

At the strategy meeting, there was discussion as to who would take the lead with the Interior officials. The consensus of the group was that tribal leaders should do most of the talking, as they believed this would be more effective in getting their message across. McCarthy also distributed to the attendees copies of the “Wisconsin Dog Track Chronology of Events” that he had prepared in late December.

It does not appear that the strategy discussion focused on the “political angle” set forth in McCarthy’s Dec. 28 memo. According to McCarthy, the tribal leaders and lobbyists decided to focus on the consultation issue instead. This apparently was the course recommended by Ducheneaux, who reportedly had told McCarthy prior to the meeting that the political angle “probably is not something you’ll want to talk with the Secretary about in this kind of meeting.”

b. The Meeting with John Duffy and George Skibine

Skibine and Duffy told investigators they attended the Oberstar meeting with very little awareness of the application or issues involved. Duffy told investigators that the request that he attend this meeting was the first he had heard of the Hudson application.¹⁵⁷ He stated that he had not taken any steps to prepare himself for what he thought would be a meeting with congressional staff. At most, he thinks Skibine may have briefed him in the car en route to the meeting. Skibine’s first day as director of IGMS was Monday, Feb. 6. He had not familiarized himself with the status of its pending matters prior to his move to IGMS and he had not worked previously on gaming matters. When he arrived at IGMS, Skibine received several notebooks of

¹⁵⁷Before the Feb. 8 meeting, Duffy had sent several letters written by DOI staff on the Hudson matter, mostly responding to letters to the Secretary. Duffy reviewed the letters in this investigation and said it would be routine for him to have signed letters responding for the Secretary and he probably read the letters before signing them, but he does not think he remembered the letters when he went to the Feb. 8 meeting.