied. In Berrien, services have been reimbursed but no positions have been funded by LRSB payments (i.e. permanent positions resulting from the development of the casino).

9. The Board asked Mr. Wolf questions about distribution and administrative costs. When deciding on distribution amounts, the Berrien County LRSB considered the size and economic condition of the community, not the distance from the casino. Administrative duties were handled by the County for a few years then a member of the LRSB took over.
10. Richard Lindsey told the Board he had taken the Berrien LRSB bylaws and made some changes relevant to Calhoun County. He will change “Band” to “Tribe” throughout the document.
11. The Board discussion and changes to the draft bylaws.
 - a. How they would like to define “immediate vicinity” in relationship to the casino and the reservation.
 - b. Designating an alternate and the language used. It was agreed the bylaws should read that the Chair shall recognize a designated alternate upon presentation of proof that he/she was properly appointed.
 - c. Article III. B. was removed, as the Interlocal Agreement states that there shall be no per diem payments to members. Any travel reimbursements that may come up will be considered administrative expenses.
 - d. The Secretary and Treasurer duties will be split and the Treasurer can subcontract for the provision of duties. It will need to be decided where the records will be stored and they should probably be stored in a convenient location to who is providing administrative services.
 - e. Need to determine a percentage for administrative costs and put it into a designated fund. The unused portion of administrative costs could be rolled over at the end of the year.
12. Public comment –
 - a. Mr. Gary Lincoln, Ceresco, questioned why 4% was designated for administrative costs, why such a large amount would be needed. Bill Wolf explained that in the first year it was needed for set up costs, but a lesser amount was generally needed after the first year.
 - b. Mr. Gary Lincoln, Ceresco, inquired if there was proof that the personal property figures used in the sample distribution calculations were accurate. Kelli Scott stated she had used models from other casinos when calculating the personal property.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.