

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2024, by President Catherine Chavers at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino Events Center, Grand Portage, MN.

Invocation: William 'Bill' Blackwell Sr.

Roll Call: April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer, Leech Lake; Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Robert Abramowski, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Michael LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth; Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs

Zoom: Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs; Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte.

President Chavers explained that Chairman Deschampe would be arriving during the meeting.

Others Present: MCT staff and other interested parties.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve the agenda with changes. Seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Fineday. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick consent agenda enrollment Resolutions 56-24 to 75-24. Seconded by Chief Executive Benjamin. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

**QUARTERLY REPORTS**

President Chavers acknowledged the receipt of Quarterly Reports.

**BIA:** Deputy Regional Director Trust Patty Olby introduced New Minnesota Agency Superintendent Heidi Gordon. Patty Olby continued with Report from BIA MN-Agency:

Chairman Deschampe arrived at 9:05 a.m.

**UPDATE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MEETINGS:** Sally Fineday and Patty Straub.

Added Comments: Gerald Libby.

Sally and Patty presented four handouts and read the Delegation Report. Discussion amongst audience and committee members.

President Chavers announced Legal and called on Phil. Tribal Executive Committee members engaged in lengthy discussion about constitutional delegation expectations, history of recent referendum, distinction between roles and responsibilities. Secretary McCormick interjected, point of order and clarification: President Chavers has called on Legal to present, we have had robust discussion, respectfully we need to get back into agenda by calling the point of order that Legal is waiting to present.

### **LEGAL:**

Phil Brodeen presented two informational items that the Legislative Subcommittee has approved: Letter to Governor Walz requesting to fully fund the SSIS, is technology that is not working for county or tribal social work, his Indian Supplemental Budget Proposal is currently funded at 15 M, it needs to be funded at an estimated 85 million more. In a non-budget year there is not much that can happen. This letter was approved yesterday and will be sent.

Note tribal elections scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is in July, in accordance with the constitution and bylaws, the second Monday of July. Any new officers will be 'taking the oath of office' being sworn in at the TEC level on that date, band governing bodies can determine their oaths of office at the local level in accordance with the election ordinance and calendar.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Faron Jackson: 32-15

Chairman Jackson briefed the committee on the history of 32-15 (2015, and reaffirmed 2023) as a starting point and move forward with the MCT constitution delegation, suggested enrollment phases and his desire for Leech Lake to act on 32-15, that it pertained to Leech Lake only, and we still want to be part of the MCT. He recognized consensus and respectful contrary dialogue; believed he has to ask TEC for permission to do this and requested a vote today and called for a motion to allow Leech Lake to start with Resolution 32-15 in our enrollment change for Leech Lake.

Secretary McCormick asked for clarification for the record, Chairman Jackson, you are requesting an action on a LLBO I'm concerned that perhaps having the TEC take action may affect the Leech Lake Band governing body and sovereignty, make sure that you know that I don't think that we as TEC need to take action on matters of the Leech Lake Band (LLBO) in regards to Resolution 32-15, this is my point of clarification as a co-TEC member, respectfully I don't know that I should be voting that or discussing the matters of the LLBO.

Chairman Jackson clarified his motion applies only to the LLBO and not any other MCT bands that is up to them, he respected that if committee members have to vote silent, and his motion still stands and calls for a motion that LLBO be able to adopt 32-15.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday – Point of Order and Point of Procedure. Offered support for implementation of 32-15, the point of moving forward our legal has drafted a resolution for consideration of the RBC, what I would appreciate is that the LLBO RBC with utmost respect and support of moving forward and the Chairman’s work on this. Respectfully I would agree with Secretary-Treasurer McCormick and say that this should go to the LLBO RBC as a governing body of Leech Lake, and not necessarily at the TEC level, at this time.

Chairman Dupuis remarked procedurally it does not require a vote of the TEC for a band governing body to do something, for clarification, there I don’t believe it needs a motion, or a second or a vote from the TEC.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday and Chairman Jackson conferred in agreement.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday requested that this action and discussion be recorded in the minutes record. Secretary McCormick and President Chavers agree.

Phil explains the TEC cannot give any band direction in violation of constitution. You have to go back to the band level and make sure the proposal doesn’t conflict with the

[Deputy Regional Director Trust Patty Olby provided information on current status of Resolution 32-15 at BIA, brief discussion between Committee and Legal].

(Motion on the floor by Chairman Jackson)

Chairman Jackson rescinded his motion about 32-15.

Chairman Jackson motion to remove the Secretarial Elections to amend the constitution [*later clarified: motion to hold a secretarial election remove the requirement of the Secretary of Interior to hold a Secretarial Election to Amend the MCT Constitution and to have Legal draft a resolution to present at the next TEC meeting*].

Second by Secretary-Treasurer. Vote called for.

President Chavers recognized that Chairman Dupuis asked for discussion. Chairman Fairbanks interjected, raised concern for needing to vote today on this motion, explained he needs to report back to his delegation, to the elders, and all his members in White Earth. Chairman Jackson suggested if Chairman Fairbanks wanted to vote silent, that it is okay. Chairman Fairbanks asks that the TEC plan this out and bring this back to the meeting in July.

President Chavers explained that there is a motion and a second on the floor, and calls for a vote:

5 For (Chairman Dupuis, Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski, Chairman Deschampe, Secretary-Treasurer Fineday, Chairman Jackson), 1 Against (Chairman Fairbanks), 5 Silent (Secretary-Treasurer Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer Geshick, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer McCormick). Motion Carried.

TEC members offer remarks on the process of ‘discussion after active motion and second’ during meetings and requested that TEC members are briefed on the issue before the motion is brought forward and at a minimum during the ‘discussion after a second’.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday explained his understanding that the request, which was not explained earlier, was to make a simple amendment to Article XII which only deals with the Amendment of the Constitution process. The Secretary’s role in Article V(five), VI (six), X (ten), XV (fifteen) remain in place. There is still a role in for the Secretary of Interior. There still is a role in oversight within these articles, however the requirement to have the Secretarial Election to amend the constitution is the only thing that this motion would address. There is still a role of the Secretary to play but just not in terms of what our Constitution is. Phil confirmed: that is correct. Phil explained that we need to, is this an instruction for me draft a resolution in July which the resolution would be a triggering the action. President Chavers and Secretary-Treasurer Fineday confirm yes, pursuant to Article XII. Chairman Jackson agrees.

President Chavers notes that Grand Portage Tribal Council has a funeral to attend at 11:00 a.m. Secretary McCormick left to attend a funeral at 10:55 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

PrimeWest Health Presentation: Adam Fairbanks, American Indian Relations & Population Health Coordinator; Eli Dots. Health Equity Manager

President Chavers acknowledged Chief Executive Melanie Benjamins last meeting. Thanked her, stating she recognized each one of us is sovereign.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carried.