

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee was called to order by President Michael LaRoque at 2:37 p.m., on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Grand Portage Lodge, Grand Portage, Minnesota.

Invocation: William 'Billy' Blackwell, Sr.

Roll Call: Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman, Bois Forte; Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer, Leech Lake; Bruce Savage, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Wayne Dupuis, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac; Michael LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth; Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth.

Zoom: Virgil Wind, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs.

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Executive Director, MCT; Phil Brodeen, Legal, MCT; elected Band representatives; Constitutional Delegates; MCT staff and other interested parties.

SWEARING IN OF NEW TEC MEMBERS: President LaRoque administered the Oath of Office to new TEC Members Carlos Hernandez, Chairman, Bois Forte; and, Wayne Dupuis, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac.

AGENDA:

Motion by Chairman Robert Deschampe to approve the agenda. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday. Motion Carried.

11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick. Motion Carried.

11 For, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

Attorney Phil Brodeen presented Enrollment Resolutions 71-25 through 89-25.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday to approve Enrollment Resolutions 71-25 through 89-25. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick.

11 For, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Legislative Subcommittee Chairman Leonard Fineday reported to the TEC the discussion from the Legislative Subcommittee regarding the tabling of the resolution approving the MCT's operating budget.

QUARTERLY REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: Luke Warnholz, MCT Executive Director.

Luke Warnholz presented Administration's report. President LaRoque acknowledged receipt of the report.

EDUCATION: Billie Annette

Billie Annette presented the Education Report. President LaRoque acknowledged receipt of the report.

HUMAN SERVICES: Evie Campbell

Evie Campbell presented her report. President LaRoque acknowledged receipt of the report.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS:

Robert Lintelman presented the BIA report on behalf of Heidi Gordon. He discussed the blowdown impacting the Bemidji area and storm damage; DOGE impacts on BIA offices; BIA hiring freeze. Lintelman noted the process designed for allottees and individual land owners explaining to them what they can and cannot do with their allotments will continue. He concluded by reading a note from Superintendent Patricia Olby, who will remain the Superintendent in Bemidji. Lintelman responded to questions regarding BIA restructuring. TEC members expressed concern regarding lack of consultation with Minnesota tribal nations.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday that the TEC formally request that the Secretary of Interior consult by meeting with tribal governments in Minnesota. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Dupuis. .

11 For, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DELGATES: Constitutional reform delegates presented their reports on behalf of their respective Bands.

Leech Lake: Delegate Sally Fineday reported that Leech Lake would like the TEC to take action to move ahead.

Fond du Lac: Delegate Cheryl Edwards reported that delegates heard or came away with differing interpretations of a request from the TEC at the May 6, 2025, meeting, and requested that in the future, a written summary of requests of delegates be sent to delegates after each TEC meeting.

Grand Portage: Delegate Marcie McIntire reported about two models for writing a new constitution that are being discussed at Grand Portage.

Mille Lacs of Ojibwe: Delegate Danielle Smith reported that MLB is convening a constitutional convention with assistance from the Native Governance Center.

White Earth: Delegate Jolynn Donnell reported that WE Delegates support removing the Secretary from the amendment process but want to see what it will be replaced with.

(No presentation from Bois Forte Delegation)

Delegates noted upcoming meetings: Friday, July 18th for all band delegations, and August 8th and December 12th meetings at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

LEGAL UPDATE:

Phil Brodeen, Brodeen & Paulson, presented the legal update and read aloud and explained Resolution 90-25, which was adopted by the Legislative Subcommittee. Resolution 90-25 is a process resolution that responds to BIA request that the MCT interpret whether 30% of eligible voters means all MCT voters who are 18 and older and otherwise eligible to vote should they choose to do so, or 30% of all voters who are eligible to vote because they are duly registered to vote in that particular election. The resolution expresses that the TEC is reverting back to the number of duly registered voters for purposes of establishing the 30% threshold.

Legislative Subcommittee Chairman Leonard Fineday explained the purpose of the Resolution which it recommended for passage by the TEC. TEC Members asked questions and discussed their support for or concerns about the resolution.

Chairman Mike Fairbanks motioned to table Resolution 90-25, seconded by Chief Executive Virgil Wind.

Members discussed the motion.

Roll Call vote.

For: Mike Fairbanks; Virgil Wind; Sheldon Boyd; Bruce Savage

Against: Carlos Hernandez; Tara Geshik; Faron Jackson; Leonard Fineday; Wayne Dupuis; Robert Deschampe; April McCormick

4 For, 7 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Failed.

Leonard Fineday motioned to adopt Resolution 90-25. Seconded by Robert Deschampe.

Roll Call Vote:

For: Carlos Hernandez; Tara Geshik; Wayne Dupuis; Faron Jackson; Leonard Fineday; Robert Deschampe; April McCormick

Against: Bruce Savage; Virgil Wind; Sheldon Boyd; Mike Fairbanks

8 For, 4 Against, 0 silent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Archie LaRose; addressed the TEC re: his court case and requested that all TEC Members review the documents, and that RBC member receive copies of his documents. Tashina Perry: Addressed mining concerns and Sandy Lake.

Carol Janick. Support for Constitutional process moving forward.

Eugene Somers: Requested more information about companies used for elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President LaRoque released the audience and called the TEC into Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Robert Deschampe to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer April McCormick.

11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion carried.