



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Leonard Alan Roy

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Honorable Catherine Chavers
President, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Honorable David Morrison
Treasurer, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

February 10, 2020

Honorable Members,

On February 10, 2020, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) received a letter dated February 7, 2020 from Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) Members Ms. Melanie Benjamin and Mr. Sheldon Boyd. The letter asserts that certain financial information be withheld from the financial request submitted January 30, 2020. The February 7, 2020 letter also claims that revenue information has been consistently requested by the White Earth TEC members.

As the land transfer is a complex issue, the response to these assertions is as follows:

1. It is requested that the MCT Attorney construct parameters around the scope of the question, "what is the land worth?" with the understanding that the question can still be answered with respect to the concerns raised and the information sought.
2. At the Regular Meeting held in Mille Lacs in Fall of 2019, Mille Lacs land representatives asked a series of questions about the land transfer related to land worth to myself. While the minutes recently approved by the Natural Resources Subcommittee omit my remarks entirely (and I'm not sure how this has happened), video graphic footage from the engagement confirms that a request for revenue information did not occur. In fact, the opposite occurred. Therefore, the February 7, 2020 letter's claim is not entirely accurate and is misleading especially since Ms. Benjamin was present during the meeting and still endorsed the inaccuracies of the letter. I request that accurate information be updated in MCT minutes.

As for the other claims from the honorable TEC members Ms. Benjamin and Mr. Boyd about my comments since the January 31, 2020 meeting, there appears to be ideological differences that we can all respect. I discussed these differences among other issues with Ms. Benjamin this evening. We both agree that each Band will do what it believes is best for the People.

On another note, I respectfully request that the TEC reconsiders its position related to Interpretation 11-09 as we have a responsibility to serve the interests of the membership and not just the government.

I strongly believe that our values and traditions hold us together even when our disagreements attempt to pull us apart. I know that a vast majority of our membership shares this belief and they still want to see us move forward as one People even if others may not.

V/R,