

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council  
Special Meeting  
April 24, 2017 –11:00 a.m.  
Mahnomen, MN**

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Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called meeting to order at 11:09 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman  
Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasure  
Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative  
Eugene Tibbetts, District III Representative

Absent: Steven Clark, District I Representative

Others Present: Ken Fox, Executive Director  
Maria Bevins, Recorder

**Agenda Approval with additions**

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

**RTC Meeting Minutes (04/17/17)**

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve with changes, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

**Calendar Review**

**Tabled Business**

Clinic in NTW  
Consensus approval from council

**Land Office**

Brief discussion on abandoned homes in the area. Kathy stated she has tried contacting the Land Office over a year regarding this issue. Old abandoned houses and trailer homes need to be taken care of in the NTW area. Terry stated 90 days for trailer homes for abandonment. Ken was asked to follow up with the Land Office regarding this issue.

**Saving Our Spirit (SOS)**

Kathy commented on funding for SOS family first day. Each of the 7 communities received [REDACTED] from the SOS committee for this event, however, Kathy is requesting another [REDACTED] for NTW, Mahnomen & White Earth, for these are the larger communities. Kathy would like to see a larger community SOS budget. Brief discussion for family first week events.

Motion by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Eugene Tibbetts. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

***Meeting Recessed at 11:55 a.m.***

***Meeting Reconvened at 12:10 p.m.***

### **White Earth Tribal and Community College**

Tracy Clark and Sue Heisler present from the WETCC. Tracy attended The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Student Conference in March. Tracy gave the Council a Draft Tribal Council Resolution. This Resolution is asking President Trump to endorse Indian Higher Education. Education is a high priority for White Earth and our Tribal Members. Brief discussion on Resolution. Tara stated Resolution needs to go through Legal for review. Tracy started as Interim President at the college last June. A letter that was received from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has guided Tracy to improve educational achievement of the WETCC. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Institutional Status and Requirements shows the Accreditation Status of the WETCC. Accreditation is limited to the Associates Degree level.

Tracy stated WETCC has to apply for substantial change; evaluate, documentation and meeting standards. WETCC is off probation and is under monitoring. WETCC was required to host a focused evaluation last October. This was to focus on assessment of student learning; attention to retention, and completion rates; resources; and strategic planning. If progress does not continue or if other compliance issues develop at WETCC this can lead to the college being put back on probation. The Strategic Plan was not coherent, however, rewritten since then. Brief discussion on student learning outcomes, every class will have this. Tara asked are you talking about the Rubrics and how does this work. Tracy stated ongoing assessment of student learning. The assigned work is divided into components and provides clear description of the work associated with each component. Tracy doing data collections at the college. Tara asked how many students does the WETCC have, Tracy stated 85 and her goal is to increase 5% per year. 14 graduates this year and Graduation is on May 6th.

***Terry Left Meeting at 12:40 p.m.***

***Terry Returned at 1:20 p.m.***

Terry asked about; electrical, plumbing, carpentry courses and Kathy asked about offering courses to students off the reservation for distance learning. Brief discussion on WETCC courses offered. Tara asked does WETCC need to have numbers for enrollment, also there should be a meeting with the Board of Trustees with all the Tribal Colleges regarding distance learning courses and certificate courses. WETCC needs to advertised, examples; Facebook, paper, summer courses (List out classes that are offered), recruitment, certificates for soft skills training, opportunity for employment. Brief discussion on employment. Tracy stated for recruitment WETCC attends:

- Powwows
- Career Fairs
  - Mahnomen

- Waubun
- COLA
- RTC events
- High School basketball games (would like to do more of this)

WETCC overall goal is to become compliance with the Higher Learning Commission.

***Meeting Recessed at 1:03 p.m.***

***Meeting Reconvened at 1:20 p.m.***

Office in Cass Lake, consensus to give away.

**White Earth Information Technology 8a, LLC**

Michael Neusser Present. Michael referenced the White Earth Information Technology, LLC Resolution. Tara asked if this will cost anything and is there a business plan. Michael stated "No" for the cost, just the submitting of the LLC paperwork. IT entity creating a business plan. Ken will follow up with IT regarding this plan.

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve Resolution #001-17-012 & Resolution #001-17-013, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

HEMP Budget Equipment:

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Brief discussion on Property Management. Michael stated to start with a business plan for this. Property Management indicates the need to manage, monitor and accountability for the RTC buildings. Comment on who is taking care of these properties and safety concerns of the RTC property. Mike stated to find a company that will be able to access all the RTC properties and move forward with this. Council approved to move forward with Property Management.

DW Jones:

- White Earth Congregate Housing
- Dream Catcher Homes
- Giwanikimin

Housing:

- Round house
- Housing Homes
- Mahnomen Apartments

### **Driveway Construction Program**

Eugene Vivier, Bucky Tibbetts and Mike Bowman present. Brief discussion on roads projects and Hwy 200 project with MnDOT. Eugene stated they will be widening Hwy 200 from east & west. Raising the road, lights and turning lights at the intersection. Environmental work is complete for this project. Proposal for joint vendor split, Tribe to help pay half the cost [REDACTED] Edward Fairbanks present from DOT. Tara stated, will MnDOT be willing to match 50% on other projects other than Hwy 200 for White Earth. Edward stated he don't have an answer, however, stated the attended plan for Hwy 200, safety plan for lights and turning lights. Projects that are ready will look for additional funding. Jody Martinson, District Engineer plans to share the cost on the Hwy 200 plan. Brief discussion on the environment and the affects, also Federal regulations. Edward stated the things that fall through the cracks are trying to get fixed now. Brief discussion on Roads maintenance.

***Kathy left meeting at 2:06 p.m.***

***Kathy Returned at 2:13 p.m.***

Terry asked about the TIGER grants, are they still available. Edward stated "yes". Mike stated TIGER grant can fund projects that have a local match as low as 20% of the total projects costs, if you're going to buy into it. Tribe & State you need to buy into all of it. [REDACTED] will help with cost/match, 30% application process. Tara stated that White Earth has so many needs, also what are our priorities for transportation in general. RTC needs to make sure we exhausted everything and look at the reservation as a whole. Mike stated working on larger transportation plan, safety plan and project readiness. Tara asked the cost to maintenance roads. Edward stated road formulas; the amount of miles on the road; what the road may look like; curves in the roads all factors of formulas. Tara stated she would like to see these formulas. Edward will send the formulas to the Tribal Council. Discussion on road maintenance for; county roads 4,2 & 129.

Ken was asked to set up date/times for a meeting with Jodi Martinson, District Engineer to follow up with concerns.

***Meeting Recessed at 2:44 p.m.***

***Meeting Reconvened at 3:00 p.m.***

### **Water & Sewer**

Discussion on White Earth 50-50 SDS projects for IHS and Existing Homes. There are 12 homes on the list. Six of the 12 homes qualify for MFHA. The estimated cost for replacing these systems would be [REDACTED] They have enough money to cover the exiting site lists, however, Shawn Gant wanted to seek another SDS 50-50 project through IHS. Terry asked about the MFHA Grant and the possibly to split the grant between Housing & Water & Sewer. Jeff stated may not be a good idea for this. Recommending the hold off on the MFHA Grant this year and put in for this grant next year. Water & Sewer one of each; Existing & New Construction both off reservation. Jessica Jackson (New Construction for Well & Sewer) & Gerald McDougall (Existing Sewer System).

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve both Existing & New Construction, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Eugene will attend meetings with the Council for monthly updates and lists for Water & Sewer.

***Meeting Recessed at 2:44 p.m.***

***Meeting Reconvened at 3:00 p.m.***

### **COLA Flex Learning Calendar**

Mary Otto Present on discussion on Flex Learning Calendar for COLA.

- Benefits of Learning
- Program Enrichment
- Promotes Self-Care and Family Connections
- Family Structure and Stability

COLA 2017-2018 calendar shows the optional programming, during this time COLA will have cultural camps and tutoring if they need extra time with work. The COLA School Board Meeting was on April 5th, handout included meeting minutes, also the COLA resources generated by American Indian Students.

Tara asked about Para's collecting unemployment, also if the Para's have to work a certain amount of hours before getting unemployment. Mary meets with COLA on Wednesday to go over the contracts, she will have a answer after the meeting. Tara asked about optional programming are the buses going to run during these times. Mary stated Boys and Girls club buses will run 8-noon academic and for afterschool activities. Brief discussion on student enrollment and staff. Mary stated review of the legal documentation and doing amendment to it for student enrollment, also working with Ricky White on sustaining programs and staff.

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against. Public Hearing Meeting in Mahnomen tonight at 7:00 p.m.

### **Other**

Tribal Premium Sponsorship:

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve Resolution # 064-17-002, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Summer Recreational for Rice Lake & Pine Bend:

Mary Otto stated Terri Darco is working on brochures for this program. Goal is to run all day, community interest for summer programming. Additional youth workers for Waubun site and Ogema site. Buses will be running in area communities. Mary will send council the brochures when completed.

Wild Rice donation:

Council approved 10 pounds for Bii Di Gain Anwebi Elder Housing Resident Council (MPLS)

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Eugene Tibbetts. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Discussion on the Hall Rental Agreement. The agreement will be sent to Joe Plumer for legal review.

DCH:

Eugene stated there was complaints regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] staff followed the chain of commands, however, nothing has been done with the complaints. Ken will follow up with these complaints.

Discussion on ICW Committees start dates. Eugene commented on the workers at ICW regarding some employees having no education. Kathy stated this board needs to be started ASAP, need to move forward with this and training needs to be provided for the board. Brief discussion on Respite and on the MATS Program. Consensus approval to move forward with committee.

Apartments in Mahnomen:

Discussion on [REDACTED] apartment. In March there was an inspection completed on [REDACTED] apartment, a request came from IHS because the possibility of mold and in the report submitted to the Housing Authority recommendation given was to investigate further levels of "formaldehyde". Kathy stated there were two deaths at the apartments and a family of five have breathing problems due to the mold. There has been many concerns about the apartments. Alan Fagarty, IHS has found federal dollars to help with testing on these apartments.

Day Labor:

Kathy stated she asked for this along time ago, look at how much money we could have saved 50% of the cost, [REDACTED] Ken stated waiting on the rediscovery board to sign off on this and the paper work. Council wants to move forward with this. Ken was asked to follow up with asking [REDACTED] be the coordinator for this and from legal to get back to the Council on a date. Need Day Labor policies.

Second Garbage Truck by Shooting Star Casino:

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Brief discussion on the use of Company Vehicles. Tara stated refer to the HR policy on this.

Brief discussion on Administration Day. Consensus approval for meal at Shooting Star Casino.

Brief discussion on White Earth Builders.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Tara Mason at 4:14 p.m. to adjourn, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

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Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer