

THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE  
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Special Meeting  
August 22, 2017

The special meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee was called to order President Kevin Dupuis at 1:15 p.m. at Grand Casino-Mille Lacs, Onamia Minnesota

Roll Call: Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Ferd Martineau, Secretary/Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Arthur LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer, Leech Lake; Terrance Tibbetts, Chairman, White Earth; Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer, White Earth; Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; David Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer, Bois Forte; Marie Spry, Committeewoman (sitting in for Norman Deschampe, Chairman), Grand Portage; Dennis Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Portage.

Carolyn Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer, Mille Lacs – arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Agenda: Schedule for Constitutional Convention meetings

- November 2017
- December 2017
- January 2018
- 2 /Metro meetings within the three month time period

Secretary/Treasurer LaRose suggested the location for the urban constitutional convention be the Minneapolis Indian Center.

President Dupuis asked if the format used at this Constitution Information meeting would be utilized at each of the following constitutional meeting or if the decision regarding format would be left to each individual Reservation; do we continue to use Native Nations Institute – or outside help to facilitate the conventions.

Secretary/Treasurer Mason requested to add the Opioid issue to Agenda.

Motion by Chairwoman Chavers to approve agenda. Seconded by Committeewoman Spry (sitting in for Chairman Deschampe). 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

President Dupuis stated that this was the first Constitutional Convention Meeting. The meeting was to establish information, move forward, and educate. Native Nations is scheduled for Constitutional Convention meetings - September in White Earth and October at Bois Forte

There was discussion about the format used; suggestions about creating a more substantive educational format in writing to assist with member education, and adding topics such as the

Election Ordinance, the IRA, and history of the Constitution. TEC discussed whether same educational format should be used at each convention, and providing copies of the constitution to each attendee. There was extensive discussion on the need to educate and several TEC members agreed that the same agenda and materials should be available for each convention.

There was discussion related to the grant received from the Bush Foundation to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, initially signed off on by Mille Lacs Band. Executive Director Frazer explained that they would be putting more education information on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe website and funds are available to create further educational opportunities. He received confirmation from Patty Olby and Cheryl LaPointe that there is \$50,000/year for this project. Educational materials for the next meeting will include: Book of Interpretation & ordinances for TEC membership, Burris Report (1978); an updated presentation related to the history of our government; and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Educational Materials that are available on the Leech Lake Legal Department's Website.

TEC engaged in further discussion about presentations and educational materials, including materials used by instructor Judge DeGroat on MCT History at White Earth Tribal College.

Gary Frazer shared that Deb Chase and Joel Smith are going to make sure that someone is live streaming the Constitution information meetings. Discussion about agenda, TEC authority to move or change agenda and format, and using Band Members as co-facilitators at each reservation.

There was discussion about the grant and use of Native Nations Institute; Mille Lacs is the fiscal agent but the TEC directs how the money is spent. Executive Director Frazer reported that each meeting will cost approximately \$15,000; there was a request to see the contract. Discussion about the number of meetings, including in Duluth and Twin Cities. General consensus that the Monday-Tuesday format works well.

Motion by Chairwoman Chavers to continue with the same format and utilize Native Nations Institute with an option for each Reservation to select a co-facilitator. Seconded by Committeewoman Spry. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

## OPIOID DISCUSSION

Secretary/Treasurer Mason would like a Tribal Opioid Summit and is looking at dates in November. George Gogleye is working on the Summit and would be meeting with Indian Affairs on August 23, 2017. The dates of November 13-14, 2017, Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. November 13<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 4 p.m. and November 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 4 p.m.

Discussion about format for summit; break-out sessions, incorporation of culture and historical trauma.

Motion to adjourn by Secretary/Treasurer Mason at 2:28 p.m. Seconded by Secretary/Treasurer LaRose. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.