



# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

**CHAIRMAN** Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Leonard Alan Roy  
**DISTRICT I** Raymond Auginaush, Sr. **DISTRICT II** Kathy Goodwin **DISTRICT III** Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

December 20, 2019

MCT Tribal Executive Committee  
PO Box 217  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

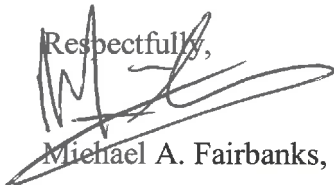
RE: Agenda Request

Dear President Catherine Chavers and Executive Director Gary Frazer:

The White Earth Band of Ojibwe (the "Band") is writing to request to have three items added to the agenda for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee general meeting which is to be held on January 31, 2020 at the Shooting Star Casino. The White Earth Reservation Business Committee is requesting the following to be put on the agenda:

- (1) The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer
  - Decision on the MCTLT to call for a referendum and/or an appeal by majority of the vote.
- (2) Interpretation No. 11-09
  - Revise Interpretation No. 11-09 to include enacted or proposed action of the Tribal Executive Committee to bring the interpretation into compliance with the MCT Constitution.
- (3) Censure and Petition Ordinance
  - Revision of this ordinance to make petitions district focused instead of being "at large" focused.

Your anticipated cooperation with this request is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,  
  
Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman



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DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. DISTRICT II Kathy Goodwin DISTRICT III Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

December 20, 2019

MCT Tribal Executive Committee  
PO Box 217  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

RE: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer

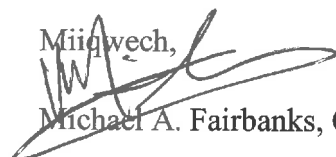
Dear President Catherine Chavers and Executive Director Gary Frazer:

The White Earth Band of Ojibwe (the "Band") is writing to request once again information relating to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer. Information has been requested pertaining to the land transfer and has gone unanswered. Questions that remain unanswered are: (1) where is it at, (2) what's on it, (3) what's in it, (4) what's it being used for, and (5) what is it worth. It is the position of White Earth and other Bands that the Tribal Executive Committee has failed to answer these questions and provide adequate documentation and support of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer.

Members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe are unable to make any informed decisions about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer because they have yet to be afforded the adequate information to make such a decision. They are unable to inform their respective Reservation Business Committees as to how each Band should proceed. As it stands now, it is not an accurate reflection of the opinions of the membership.

The Tribal Executive Committee has failed to provide supporting evidence to its members and because of this, it is inappropriate for the Tribal Executive Committee to request members to agree with the land transfer.

We respectfully request the Tribal Executive Committee to provide adequate documentation and support of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer so that informed decisions can be made about this important issue.

Miigwech,  
  
Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman



# The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Administration  
218-335-8581  
Toll Free: 888-322-7688  
Fax: 218-335-8496  
Home Loan  
218-335-8582  
Fax: 218-335-6925  
Economic Development  
218-335-8583  
Fax: 218-335-8496  
Education  
218-335-8584  
Fax: 218-335-2029  
Human Services  
218-335-8586  
Fax: 218-335-8080

January 17, 2020

White Earth Reservation Business Committee  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, Minnesota 56591

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL

**Re: Response to Agenda Request**

Dear Chairman Fairbanks and Reservation Business Committee:

Thank you for submitting your request to place matters on the agenda for the upcoming regular meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee ("TEC") that is set to occur on January 31, 2020. The following matters shall be placed on the agenda for consideration by the TEC: Interpretation No. 11-09; and Censure and Petition Ordinance.

As President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, I am responsible for the implementation of all resolutions and ordinances of the TEC. On January 24, 2018, the TEC enacted Resolution No. 33-18 at a duly called meeting in Grand Portage, Minnesota. The purpose of the resolution was to enable the constituent Bands to fully realize the benefit of tribal trust lands within their reservations in perpetuity. To effectuate this purpose, the resolution authorized the TEC to take such action as may be necessary, including seeking and supporting federal legislation, to transfer beneficial title to all lands that are held in trust for the MCT to the constituent Band exercising jurisdiction over such lands. In Resolution 67-19, the TEC approved language that was to serve as the basis for legislation transferring beneficial title to lands that are held in trust for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe over to the constituent bands to be held in trust status by the respective bands. In Resolution 96-19, the TEC once again updated the preferred legislative language and included an opt out clause pursuant to a subsequent motion.

Resolution No. 33-18 was enacted by the TEC nearly two years ago. Since that time, the MCT Land Transfer has been a constant topic of conversation at TEC meetings. Oftentimes these discussions devolve into shouting matches between the proponents for and opponents of the land transfer. This was the case when the TEC called a special meeting on September 12, 2019 to deal exclusively with the MCT Land Transfer. That meeting concluded with an unacceptable breach in decorum that I do not wish to see happen again.

In your recent correspondence, you requested to discuss the decision of the TEC to call for a referendum and/or appeal by the majority of a vote. The Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe provides that a referendum may be initiated in the following manner: 1.) by the filing of a petition signed by 20 percent of the resident voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; or 2.) by an affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the Tribal Executive Committee.

I am unwilling at this point to place the MCT Land Transfer on the agenda for more discussion. The current TEC has heard the relevant points on this issue and the duly enacted resolutions remain in place. As has previously been stated, individual TEC members remain free to bring a motion requesting a referendum on this topic. An affirmative vote of 8 members of the TEC is required to trigger such a referendum.

Sincerely,



Catherine J. Chavers, President  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe





# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks SECRETARY-TREASURER Leonard Alan Roy  
DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. DISTRICT II Kathy Goodwin DISTRICT III Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

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January 24, 2020

## Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer: Informed Consent

White Earth Nation,

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) has denied the Reservation Business Committee's (RBC) request to address the MCT Land Transfer at the upcoming Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) Regular Meeting scheduled for January 31, 2020 in White Earth, Minnesota. With this denial, citing decorum of Tribal membership as justification for not allowing discussion, TEC officials have requested the support of the White Earth Nation to move the MCT Land Transfer Bill through Congress by contacting Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson.

In its most basic terms, the proposed land transfer will retitle lands held in common for 40,000 Tribal members to individual bands that comprise less than 6,000 Tribal members on average. The White Earth Nation represents over half of the MCT membership.

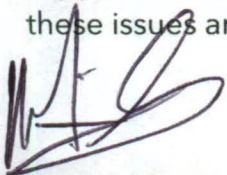
Several requests have been made to the TEC on the status of these lands. Very basic questions such as: What's on the lands? What's in the lands? What are the lands worth? All have gone unanswered.

Until these questions are answered, the White Earth Nation opposes congressional action related to the land transfer. While the Resolution by the TEC has been approved for a congressional request, which is a lawful act within the MCT Tribal government, the inherent unassailable sovereignty of the White Earth Nation shall not be sacrificed for the sake of congressional expediency. As Tribal members hold beneficial interest in the lands to be retitled, all Tribal members have a right to know the financial interests of these lands before they are retitled. Without this information, informed consent has not been achieved by any standard of law or common decency.

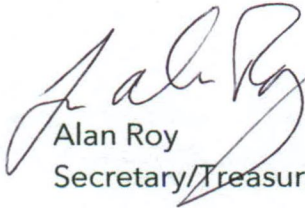
The efforts of the Sandy Lake Band of Chippewa for Federal Recognition will be delayed or denied with the retitling of the lands. The White Earth Nation attempted to mitigate this issue within the TEC Tribal government but it appears our relatives will face further displacement. Only this time, the displacement will not come from the hands of the United States government but it will come from the hands of a Tribal government. The oppression of Sandy Lake is systematic as they have been denied lawful enrollment and land. As Indian people, we lead with love. Sandy Lake deserves our support.

Furthermore, it is the belief of the White Earth Nation that the retitling of these lands will further divide our families and people across the MCT. It is also the belief of the White Earth Nation that once the MCT becomes a landless Tribe, requests from Bands will be made to separate from the MCT. The rush for financial gain will lead to continued segregation.

We ask for your support to request this information and to oppose any congressional support. We hereby request Rep. Collin Peterson oppose congressional action until these issues are resolved.



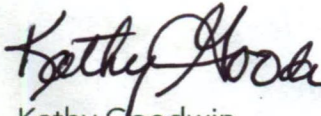
Michael Fairbanks  
Chairman



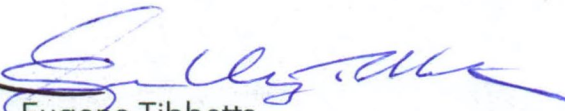
Alan Roy  
Secretary/Treasurer



Raymond Augmaush  
District I Representative



Kathy Goodwin  
District II Representative



Eugene Tibbetts  
District III Representatives

cc: Executive Director  
Executive Coordinator  
Tribal Attorney  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe