

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Quarterly Meeting
April 19, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Pine Point, MN**

Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

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

Absent: Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative

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

Agenda Approval

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

Quarterly Meeting Minutes Approval (January 26th, 2017)

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

Program Updates

White Earth Housing Authority:

Steve Howard, White Earth Housing Director present. Steven stressed the importance of the work orders and being the first priority since January. 700 work orders were called in and 88% complete. Any works orders that need to be done please contact WE Housing Authority. Shakopee Grant will replace 40 worn-out furnaces and fire extinguishers. All the fire extinguishers are all installed with 20 or more to go for furnaces. WE Housing may have enough money to get 2 more furnaces. WE Housing Authority annual budget contains left over dollars from last year, utilizing these funds for maintenance materials and addressing work orders has been a priority. The next quarter budget Steven will present to council in June. Mold Grant project over 2 years old, nothing has been completed. Taking bids for roof, siding and interior work, also all the furnaces. Comment regarding Project Homes that need remodeling because of the mold. Brief discussion on mold. Policy and Procedures; Policies were not followed. The next couple of months WE Housing Authority will be reviewing and updating all policies.

Rents are over 80 % delinquent right now. Steven stated he realizes that they receive money from HUD, however, money WE Housing Authority brings in from rent they utilize for maintenance. Comment on New Projects needing remodeling and roofing. Steven stated the biggest problem in these homes are the ventilation and heating setup. The grant they received is about mold removal. Comment on WE Housing Authority doing a great job for the community by getting the houses completed. Brief discussion on fires. Comment on 1 unit that was lost due to a fire, will this be rebuilt? Steven stated "No", Insurance covers this, however, insurance don't cover all of it. WE Housing Authority has to eat some of the costs with programs budget due to fires. Leonard Roy commented on the SOTN. He spoke with a few WE Housing Authority maintenance men and they feel good about working and moving forward. He got positive feedback from them. Steven stated he involves everyone on daily operations and relies on staff for their previous knowledge. Discussion on boarded up houses. Comment on homes that do open up go to other communities. Steven stated priority to enrolled members, elders and descendants. Comment on homes on Hwy 129, is housing waiting for the homes to burn and what is WE Housing Authority doing about these homes? Steven stated to have homes phased out and trying to address home priority. Comment on Tribal members being homeless, what can the RTC do to help people with housing so we don't have to follow HUD guidelines. Steven stated HUD guidelines is for low rent, however, tax credit homes there is no available dollars. Applying for RFP community development grant.

Comment on bids to remodel homes. Steve stated anything over \$5,000.00 needs to be bided on. Everyone can bid, open to the public and most qualified is a bid proposal. Comment on what is a qualified bid. Steven stated consists of bid, actual quotes and proposals. Lowest qualified bid gets the contract. Comment on what is a qualified worker. Steven stated based on experience, expectable work and to get the best contractor for the best price. Comment on Tribal member preference vs. Non Tribal members. Steven stated an example; \$50,000.00 contract and White Earth enrollee bids at 10% his bid coming in at \$4,500.00, is the lowest bid.

White Earth Indian Health Service:

Alan Fogarty, CEO, present for Indian Health Service. Updates; Major projects at the main clinic in White Earth. 10.5 million expansion/renovation. Alan stated that they will go through White Earth Builders to contract with the architectural firm EAPC out of Bemidji, MN. They are meeting with them and gathering information on how much clinical space they may need, additional specialty clinics that they want to offer at the clinic and space requirements for this. Alan stated after gathering all the information needed for this they will schedule some community meetings to get community feedback on what you would like to see as part of the expansions/remodel at for the main clinic, also working with the council to include the cultural components are addressed and done properly as well. Alan thanked the RTC for the new clinic in Naytahwaush, the 2,700 square foot of brand new construction facility. Great project for the long term health of the White Earth people. The Tribal Council pays for the clinic to be built and the Federal Government commits to reimbursing 85% of the staffing, maintenance and improvement dollars to keep the facility maintained. Brief discussion on Medical Providers at the Indian Health Service. A Podiatrist just hired at the clinic, full time coming on board 5 days a week and hoping to set up at Pine Point and Naytahwaush one day a week in each of those

clinics. Nursing; 6-7 nursing vacancies down to two vacancies and interviews on Friday April 21st. Family Practice Providers (shortage nationally); Two Family Practice and one Internal Medicine vacancies right now filling those positions with contract providers, usually come on 3-4 month rotation and move onto another site. Proactive measures in conjunction with the Tribal Council to get those positions filled and long term access to Medical School Graduates, working with the University Of MN School Of Medicine to get med students to come and do rotations here in White Earth.

Comment on moral issues at the clinic in White Earth. They went to the Union Representative, however, the Union Representative is gone and they didn't get the help they needed. Alan asked if they had access to another Union Representative, also to get in touch with the head of the Union, all employees know who their Union Representative is and they should ask them to follow the chain of commands. Comment on paying Union dues but having no Representation. Alan stated the Union is a complete separate entity from Administration and the Union is there to represent the employees and the employees have direct access to them. Eugene asked if there is a Union Stewart they can go to. Alan stated there was a Union Stewart at the Indian Health Service but they quit doing those duties, there is a Union Stewart at the Bellcourt Indian Health Service and can be accessed by email or phone. Brief discussion on poor moral, Union Representatives and process. Alan stated understanding the Union and what they can help with and their rights. Comment on employees not understanding what a Union Representative is and how it really works. Alan stated that is part of the employees orientation, they go to the area office for half a day, and they are represented by Liuna and 2/3 of the day orientation at the Indian Health Service that is required for our accreditation, we also offer the Union to spend one hour with the employees. Comment on racial discrimination at the Indian Health Service. Alan stated the majority of the people they hire at the Indian Health Service are Native, over 50 % of the management team at the clinic are Native and the business office has over 9 or 10 White Earth Enrolled women that manage the whole business office. Comment on weekends, open on Saturday's. Alan stated one of his main goals is access to care and extend hours to evenings on weekdays and weekends.

Comment on Medicare. Alan stated working with the Financial services program and setting up meetings. Tara stated this was talked about at the last elders meeting at the White Earth Congregate April 11th, it was noted that if you had a renewal coming up for Medical Assistance those are not mailed from the Financial Services office, they are computer generated notification that will go out, and you will get this information from the State of MN. Brief discussion on Medical Assistance. Alan stated patients can meet with Financial Services regarding these issues, also there are navigators through Indian Health Service that can assist with helping patients or Pat Butlers Home Health Program.

WETCC:

Kami Lohtka Present from the White Earth and Community College. The College Graduation is May 5th at 2:00 p.m., 14 students participating and 20 GED graduates. Students attended the AIHEC conference in South Dakota to participate and honor students from WETCC. Sponsored the 1st Spring Powwow that was held at the Shooting Star Casino last Saturday. They honored our staff and students for their hard work and dedication. Received a grant and partnered with Credo Financial Aide to measure the students success, it is called Project Success. Some of WETCC staff are going to Chicago next week to discuss what the outcomes are and how we can measure our student's success in our area. Three staff attended the Higher Learning Conference in Chicago three weeks ago. We have been preparing for a site visit in October for our accreditation. Working hard on policies and getting them ready for our Council of Trustees to approve. Lack of policies about a year ago and working hard to get that processed. Process of applying for the American Indian College Fund grant for renovation of the WaDuke building for the Anishinaabe Arts Center, construction will start in the next couple months and open sometime this summer. Almost done with the Great Plains accounting software and go live date is May 1st along with Shooting Star Casino. Currently enrolling fall and summer semester students and now offering free tuition for the summer semester. Comment regarding summer courses. Kami stated there are 5 courses that are offered and free tuition, in the summer months they do not do the Federal Pell for students. Comment on enrollment for classes. Kami stated first day of class is May 15th, and can enroll one week prior. They are 3 credit classes, means 3 hours a week. They also have Elder community culture waivers, for a semester you can take one class free of charge, but still have to buy your books unless you are on the Elder waiver. Comment on how many students the College has. Kami stated currently have 85 students. At the beginning of the year the college had around 113 students. Do to students having family issues, medical or other issues, students dropped out. Comment on Eligibility for WETCC. Kami stated any one can attend the college. Comment on White Earth History. Kami stated the college hired a full time faculty, David DeGroat for Native Emphasis and he is working on a curriculum for the White Earth History class. Brief discussion on transportation and classes for elders. Comment on Elders knowledge, and how are they reimbursed. Kami stated they invite anyone to come into the WETCC to help and an honorarium is given for their time.

Meeting Recessed at 11:34 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

Elders:

Lucille "Teedo" Silk present for White Earth Reservation Elders. Concerns from the last meeting regarding; housing repairs; completing the jobs and safety issues for elders that are in these homes all over the White Earth reservation. WE Congregate Housing used to be a safe place for elders, elders do not feel comfortable in their own homes, also theft concerns at WE Congregate Housing. Joan Thompson, elder living at WE Congregate Housing stated she spoke with the manager regarding these issues. WE Congregate is a home for the elders and they need to feel safe. There are more young people, drug use, and drug trafficking also loud music at the WE Congregate Housing. There are vulnerable elderly that are being taking advantage of. Elders live in fear in their own homes. Teedo understands that handicap person can live here as

well, however, have seen a lot more young people living here. Michael Fairbanks stated that Chad Johnson is working on the issues and these complaints, also the complaints need to be in writing. Tara stated she has spoken to Mike LaRoque regarding these issues also security officers are contacting management, and submitting reports. Brief discussion on eviction notices. Teedo also stated her biggest concern is the safety for elders.

Brief discussion on moral issues at the Indian Health Service. Concerns about our own people being harassed. The moral is bad and managers are not doing what they need to do by following the chain of commands. Representatives at the Indian Health Service need to address these moral issues that have been an ongoing concern.

Teedo would like to thank the council for the help with the elders attending the conference in Walker, MN on April 3rd, 15 elders attended this, she would also like to see and incorporate adult daycare center to help keep elders minds and bodies healthy for all our communities. There were no elders meetings January through March due to the weather. April 11th was the first meeting of the year and meetings are held on the first of every month, next meeting May 2nd, meetings are rotated throughout the reservation. Meeting concerns are brought back to council to address.

Teedo commented on the TEC meeting in Fond du Lac tomorrow regarding the Referendum vote on Blood Quantum. The people need to decide on this. Elders trying to be involved with this process all that they can. Smoke Restaurant; some elders like it and some do not, prices are too high and on elders day they didn't acknowledge the coupons from the elders. Elders have an organization committee and we do this all on our own and don't get paid for the meetings they attend. Request to plan MPLS trip; need a bigger bus to do this, Teedo will start a list for this trip. They will pay \$20.00 per room using their wisdom steps card. Elder committee is separate from Wisdom steps. Kathy asked about recruitment, put in the paper and Involve more elders.

Brief discussion on youth. Harvey Bonga stated how are the elders getting involved with the youth, for instance if the youth did something wrong they would speak to an elder regarding what happened, this would help with the kids. Teedo stated she would like to do something for the youth. Elders have the sewing center organized and have enough material to help with sewing and elders can help teach the youth groups. Tara stated WERTC have wellness programs, youth participate with these program and the elders can participate with some of these meeting. Teedo stated they reached out to the programs and haven't heard back, however, willing to work with the programs.

Brief discussion on TEC Meeting and the Revised Constitutional change. Terry stated the TEC meeting is regarding The Revised Constitution & Bylaws of the MCT to amend the existing Constitution to allow for a change in the membership rolls of the MCT. Tara stated that two Resolutions were approved at the last Tribal Executive Committee meeting held in St. Paul, MN. Both Resolutions call for a Secretarial Election, this will be discussed at the TEC meeting. Resolutions are needed to allow for a change in the membership rolls of MCT to decide on the

timeline to vote, this will included verified First Nation Anishinaabe blood and will affect all across the MCT areas. Red Lake is having own discussions. Comment with concerns; making sure we are being consistence with the language, interior of the MCT Constitution. Brief discussion on Constitution. Terry stated we need to get all our communities together because it is going to affect us all. Tara commented on the election ordinance, a process, and start talking about this, make a criteria, voting and concerns of absentee ballots.

Callaway: Not Present

Elbow Lake: Not Present

Iron Range: Not Present

Mahnomen:

Mary Gagnon, present from Mahnomen Community Council. First Powwow for Ziigwan Niimi'idiwin/1st Annual Spring Dance was held Saturday, April 15th at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. The Spring Dance had two grand entries, 10 drums and a total of 115 dancers.

Donations:

- \$10,000.00 (RTC)
- \$5,000.00 (WETCC)
- \$3,000.00 (Behavioral Health)

Looking into future events:

- 1/2 take bingo
- Projector outside movies

Pat Kier new council member, due to one member resigning. Meetings are on Tuesday's of each month at the Veterans Center.

Naytahwaush: Not Present

Northeast White Earth (Cass Lake): Not Present

Pine Point:

Mike Swan present for Pine Point Community Council. Family first day at the Pine Point School on May 9th. Community had questions regarding Community Cleanup for Pine Point. Elder appreciation day next month in May and Pine Point is honoring one elder, also music festival in July and Pine Point Powwow second week in August. Miigwech to the Tribal Council for the 1.5 million for the renovation of the Old Pine Point School.

Rice Lake: Not Present

White Earth:

Tim St. Clair present for White Earth Community Council. WE Community Council held an Easter Hunt last Saturday, April 15th at the WE Community Center. Family First Day, date/times TBD, will have flyers for this event. On Saturday, April 22nd, Elders day at the WE Congregate Housing, change of season breakfast. We just finished the Sugar Bush season. Breakfast will be:

- Maple syrup
- Sausage
- Cornbread

At noon there will be a Bingo to win house hold items. Chris's program donated prizes. More dates/times for events to be discussed.

White Earth (Urban):

Marcy Hart present from White Earth (Urban) Community Council, she brought with her; Gert Rock - Borowski and Geraldine Jackson. On April 3rd, Elders from the urban area attended the State of the Band Address and the White Earth Tribal Council helped with this travel, also the snacks for the elders. The Community Council meets every Tuesday of the month and they are recruiting more members. The Urban area had two elder lunches this year and 20 elders attended. Elder's luncheon is every third Saturday of each month and a bingo. Currently have one family activity day, this will be held May 19 with cultural specific activities and prizes. Large event July 15, over at the Minnehaha Park. Younger group love to volunteer and 40 youth helped over Christmas.

Waubun: Not Present

Veterans: Not Present

Meeting Recessed at 1:35 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 1:54 p.m.

Other

Brief discussion on targeting people at funerals. Sam Crowell has a concern regarding funerals. Sam stated that Police officers arrested someone at a funeral, and this is not a place to be coming in an arresting someone. Mike LaRoque stated his Police Officers were called to a home for a disturbance, the guy arrested had a DOC warrant and was arrested at a home not a funeral. None of the Tribal Officers go into the wakes/funerals. Mike Stated he knows of a State cop that thought he was going into an area he thought was a party because of the Spirit fire, however, he did not know what these were at that time. Mike also stated that this has been addressed with the surrounding counties. Mike stated he will invite other Police staff to cultural trainings so they have an understanding of the culture here on the White Earth Reservation. Any others questions regarding the wakes/funerals and Tribal Police please contact Mike LaRoque. Harvey commented on Tribal law/ Tribal Police and Internal affairs, also Public law 180 & 280, regarding the court system. Mike stated these questions are for Tribal Council. Comment on if his Deputies are state licensed Mike stated "Yes". Comment on arrests that are

violating 1855 treaty, with this they are violating our treaty rights. Brief discussion on 1855 Treaty. Terry stated that any other items for discussion for the Quarterly Meeting Agenda, please contact Ken Fox, Executive Director.

Adjourn

Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to adjourn at 2:13 p.m., Seconded by Tara Mason. Motioned carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer