

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council  
Special Meeting  
February 22, 2016 –9:00 a.m.  
Mahnomen, MN**

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Vice-Chairman Steven "Punky" Clark called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present:           Steven "Punky" Clark, District I Representative (Vice-Chairman)  
                  Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer  
                  Kathy Goodwin, District II Representative  
                  Kenneth "Gus" Bevins, District III Representative

Others Present:                   Ken Fox, Executive Director

**Agenda Approval**

Motion made by Gus Bevins to approve with additions, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

**RTC Meeting Minutes (2/17/16)**

Motion made by Gus Bevins to approve, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

**Calendar Review**

Ice Cracking gaming license issue was brought to the attention of the Tribal Council by an individual. Individuals are being charged for water, bingo players are being placed in the back because paying customers are put in the front, treating Native American's poorly. Steven & Reina Tucker are the owners. A complaint was filed with the gambling board; it has been a year or so but nothing has happened to resolve the issue.

**Lessard Sams**

Kris Knopf (Indian Land Tenure Foundation), Monica Hedstrom and Lorena Vogt were present. Kris gives a brief overview of the potential land and properties to purchased through the Lessard Sams Project. in 2008 there was an amendment passed (clean water, land, and legacy) to allow sales tax for the legacy fund. There are 4 different areas in this fund that could be utilized (land, clean water, language). There is issue with the wording in the H.F. 2611 bill that was passed; hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering could be open to both Tribal and non-Tribal members - language needs to be changed to address this. Lorena stated that stipulations are only being placed on the White Earth Nation and not other applicants. Clearwater County has opposition to loss of tax base (approximately \$15,000 per year). At the listening session that was held, there was negativity against the whole Lessard Sams project. The MCT Natural

Resources committed and Indian Affairs committee there should be a resolution passed to have appointments on the Lessard Sams committee. Suggestion was made to meet with WE Marketing Department for communication pieces to get out to the people for information. A list of attendees at the listening session was requested for review. Brief discussion was held regarding Treaty Rights education for the State training that takes place.

### **Rice Lake Access Plan**

Monica Hedstrom and Adam Woltjer were present. It was brought to Adam's attention that there are some issues with Rice Lake landings. Through Adams programs and engineers some solutions have been compiled for review and/or approval. There is potential funding applications that can be submitted to repair the 4 landings. Recommendation would be the geo-textile fabric with rock and gravel overlay; it was asked if the fabric was safe for water. There is not a projected cost for the whole project at this time; Adam's program would pay for approximately \$5,000 of project cost - Tribe would be responsible for remainder of the project cost. There would also be a need for annual maintenance of the landings once project is complete. Adam stated that rankings for the project is due Friday, awards will be determined in March; no commitment for this phase of the project. Punky stated that the ricing committee should be involved in the decision making as well. Jeff Vivier stated that the annual maintenance may be able to be added to his maintenance inventory under trails and roads. Jeff stated he would look in to the TTIP process and whether or not it could be added because it is existing.

Brief discussion was held regarding water in Naytahwaush; community would like at least 24 hour notice before chemicals are being added to the water. Jeff stated that there is electronic relay that adds chemical after so many gallons of water are being utilized - would be hard to notify prior to. Jeff stated that he will be having all community water towers inspected.

***Meeting recessed for break at 10:45 a.m.***

***Meeting reconvened at 10:57 a.m.***

### **Land Resolutions**

Megan Bakken was present.

Homesites: Motion made by Gus Bevins to approve, Seconded by Tara Mason. Motion carried, 2 for, 0 against.

***Kathy Goodwin entered meeting at 10:59 a.m.***

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

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

Snowmobile Permit: Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Gus Bevins. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Kathy requested that Megan bring snowmobile permit maps for all three counties for review.

Business Leases: Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Gus Bevins. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Fee to Trust: Motion made by Kathy Goodwin to approve, Seconded by Gus Bevins. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

### **SDS Projects**

Jeff Vivier, Bucky Tibbetts, Betsy Smith, Steve Scherling (IHS), Shawn Gant (IHS) were present. Steve gave a brief overview of Bemidji Area IHS Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC). Question was asked how far out the sanitation deficiency list is; Steve stated its hard to set a timeframe - list is based scores. It was stated that of \$2 billion dollars IHS is awarded approximately \$5 million. Annual funding sources was briefly discussed; regular funding and housing funding. The current SDS project list was reviewed; list is usually finalized every June in which priorities are designated.

The current list for new homeowners and existing homeowners projects was reviewed. IHS funding cycles are in May, MHFA funding cycle guarantee is October. Existing systems list would be approximately \$477,000 to complete the projects; matching funds of \$207,000 from Tribe or MHFA would complete the projects. MHFA has announced 2016 funding; awards will be made in October. Tara stated that there is a land use plan currently in the works that has not been finalized; this may identify additional needs and priorities. Cost analysis for adding a basket to NTW project will be done and added to project cost for SDS list. Consensus of Tribal Council was to move forward with existing list projects and utilizing of MHFA funding.

### **Other**

Resolution – NDSU ACEs Project

Tabled - input from Mental Health needed.

Resolution – USDA Matching Funds (Aquaponics)

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve Resolution #016-16-006, with understanding that grants departments will be pursuing all other funding resources to support matching funds grant applications, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

Resolution – USDA Matching Funds (Telecommunications Enterprise Creation)

Motion made by Tara Mason to approve Resolution #016-16-007, with understanding that grants department will be pursuing all other funding resources to support grant applications, Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

WEHA (Tax Credits)

IT Discussion - Tabled

Mental Health Discussion - Tabled

SSC GM Employment Agreement - Tabled

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Tara Mason to adjourn meeting at 12:16 p.m., Seconded by Gus Bevins.

Motion carried, 3 for, 0 against.

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Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer