

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:44 a.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023, by President Catherine Chavers at Shooting Star Casino, Hotel & Event Center in Mahanomen, Minnesota.

Invocation: Merlin Deegan

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

Zoom: Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte, Robert Deschampe, Chair, Grand Portage, Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs.

Excused: Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Milles Lacs (Joined Zoom at 9:35 a.m.)

Others: Phil Brodeen, Legal Counsel, MCT; Beth Drost, Executive Director, MCT; Joel Smith, Director of Administration, MCT; Agatha Armstrong, Rep., Grand Portage, Marie Spry, Rep., Grand Portage, Toby Stephens, Rep., Grand Portage; Corey Strong, Jane Harstad, Faith Algren, Nijji Radio, White Earth; MCT Staff and other interested parties.

President Chavers offers her condolences to families of Dale Greene and Wally Storbakken.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approval of Agenda. Seconded by Chairman Fairbanks. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023, Regular meeting. Seconded by Chairman Dupuis. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer McCormick to approve the enrollment resolution by consent agenda. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

1-24 ENROLLMENT: Fond du Lac Eligibles (25)

2-24 ENROLLMENT: Fond du Lac Ineligibles (13)

3-24 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs Eligibles (39)

4-24 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs Ineligibles (33)

- 5-24 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs No Parent Enrolled (1)
- 6-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Eligibles (63)
- 7-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Ineligibles (30)
- 8-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Relinquish to Red Lake (2)
- 9-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change I
- 10-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change II
- 11-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change III
- 12-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Blood Degree Change IV
- 13-24 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake No Parent Enrolled (1)
- 14-24 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte Eligibles (16)
- 15-24 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte Ineligibles (6)
- 16-24 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte No Parent Enrolled (2)
- 17-24 ENROLLMENT: Grand Portage Eligibles (1)
- 18-24 ENROLLMENT: Grand Portage Ineligibles (7)
- 19-24 ENROLLMENT: Grand Portage No Parent Enrolled (1)
- 20-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Eligibles (57)
- 21-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Ineligibles (37)
- 22-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Relinquishment to Red Lake (1)
- 23-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change (clerical error)
- 24-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change (Huckbody 2)
- 25-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Disenrollment I (Londo)
- 26-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Disenrollment II (Michaud)
- 27-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Disenrollment III (Thompson)
- 28-24 ENROLLMENT: White Earth No Parent Enrolled (2)

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 29-24 Biennial Service Agreement. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 30-24 Title VI with correction. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Abramowski. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 31-24 FY 2024 Operating Budget. Seconded by Chairman Dupuis. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Chairman Jackson to approve Resolution 32-24 COLA Resolution for MCT employees. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve Resolution 33-24 Resolution re: IT Grant Application (SMSC) matching grant. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Discussion on Resolution for NCAI. Resolution on file covered two years. Secretary-Treasurer Fineday stated MCT can cast votes and individual members can cast vote also.

QUARTERLY REPORTS:

BIA- MN Agency: Eric S. Bruguier, Superintendent
Superintendent Bruguier gives a brief report on BIA MN Agency. Chairman Fairbanks stated that working with Eric has been very helpful, and of great assistance to the White Earth Band, and informed the Committee that this is Eric's last meeting.
Secretary/Treasurer McCormick thanked Eric for securing a meeting with Assistant Secretary DOI Bryan Newland at the Partners in Action Conference at our request last TEC meeting and upon hearing it was Eric's last meeting, offered a pound of wild rice and cedar from Grand Portage. President Chavers thanked Eric for his work with the Tribes – it is greatly appreciated.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

President Chavers acknowledged and received quarterly reports for the record.

Update Constitutional Reform meetings: Cheryl Edwards, Sally Fineday – not present nor in Zoom when President Chavers acknowledges them, Committee moves on.

The American Indian Alaskan Native Alliance: Candy Beatty, Tribal Content Developer – not present nor in Zoom when President Chavers acknowledges them, Committee moves on.

MN Interagency Council on Homelessness - not present nor in Zoom when President Chavers acknowledges them, Committee moves on.

Executive Director Drost announced at 9:35 a.m. that Chief Executive Benjamin joined the meeting.

LEGAL: Brodeen & Paulson

Phil Brodeen presented that at the Legislative Subcommittee and TEC meeting last month it was approved to enter into contract with Sara Van Norman, of Van Norman Law, PLLC is contained in your packets. Described Sara's scope for legal services.

BIA has stalled out on holding a Secretarial Election that the TEC requested, the main issue is BIA is not recognizing the MCT's interpretation of the voter threshold and as an extra step requires voter registration. We've sent several correspondences to BIA contained in your packets (8/18/2023, 9/21/23). We've received a letter from BIA on

October 20, 2023, in order for them to move forward they want a written interpretation. Phil recognizes that TEC is uncomfortable with writing interpretation due to TEC's executive duties are not judicial duties and has provided what a 'potential written interpretation' would be in our packets as *Draft Tribal Interpretation 01-2023*. Phil recommends that the Tribal Leaders need to meet with Midwest Agency to communicate exactly what TEC wants the BIA to do, because Phil and Beth have met with them to the extent that it is effective at their level. Recommended not to have a Secretary Election this fall; we need to meet with BIA between now and January in preparation for a spring Secretarial Election and utilize this time to update voters list and get information out to voters.

Committee Members requested that the meeting involve BIA legal alongside Midwest Agency Leadership with a clear timeline, that MCT update voter addresses and provide voter education 'to get the trust back' from the voters.

Discussion was opened about an enrollment ordinance that could be developed without a Secretarial Election. Phil recommended that the election code ad hoc committee could develop a brand-new enrollment code/ordinance by reviewing what other tribes have done, presenting an ordinance that is in line with MCT constitution and offers more interpretation on the enrollment. Chairman Dupuis made a recommendation to go past Midwest agency BIA to D.C. at the federal level once we are prepared with a plan.

Questions from audience members and answers among Committee members occurred.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UPDATE: Sally Fineday is not present.
Jolene Danielle, Patty Straub, Michaa Aubid

Jolene presented the committee meetings every month rotating each reservation. Many opinions and the largest hurdle is convening membership. We've reviewed the United Nations Rights for Indigenous People, and we have subcommittees that meet once or twice a week. Biggest focus is the Education and compiling videos. Patty Straub presented membership criteria as a concern for White Earth delegation, and they support 32-15 as a beginning point for increasing enrollment in the future.

President Chavers called on Sally Fineday upon entering the room. Sally presented a letter regarding financial request from the committee. Executive Director Drost, President Chavers and Secretary-Treasurer McCormick offered clarity on process and forms that the Constitution Committee may make several specific requests under the MCT process and forms for the \$100,000 TEC designated for education (not a lump sum disbursement), further final approval by the TEC of the educational series is needed before it is deployed and funding to be received. President Chavers requests that the Constitution Reform Committee finalize the education series because of its importance with the TEC to approve so the funds can be dispersed.

AIANA: Cindy Beatty

Nicole, Explore Minnesota explained the grant for tourism development and promotion. Cindy stated a meeting will take place on November 28th, in Minneapolis.

President Chavers stated the date for the next quarterly meeting: January 9th-10th at Fond du Lac. To be announced: December – Special TEC meeting re: Election Ordinance in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Questions from audience about the updating the website, MCT Land Transfer status and education, State and Federal environmental protections of natural resources, Climate Change Resolution and General Assemblies. President Chavers, Phil Brodeen and Secretary/Treasurer McCormick offered answers, Natural Resources Subcommittee to take up Climate Change Resolution.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.