

**THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Friday, October 28, 2022
Northern Lights Casino, Hotel & Event Center
Walker, Minnesota

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by President Catherine Chavers at Northern Lights Events Center, Walker, Minnesota.

Invocation: Mike Smith Sr. and Mike Smith Jr.

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: Johnny Johnson, President, Prairie Island Indian Community; Shelley Buck, Vice President, Prairie Island Indian Community; Mike Childs Jr., Treasurer, Prairie Island Indian Community; Valentina Mgeni, Secretary, Prairie Island Indian Community; Cody Whitebear Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, Prairie Island Indian Community; Virgil Wind, Rep., Mille Lacs; Toby Stephen, Rep., Grand Portage; Agatha Armstrong, Rep., Grand Portage; Marie Spry, Rep., Grand Portage; Travis Morrison, Rep., Bois Forte; Steve White, Rep., Leech Lake; MCT staff and other interested parties.

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

President Chavers announced Executive Director Gary Frazer's retirement. President Chavers reminded the Tribal Executive Committee members who haven't done so already to submit the information required for Executive Director interviews by 4:30, Monday the 30th, along with any questions you would like to have for the interviews.

President Chavers announced a new protocol for the MCT meetings: We understand that everyone is very passionate about issues that affect the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. We ask that if you have any questions or comments, that you will be limited to three minutes and it must be on topic. Please raise your hand and I will call upon you. The Tribal Executive Committee has discussed this protocol for conducting our meetings and this is how future meetings will be conducted.

MINUTES:

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve the minutes of April 29, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Chairman Deschampe. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve the minutes of July, 11 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

PRESENTATION: PRAIRE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY TINTA WINTA

Johnny Johnson, President; Shelley Buck, Vice President; Mike Childs Jr., Treasurer; Valentina Mgeni, Secretary; and Cody Whitebear Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

A moving presentation regarding the development of the Elk Run Property to protect their community and future generations from a trifecta of threats: flooding, nuclear, train traffic. President Johnson offered – as part of PIIC culture – presenting a gift to MCT on behalf of the Lakota/Dakota community. A beautiful wool blanket presented to President Cathy Chavers.

President Chavers thanked the PIIC tribal council for their very powerful presentation. Chief Executive Benjamin said Miigwetch to the PIIC representatives for their excellent presentation on how they would like to move forward and protect their membership.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve a resolution supporting Tinta Winta Prairie Island Indian Community and their development of Elk Run. Seconded by Chairman Jackson. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried

Chairman Dupuis asked if there was additional support needed that was more than a resolution to let the MCT and the Bands know as we would support PIIC.

Secretary-Treasurer McCormick presented on the Chippewa Federation Meeting held in Red Cliff. The Wisconsin Bands are wondering if the MCT Bands will join the federation and there was much discussion amongst the Chippewa Federation on whether this is a verbal or written letter, or resolution to join. Next meeting is to be hosted November 30th, in Mole Lake. Chairman Dupuis stated let's do a resolution right now. Chairman Fairbanks stated his support

Motion by Chairman Dupuis to approve a resolution in support of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe joining the Chippewa Federation. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fairbanks. 9 For, 0 Against, 2 Silent (Chief Executive Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer Boyd). Carried

Secretary-Treasurer McCormick stated there are no fees or dues for clarification.

Chief Executive Benjamin stated that on November 30-December 1st is President Biden's Tribal Summit in DC. President Chavers responded maybe those staying back can attend this Chippewa Federation meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski to approve Resolution 01-23 regarding enrollment: Fond du Lac Eligibles (9) Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski to approve Resolution 02-23 regarding enrollment: Fond du Lac Ineligibles (12). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski to approve Resolution 03-23 regarding enrollment: Fond du Lac Relinquish to Forest County Potawatomi Tribe of Wisconsin (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 04-23 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs Eligibles (30). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 05-23 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs Ineligibles (33). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve Resolution 06-23 regarding enrollment: Mille Lacs No Parent Enrolled (4). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Boyd. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 07-23 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Eligibles (21). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 08-23 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte Ineligibles (8). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick to approve Resolution 09-23 regarding enrollment: Bois Forte No Parent Enrolled (5). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 10-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Eligibles (72). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 11-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Ineligibles (64). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 12-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change I (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 13-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change II (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 14-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Transfer to Bois Forte (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 15-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake Relinquish to Choctaw Nation (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 16-23 regarding enrollment: Leech Lake No Parent Enrolled (8). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 17-23 regarding enrollment: White Earth Eligibles (49). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 18-23 regarding enrollment: White Earth Ineligibles (44). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 19-23 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 20-23 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 21-23 regarding enrollment: White Earth Transfer to Leech Lake (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 22-23 regarding enrollment: White Earth Relinquish to Red Lake (1). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 23-23 regarding enrollment: White Earth No Parent Enrolled (4). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Deschampe to approve Resolution 24-23 regarding enrollment: Grand Portage Ineligibles (2). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 25-23 supporting NJOMA Resolution #2023-01. Seconded Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 26-23 supporting NJOMA Resolution 2023-02 Congressional Legislation. Seconded by Chairman Jackson. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 27-23 CIGP – Tribal Operations Contract. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 28-23 extension to JOM Contract. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 29-23 request extension to existing Contracts (Tribal Operations). Seconded by Chairman Fairbanks. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 30-23 request extension to existing Contracts (JOM). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 31-23 COLA (MCI employees). Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Geshick. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 32-23 Operating Budget FY2023. Seconded by Chairman Deschampe. 10 For, 1 Against (Chairman Dupuis), 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Chairman Fairbanks to approve Resolution 33-23 NCAI membership. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick to approve Resolution 34-23 Voluntarily de-designation of MIAAA status. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 35-23 Bald Eagle rule (protection of Bald Eagles). Seconded by Chairman Fairbanks. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Phil stated for the record purposes we already have approval of the resolutions for numbering purposes: Resolution 36-23 support of Prairie Island Indian Community and additionally Resolution 37-23 approve of MCT participation in the Chippewa Federation.

Break: 10:36 a.m.
Resume – 11:00 a.m.

President Chavers stated that Mille Lacs need to leave at 11:30 a.m.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

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

Audience member asked about the MCT Land Transfer. President Chavers responded it would be placed under Old Business. President Chavers responded we will have a presentation at the next regular meeting in January 2023 to discuss the History of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land, title and transfer efforts by the Bands.

BIA-MN AGENCY: Eric S. Bruguier, Acting Superintendent

Requested all the flags to be up in the Minnesota Agency's 'new' building (2019).
Invited all the tribal leaders to an open house at the MN Agency– date to be determined.

Executive Director informed Committee that a Letter included in the packet for recommendation for superintendent.

UPDATE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MEETINGS: Cheryl Edwards, Sally Fineday

Recommendations regarding a plan on a Secretarial Election– addresses update, education for new people, and holding a Secretarial Election separate from a General Election.

Chairman Jackson appreciated the work of the delegations and expressed that the TEC can work in tandem with the delegation. He offered that the Committee act on Resolution 32-15 with the following:

Motion by Chairman Jackson to proceed on Resolution 32-15 as we continue to work with members. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday.

Secretary-Treasurer Fineday asked Phil for clarification on the language regarding acting on Resolution 32-15, Phil clarified in order to move forward, the language is 'motion to proceed on Resolution 32-15'.

Recess for discussion – 5 minutes 11:22 p.m.- 11:27 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

[Executive Director began with explanation: We heard Melanie and Sheldon before the recess – vote yes. Chief Executive Benjamin verbally confirmed Sheldon's vote yes. Comments regarding whether Sheldon's vote can be counted if he left the room. Executive Director asked Chief Executive Benjamin if we can get Secretary-Treasurer Boyd on the phone.]

Chief Executive Benjamin – Y
Secretary-Treasurer Boyd – absent
Chairman Deschampe – Y
Secretary-Treasurer McCormick – Y
Chairman Jackson - Y
Secretary-Treasurer Fineday - Y
Chairman Dupuis - Y
Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski - Y
Chairman Fairbanks - Y
Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque - Y
Secretary-Treasurer Geshick – Y
President Chavers - Y

Executive Director announced Roll call vote: 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Chairman Dupuis asked is the MCT enrollment office ready to handle, and are the reservations ready for the influx of members are going to be coming to us for questions.

Secretary-Treasurer McCormick reflected on western structure of Robert's rules, and I would like to honor Mille Lacs vote because we heard Sheldon's vote was a yes as Chief Executive Benjamin said it was a yes, I think that should be reflected in the minutes. This resolution, if it is truly unanimous support, we should honor that vote! As the Secretary, I am not going to deny Mille Lacs a vote. He notified us he was leaving. Respectfully ask Tribal Executive Committee to count his vote. Comments offered by Chairman Dupuis and Phil Brodeen regarding Robert's Rules.

Roll call: Secretary-Treasurer Boyd – Y (via phone)

Tribal Executive Committee accepted the vote.

12 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Phil Brodeen offered options for voting in person, by mail or tribe could request on-site voting. President Chavers stated the key is 30% response and Bands need to update their addresses. Discussion on options and waiver.

LEGAL: BRODEEN & PAULSON

The Supreme Court will hear the Brackeen Case on November 9, 2022.

Discussion regarding protecting ICWA.

NEW BUSINESS

President Chavers presented the Committee with a letter from the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recognizing the history of injustice and atrocities, acknowledging treaties and land cessation, their belief in the Creator's call to do justice, and referring to the sale of property and benefit of the sale and assets they have been given over generations. The Synod Council has pledged to gift a reparation to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe underscoring their understanding of the significance of the treaties of 1854, 1855, and 1866 and as a beginning point to repairing the breach that has historically occurred between us and among us.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick to accept the funding offered by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in the amount of \$186,600 to be placed in a special segregated account for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to adjourn meeting at 11:53 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.