

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Special Meeting

April 16th, 2018~ 9:00 a.m.

White Earth, MN

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

Present: Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer
Steven “Punky” Clark, District I Representative –Vice Chairman
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative

Absent Terrence “Terry” Tibbetts, Chairman
Eugene “Umsy” Tibbetts, District III Representative

Others Present: Ken Fox, Executive Director
Michael Fairbanks, Deputy Director
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve with additions, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

RBC Meeting Minutes (04/10/18)

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve meeting minutes with changes, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Michael Neusser Follow up

Brief discussion held on the wind turbine. Michael stated that one wind turbine may have a catastrophic failure on it which means an estimate cost of [REDACTED] repair and coming up with different solutions. The company that sold the wind tribune is no longer in business. Tara asked if there is insurance on the wind turbine. Michael stated nothing for a catastrophic failure and he will follow up with Scott in finance regarding the insurance. Michael and Michael Triplett are having discussion on ideas for the wind turbine. Michael stated that they need to refurbish the whole wind turbine which will be an estimate of [REDACTED] Michael stated that he is trying to get a second estimate. Waubun wind turbine is doing well and the larger wind turbine also doing well. Michael will provide additional information on the wind turbines and the possible direction they would like to take.

[REDACTED]

Brief discussion held on Housing initiative and on Consultants. Michael commented on Blue Stone and maybe consulting as an option. Tara commented on having the actual Business Plan for the Housing Initiative and a basic Property Management Business Plan in place. Tara stated to reach out to Tracy Lhotka to see if this would be feasible with indirect funding. Tara also stated to have a meeting with Jeri, Ben and Pat and have discussion on what the housing needs are then possibly sitting down with Blue Stone. Tara commented on creating a Property Management Director position and provide; Ken and Nakoa with the job description for approval.

Lenny Fineday entered meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Brief discussion held on Data. Tara commented what they care about is tribal and enrolled members. Kathy stated that the Health department transports an average of 1,500 people in one month. Tara stated to work with all the directors in providing him with information they have on tribal membership living on the reservation. Michael stated that he is working off the US Census which is not accurate. Michael will follow up with the directors for the needed information with the help of David Quincy.

Meeting recessed at 10:22 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10: 39 a.m.

Other

Ground Breaking/Blessing of Naytahwaush Clinic, MOMS and MATS:

- Spiritual Leader for Blessing; MOMS Program will decide on Spiritual Leader
- Drumming; Mahnomen Drum Group
- Council Members Speak; Tara Mason
- Food; Wild rice, Deer meat and Berries.
- Invitations; Indian Health Service Regional and White Earth Health Department (Pat B. & Jeri J.)
- Date & Time; May 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Brief discussion held on the Red Horse Mission Trip:

Ken will follow up with Scott Omlid \ Finance

Donation Request / Food Distribution:

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Donation Naytahwaush Artist:

Ken will follow up on donation request

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meeting recessed at 11:36 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

Bemidji AIM Chapter:

Requesting assistance in funding; Tara stated refer to donation committee first. Tara commented on Sanford Hospital, Bemidji, MN and how they treat Natives. Tara asked if Kathy can address this at the next TEC Human Services Subcommittee meeting. Discussion held on the donation committee.

Gifts & Donation / Funding 59019:

Brief discussion held on Gifts & Donation and helping community members. Steven stated that they need an increase. Tara asked Ken to follow up with Scott on the Gifts / Donations and the last time they increased.

Legal

Lenny Fineday present for discussion on four issues that a very urgent.

- Election Contest that was filed from [REDACTED]
- Referendum for Star Lake
- Gaming Regulations and Ordinance
- ICW

Important issues:

- Pipeline; Joe was the only person working on the Pipeline and no one in the Legal department has the knowledge on the Pipeline.
- The outstanding Ordinances
- Civil Litigation that Joe was handling regarding the opiate case
- Land
- Staffing

Brief discussion held on Attorneys. Lenny cannot be full time until June and stated that they need to get moving on a lot of items in the Legal department. Lenny stated that they need a full

time ICW Attorney ASAP. Veronica is handling a lot of the work load as of now and everything that is requiring signature. Lenny stated that one of the options as of now is contracting with a couple of people rather than firms. [REDACTED] would be an option; she would be an option for ICW and has her licensed in MN. [REDACTED] would be an option for Civil Commitment's. Lenny has asked Veronica to follow up with [REDACTED] and see if they can contract with her.

Brief discussion held on the Pipeline. Lenny and Veronica do not feel comfortable working on this due to not having the back ground or being involved. Lenny's preference is to ask Joe Plumber to continue to represent White Earth on the Pipeline or to ask [REDACTED] who is an Attorney. She has been active with Honor the Earth and the Pipeline. Tara commented on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would she consider working with White Earth and how much involvement does she have with [REDACTED]. Lenny stated that she is second in command with Honor the Earth and believes that they are very close. Lenny stated that he seen her active in the Pipeline; however, Joe formulating the work for the Pipe Line.

Brief discussion held on Star Lake. Lenny stated that if this is going to be a referendum they need to get the wording of the question down and make sure that the automotive election services has it and is added on the ballot. Kathy stated there was discussion on banishment months ago for referendum.

Gaming and what is Urgent

- NIGC letter
- TICS
- Lenny stated that he will find out more information on the NIGC letter and provide the RBC with a recommendation for the Gaming Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 24th.

Contest of the Election; Copies were provided to the RBC. Lenny stated to file a response on behalf of the Election Board. Lenny stated that how Election Boards have been handled in the past is that the Attorney for the Tribe represents the Election Board. Lenny will meet with the Election Board to ask them questions. Tara commented on the Election Board and two years ago removing three Board members for releasing information to one candidate. Lenny stated to make a determination what is true and not true.

Brief discussion held on the Roles in the Legal Department. Lenny stated that last week it was announced that Veronica would be the Interim in the Legal department and would take over Joe's position. Lenny had asked what the RBC expectations are and were they thinking that he would come in as Tribal Attorney when he was able to become a full time basis. Tara was under the impression that it would take some time before he would come on and the need to have Interim due to the amount of work in the Legal department. Lenny would like to have a staff meeting and figure out what every ones roles are. Tara asked Mike to follow up with the directors and see when Legal can receive the lists of documents that needed legal review. Lenny stated that there needs to be a separation of the departments in Judicial between Courts and Legal. Lenny stated that they are in need of office space. First few weeks will be triage and see where they are.

Meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 12: 55 p.m.

Softball League Entry Fees; [REDACTED]

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Electrical:

Steven would like to increase electrical to \$3,000. Tara asked Ken to follow up with Scott and see what their balances are. Tara stated that if she has \$2,000 left she would give a \$1,000 to Steven and \$1,000.00 to Kathy. Kathy stated to wait and see what their balances are before they move forward with the increase.

Rice Lake Grave Yard Plots:

Katherine Warren present. Brief discussion held on the grave yard in Rice Lake. Steven stated that they are running out of room in this area and need grave yard plots. Katherine brought maps for the RBC to review. Katherine stated having the cultural department be more involved with the cemeteries process in expanding and identifying the existing cemeteries. Tara asked Mike to send an email to the Cultural program to have a meeting with the Land office regarding the cemeteries. Katherine stated that they need a Burial Ordinance due to families wanting to bury their family on their home sites and they are making this a policy in the Land office; however, some families are continuing to do this. For future leases this would make it difficult to lease the land out to others tribal members. Tara commented on Fee Lands. Katherine stated that they have to register with the County so they are aware that they buried family in their yard. Katherine also stated to have a committee in place for consultation for burial sites. Steven asked her to follow up with Al Fox on the planning to expand the cemetery for Rice Lake.

Tara commented on the TEC meeting on the 26th & 27th

- Land
 - 3,000 acres
 - Report on the findings on the Audit
 - Agreement between MCT

Brief discussion held on property list.

Katherine stated that they bought everything in Naytahwaush that she had on her list. Tara asked how many acres they bought total. Katherine stated that they bought 18 different parcels. Tara asked if the Casino property made it into the inventory list. Katherine is waiting for the paper work to come back. Tara commented on White Earth Housing and once White Earth Housing buys land property they need to send to the Land office for inventory. Katherine stated that White Earth Housing has not kept very good communication on their land purchases with the White Earth Land office. Tara stated ultimately they are going to Trust on everything. Tara asked if they can check with legal if they technically can be only land. Katherine stated that if they buy land they need to put into the name of the Tribe not White Earth Housing, which is causing a conflict with titles. Katherine stated that in the end all the right documents should be sent to the RBC. Tara stated that if they can get something for their inventory from the Casino properties

and if needed Legal can draft a letter regarding the Land purchases coming through White Earth Land office and the importance of this. Katherine stated that she drafted a Resolution giving her the signing authority for land purchases. Tara asked Ken to have Scott send her the statement of operations for land purchases. Katherine commented on her full time Attorney. Tara stated that Lenny will be doing some restructuring in the Legal department and to contact Lenny regarding the need for an Attorney in the Land office. Katherine also stated that [REDACTED] did not pass his State Bar.

Katherine would like to meet with the RBC and the Attorneys on what is happening on Hwy 200. MNDOT is pushing for this big project and with the Roads department they want to be an accomplished project being done; however, cannot ignore that fact that MNDOT has been trespassing for over 60 years and some places are getting a good monetary value for that trespass also there needs to be discussion on this matter.

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to adjourn at 1:49 p.m., Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason Secretary/Treasurer