

THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Special Meeting
May 31, 2018

A Special Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m. by President Kevin Dupuis at Northern Lights Casino, Hotel & Event Center, Walker, Minnesota.

Roll Call: Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Ferdinand Martineau, Secretary/Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Carolyn Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Arthur LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer, Leech Lake; Norman Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; Marie Spry sitting in for Dennis Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Portage; Dave Morrison, Secretary Treasurer, Bois Forte; Terrance Tibbetts, Chairman, White Earth; Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer, White Earth.

Quorum present.

Invocation: David Aubid

Others: Gary Frazer, Executive Director, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Phil Brodeen, Legal, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Joel Smith, Director of Administration, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Nora Benjamin, Mille Lacs; Diane Osceola, Leech Lake, Kathy Goodwin, Rep., White Earth; Emily Johnson, Mille Lacs; John Morrin, Rep., Grand Portage; Caryn Day, Mille Lacs; Shelly Day, Mille Lacs; Eugene Tibbetts, Rep., White Earth; David Aubid, Rep., Mille Lacs; Agatha Armstrong, Executive Assistant, Grand Portage; Dale Greene Jr, Legal, Leech Lake; Lenny Fineday, Leslie Harper, Assistant, Leech Lake;

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve the agenda. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Martineau. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Mason asked if the Removal Ordinance was going to be on the agenda. Chairwoman Chavers stated that it should be added to the July meeting. Norman responded that the Removal Ordinance needed to be discussed at reservation level. President Dupuis stated that the Removal Ordinance can be looked at any time.

President Dupuis stated that the Constitutional amendment was referred to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution. Gary informed the Committee that if we decide to discuss it today, copies can be made. Secretary-Treasurer LaRose stated if we had a timeframe, many of the Tribal Executive Committee members wish to have meeting done by noon. Secretary-Treasurer Martineau informed the Committee that Fond du Lac was in the educational process and would like to present. Secretary-Treasurer Mason stated that she was unaware that the meeting was going to be done by noon today and that this issue warrants further discussion. Secretary-

Treasurer LaRose responded that Leech Lake had a funeral of an elder to attend and there were other commitments.

GOVERNORS TASK FORCE

Motion by Chairman Deschampe that the TEC authorize each reservation to select a member to participate in the Governor's Task Force. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Martineau. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Phil Brodeen asked if this should be done by resolution or letter. President Dupuis stated resolution. Phil informed the Committee that he would provide a draft resolution next week and proceeded to read the Governors Executive Order.

MONROE SKINAWAY

Mr. Skinaway began a presentation before the TEC, stating that he has been trying for years to get his family enrolled with the Mille Lacs Band or become a federally recognized tribe. He stated that Larry Echohawk, working with George Skibine, was going to recognize them but was stopped by Marge Anderson, who took the position that they are part of Mille Lacs. Mr. Skinaway stated that he is not an enrolled member of Mille Lacs band. He handed out and referred to the IRA the government used with his family predominately listed on these documents as Mille Lacs non-removal; some stayed on the White Earth Reservation, some came back to Mille Lacs. He stated that there are a lot of stories of family being involved in Mille Lacs; the land the tribe has in Sandy Lake and East Lake were acquired with the help of family members; his uncle Migizi got around 300 allotments over in the Sandy Lake area; his father was Chairman at Mille Lacs. Those lands can be attributed to his uncle and father. The 1874 census shows his family prominently at Long Lake. A book written by Bruce White, also documents his family is prominent here. The BIA bragged about Mille Lacs band and how his family is mentioned again as saving Mille Lacs. A Book by James McCloskey mention family in 1889 resources census of Mille Lacs Band family is listed. In the 1820 Census family is listed at Mille Lacs. He discussed how all ties, everything shows family should be enrolled with the Mille Lacs Band. He stated that they could come to some type of compensation for the wrong doing and using family as scape goat. A list of eligible voters is presented to the TEC, he has original copy. Brief - law suit was filed, it makes Mille Lacs Band look bad. In 1939, additional census on each reservation (Isle, Danbury, East Lake, Sandy Lake), includes a list of names that would be Mille Lacs. Mr. Skinaway states that you (the TEC) voted for the Constitution, Charter, etc. on our behalf as Mille Lac'ers. Therefore, he believes his family should be enrolled at Mille Lacs. You are the ones who have the say so for enrollment. He hopes the TEC will rectify this today; the problem in development of the tribe is that not many Indians spoke English back then (15%), this led to confusion there is a need to rectify. Spent over 20 years studying our tribe's history. Maybe we need to look back and resolve the outstanding issues. Mr. Skinaway would like to

keep everyone informed and educated. He stated that Melanie had asked him what he wants, and requested he put it in writing; he said he did so, but no action was taken.

Chief Executive Benjamin asked what Mr. Skinaway wants. He responded that he wants to have family be members of the Mille Lacs Band. Chief Executive Benjamin explained that there were a lot of documents and at one time, Mr. Skinaway wanted his own recognition as Sandy Lake Band and support for casino, etc. She stated she is unaware of whether he is still looking at federal recognition as Sandy Lake Band. There are other names listed and they enrolled in St. Croix; at some point the decision was made to enroll in White Earth.

Secretary-Treasurer Beaulieu stated that Darcie Big Bear had knowledge on Mr. Skinaway's denial and background; they need to fix the parents who are enrolled in White Earth. Mr. Skinaway's list shows Skinaways in Mille Lacs. Secretary-Treasurer Beaulieu stated they couldn't control where people were enrolled in 1934.

Mr. Skinaway responded that those St. Croix folks are from the St. Croix Valley – his family is not – they are Mississippi Band affiliated. He stated that Mille Lacs was included under jurisdiction of White Earth (NRML), if you were Mille Lacs you were considered enrolled in Mille Lacs. He went on to state that in 1972 Sam Yankee went to White Earth with a list of names of people that were Mille Lacs band members from White Earth. He asked what criteria was used to determine enrollment (he can't find it), and stated the lists here as NRML should be used as the basis; all were White Earth enrollees at one time. He stated his family are the ones who built Mille Lacs and it needs to be rectified; either they should be Mille Lacs Band members or should be recognized separately.

Jean Skinaway – stated she is from Sandy Lake, daughter of George Skinaway. She thanked her uncle, and stated that she goes to Drum but cannot participate because she is not enrolled. She stated that this is her dad's full brother, my great grandmother was a Squirrel; she would like to have this finalized today.

Chief Executive Benjamin referred to the Big Drum, and stated that the drums are for all Anishinabe it doesn't matter where you're from. She stated that she hoped she would continue to come, as she is welcome.

Veronica Skinaway informed the Committee that there are two separate connections to Sandy Lake, Hole in the day and through Mille Lacs (Uncle). She asked that they at least enroll him (Monroe Skinaway) even if the rest of family is not enrolled.

Mr. Skinaway informed the Committee about the draft lawsuit and thanked his nieces; he proposed that another solution could be a resolution of support he could take to Congress – that's another avenue. He stated he was offered enrollment 3 times and turned down, and just wants

his children to be enrolled; he thinks the tribe should act on this and do something. The lawsuit doesn't claim anything (lands); only claiming themselves as a separate band.

Darrell Shingobe, Mille Lacs East Lake, informed the Committee that he is constantly doing research and sees all the rolls Monroe has produced; it is hard to see a man doing everything he can to be recognized. He believes the evidence is there – family is listed – descendant of the original families does have political ramifications; take out the political nature of this. He has seen letters to the Superintendent and archives in Kansas. He's at a stage now where action should be taken.

President Dupuis asked for clarification of Resolution 114-96, "now therefore be it resolved" language that says all Sandy Lake are Mille Lacs members. Chief Executive Benjamin stated she was not on TEC in 1996, but assuming members are from different reservations. President Dupuis stated that language is inconsistent with the recognition; there must be minutes from that meeting. Gary Frazer commented that those may have been lost in the fire.

President Dupuis reads Resolution 114-96 stating that members of the Sandy Lake Band will forever be members of the Mille Lacs Band, signed by Chief Executive Marge Anderson.

President Dupuis asked how it would apply, clarify resolution.

Gary Frazer stated that Monroe did take the matter to Carolyn, but no parent enrolled, there were no minutes on his resolution.

9:58 a.m. - Break 10 minutes
10:17 - Reconvene

Kevin stated that Fond du Lac would check records for the minutes to determine the answer to that question. Who provides services to individuals living on reservation from other bands? Mother gets services; we all had to go somewhere.

Establish Procedures: TEC voting on TEC Officers. Procedures need to be put into place.

Chairwoman Chavers informed the Committee that Bois Forte would be holding a new Primary Election July 10th with the General Election scheduled for September 18, 2018 – be sworn into office in October.

Gary Frazer and Phil Brodeen would draft procedures and get out for comment.

Constitutional Committee: Gary Frazer

Included in the packet is the Report from NNI on the Constitution Convention Informational meetings excluding White Earth. White Earth's meeting is included, it is a complete transcription from Nijii Radio. The Budget from BIA is also provided. Need permission to seek additional funding, a blanket resolution. Secretary-Treasurer Mason asked about the budget and how we came up with 24 delegates. Gary Frazer responded that we did a last minute guess for BIA because of the short timeline we were working with. This Committee needs to make the final decision.

President Dupuis informed the Committee that the report from NNI should be provided to the membership.

Wally Storbakken suggested delegates for every thousand or based on reservation membership. Each Band could have a portion thereof. Is that how we do this? All members are important to the process. What about resident voters as non-resident voters cannot petition? As long as it is understood that the 24 delegates isn't set in stone.

President Dupuis stated that based on population – when you have that many based on population how does the voting go? How does it be equal?

Secretary-Treasurer Mason stated she appreciated what Wally said. She responded that looking at delegates, White Earth has 18,000 members and 2 votes at this table. Same with 5 member RBC makeup. Grand Portage has 1,000 members with the same number of TEC votes. No disrespect - need to look at representative government – consider population. Look at federal level, they have house and senate. Fond du Lac corralled vote, should have options available on all sections, not just a yes or no vote on one issue/option.

Motion by Chairwoman Chavers for a resolution to pursue funding through other resource in regard to the Constitutional Convention. Seconded by Carolyn Beaulieu. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried. Gary Frazer will have a resolution drafted.

Chairwoman Chavers stated that coming from a smaller tribe can be unfair going up against larger reservation population. To be equal at the table – voting power. Chairman Deschampe agreed with Chairwoman Chavers. He stated it's not about the numbers or money, we have a lot of acreage and protect our landbase. I respect Secretary/Treasurer Mason's position, but we need to protect our people. Band members thought if dictated then go on own.

President Dupuis suggest a referendum vote. The reservation's job is to education Band members, ensures ability both on and off reservation. Chairman Jackson stated Leech Lake only has 5% of our landbase. Our future development needs to have members input. Stated that he is

glad Grand Portage has a larger land base; Leech Lake wants voice heard as well. Different priorities on different reservations.

Marvin Manypenny – White Earth is in a bad position with large population and land – we only have 2 representatives on the TEC. We have problems brought up in ad hoc meetings – people off reservation voting that could carry the vote. How informed are they on what's happening on reservation (absentee vote)? The larger reservations do. Lots don't know what's happening on reservation. That needs to be considered.

Secretary-Treasurer Martineau stated there need to be changes in the Constitution; we are defending a constitution that may not be right. Been around for years and saw how the process has failed in the past. TEC is defending our Constitution that may not work for all. This should be done at the Constitutional Convention, come to the floor and make decisions. If we argue about this now, we'll get nowhere. Let's let the people make the choice. I would like to see changes too. Let's let the people make the change.

Leslie Harper stated as a Leech Lake member, it seems like the Minnesota Chippewa tribe plans on moving forward. Haven't received any results from the meetings. Where are the documents? Gary Frazer stated that the information from NNI would be posted on the website, except White Earth transcripts.

Chairwoman Chavers responded that a total of 398 people that attended. A small percentage that attended the Constitutional Convention Informational meeting. It took Red Lake four years for constitutional reform. There are many that want more education meetings, only 20 people attended in the urban area, we missed a lot of people.

President Dupuis stated that White Earth had 300 people at the meeting that wasn't counted. We need to have Constitutional education. Red Lake had a 4 year stage on the reservation. The key is what we do on our own reservation to education are own people.

Wally Storbakken stated we are not making decisions, making suggestions. Don't be scared of amount of delegates, not going to be dictated; we need to move forward no matter how many. Hope to get the best and brightest from each reservation. In the end the people will choose – don't be afraid of having a set number of delegates pushing the agenda; do what's best for the people.

Suggestion to host another Constitutional Convention education meeting at the American Indian Center.

Secretary-Treasurer Mason suggested set a date, and questioned whether the report is reflective of all our members? The NNI survey says 40% were college educated, majority of the attendees

were women and White Earth didn't take the survey. She stated that it's been over a year – can we get a date set?

Chairwoman Chavers asked about the funding. Secretary-Treasurer Martineau suggested share the study and information. Hold informational meetings on reservations for band members to be prepared for meeting.

Gary Frazer informed the Committee that July 10, 2018 is Bois Forte Primary election. July 9, 2018 Tribal Executive Committee meeting at Fortune Bay. He suggested subcommittee meetings be held July 2nd at Bois Forte and would check to see if we need subcommittee meetings. Tribal Executive Committee meeting 8:00 a.m. Bois Forte on July 9th.

Discussion on holding meeting all day on July 9th, starting with subcommittee meetings and Tribal Executive Committee. This would be better than traveling twice to Bois Forte.

Also suggest holding Constitutional Convention educational meetings after hours so people that work can attend. Host meeting in Fond du Lac, check dates after August 18, 2018.

Other Business:

Motion by Chairman Deschampe opposing BIA reorganization. Seconded by Chairman Tibbetts. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. Seconded by Chairman Deschampe. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.