

**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council  
Quarterly Meeting  
February 18, 2016 ~ 9:00 a.m.  
Ponsford, MN**

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Vice Chairperson Steven "Punky" Clark called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. 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  
                         Mike Fairbanks, Deputy Director  
                         Tabitha Chilton, Recorder

Tara mentioned that Alan Roy will be working on strategic planning process along with the legislative agenda. Alan comes from Mary Yellowhead road and graduated from Detroit Lakes.

**Agenda Approval**

Motion made by Gus Bevins to approve agenda, seconded by Tara Mason. 3 for, 0 against.

**Quarterly Meeting Minute Approval (October 29, 2015)**

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

**Program Updates**

**White Earth Indian Health Service** - Alan Fogerty present for IHS. Been in the position since November 15th. Number of concerns with access to care and calling in the morning for twenty minutes, not getting appointments. There are some improvements, under control for now. At the main clinic there are additional staff to make appointments and dedicated more providers for walk-ins. Feedback for what else should be worked on. Over billing of doctor's, doctors were leaving because they were afraid to lose their license. People are referred out to Medicare and other programs so that they don't get over billed. VA would rather go to Fargo than White Earth because it was cheaper. IHS can only bill Medicare or Medicaid. Concerns from Tito (Lucille Silk) were that the telephone calling system is not working, people are told that all of the appointments are full at 7:30 a.m. and only if they can get through. Also, patients are unable to reach various departments, nobody is answering if they are referred. There is still preferential treatment with cliques in place. Only certain people get to be referred out and employees aren't comfortable with referring to their issues. Pharmacy is a little better, but there are still problems.

There are positions that aren't being posted and need to be posted for a fair system. When an elder calls and cancels, they can't get in for another two or three weeks. They have severe health problems that need to be addressed. They are told to see their providers and their providers aren't there anymore. Eye exam appointments and Dental are canceled in advance, dentures don't fit if they are given to them. Difficulty in the nutrition program. When an appointment needs to be rescheduled, instead of out two weeks, they have to make appointments six weeks out. There have been great discussion on follow-up appointments. IHS hasn't been paying for referral appointments and afraid that their credit will be affected. Issued with prescriptions from emergency room visits. Recommendation from Emergency Room for prescription wasn't good enough and needed to make another appointment. Doesn't help when IHS isn't open on weekends. Expanded hours are being looked at, there is no avenue at the moment to pay for outside prescriptions. IHS is given a budget for prescriptions. If a person is referred to a specialty clinic and they need a particular medicine, will they be covered if they're not on the formula? It will be case by case. Referred cases have a review process to determine what is able to be paid for. In some cases, they were a life-saving drug and IHS wouldn't pay for the medication, it was placed on the chart and filed away. High percentage of the time, the life-saving drugs will be available at IHS pharmacy. 40% of budget is allocated by Congress and 60% is third party billing. IHS funding per person is low. Signing up for Medical Assistance stretches the dollars for IHS for more funding. IHS guidelines needs to be used first for referrals. People who were needing referrals, weren't referred out when they needed to. IHS has had to go back to make sure that bills weren't over charged. Dollars being stretched is a national issue for IHS. A cap on generations doesn't exist. IHS have to serve to federally enrolled of any tribe. Treaty rights are being brought up. Pursuing additional funding for IHS is being looked at for the new legislative agenda.

**White Earth Housing Authority** - Pam Fairbanks is present for Housing. Tax Credit Five houses are moving along and will be completed April 1<sup>st</sup>. Donna Fairbanks resigned in February. March will be mold remediation. New housing inspector who is doing very well. Behind 210 inspections and down to 140. A lot of positive things but it takes time. New grants that are coming in. Pam is asking for help from different programs. Crews that are sent out for repairs are spending too much time for small things. Nine men were sent out to check on a furnace. Working on the issues that are coming up every day. Work orders are being signed off for mileage and time that are spent on problems. People will be held accountable. There are multiple crisis' going on at one moment. There have been trainings so that the repair is being done correctly. Bars need to be raised across the board. Workers do the minimal to get by. Needs to be more supervision. Remodeling 35 houses. Contracts with Minnesota housing agency and cannot get out of. Housing has contracted with subcontractors to get units ready in Villages to get people back in. Tax Credits are a relationship with the IRS.

**White Earth Tribal & Community College** - Not Present

**Meeting Recessed at 11:12 a.m.**

**Meeting Reconvened at 11:31 a.m.**

**White Earth Tribal Health Division** - Pat Butler present for Tribal Health. Dialysis Center moved to White Earth. Some programs are Public Health nursing, Maternal/Child home visiting, Long term care complication for elders in their home, Nursing healthcare services that provide care after illnesses, CHR transportation division that provides rides to medical appointments, Elderly Nutrition program and Dr. Gardner. The entire division is about 150 staff in different locations around the reservation, most are located in White Earth. Availability of services is an issue. Finding providers or nursing staff. Finding drivers for CHR can be a problem. Enticing more native individuals in the nursing program was successful. Dozen staff who attended that program who are still working for White Earth. Working close with colleges from Duluth, Thief River and Detroit Lakes. More opportunities to hire people that are from the area. Biggest area that needs staff is the Ambulance division, which is open 24/7. PCA services, White Earth does not have PCA services at the moment. Goals is to have CHR's have training. Car seats and car seat training. ENP services were discussed and looking to be approved. School nursing during certain times of the week or month. Smoking Cessation programs and Wisdom Steps. 15 staff at ENP, 2 on call. Most meals are home delivered, 5,000 a month. 42,000 miles a month driving people to their medical appointments.

**White Earth Education Division** - Joan LaVoy and Mary Otto present for Education. Early childcare program, childcare assistance and scholarship programs. Scholarships go to families where parents aren't working. Last month 74 children were provided with childcare assistance. Childcare center in Mahnomen. Parent Mentor program to work with parents. License Childcare providers as well. Biggest need is licensed providers for Pine Point and Naytahwaush. Eight Head start centers. Early head start programs where teachers go out to the homes. Headstart is the most highly regulated program in education. March 14th a reviewer is coming to review classes, conduct interviews, checking files, etc. Headstart is starting to take kids fishing. It would be very beneficial to have 0-3 Headstart centers, it will alleviate the daycare issue. White Earth Scholarship Program, 218 scholarships for this school year. Fund students throughout the country, do not run out of funds. At the end of the year should be around 300 students. September and January are the busiest months. Looking to fund critical professions, there are a lot of needs on the reservation. Teachers and paraprofessionals are needed on the reservation. Special funding set aside to encourage individuals to go into the positions that are needed. COLA is a BIE funded school, with 170 students. Accreditation process every five years, currently in the process. COLA is receiving school improvement funds. Positive growth in several areas. NWA scores are set by a formula and have a high percentage of improving and reaching their goals. Plans to decrease dropouts. Increased school board members in Pine Point. Boys and girls club is operating in all villages, 1,340 members registered. Mahnomen and Rice Lake are the highest with participants. Go to state and local meetings to improve education. Rural language efficiency assessments, learning Ojibwe language in the school systems. Looking into getting Ojibwe Language signs throughout the reservation, identifying lakes or roadways. Johnson O'Malley parent election committee looking for more parents.

**Meeting Recessed at 12:31 p.m.**

**Meeting Reconvened at 12:46 p.m.**

**Community Council Updates**

**Elders** - Lucille "Teedo" Silk present for the elders. Elders are placed in the back at pow wows or other events. They will be taken care of at the Shooting Star pow wow next year. Mold problems. Safety issues as vulnerable adults. Better health insurance for elders, if they can't get any kind of medical assistance. Elders are charged too much at the pow wows to set up their stands and set up in the back. Nutrition sites are being worked on with Pat Butler and they will be looking into them. Will be bringing information to the Elder council in September. Training concerns are chef, electrical, carpentry wants to be put back into place. Setting up a candidate forum for anybody who is applying for office, March 19th at 9 a.m. at the Shooting Star Casino, is set up by the Elders Council. Everybody will have five minutes to say what they need to say, morning will be for District III and Chairperson will be in the afternoon. Have a panel that has a list of questions for the candidates. Pine Point is requesting the use of transit to be able to bring people to the forum. Working with Pine Point to address issues. There is beadwork donated to the elders, pick up at Administration. First Tuesday in April will be the next elder meeting at White Earth nutrition site. April 12th elders meeting.

**Callaway** - Not present

**Elbow Lake** - Not present

**Iron Range** - Louie Johanssen present for Iron Range. Concerns have been questioned and answered about land and cultural center for the Iron Range. Like to see Community Councils to get together and figure out what everybody is doing as individuals. Invite all for second Wednesday every month at 630 at township hall. Send somebody from Iron Range to community councils.

**Mahnomen** - Tim Rindahl present for Mahnomen. Toys for tots was a success.

**Northeast White Earth (Cass Lake)** - Not present. Acknowledgement for Joe Holstein.

**Naytahwaush** - Karen Wadena present for Naytahwaush. Toys for tots was a success. Deer camp was put on, met with LE and Curtis Rogers. Idea of soup kitchen was pushed back, need nutritionist for homeless people. NARCAN training at the community center. Activities for youth are being looked into. Community council wants a 24 hour notice of when the water tower is being serviced because the water is unusable for hours. Naytahwaush is not on the water tower and there are no road signs. Repressing water on North Twin Lake and going to ask Pinehurst resort to hook sewer up with theirs. Want to find out where the sewer is and have a water study. Naytahwaush houses have no mailing addresses because there are no house numbers. Look into to see if the county should be paying for it or not.

**Pine Point** - Mike Swan present for Pine Point. In October, they hosted the haunted house. Had over 800 people come in two days. Helps fund pow wow. Veterans Day in November to show appreciation to native and non-native. Christmas party with the village and hand out Toys for tots. 13th Anniversary in existence, gaming license for bingo and every year there is a celebration. March 15th-19th neutered and spayed with shots. Working with housing and RTC for spring

cleanup. Bingo proceeds go to sports teams, need more participation. Demolition derby and a music festival in July with local artists. Also help fund schools. Set a date for candidate forum in Pine Point.

**Rice Lake** - Not present

**White Earth** - Not present

**White Earth (Urban)** - Wade Keezer present for Urban Council. Marcy Hart and Donna Cheney vice chair. Active in trying to get people more involved. In the process of revising bylaws to what can be accomplished. Meetings are second Tuesdays of every month. Advocacy for Twin cities native population. Involved with Turtle Mountain, Ho-Chunk, Fon du lac and Leech Lake to partner on working together. Trying to get more people involved, not a political arm because some people aren't comfortable with politics. Trying to bring back more social events for the urban site. Next elder bus trip trying to figure a meet with RTC and other people to put faces to who they talk to. Christmas party is set every year. July 16th Summer Picnic at Wyland Park. Donation on candidates to come down. Trying to get younger people involved.

**Veterans** - Not present

**Kathy left at 1:40 p.m. - No Quorum**

**Kathy returned at 1:46 p.m.**

#### **Other**

Leonard Thompson (Reservation Drug Issues) - Problems have been going on forever. Natives are being scrutinized when calling in. Reported drug issues that have not been taken care of. Federal prosecutor said to bring it back to the Tribal Council. Scientists and doctors say that three month olds learn. Recommend to police officers should be scaring people who are dealing drugs, to park in their home. Needles are laying on the street. People have HIV or Hepatitis C and don't even know it. First class hospital/treatment, can't afford people going to jail. Ways to get a hospital going without federal money. Going to post monthly of what is being taken off the street so people will see. 48 grams of meth were just taken off the reservation last month and wasn't reported because it was Mahnommen County. In the cities, the same thing is happening, funding was given to people to help. Needs social impact more than anything. Use police appropriately. Red lake is taking majority of resources. Drug problem needs to have everybody working together. September 2014, the drug task force was created to show short term solutions so that the community will see what is going on.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Tara Mason to adjourn at 2:02 p.m., Seconded by Kathy Goodwin. 2 for, 0 against.

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Tara Mason, Secretary/Treasurer