

**Langlade County  
Fairgrounds Advisory Committee Minutes  
Special Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, November 1 at 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds

**Members Present:** Chairman Jeffrey Zalewski, Ronn Krueger, Angie Close, Shane Lund, and Rhonda Klement

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Doug Nonnenmacher, Robin Stowe, Chris Quade, Dan VandenHeuvel, Tom VanZile and Pamela Jankowski

**Agenda Item #1 Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zalewski at 3:30 p.m., in the Conference Room, Forestry Office. Robin Stowe asked Ronn Krueger to briefly review the proposal that is going to be presented by Mole Lake to the Committee. Krueger introduces the Committee and others present to Tom VanZile, Chris Quade, and Dan VandenHeuvel, representatives from Mole Lake.

**Agenda Item #2 Citizen Comment:** Mole Lake Proposal. Representatives from Mole Lake (Chris Quade, Tom VanZile, consultant Dan VandenHeuvel) made a presentation to the Committee regarding plans to improve the racetrack for off-road racing. Currently, Mole Lake sponsors one off-road race at the fairgrounds each summer and is interested in developing the racetrack to accommodate future events including but not limited to the construction of additional grandstands. Mole Lake is interested in beginning a partnership with the County which will enable the tribe to make improvements to the racetrack but to also provide funding to the County via the tribe's Gaming Compact with the State of Wisconsin. This process would require the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Mole Lake would be interested in a 10 year MOU to pledge funding of approximately \$50,000 per year which would be "earmarked" for fairgrounds improvements. It is understood that the exact contribution to fairgrounds improvements each year may be more or less than this amount as it depends on a number of variables. The MOU would establish the procedure for the County (i.e., Fairgrounds Advisory Committee) and the tribe to agree on the improvements that would be eligible for funding. It is noted that if the parties enter into an MOU, then the racetrack would be set up for off-road races and any other user of the track would be required to restore the track to these specifications. It was also noted that any improvements that Mole Lake would make to the racetrack would become the County's property.

However, before making any significant investments in the racetrack, Mole Lake is interested in finding out if the issue of ownership of certain racetrack improvements has been resolved with Antigo Stock Car Inc. (ASCI). Stowe reported that the County has made an offer to ASCI to acquire certain improvements (guardrail, wheel fence, cement barriers, etc.) but that ASCI

recently submitted a counter offer. The parties are close to reaching a deal; however if a deal is not reached by the next County Board date (Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>) then ASCI must submit a plan to remove the improvements and the improvements must be removed by December 1, 2012. When asked what they would do if the improvements are removed, Mole Lake advised that they still prefer to improve this track for off-road racing but if they are unable to do so - then they may consider an alternate racing venue to host their off-road races. It is noted that if the parties enter into an MOU, then the racetrack would be set up for off-road races and any other user of the track would be required to restore the track to these specifications. It was also noted that any improvements that Mole Lake would make to the racetrack would become the County's property.

Stowe questioned how important it was to settle the status of the racetrack improvements with ASCI as the County may be able to enter into an agreement with ASCI not to remove these improvements at least for the next racing season. Mole Lake (and other racing organizations that are interested in hosting racing events in 2013) needs assurances that all the components of the racetrack are County property and not the property of someone who may later decide to remove the improvements, especially given that Mole Lake is interested in improving and re-designing the existing racetrack which will involve the use of the guardrails, wheel fence, cement barriers, etc. Therefore, in order to facilitate the acquisition of these improvements, Mole Lake has generously offered to make a financial donation to the County in an amount that will allow the parties to reach an agreement; however this donation is contingent upon the County contributing any additional funds or rental credits in the amounts negotiated by the parties to get a deal done. Robin will advise Chris Quade whether the parties are able to reach an agreement to acquire these improvements by November 13<sup>th</sup>. If the County and ASCI are able to reach an agreement, then the County and Mole Lake will begin the development of a 10 year MOU which would be subject to periodic review (i.e., every 3 years).

At a future meeting, the Committee looks forward to meeting with the representatives from Mole Lake to review the improvements that would be made to the racetrack which include redesigning the infield of the racetrack for off-road racing - which would necessitate the relocation of the horse arena. Mr. Quade stated they have one race scheduled for 2013 and they would like 2 races for sure in 2014.

**Agenda Item #3 Next Meeting:** The next meeting has already been scheduled for November 29, 2012 at 3:30 pm.

**Agenda Item #4 Adjournment:** Motion by Close, Seconded by Krueger to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Jankowski  
Recording Secretary