

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Special Meeting
August 7, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Vice-Chairman Steven "Punky" Clark called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman (via Conference Call)
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer
Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative
Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts, District III Representative

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

Agenda Approval

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

RTC Meeting Minutes (7/31/17)

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to approve, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Calendar Review

Tabled Business

Monica Hedstrom was present. Discussion was held regarding the bear problem. Monica stated there have been a lot of complaints. The season is dry, they are getting accustomed to searching for food. There are individuals that could trap the bear, not sure relocating will help the problem. There was a request for bear guide service; issue would be non-Tribal members coming in. Kathy stated she is opposed to non-Tribal members coming in. A bear guide permit has been applied for; provision for non-Tribal members was removed from permit and applicant will be notified of this. Tara stated that the lodge will need paws; keep in mind. Traps are being set, if there are cubs involved trapping is being avoided as to no harm the cubs.

THPO -

[REDACTED] Terry suggested utilizing Jim Jones for some training to get everyone up to speed on certifications if needed. A proposal was submitted to Monica for individual to come in and help with setting up of the THPO office and process if needed.

Rice Commission

Discussion was held regarding frustration, once ricing season is done the committee members want nothing to do with rice issues until next season. There were a few meetings scheduled this spring and not one participated. The department has been open to the committee's input/decisions. Half of the committee quit last fall. Monica's recommendation is to start over on the committee and review the bylaws and number of committee members. Question was asked how to handle the off reservation issue. Suggestion made to get through the season and have discussion end of October. It was stated that the decisions cannot be left in one individual's hands. Terry suggested leaving it in DNR's hands to carry through for remainder of this season to see if there would be a difference. Punky stated he is going to go check out all the landings. Kathy also suggested to stay with DNR for the remainder of this year as well. There needs to be time to create the bylaws and put procedures in place. Consensus is to hold a meeting in October for creation of the commission, DNR will follow through with rice decisions for remainder of this year.

Meeting recessed at 10:22 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

* Punky convened meeting as Vice-Chairman until Terry can be reached. Tara requested that Teedo's documentation be submitted as official record. It was disturbing for the elders to sit at the quarterly meeting for approximately 7 hours and still not be heard.

Elders Update (Quarterly)

Lucille Silk was present to provide an elders quarterly update. Tara requested that Teedo add WECO membership fee elimination in lieu of funding on next elder meeting. Teedo provided an update on IHS; discrimination, harassment, bullying with staff having no alternatives to resolve issues. An update was given on WEPD; safety issues of drug use in the building where elders reside. Recommending WEPD police the areas when problems occur and do follow up on calls. Programs are thanked for meeting with elders monthly, as well as Tribal Council for their support to the elders.

Kathy Goodwin left meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Tabled - Other

TNEC - Mary Otto was present. A request is being made for TNEC to be the body for ESSA consultation, as well as in metro areas. If approved MIAC will be approached with resolution for representation of all areas as well. Consensus of Tribal Council is to approve.

Kathy Goodwin entered meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Mary provided an update on the Wellstone building in Mahanomen; transfer of property or transfer of property and building. There seems to be issues with the transfer and who owner

would be. Consensus of Tribal Council was to have Mike Fairbanks follow up on this issue with USDA, as well as Boys & Girls Club project.

[REDACTED]

Nakoa Graff was asked to provide an update. Policy 311 needs to be addressed. Joe will be providing a recommendation for an appeal board of directors to be established.

Umsy Tibbetts left meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Umsy Tibbetts entered meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Constituent Services

Ben Bement and Toni Weaver were present. There is concern with the budget. There have been many electrical/shut off requests. Budget is currently negative \$9,000. There were MA applications turned over to staff last week for verification/reimbursement. Elders are sending bills directly to the constituents program; application process still needs to be completed and processed. Ben was asked to follow up with something in the paper and to also address at the elders meetings being held monthly. A discussion needs to be held with human service and health program to address elder concerns; there are two individuals assigned to work with elders and should be utilized. Brief discussion was held regarding an RTC elder liaison position. Ben will be presenting a proposal for elder guardians for next year; it was stated that the County's hire guardians. Ben will be seeking an additional \$20,000 budget for next fiscal year.

Umsy Tibbetts left meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Umsy Tibbetts entered meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Meeting recessed at 12:37 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

Tabled Other - Continued

Information Requests (Minutes/Resolutions) - discussion was held regarding the information being public. There will be eventual access with member portal for review of such documents. There is currently a request for all resolutions from FY '14 to current. Recommendation is to charge \$.10 per page for copies; Consensus was to approve the charge per copy/page.

Motion made by Tara Mason to not release any enrollment resolutions due to confidentiality, Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Economic Development

Michael Neusser was present. Council is looking to purchase legion for Boys & Girls Club. The Wellstone building was discussed; demolition would be an option which USDA would be willing to allow. Land use would be limited to classroom/community oriented, would have to remain

in partnership with college, college would have to have access to space if needed; WETCC owns the land. Letter will be drafted, land is needed for utilization stating intentions of use. Michael will follow up with Mary Otto on the Boys & Girls Club project.

Punky Clark left meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Michael also provided an update on the hemp project; there will be eventual submittal of factory line/manufacturing proposal.

Punky Clark entered meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Michael provided an update on wild rice. There is a need for a really good harvest this year; organic needs 50,000 lbs finished - has to be lower Rice Lake for certification.

Ogema Organics was discussed. An overview of the issues that have taken place was given.

Meeting recessed at 2:06 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

*Chairman Terry Tibbetts convened meeting.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Blue Stone Group; what is the plan. It was stated that there was a staff person hired to do strategic planning. A contract would need to be established prior to any work.

Umsy Tibbetts and Punky Clark left meeting.

Executive Session (Personnel) – Joe Plumer

Motion made by Tara Mason to go into executive session at 2:37 p.m., Seconded by Umsy Tibbetts. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Kathy Goodwin entered meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Punky Clark entered meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Consensus on recommendations from legal department.

Punky

Motion made by Tara Mason to leave executive session at 3:08 p.m., Second by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Tara Mason to reconvene regular session at 3:08 p.m., Second by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Rule 10 Ruling - Joe provides an informational overview.

Resolution – Tribal Court Non Attorney Advocate

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve Resolution #019-17-003, Seconded by Punky Clark.
Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Referendum Ordinance

Brief discussion was held regarding voting. Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve Resolution #001-17-018, with changes, Seconded by Punky Clark. Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

MOU Enhanced Tribal Card Program - Joe will be finishing it this by Friday.

Other - All Tabled until next meeting

Child Care License [REDACTED]

Business License [REDACTED]

Wild Rice Donation [REDACTED]

Child Advocacy Center

Tribal Court

Micro Loan Account – Secretary/Treasurer

Trip Reports

Adjourn

Motion made by Umsy Tibbetts to adjourn meeting at 4:12 p.m., Seconded by Kathy Goodwin.
Motion carried, 4 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer