

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
Quarterly Meeting
January 26th, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.
White Earth, MN**

Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Lucille "Teedo" Silk was asked to give the opening ceremony/blessing.

Present: Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, Chairman
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
Tabitha Chilton, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Motion made by Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts to approve agenda with additions. Seconded by Tara Mason. 4 for, 0 against, 0 silent.

Quarterly Meeting Minute Approval (October 13th, 2016)

Motion made by Tara Mason, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin, 4 for, 0 against, 0 silent.

Program Updates

White Earth Indian Health Service - Alan Fogerty, CEO, present for IHS.
Almost complete with choosing architectural firm for main clinic. Need more exam rooms to increase number of specialty services provided. Quadruple physical therapy and occupational therapists to address in timely manner. Struggle recruiting medical providers, working with Tribal Council and U of M medical school. Will be a few years out. Working with UND as well. Need to find providers that would be willing to live on the reservation. Patients do not like seeing different providers for each visit. 218-983-6214 Alan's direct number. Dr. Schaefer and Dr. Shriner have stayed employed. In order to meet the standards of the community, they need to recruit more Doctor's and will receive more revenue. Expand to open until 7:30 will need two family practice and one internal medicine. Comment on difference between IHS patients and Public Health. Alan stated that need to be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. If a patient comes in with an urgent need, they can be seen once but with the second visit, they need to have verification. There are eligibility criteria's already in place, there are no options for White Earth to change it themselves. Criteria is posted at the clinic. Comment on enrollees who do not look Indian and are plenty of them, had council members who are less than 1/8. Comment on moral

issues again for Indian and non-Indian employees. Elder council has concerns about moral issues reflecting on patients. Alan stated that he will have the issues looked at. Comment on disregard of employment human rights at the tribal level, specifically termination. Alan stated that there are well defined policies that are being followed. Alan stated that he cannot discuss personnel issues in an open forum. Comment on a public meeting of employee policies. Alan stated that the employees have a union that they can be brought to. If there are specific issues, they can reach him. Comment on the union not helping either and EEO issues. EEO counselors are provided, there is not one specifically for White Earth. Bernice Belgarde is EEO in Belgrade. Comment on IHS being connected with the treaties. 40% of operating budget comes from congress, other 60% comes from third party. IHS was established because of treaty rights, but not fully funded from Congress. Punky stated that he would like to see the complaint box in better sight.

White Earth Housing Authority - Steve Howard, Housing Director, President.

Onigum. Previous ED of Leech Lake. Policy and Procedure driven individual. Government Lobbyist, state and federal. Fifteen years of construction experience. Biggest problems is processing work orders. Might have a little slow down at first, but speed up. Analyzing in the next couple weeks the problems that need to be taken care of. Comment on many houses that are being boarded. Steve stated that he is going to concentrate on one house at a time instead of jumping around to different houses at a time. Comment on non-enrolled members living in brand new housing and enrolled members not being able to get in any. Steve stated that he will go off of the housing list, White Earth members first, Descendants and other MCT enrolled members. Umsy asked what the process for rehabbing, if it will be every other district instead of working on each district at a time. Approximately fifty houses are boarded up at the moment. Terry stated that this is one of Steve's main priority and to look for new funding. Emergency issues are addressed first. Comment on having more workers. Steve stated that it is all about the funding. Comment on paying rent to fix their own house and being reimbursed for fixing it up. Steve stated that it's not a process at the moment, but will be looked into. Steve stated that his door is always open. Comment about members being on fixed income and not being able to take care of some things. They should be taken care of by White Earth. Comment on plowing driveways that are being boarded up and still having a heat source. Steve stated that there is a total of 12 maintenance staff and take difference communities upon request. Steve stated that he is willing to meet with anybody, his personal number is 218-214-1105. Steve stated that there is not a lot of money that is coming from HUD. Living document that needs to be changed for the times. Comment on replacing lights in Naytahwaush for the kids from the Boys and Girls Club can walk home safely. Comment on buses not driving kids home after the club is over, kids are needing to walk. Comment of Housing representatives for Communities. Steve stated that he will address tenant services.

Umsy left at 11:08 a.m.

Returned at 11:10 a.m.

White Earth Tribal & Community College - Tracey Clark, Interim President, present for WETCC.

Tracey stated that she is an update that will be put up on the website as well. Tracey stated that she is from the reservation but has not been on the reservation for the last fifteen years. Has been interim president for seven months. Provide education for people and graduate them. College might look a little different. Census count is 85 active students this semester, with full time being 54. Elder and community waivers for cultural classes. Expect to graduate thirteen students in May. Full council members or trustee, Sue Heisler, Dean Jhonson, Joy Annette, Joan Lavoy, Mike Fairbanks, Nicole and Merlin Deegan. College was put on probation, but pulling themselves out and doing everything possible. Working on being an accredited college. Offer 34 courses. Social work and Nursing are two needed areas for White Earth. MSUM coming to WETCC to offer last two years to our campus for the four year program. Duluth stated that they would be willing to partner with WETCC. Professor training employees in tracking. Different workshops and outreach to the communities are for everybody. Industrial Hemp research partnering with U of M for research. WERTC gives over half a million dollars in allocations. Finished strategic plan and submitted to COT and approved. Reports monthly with a worksheet form to monitor. \$280,000 a year in Pell grants that students qualify for. WETCC is least expensive tuition in the state. Criminal backgrounds can still apply for financial aid. Eleven students nominated for AHAP scholarship, in South Dakota. Peggy Chism is contact for financial aid. Language tables every Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Lew Murray is offering drum classes 38 events have been hosted since the October quarterly meeting. Good reviews from audit. Alliance with all tribal colleges in Minnesota for distant education. Umsy commented about different training certifications that can be done. PSEO students is high school kids can take college credits and get credits. Tara stated that there is a young tribal member will be graduating from high school and college with an AA at the same time. Comment about Tribal Council taking an Ojibwemowin class together.

***Kathy left at 11:12 a.m.
Returned at 11:19 am.***

***Tara left at 11:18 a.m.
Returned at 11:24 a.m.***

***Terry left at 11:29 a.m.
Returned at 11:32 a.m.***

***Lunch Break at 11:49 a.m.
Returned at 12:41 a.m.
Steven "Punky" Clark left at 12:41 a.m.
Returned at 1:51 p.m.***

Community Council Updates

Elders - Lucille "Teedo" Silk present for WE Elders.

Four or Five people retiring from IHS because of moral issues. Getting jobs for Tribal Member to fill when they get done with College. Safety issues with thefts because of the drug problem. Elder's are being harassed and a lot of traffic in their buildings. Request police officers to go into the building and complete welfare checks. Comment on individuals being under the influence

and elder's were afraid to get out of the bus, police were called. Concerns about dogs being dangerous and unable to go for walks or have their children out. Still having issues with housing and getting help to fix things. If being fixed, only to a certain point. Wish list is to have furniture or appliances. Comment about an elder that is not enrolled who will not receive help, but has lived on the reservation her entire life and her husband was enrolled. Visited with Leech Lake on their adult daycare center, would like within the community. Keeping in touch with Mike LaRoque, police Chief. Comment on people who are not elders, under the influence living in Congregate Housing. Comment from community elder letter about working with RTC and not forgetting the people who have voted for them. More elders are voicing their opinions. Request to have Elder's higher up on the agenda. Umsy stated that there are conversations about getting more activities for the elders and third party billing.

Terry stated that Elder's should sit down with Mike LaRoque and speak about the drug activities going on within the community. Keeping elder's in our community where they belong. Working with IGGP or Housing to work with them. Comment on looking for satellite business to work with the reservation. Tara stated that Economic Development is working on getting that business together. Comment on working with an adult daycare and moving forward. Tara stated \$150,000 for two more elder advocates to keep communication open. Jackie Hariluk and Tia Wadena are the new elder advocates. Comment on Jackie being able to get back into the congregate building. There are two slot machines at the casino that go for the elder's and the youth. Purchased six, class two machines that were being played the most and using average. Machines are located next to high stakes.

Callaway - Not Present

Elbow Lake - Not Present

Iron Range - Louie Johansen, Vice Chairman, present for Iron Range Community Council. Thanksgiving get together, Christmas party was expecting Council to join. Weather might have affected. Community with legal team. Meetings are first tuesday of every month, 6:30 at the Greenway Township Hall.

Mahnomen - Mary Gagnon, Chairman, present for Mahnomen Community Council. Vet's building being used until get a new building. Four members, one resigned so seeking a new member. October, Fall Festival, November, BINGO, December, Toys for Tots served over 200 families. February having Valentine's Day, March having a snow sculpture contest depending on how much snow there is. April 15th having the Spring pow wow with two grand entries at Shooting Star Casino.

Northeast White Earth (Cass Lake) - Leo Blair, Vice Chairman, present for Cass Lake. Legion building needs to be worked on and would liked ideas on how to renovate. They want to know when they are able to open the building. Terry stated they needed to figure out a land situation for the contract. Worry about another reservation being untrustworthy.

Naytahwaush - Karen present for Naytahwaush community council. Tim Roy came to meeting to set up Spay/Neuter in April. Family first in May. Street name signs, putting drop boxes to get suggestions from the community.

Pine Point - Gerald "Jeep" Roberts, Vice Chairman, present for Pine Point Community
December had Christmas party with around 320 people. Asked to go to other communities parties. Bought bikes for children. 14th year anniversary, giving away gift certificates and other items. February 8th will be having Anniversary BINGO. Appreciate Toys for Tots and Council help. Meet second Thursday every month at the Old School. Comment on monthly reports. Jeep stated that they do yearly reports. Took in \$16,226, pow wow, sponsoring. Comment on receiving grant for community funds. Comment on having meetings without business if there isn't a quorum. Jeep stated that they have fliers, but social media is what's being used more.

Rice Lake - Not present

White Earth - Not present

White Earth (Urban) - Bonnie Beudreau, Chairman, and Marci Hart, Secretary/Treasurer, present for Urban. Every second Tuesday, 1308 Franklin Avenue with monthly minute meetings. July 16th had picnic with a good turnout, Council attended. Next picnic is planned for July 17th, Waubun shelter D. Fall had elder's Thanksgiving luncheon with donations of fish and wild rice. Communities donated as well. Toys for tots from Marine Corps. Annual Christmas party had donations, good gifts to give away and Tribal Council attended as well. White Earth elder's are hoping to attend Urban Elder's meeting in the Spring. Urban office has same safety issues with White Earth elder's, Neighborhood watch. Elder's want more activities within the community but most are within a fixed income. Transportation is always a problem. Elder's are raising children. Review and update board bylaws at next strategic planning meeting.

Waubun - Not present

Veterans - Not present

Umsy left at 1:30 p.m.

Returned at 1:33 p.m.

Other

Harvey Bonga

Comment on receiving paperwork on Bush Grant and WELSA money. Do not want to lose status over losing money. Comment on going after Erma Vizenor was not personal, but might need to go for racketeering charges. Question about I-80 and I-82 bylaws being legal and binding contracts. Interpretation change the Constitution. Took BIA to court to uphold the constitution and sovereignty of the people. Stated that it was an internal affair. Tara stated that the Bush Foundation money was being looked at and was around \$800,000 for contracts and funding. Also, not easy to pull all the funding for WELSA, but is in the process. In 1980 there was an

interpretation that the RTC was governing body and 14 revised since then. Authority lies with the people, but there is a way to address. Multiple discussion at TEC on Education. Billy Annette is looking at the MCT handbook. Teaching kids when our constitution is different than the U.S. constitution. Looking at getting together a curriculum for native schools. MCT has new attorney, Phil Brodeen. Does not work for any reservation and from Blue Dog in Shakopee, MN. Bylaws are being put in place to delegate more pieces. Reinforcing having an RBC member attending subcommittee meetings. Mobility to have adhoc committees, designate member to regulate ordinances for government and structure. Start with a removal ordinance. Kathy stated that she sits on the Education and Human Services subcommittee. Working on a uniform front and get the information out to the people, especially the children. Working for all bands to be on the same page. Terry stated that there are big changes at TEC and new presidency. Ordinances and bylaws being put into place, moving forward very rapidly. Policies made in the past may not be good for today. Puts membership at risk because different reservations are interpreting differently. There is a lot more room for improvement, constituents hold the power. Umsy stated that resolutions and ordinances do not supersede the constitution.

Issue about Boys and Girls Club in Pine Point. Complaints on Harvey. Appealed case and did not get a hearing. Non members are getting members fired and making barriers. Terry stated that personnel issues are not to be spoken at the quarterly meeting. Tara stated that members are at 64% currently, will report back new numbers at next quarterly. Cannot address personnel issues, need to immediately stop. Place Decorum Policy back on the agenda. Need to keep comments at a respectful time, each person will have their time to speak. Majority of council has looked at policies that turn down members. Remember that human consideration needs to be involved with policies of the law. Working on improving Minnesota policies. New drug policy at the Casino to prevent people from working. Concerns about heroin and methamphetamine. Testing positive does not deny employment, but will require a Rule 25 to get people the help that they need to work. Monthly meetings on the drug epidemic.

Terry stated the Star Lake second ntw 5, Mahnomen, tribal college 5 on the 9th, rice lake and pine point.

Break at 2:01 p.m.

Returned at 2:19 p.m.

Public Comment

Lucille "Teedo" Silk stated that 638, IHS, will be an issue. It needs to be studied a lot and brought out to the people. Needs to be educated on it before there are any decisions. Tara stated that Council would take over IHS and have a grant and partnerships to look into the feasibility. 40% of IHS, unfunded mandate. Looking at Federal Government not funding 100%. Providing right and correct information with the pros and cons on the situation. Hoping to offer different hours to meet the needs of the members. Kathy stated that they are starting with a survey, that will be coming out in about a month so the people can have a say. Also getting a hold of traditional ways of healing. Big process to transfer to a 638, there are not many self service tribes anymore. 38% funding of needs, which is horrible. Terry stated that the ability to call being who is being seen at

the clinic. Billing needs to be looked at as well. Fon du lac was close to bankrupt and let IHS step in until they got back in their feet, ended up building a treatment facility.

Alan Roy questioned the decorum policy and affecting rights. Revising policy for freedom of speech and freedom to speak. Movement on financial reports, not being shown for twelve consecutive quarterly meetings. Terry stated that the decorum policy will be looked at and feels that there should be a say. Requires Tribal member to ask permission to purchase Tribal flag. Terry stated that RBC has looked into the policy and are willing to open the doors and be able to sell.

Financial statements FY 2016 - 2017, expense, activities and net assets. Brought to full council and Chairman brings it to the State of the Band address. Kathy stated that with facebook, certain people can get it and some people can't. There might be a problem with that. Comment on getting financial reports at more events than just State of the Band address. Would like to see at the quarterly meetings. Tara stated that under budget for 2017, nothing prepared because it was just added. Financial budgets were never put in quarterly meetings. 2016 was on budget, just finished SSC audit. No material findings and made available to tribal members. Need a written request and will provide in a timely manner. To finish government audit, have para retirement for officers might take a month or two to get numbers. Budgets are basically the same as audits. Tara stated that she wants Umsy to read where it says budgets need to be made public. Umsy stated that under Article 6, section B that any reservation funds and expenditures need to be public record at all reasonable times. Tara stated that further discussion needs to be brought up about reasonable times and public because some people might not need to see some of the expenses and budget. Protecting numbers to not be put on social media and not be given out to anybody but tribal members. Talk about getting private financial meetings and bring to TEC and figure out what other reservations do, only one responded and does not do quarterly meetings. Most reservations only do yearly reports. Trying to figure out a different system that wasn't in place before. Having conversation with different secretary/treasurers to figure out a routine. Terry stated that there needs to be consistency and an obligation to report to the members. Comment on guidelines and suggestions and not being the law. There are requirements that are written by the law and not following through them will be non-compliant. Comment on considering a budget for elder council. Tara stated that it was approved.

Leonard Roy stated that he does recordings and nobody else records or puts notes. He stated that he only blocks people from being personally attacked. I-80 was made to deny voices and setup ICW tribal courts. Stated that ICW is causing more harm than good to the reservation. Public meetings to rescind PL-280 and ended up with Tribal Law and Order. Mike LaRoque stated that it only added federal offenses to what can be charged. There were public meetings for the Law and Order Act and before 280 it was lawless and had one deputy.

Tara left at 2:57 p.m.

Returned at 2:58 p.m.

Lee Bonga questioned if the council is sincere about being self governing and being more sovereign. Tara stated that in March, would like to have a meeting about PL-280 and the Tribal Law and Order Act. Look at agreement with Counties. Public Safety is a Federal responsibility, deferred to the State and then deferred to the Counties. Pipeline meeting, February 10th in Rice Lake at 6:00 p.m. Natural Resources is going to have a plan put in place for all reservations. They are going through different directions to take care of what needs to be done. An agenda needs to be set because of internal fighting between tribes.

Decorum Policy

Adjourn

Motion made by Tara Mason at 3:15 p.m., Seconded by Eugene "Umsy" Tibbets. 4 for, 0 against, 0 silent.

Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer