

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council  
Special Meeting  
August 14, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.  
White Earth, MN**

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Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman  
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer  
Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative  
Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts, District III Representative

Absent: Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative

Others Present: Ken Fox, Executive Director  
Mike Fairbanks, Deputy Director  
Desirae Stalberger, Recorder

**Agenda Approval**

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve with additions, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

*Kathy Goodwin entered meeting at 9:26 a.m.*

**RTC Meeting Minutes (8/7/17 & 8/9/17)**

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve with changes, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Calendar Review

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Auditor Review/Financial Update**

Scott Omlid/Auditor Brian Opsahl were present. WERTC, Congregate, and WE Enterprises audits will be reviewed. The WERTC audited financial statements for year ended September 30, 2016, was reviewed.

WE Management Report/Letter as of September 30, 2016, was reviewed. Observations were reviewed.

***Punky Clark left meeting at 10:24 a.m.***

WE Congregate Housing Audited financial statements for FY ended December 2016 was reviewed. Independent auditors report was reviewed; clean audit.

***Punky Clark entered meeting at 10:27 a.m.***

WE Enterprises Audited financial statements for FY ended September 30, 2016 and 2015 was presented. The management report and observations was reviewed.

WE Enterprises independent auditors report was reviewed. Tara is requesting that the audit information be provided to Jessica and Roy this week for review.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to accept the White Earth audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

***Meeting recessed at 10:50 a.m.***

***Meeting reconvened at 11:09 a.m.***

**Medicare Rates/Health Insurance Benefits**

Pat Butler/Scott Omlid were present and provided an overview of current benefits and what cost would be if premium is continued the way it is currently; cost would be extremely high. The benefit to change plan there would be no increase on co pays, PRC process? Tara is requesting more time to review spreadsheets and has more questions that need to be addressed. A follow up conversation needs to be held with CCS and IHS regarding changes, if any, for implementation (Oct. 1). Scott will compile and provide more information.

### Star Fitness

Why is this the only center that charges? There are Tribal members that have issues with paying. Employees are not being charged, elders are at discounted rate, charge for guests. Diabetes program contributes some funding. Tara asked if third party billing could be utilized for some of the costs associated with center. A breakdown of Tribal members utilizing the center was requested. A decision needs to be made as to parameters if change is wanted. Pat will provide more information as to numbers.

### Wild Rice

Sonny Wadena/Michael Neusser/Monica Hedstrom/Bernie Soyering/Scott Omlid were present. Sonny provided an update on the process and his understanding of his position. USDA is still an option; waiting on farm bill changes if any. A system needs to be developed for wild rice. Building maintenance is willing to assist but are doing majority of work. There has to be a set way to buy rice. A better checks and balances needs to be in place for the money handling. Bernie stated that 100,000 lbs of rice needs to be in house to accommodate sales and needs for this year. There are water issues this year, not sure that the quota can be met for the need this year. Who's in charge of rice? How much is being purchased? Main location will be lower rice; need to look at having teams to purchase at different locations. It was stated that the bags need to be marked on which lake and who it was bought from; bags have had rocks, starters, weighted items in them. Ultimately a process needs to be identified. Tara is recommending it stays under economic development; temp crew could be utilized to assist.

Tribal and elder sales needs to be determined; rate and limit.

***Kathy Goodwin left meeting at 12:14 p.m.***

***Kathy Goodwin entered meeting at 12:19 p.m.***

Brief discussion was held regarding the need for another scale.

Motion made by Tara Mason to purchase additional wild rice equipment needed up to \$10,000, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

Motion made by Punky Clark to pay \$2.00 per lb for purchase of 225,000 lbs green, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

***Meeting recessed at 12:33 p.m.***

***Meeting reconvened at 12:47 p.m.***

### Report Review/Burial Benefits Follow Up

RaeAnn Smith and Landa Moore were present.



*Umsy Tibbetts left meeting at 2:14 p.m.*

*Meeting recessed at 2:20 p.m.*

*Meeting reconvened at 2:32 p.m.*

#### **Land Resolutions**

Megan Bakken/Sarah LaFriniere were present.

Brief discussion was held regarding land lease issues taking place on Leech Lake for WE Tribal members; leases are not being renewed. Discussion needs to be held at TEC level.

Homesites: Motion made by Punky Clark to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Service Line Agreements: Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Lakeshore Leases: Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Recreational: Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Business Lease: Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve, #1 Tabled, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

**Other**

Resolution – Eminence Credential [REDACTED]

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

**VASH Program**

Terry provided an update on letters received. Kathy stated Donna and Pam Fairbanks initiated the grant application. There was concern with statistical information from IHS being utilized. Elton Jones was contacted by Terry; Elton has been trying to contact Steve but calls were not being returned. Question was asked about waiving restrictions; information was received that Tribe's own professional could be utilized. Elton did not elaborate on this issue. Joe Plumer stated he drafted a response letter regarding the letter received last week. Joe stated there should be a way to tailor the funding to our needs instead of letting the funding be returned. Follow up should be made with Steve and the housing board as to the waiver that would have been received.

**WEHA Contractors**

Steve Howard needs to be scheduled for next meeting regarding contractors for housing repair needs.

**Tribal Court**

Joe Plumer was present for discussion. Tara stated that there is an issue with waiving of sovereign immunity; which was never waived. Joe stated that he needs to review the draft resolution for changes. The process needs to be cleared up for moving forward. Policy 311 has been sent to HR for review.

[REDACTED]

***Punky Clark left meeting at 4:16 p.m.***

[REDACTED]

***Punky Clark entered meeting at 4:19 p.m.***

Joe asked if Council would be in support of the Chairman signing a letter to Dayton regarding the EIS line 3 pipeline issue. The letter is being drafted. Motion made by Tara to take a stand against upcoming EIS line 3 pipeline, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to adjourn meeting at 4:28 p.m., Seconded by Punky Clark.  
Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

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Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer