

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Catherine Chavers at 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, 2024, at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Vermilion, MN.

Invocation: Vernon Adams, Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Executive Director Drost administered the oath of office to the following newly elected Band officials as TEC Members:

Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; Bruce Savage, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Virgil Wind, Chief Executive/Chairman, Mille Lacs.

Roll call: Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Mike LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer; White Earth; Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage; Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; Bruce Savage, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Robert Abramowski, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer, Leech Lake; Virgil Wind, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs.

Present via Zoom: Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte

Others: Shena Matrious, Kami Diver, Assistant, Fond du Lac; Jolyn Donnell, BIA MN Agency; Kelly Applegate, Director, Natural Resources, Mille Lacs; Dawn Jackson, Enrollment Coordinator, Leech Lake; Shane Drift, Rep., Bois Forte; Joe Nayquonabe, Mille Lacs; Cory Strong, Liaison, MHFA; Terry Goggeye, Assistant, Leech Lake; Wendy Merrill, Rep. Mille Lacs; Sally Fineday, Delegate, Leech Lake; Cheryl, Fond du Lac; Perry Drift, Rep., Bois Forte; Toby Stephens, Rep., Grand Portage.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve the agenda. Seconded by Chairman Savage. **11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Chairwoman Chavers opens nominations for **President:**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to nominate Chairwoman Cathy Chavers, seconded by Chairman Bruce Savage. *Cathy Chavers declines the nomination.*

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to nominate Chairman Faron Jackson, seconded by Chairman Robert Deschampe.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick to nominate Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque. seconded by Chairman Michael Fairbanks.

Silent Ballot vote.

Tally read aloud: Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque (7); Chairman Jackson, (4); Write-in for Chairwoman Catherine Chavers (1).

**Chairman Michael LaRoque** is President by majority vote.

President LaRoque assumes the duties of chairing the meeting.

President LaRoque opens nominations **for Vice President:**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to nominate Chairman Faron Jackson, seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Robert Abramowski.

President LaRoque calls for nominations three times.

Faron Jackson is Vice President by acclamation.

President LaRoque opens nominations for **Treasurer:**

Motion by Chairman Michael Fairbanks to nominate Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday for Treasurer, seconded by Chairwoman Cathy Chavers.

President LaRoque calls for nominations three times.

Leonard Fineday is Treasurer by acclamation.

President LaRoque opens nominations for **Secretary:**

Motion by Chairwoman Cathy Chavers to nominate Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick for Secretary, seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday.

President LaRoque calls for nominations three times.

April McCormick is Secretary by acclamation.

President LaRoque calls for a motion by acclamation to approve the new officers to their respective positions.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Robert Abramowski, seconded by Chairman Robert Deschampe to approve the appointment by acclamation of Chairman Faron Jackson to the position of Vice President; Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to the position of Treasurer; and Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick to the position of Secretary.

**11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carries.**

## **MINUTES**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024, seconded by Chairwoman Chavers.

**11 For; 0 Against; 0 Silent. Motion carries.**

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve consent agenda for Enrollment Resolutions 76-24 through 95-24. Seconded by Chairman Virgil Wind.

**11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carries.**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 96-24, MCT Bia New Cooperative Agreement for a period of 5 years. Seconded by Chairwoman Chavers.  
**11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carries.**

### **QUARTERLY REPORTS:**

#### *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:*

Executive Director Beth Drost read aloud the quarterly report.

President LaRoque acknowledged receipt of the Executive Director's quarterly report.

#### *ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:*

Director of Administration Joel Smith read aloud the quarterly report. Discussion regarding the enrollment appeals process, notification of families, and the role of Band enrollment directors to assure compliance with the process.

President LaRoque acknowledges receipt of the Director of Administration's report.

#### *EDUCATION:*

Johnson O'Malley Coordinator Billie Annette read aloud the quarterly report.

President LaRoque acknowledges receipt of the Johnson O'Malley Coordinator's report.

**BIA MN AGENCY:** Robert Lintelmann provided a verbal report.

President LaRoque accepts the report and requests timely submission in the future of written reports in advance of meetings.

**CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UPDATES:** Sally Fineday and Cheryl Edwards read aloud the report. Patty Strob thanked the TEC for its work on behalf of the White earth delegation. Grand Portage Delegation member Michele Hakala-Beeksmas distributed the Alliance Document and handout from 2023 to TEC Members. Discussion regarding the potential removal of Secretary of Interior approval from the constitution, uniformity of participation of all Band delegations in the process, and future need for consensus.

*HUMAN SERVICES:* President LaRoque acknowledges that the Human Services Report was missed under the Quarterly Reports and requests that the report be read aloud.

Human Services Director Evelyn Campbell read aloud the Human Services Report. Letters were requested from the tribal chairs regarding the grant.

President LaRoque acknowledges receipt of the report.

### **GET OUT THE VOTE:**

Michael Reyes informed the committee that he is a candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 2B, which includes White Earth and Leech Lake.

**LEGAL:**

Attorney Phil Brodeen provided a verbal report. He will issue a cover letter to the TEC with the resolutions that will address the four different areas of the progress on the drafted resolution and removal of the Secretary of Interior from the Amendment article. This cover letter brings all the TEC and Constitution Reform Committee and Membership up to date.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick.

**11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carries.**

Meeting Adjourned