



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

January 30, 2020

Honorable Catherine Chavers
President, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Honorable David Morrison, Sr.
Treasurer, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Official Request: Financial Information

Honorable Tribal Executive Committee Members,

On January 29, 2020, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (RBC) clarified the White Earth Nation's position to its Band Members on the proposed Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Land Transfer. In its message, the RBC stated, "The White Earth Nation asserts that Tribal members have a right to know the financial and beneficial interests of MCT lands." The letter also identified prior concerns related to the land transfer from 2010 (Frank Bibeau Letter). Other concerns were identified on January 24, 2020 in a letter titled *Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer: Informed Consent*.

The RBC received a copy of a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLB), January 27, 2020, letter issued by Honorable TEC members Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd. The TEC members stated, "It is our view that the 40,000 members of the MCT have no right to financial information regarding our tribal housing, Band-Member owned homes or economic development on our federal trust lands, whether or not the MCT is on the title." This statement is in defiance of the MCT Constitution.

Pursuant to Article V (Authorities of the TEC), Section 1 (d), the Constitution asserts that, "All expenditures of tribal funds, under control of the Tribal Executive Committee, shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times." The TEC has a Constitutional-legal-obligation to make TEC finance related information and her properties publicly available upon request.

Further, Article I (Duties of the Officers of the Tribal Executive Committee), Section 4 (b), obligates the Treasurer to, "Keep and maintain, open to inspection by members of the Tribe or representatives of the Secretary of the Interior, at all reasonable times, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Tribe."

While the MLB TEC Members claim that they intend to use the land for economic purposes, the usage of these lands are subject to Article VI, Section 1 (b). Specifically, the TEC has an obligation, "To prevent any sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of Tribal lands, interests in lands, or other assets including minerals, gas and oil." If the TEC wishes to convey lands for these purposes, the TEC must comply with all provisions of the Constitution, which means that financial information must be provided.

Accordingly, as a TEC member, please consider this my request for finance information to the Presiding Officer and the Treasurer related to the MCT land transfer. I am requesting:

- 1) Where is the land?
- 2) What is in the land?
- 3) What is the land worth?

As the MCT remains Constitutionally unified, I look forward to receiving the requested information in a timely manner.



Alan Roy
Secretary/Treasurer
White Earth Nation
Tribal Executive Committee

cc: MCT
RBC