

**THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE  
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting  
July 11, 2022

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. by President Catherine Chavers at Grand Portage Lodge & Casino, Grand Portage, Minnesota

Invocation: David Aubid (Neeb)

Swearing in of Newly Elected Tribal Leaders by President Chavers:

Roll Call: Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer, Leech Lake; Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage; Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Michael LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth; Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Robert Abamowski, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac.

Zoom: Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs.

Others Present: Shena Matrious, Sally Fineday, Cheryl Edwards, Emily Johnston, Toby Stephens, Agatha Armstrong, Marie Spry, Irene Folstrom, Steve White, Roger Smith, MCT Staff and other interested parties in person and via zoom.

Motion by Chairman Deschampe to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Chairman Dupuis. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

**Election of Officers:**

Executive Director Gary Frazer opens nominations for President:

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday nominated Chairwoman Chavers as President. Seconded by Chief Executive Benjamin.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for any other nominations three times, nominations closed.

Catherine Chavers President by acclamation.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for nominations for Vice President:

Chairman Dupuis nominated Chairman Jackson for Vice President. Seconded by Chairman Deschampe.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday nominated Chairman Fairbanks for Vice President. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque.

Paper distributed for secret ballot voting. Chief Executive Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Boyd via email/Telephone Phil Brodeen, Legal Counsel.

Vote: Chairman Jackson – 7 votes, Chairman Fairbanks – 4 votes

Chairman Jackson Vice President by majority vote.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for nominations for Secretary:

President Chavers nominated Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick. Seconded by Chief Executive Benjamin.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for any other nominations three times, nominations closed.

April McCormick Secretary by acclamation.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for nominations for Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque nominated Leonard Fineday. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick.

Executive Director Gary Frazer calls for any other nominations three times, nominations closed.

Leonard Fineday Treasurer by acclamation.

President Chavers administered the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Oath of Office to Secretary-Treasurer Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer Abamowski, and Secretary-Treasurer McCormick.

Motion by by Secretary McCormick to table the minutes of April 29, 2022, regular meeting for more time to work on downsizing. Seconded by Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 41-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth Eligibles (90). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 42-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth Ineligibles (54). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 43-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth Blood Degree Change I (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 44-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth Blood Degree Change II (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 45-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth Blood Degree Change III (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 46-22 regarding enrollment: White Earth No Parent Enrolled (6). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Dupuis to approve Resolution 47-22 regarding enrollment: Fond du Lac Eligibles (4). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Dupuis to approve Resolution 48-22 regarding enrollment: Fond du Lac Ineligibles (4). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chairman Deschampe to approve Resolution 49-22 regarding enrollment: Grand Portage Eligibles (2). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 50-22 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Eligibles (25). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 51-22 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Ineligibles (6). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 52-22 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Transfer from Leech Lake (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 53-22 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Relinquish to Red Lake (3 minors). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 54-22 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Relinquish to Navaho Nation (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 55-22 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Eligibles (50). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 56-22 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Ineligibles (26). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 57-22 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Transfer from Grand Portage (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 58-22 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Relinquish to Red Lake (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 59-22 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Relinquish from Red Lake (1) Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 60-22 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs Eligibles (19). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 61-22 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs Ineligibles (24). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 62-22 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs No Parent Enrolled (6). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

## **QUARTERLY REPORTS**

President Chavers stated we would forego the quarterly reports as they were presented at the Subcommittees.

**BIA-MN AGENCY:** James 'Chris' Redman, Acting Superintendent  
Bob Lintelmen, BIA Forester

Acting Superintendent Redman gave a brief introduction of himself, along with contact information.

Forester Lintelman presented the BIA report. He informed the Committee that the MN Agency has been fully staffed since July 11, 2022.

He discussed the Partners in Action 2022, Together Towards Tomorrow, July 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. This would be the 12 Annual conference with 75 available sessions. This conference will be held virtually again, session delivered primarily via Microsoft Teams platform.

He also informed the Committee of the current vacancies within the MN agency along with the Fire activity. Fee-to-Trust has only one person, Secretary-Treasurer McCormick asked expressly of Acting Superintendent Redman that the Region fast track all fee-to-trust applications and assign someone to help Annabell Kingbird. We need Fee-to-Trust to be a priority after years of waiting for the BIA regarding the Solicitor's UFJ opinion. Acting Superintendent Redman responded that Superintendent Fogerty wanted to do more but there were limited resources available.

Update Constitutional Reform meetings: Cheryl Edwards, Sally Fineday

#### **REFERENDUM BALLOT UPDATE**

Executive Director, Gary Frazer presented the statistics involved in the response rate for the referendum, described challenges with outdated address lists and how MCT handled it. On July 20, MCT staff will be counting the responses and invited tribal leaders to send over individuals to help. Committee members discussed the results and determined to have a review of successes and gaps of the referendum process in order to improve voter participation and improve voter education.

#### **LEGAL: BRODEEN & PAULSON**

We have a very active Supreme Court – Castro Huerta v. Oklahoma decision regarding state jurisdiction, recommend your legal to evaluate its implications. Legislation coming before the Supreme Court is the Brackeen Case, Native American Rights Fund is preparing an amicus brief and requesting tribes to sign on as amicus curiae for the Fifth Circuit Court.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. Seconded by Chairman Dupuis to authorize Mr. Brodeen to prepare to sign on as amicus curie to the Fifth Circuit Court. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Sandy Lake Boundary Resolution presented by Jean Skinaway. Tribal Executive Committee discussed at length, including language changes: eliminating 'trust' from 'trust lands' and updating the language 'special' to 'regular' in regards to the certification of meeting. Two points were made whether or not this resolution has made its way through legal review and that land in question's title is held with the BIA records, which was not part of the commentary today. Phil Brodeen has reviewed it. President Chavers asked Chief Executive Benjamin if she would like the language to be reviewed by a Mille Lacs Attorney. Chief Executive Benjamin, if you want my recommendation, call for a vote. President Chavers calls for a vote on the Resolution:

Motion by Chairman Dupuis to approve the Sandy Lake Resolution with changes. Seconded by Chairman Deschampe. 9 For, 0 Against, 2 Silent (Chief Executive Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer Boyd). Carried.

Chief Executive Benjamin offered comments regarding Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's position to vote silent, reiterating past statements to the Tribal Executive Committee to recognize that the Band is in a legal fight with the counties. The boundaries are part of the legal documentation and legal arguments which are ongoing, and we are not able to bring anything up or be part of the discussion on this topic, the discussion is one-sided.

Topic raised for discussion by Dawn Goodwin: MCT Land Transfer Bill Resolution passed by the TEC 2019.

President Chavers described the land title issue of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Trust Land which is managed by each of the Bands, and described concerns about federal formulas using land bases as part of the determination on funding for tribes. Discussion centered around the history of the land from the treaty era to present title of trust land by BIA. Chairman Jackson remarked on tribal sovereignty and the benefits for home leases approved under the HEARTH Act by the bands. Secretary-Treasurer McCormick offered an opportunity to host an informational session with tribal leaders and members regarding the title of land and the six band's land use and realty managers efforts to restore reservation lands reserved by treaties.

President Chavers called for a motion to adjourn:

Motion by Chairman Jackson to adjourn meeting at 6:08 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.