

Tribal Executive Committee
Special meeting
December 9, 2020

A special Tribal Executive Committee was called to order by President Chavers at 3:07 p.m. at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Headquarter via Zoom.

Roll Call: Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; David Morrison Sr., Secretary/Treasurer, Bois Forte; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Archie LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer, Leech Lake; Michael J. Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Alan Roy, Secretary/Treasurer, White Earth; ; Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Ferdinand Martineau, Secretary/Treasurer, Fond du Lac : Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs. Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary/Treasurer, Mille Lacs; Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; April McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Portage;

Other: Gary Frazer, Executive Director, MCT; Phil Brodeen, Legal, MCT; Joel Smith, Director of Administration, MCT; MCT staff and other interested parties.

Motion by Ferdinand Martineau to approve the agenda with the addition of audit discussion. Seconded by Chief Executive Benjamin. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carried.

President Chavers informed the Committee this meeting is regarding to the December 3, 2020 letter to Governor Waltz and how letters are going to be processed from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. There was an issue with letter sent to Governor Waltz on behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under the Executive Director's signature without the proper approvals or vetting to the Tribal Executive Committee and the six Band governing bodies, their tribal environmental staff and their attorneys. The letter was sent without the authorization of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and had to be recalled. Committee members cited a violation of best practices, ethics, and protocol for governmental correspondence, and further discussed policy and procedures for disciplinary action. Committee members remarked about how the letter impacted the MCT, TEC, Bands, MCT membership, expressing ethical, legal ramifications and personal sentiment regarding the violation. It was clarified multiple times that this meeting was called by Tribal Executive Committee members to discuss the lack of proper notification, circulation, and involvement in the letter composition. Many Tribal Executive Committee members remarked that they had not seen the letter in draft nor in final before it was sent. It was discussed that this action should never occur again, a recommendation was made for development of a written policy for circulation of MCT letters. Remarks were made *for* needing said policy and additional remarks were made *against* needing said policy recommendation for governmental correspondence due to common sense and best practices.

President Chavers stated the audit FY 2018 was not completed, and hopefully will completed in January, and wanted the Tribal Executive Committee aware because it may affect funding including FY 2018 and FY 2019 – indirect cost proposals. A second audit firm has been selected and is ready to review FY 2019 however FY 2018 audit must be addressed first. Any issues direct to Executive Director or President Chavers.

Motion by Chairman Deschampe to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Martineau. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carried.