

**White Earth Reservation Business Committee**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Mahnomen, MN**

---

Chairman Michael Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael Fairbanks, Chairman  
Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer  
Henry Fox, District I Representative  
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative  
Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director  
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director  
Ayecia Kemp, Recorder  
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel

**Agenda Approval**

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve agenda with additions; second by Henry Fox.  
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

**RBC Meeting Minutes (09/27/24)**

Motion made Michael LaRoque to approve minutes; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried 4 for, 0 against.

**Reports**

*Michael Fairbanks, Chairman*

Chairman Fairbanks gave update on attending MIAC, USFW & Tamarac, White Earth State Forest, M.A.S.T (Midwest Alliance), Commissioner Consultations', 4 Walts and MCT.

*Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer ~ Please see attachment*

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Secretary/Treasurer Report; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Secretary Treasurer LaRoque provided report and gave brief update on the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report ending on September 30, 2024.

*Henry Fox, District I Representative*

District Representative Fox gave brief report; Rice Lake CC is having their haunted woods this weekend 6PM at St. Philips, Tiny Home apps are going through Optima.

*Eugene Sommers, District II Representative*

District Representative Sommers gave brief report; August; rbc had swearing in new officers, wild rice 6.50 lbs. bear issues and trapped and release 20 bears, buffalo heard at old spencer farm. Working with dept transportation is getting road work done. Drum hall, Riverland, Elk Horn Road, Tribal Lots, D2 elder village still working on it. Discussion on ICWA, met with DHS at the Casino, Billing BH and MH restrictions.

Sept; Sitting on two subcommittee. New property management instead of D.W Jones.

Oct; Wellness center secured land and the design, WETCC has a few things they're adding, Mahnomen overpass, Lot clean ups throughout the reservation. SSC did their update on section five, working on bathroom remodel across from the deli, WETCC is going to be offering classes. Cell Tower is up but not hooked up yet, they did run the fiber optics, and it will be early November it will be up and working.

*Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative*

District Representative Erickson gave brief report; Tribal Leaders and staff met with MN Department of Human Services Commissioner Harpstead and staff. Topics included: mental health restrictions/barriers, withdrawal management, state amendment plans. We will be having a follow up meeting to discuss behavioral health topics. (CMS Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services approves traditional healing demonstration for Arizona, New Mexico, California and Oregon) this is big win for Indian country. MN Tribes have been advocating for this for several years.

This is a step towards improving access to culturally appropriate healthcare and improving the quality of care and health outcomes for tribal communities.

White Earth tribal leaders participated in the Inaugural Grand Council meeting at Lower Sioux. Eleven Minnesota tribes joined forces to address the issues impacting Indian Country and to strategize on collaborative solutions. Cannabis, water issues, land issues, wild rice

Consultation with MNPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler discussed air quality and climate action. Solid waste, Mining permits, PFAS law changes.

Optima Property Management company. Currently, Optima manages four properties: Gwayako Bimaadizi (Housing First Project) in Mahnomen, Giwanikimin in Naytahwaush, Dreamcatcher Homes in Ogema, and Congregate in White Earth. Additionally, they will be assisting in managing the tiny homes in Rice Lake, Naytahwaush, Pine Point, and White Earth. During the

meeting, we discussed several important topics including property subsidies, pet policy, security, tiny homes, and property budgets

Discussion withdrawal management, housing stabilization, mental health peer support, traditional healing and 1115 waiver, **Community Health Aid and Behavioral Health Aid**

TEC meeting at Norther Lights Casino in Walker MN October 22 & 23

I attended the Subcommittee and TEC meetings. Constitutional Delegates from each reservation gave updates. Enrollment. I am Vice-Chair of the Finance Subcommittee. MCT offers different loans: renovation housing loans, construction loans, home loans and business loans.

### **Phase 2 Home Repairs**

ENP sites- the sites are reopening- anytime there is change it takes a little bit of time to bear with our staff. They are doing best they can

Weatherization Applications are out. If you need plastic on your windows, please complete the application. If you need one mailed to you or dropped off, please let me know.

Energy Assistance- funding should be in and distributed 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November

Drug Task Force meetings continue monthly

### **Suspicious activity-**

I want to remind everyone about the importance of staying vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity. If you notice anything unusual or potentially illegal, please report it immediately to the appropriate authorities including our White Earth Tribal Police, Becker County Sheriff Office or the Paul Bunyan Task force.

We are all in this together, and by looking for one another, we can help keep our community safe. Your awareness and prompt action can make a significant difference.

For those who are, thank you for your commitment to keeping our community secure.

If you have ideas to share, send them to us or we can meet. I have my Facebook page.

Please check on your elders, family, friends. The Weather is changing, getting cooler. If you are concerned about someone, let me or someone know. If you haven't seen someone for a while or are concerned, let me or someone know so we can have someone go home. We have elder advocates, programs, and my assistant Tiffany Swiers that can check in also

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or have questions

### **White Earth Council of Elders Updates**

Tim Rindahl is present.

Looking for a storage unit, Mike LaRoque will reach out to Bernie to see where he got is storage at. Elder's Picnic, Health Fair in NTW. Coleen gave a brief update on their balance.

*Michael Fairbanks stepped away from meeting at 10:29 a.m.*

Sam brought up a concern on having Becker or White Earth PD being in Pine Point area. I spoke with Todd Glander about the speeding issue. Catholic church is having new siding put up due to vandalism. Next meeting is in Rice Lake. Mike LaRoque said Laurie will connect with Merlin about the Pine Point concerns and issues that she will address with Merlin.

***Michael Fairbanks came back in meeting at 10:43 a.m.***

Optima will be doing the applications but there will be a board who oversees it.

### **White Earth Elders Commission Updates**

Francine Day is present.

Each commission has picked departments and speak with the departments about information and share it with the elder's, set back is a lot of elders don't have internet access and get to them such as visiting. New members are Missy Fairbanks, Loralie Morales, and Stella Divine. Worked on budget and sent to Curtis. They attended MCT Meeting, Elder's Commissioner's meeting is on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Passing out food shelf applications to the elders, special meeting with Veronica Newcomer and Christie Haverkamp, worked on the new bylaws. Met with Mike Heisler on Housing and discussed about elders. Vacant lots around the reservation and speak with the land office.

### **Program Updates**

*White Earth Housing Authority*

Michael Heisler is present.

It has been a busy few months with internal operations preparing for the winter months and audit. W.E.H.A hosted a crime safety prevention fair in Waubun at the end of August. This was a big success, we had 415 registered attendees and heard nothing but good things we plan to continue doing this yearly to engage the community in positive activities. WEHA is working on getting plows installed on our new trucks to ensure our housing elders will get proper snow removal this upcoming winter. WEHA is working on improving our communication with our tenants by getting out in the communities more with our tenant services staff. WEHA continues to hold Preventive maintenance classes which I feel are going well but we are receiving mixed reviews of our surveys. WEHA recently sent out surveys to our Riverland tenant asking a few questions. With our tenants' help we are looking to improve the quality of life at Riverland.

### **Housing program updates**

- SHORP's NTW siding/windows/soffit/fascia/entry doors/roofs scheduled to be complete by the end of December
- A new Housing Data system is now operating to improve our work order documentation.
- Riverland and Round house cameras are now operational and available to view at surveillance and soon WEPD offices.
- HHP- Planned Roofing in White Earth/ Callaway/ Elbow
- ARPA- Working with White Earth Builders/ Land/ City/ Environmental/Water and sewer to get this project rolling

- FHLB- Plan on adding new furnaces and appliances
- MHFA Single Family Homeowner grant- Applied for this summer it is Planned to hear back by the end of December
- Continuing Employee Trainings for all staff

#### Vacant Units

Callaway – 0, White Earth – 0, Elbow Lake – 1, Naytahwaush – 2, Riverland – 9  
Rice Lake will have zero by the end of the month and Pine Point – 5 Currently working on unit 7/8

#### *White Earth Indian Health Services Updates*

#### **Agency Priorities Update**

#### **White Earth Service Unit –4th Qtr. FY24**

***Our Mission:*** *To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.*

***White Earth’s Purpose Statement:*** *Healthy Generations of Anishinaabeg.*

#### **IHS Strategic Goals**

**IHS Strategic Plan Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people.**

White Earth IHS meets bi-monthly with our Tribal partners and Tribal Health Division. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, IHS hosted a cultural training provided by Rob Tibbetts at White Earth IHS Clinic. An option to attend the training virtually was available for employees who could not make the in-person event. During the training, the White Earth Clinic was closed in the morning so that as many staff as possible could attend the in-person training. The Clinic reopened at 1pm for patient care after the training.

With the expansion of the White Earth Clinic nearing completion, IHS also re-started the Art Committee and will start displaying our beautiful artwork at the WESU again. This will include the Veterans Wall by Pete Fairbanks and Budd Parker. They will be adding a Female Veterans Wall memorializing the contributions of our Anishinaabeg Female Veterans as well.

Beautiful artwork by our talented local native artists is also displayed in display cases throughout our Waabinokwe Health Center. The art hanging on the wall in the Waiting Area was created by one of White Earth’s very own artists, Kent Estey, who is from the village of Naytahwaush. The blues found on the exterior of the Waabinoke Health Center represent North Twin Lake and the people’s relationship with water. The interior colors are neutral and warm to bring nature inside and provide a relaxing environment for people receiving healthcare.

Both the White Earth and Naytahwaush Clinics host Tribal Behavioral Health Programs in their facilities. These programs provide services for all community members, Tribal and IHS Staff. In addition to behavioral health services, Anishinaabe Energy Healing and Plant Medicines are offered as well as traditional practices, sound healing, breathwork, and guided meditation.

**IHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization.**

Promoting excellence and quality through innovation drives efforts to improve access to quality care at the White Earth Service Unit (WESU). Improving healthcare delivery, patient outcomes and overall efficiency within our facilities is always one of our top priorities. The adoption of innovative technologies and practices is essential for driving progress in healthcare and addressing the evolving needs of patients within the IHS system.

WESU has 100% completion for all required training for new and current staff. To ensure staff have the opportunity to fulfill these requirements, leadership worked to schedule time weekly to minimize impact on patient care activities and promote time management. Investing in our staff supports knowledge, competency, and skills to provide a pathway to excellence and quality for our patients.

The WESU is accredited by Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). To achieve this accreditation, we follow Dental and Medical Home Models that align with these five pillars: 1. Understanding and Collaboration, 2. Accessibility, 3. Comprehensiveness of Care, 4. Continuity of Care, and 5. Quality. Rethinking the structure of our medical and dental teams has supported these models and our ability to improve overall access and improved healthcare outcomes.

We are working to better assess the quality of patient experience at our facilities using one standardized patient experience survey. This electronic survey is based on the IHS national patient experience survey. Unlike previous surveys, this one includes two specific access questions to inform management of system-wide access issues.

Dental continues to identify and recruit qualified dental staff to our department. WESU recently onboarded two new dentists which is very exciting. Dr. Cumba works to ensure same day access for patients seeking care for urgent situations. We are accommodating 90% of same day access in the dental department. Pine Point Clinic is open one day per month. We will expand for more days once staff is onboard and trained. We are looking at ways to improve the overall process of providing dentures and crowns through our dental department. With much guidance from Dr. Cumba, our leadership team recently approved the purchase of 3D printing equipment to produce crowns and dentures for both the White Earth and Naytahwaush Dental Clinics. The advancement of three-dimensional printing in dentistry offers a more efficient, cost-effective, and innovative approach to dental treatments, paving the way for complex, customized solutions that traditional methods cannot achieve. For example, prior to 3D printing, a patient would have to sit through multiple dental appointments over a long period of time to get dentures; now not

only can the patient have them the same day, but the dentures are more accurate through the 3D process because these dentures do not compress soft gum tissue.

We also recently approved the purchase of MagView Software for our Mammography Department. Our mammography departments need the ability to provide standardized reporting, outcome monitoring, patient tracking in an efficient way that saves time and resources. There are many benefits to this software such as generating specific reminders and letters for patients who are due for a mammogram and notifies staff when patients need to return for follow-up; informs and educates patients about tissue density, potential breast cancer risk factors, and options for return visits.

The Weight Management Clinic for both pediatrics and adults continues to see success in health outcomes through lifestyle changes as interest in this clinic continues to grow.

Two dedicated and outstanding providers of the Naytahwaush (NTW) Clinic will be joined by a third permanent provider in October. Orthopedic services are currently being provided at NTW facility due to the final phase of the remodel of White Earth. Radiology, including mammography services, have relocated back to NTW.

Currently, we are carefully recruiting for a Clinical Director for our service unit. We want to be certain the candidate is a proper fit for our service unit.

**IHS Strategic Plan Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations.**

White Earth Service Unit continues to set the bar high with quality and innovation seen throughout our daily operations and patient interactions. WESU has taken a deeper look at overall operations which starts before the patient enters our facility and continues after the patient is discharged from their primary care visit. Managers/supervisors present monthly operations report, which helps department managers focus on accreditation and revenue generation processes specific to their departments. For Medical and Dental, the Patient-Centered Medical Home is the ideal avenue for quality improvement activities. Non-clinical departments address methods to lessen or eliminate the eight wastes in healthcare. We ensure that HHS, Surgeon General, and IHS strategic goals are identified as projects and objectives are developed and cascaded from the Agency priorities.

The WESU Executive Leadership Team continues to utilize a Quality Management approach that emphasizes a focus on sustainability as a key to achieving healthcare excellence. One of WESU's primary improvement projects has been improved access to medical and dental appointments. The innovation of WESU Leadership and the Area office implemented several contracts to ensure improved access to primary care, internal medicine, weight management, pediatrics weight management, and dental care. Extending provider schedules out to 3 months has had a very positive impact on overall access and same day availability. Dental has implemented a plan of care for each patient and establishes a return appointment date before the patient leaves the department.

PRC has been working to improve relationships with outside vendors. We have an area consultant present at White Earth to help improve efficiency and implement necessary changes within the PRC department for our patients as well as our vendors – this addition seems to be helping. The PRC Program is receiving National IHS attention and dedication from leadership to ensure there is adequate staffing and support for overall success, improvement, and sustainability. If patients continue to receive bills or collect letters, please bring them to our PRC staff. The new clinic provides space where patients can have a face-to-face visit with PRC staff. We are committed to making the improvements necessary to address patient concerns. Thank you for everyone's continued patience and support!

I have an open-door policy, if you need to reach me, please stop by my office or in person or reach me by phone (218) 983-6214

#### *White Earth Tribal and Community College Updates*

We are several weeks into our fall semester at the college. At the start of the term, we saw an increase of 16% in our student enrollment. The student service department has been working diligently on recruitment. The dean of academics and student services has updated the strategic enrollment management plan – a lot of the strategies written into the plan are being utilized – and this is why we have an uptick in the enrollment numbers. In the college's July quarterly report, I shared our prediction of an enrollment increase of 8%; we doubled this prediction.

We have our Higher Learning Commission (HLC) comprehensive evaluation visit slated for October 28 and 29, 2024. This review will be conducted over two full days with the review team at our location. The HLC writing team created and wrote the assurance argument document. The HLC writing team entered the information, linked the evidence, and shared our evidence library with the reviewers. The materials were submitted on September 25, 2024, for the reviewers to peruse; the due date to submitting the materials was thirty days prior to the review.

We have 5 criterion areas we addressed and showcased in our assurance, and they are: 1. Mission 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning.

In addition to the HLC comprehensive evaluation, the college will have a federal compliance review being conducted at the same time as the comprehensive evaluation. Due note, effective September 1, 2024, HLC has updated their review process; the college will use this updated process format in preparing for the review.

The federal compliance review is conducted by HLC to meet their requirement that all its member institutions are meeting their Title IV program (Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Federal Work Study) responsibilities as well as complying with the expectations of specific regulations accreditors must enforce as part of their recognition by the



US Department of Education. I have attached the updated procedure HLC document for the Federal Compliance Overview.

The Federal Student Aid Title IV Programs the college receives are:

- Pell Grant: The federal government guarantees that the college will receive enough money to pay PELL to its eligible students.
- FSEOG: Each school receives a fixed amount of money to make FSEOG awards to eligible students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Once this money is awarded, there is no more for that academic year.
- Federal Work Study: It provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study. Income from work-study jobs do not get calculated by the college in the student's aid offer with their total income the following school year

HLC has selected the comprehensive evaluation team members. They are: Koreen Ressler, Chair, from Sitting Bull College, Tamarah Pfeiffer, from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Mary Pelcher, from Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Michael Parker, from Pima County Community College District, and David Rudden, from Elgin Community College.

HLC has selected the Federal Compliance Reviewer, Dr. Bin Ning, from Kansas State University.

We have facilities projects underway this academic year. We are excited that the college is growing and expanding. Stay tuned for more updates as these exciting projects progress – we will be posting updates to our college Facebook page.

Here is a list of the projects:

1. Phase IV Addition and Renovation to the main campus:  
Expected Completion Date: August/ September 2025
2. Chemistry Lab Renovation  
Expected Completion Date: Summer 2025
3. Deep Winter Green House  
Expected Completion Date: Delayed, TBD
4. Solar Array  
Completion Date: Summer 2024
5. Parking Lot Resurface  
Expected Completion Date: Spring/Summer 2025

6. Loading Dock Driveway Access  
Expected Completion Date: Summer 2025
7. Medical Simulation Mobile Unit  
Expected Completion Date: Winter 2025
  
8. Storage Garage  
  
Expected Completion Date: Summer 2025
  
9. Lactation Pod  
Expected Completion Date: TBD
  
10. Cubicle Offices  
Expected Completion Date: Fall/Winter 2025

We continue to seek funding for the trades building to expand our technical programming at the college. Once Minnesota congressional elections are complete, the college will seek a chief author to draft a bill to seek funding for this building. The college is currently looking at completing a feasibility study for this project. The college would like to expand our degree options to offer the Construction Technology AAS degree program that would provide a high-quality educational experience designed to prepare future focused professionals in the plumbing, carpentry, electrical, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and solar construction trades.

*Meeting recessed at 11:13 a.m.*

*Meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m.*

*Eugene Sommers stepped away from meeting at 11:40 a.m.*

### **Community Council Updates**

#### *White Earth Urban*

We had a bus trip to the inauguration in August. We had 31 members attend. In August, we got backpacks from Mystic Lake Casino and did backpack giveaway. We had a lot of backpacks left so one of our members, who is a counselor at a school, to the rest of the backpacks for the students that needed them and didn't have access to free backpacks near their community.

Our July family picnic was rescheduled to September 21, 2024. We partnered Chuck and Jen at the Behavioral Health Urban Department. We purchased prizes and they also gave two TVs as prizes. The food was catered by Fawn. We had around 157 members there.

We had received 10 bikes from Toys for Tots last December, but we decided it would be right to give one child a nice bike and then others a gift worth \$5.

We currently have three community council members on board, we sent a certified letter to get out WEUCC assets and records back.

We started planning for our Pow Wow for next year and will be attending the Veteran's Pow Wow to see how they their Pow Wow. Planning family fall events, toys for tots and elder Christmas party.

#### *Elbow Lake*

Laura Lee provided brief update on Elbow Lake playground, Halloween Party.

#### *Iron Range*

Louie Johannsen gave concerns on health and safety, trying to push programs for snow plowing and lawn care. Few elders that are homebound and trying to get meals provided to them. Land that was logged without permission and legal department has been working with us as well as hunting, fishing and gathering rights. Event at timber lake lodge on October 30<sup>th</sup> for constitutional. Inviting Tribal Leaders in either November or December.

#### *Pine Point*

Construction on playground completed.

Blinder for circle were ordered but on half was paid for. Blinders will be powered by batteries and remote controlled. PPCC have to pay for labor.

Bleachers were constructed and place at Demo Derby site. Port-a-potty were received.

Working with the League of Women Voters on a possible voting polling site in the village for November election.

Held the first of 3 Culture Camps in the village for the year on September 28<sup>th</sup>. 81 people registered in attendance. This is from a \$18,000 grant from John Hopkins University, Indigenous Health group in hosting culture camps in 2024, 2025 and 2026, a total of 6 camps. Stations offered were:

Moccasin making – Mike Swan  
drum making – Dayton Jones  
tobacco making – Karen Jones  
belt making – Neegonee Brunner  
ribbon skirt/shirt making –Katie Robbins and Edie Smith  
rattle making – Dawn Kier  
Pipe Making demonstration – Pete Ellis  
Tea's and salve – Terri LaDuke

It was requested that we look at a jingle dress workshop in the winter.

Biggest project this fall was reconstruction of the surface area in the arena at the pow wow grounds. We wanted better grass for the dancers. The old sod was taken up and more black dirt was placed down. The arena was then hydro seed and started watering for the grass take hold before winter. Total project Cost \$12,623.00. Miigwech to the donation committee, Health dept and funds raised by Community Council and pow wow committee.

Future events in village: Truck or treat on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. Turkey bingo on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Community Christmas dinner and party on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

***Michael Fairbanks stepped away from meeting at 11:53 a.m.***

*Rice Lake*

Henry Fox gave brief update; they help not only with community events, but with families with food, clothing, and haunted drive through the woods this weekend.

***Michael Fairbanks returned back in meeting at 11:56 a.m.***

There are cameras at the Rice Lake Center, building is good unfortunately with funerals going on at the center we have to close down departments at the center.

*White Earth ~ Provided Report*

- Bought 8 new picnic Tables, 6 will go to the new playground and 2 will be at the center.
- Bought a new 16x20 canopy that will be built up at the new playground. (We have the lumber stored)
- Bought 3 new Bouncy houses that will be only used and the center and can be rented for Use at the center only, we will not rent them out for events outside the center.
- Our disc gold baskets were re-ordered and will be replaced this spring, old ones will go to another program.
- WECC sent an email to District 3 Rep. Requesting a used computer from the RBC.
- WECC will send out forms for families to send back for 5 full Thanksgiving dinners.
- We also will be working on RBC Toy giveaway and started handing out forms. We will be busy with that and planning our yearly Xmas party

## **Old Business**

### Pesticides and Chemical Code Revision

August, we went to change the code and public comment, and made slight modifications based on comments. Pesticide code is up for vote by Council. Amendment

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the Pesticides and Chemical Code Revision Amendment; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

### Emergency Propane

Henry Fox.

Last year they gave us so much money for emergency help with propane, EAP won't come in for another 2-3 weeks. Henry's budget is down, and it brought him under \$1,000.00 and if we can put more in the budget. Mike LaRoque said we have to look at the Elder Homeowner repair, waiting for Tracy to get here. Brief discussion on taking a look at Henry's budget. \$10,000.00 in each of our EAP Fund

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve additional \$10,000.00; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

## **New Business**

Elder Gift Cards amount changed to \$100.00

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve \$100.00 Gift Cards for Elders; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

### *Enrollments and Legal Department*

Recognition of Red Lake Nation Blood for White Earth Nation Enrollment Eligibility Criteria. Henry Fox read the letter that was provided.

The White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby directs the above-named governmental departments to research White Earth Nation recognition of Red Lake Blood for addition to the white earth nations enrollment eligibility criteria.

The MCT constitution, Article 2, describes the requirement for membership as a person having certain degree of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Indian Blood. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ordinances limits eligibility to A person having a certain degree of blood from an of the six Constituent Bands of the MCT. Recently another mct band determined the mct enrollment ordinance is in conflict with the intent of the mct Constitution. Additionally, the red lake nation enrollment office has worked cooperatively with this band to certify Indian blood.

Based upon this information the White Earth RBC approved its Enrollment and Legal Departments to seek further information including from the mct and red lake nation and report back to the RBC with findings and recommendations.

Tribal Leaders will review this for the next ten (10) days and have a special meeting within the next two weeks.

**Consent Agenda/ Signatory Request & Ratifications**

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Consent Agenda/ Signatory Request & Ratifications with additions and changes; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Ratification USDA Contract / Wild Rice

Motion made by Henry Fox by to go into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m.; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

***Meeting reconvened at 12:37 p.m.***

**Executive Session**

*Land*

Sarah LaFriniere and Megan Bakken are present.

Homesites

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve with D2 Tabled 2 Homesites; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Residential

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Residential; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Lakeshore

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Lakeshore with D2 Tabled 3 Lakeshore; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Service Line Agreement

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Service Line Agreement; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Agriculture

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Agriculture; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Business

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Business with D2 Tabled 1 Business; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Trail Permit

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Trail Permits with D2 Tabled 1 Trail Permit; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Other

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve [REDACTED]; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Manly Parcel General Fund and WELSA Fund; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve St. Cloud Property; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve St. Cloud Building; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Bjerken Cabin Seal Bid, Raffle and Live Auction  
Tribal Council tabled this.

*Legal*

Andrea Kingbird is present.

Proposed plan for LCCMR Grant and Stafford withdrawal notice

RBC is in consensus

Mississippi Pillager LLC /d/b/a White Earth Enterprise Operating Agreement Amendments and Board Appointments

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve Mississippi Pillager LLC and Agreement Amendments; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Cannabis Compact Termination Clause Discussion

Brief discussion was held on this.

*Tabled Signatories*

Renewal Business License

Tabled.

[REDACTED]

Intertribal Ag

[REDACTED]  
Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Wade Jackson only; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against,

MPCA

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve MPCA; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Rice Lake

Tabled

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to adjourn meeting at 1:50 p.m.; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

---

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer



## White Earth Tribal Council Quarterly Report

### Secretary/Treasurer's Report

#### Photo

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Michael LaRoque

#### Aanin Boozhoo

Greeting White Earth Members, I have the honor of serving as the Secretary/Treasurer position for the White Earth Tribal Council and this is my 4th Quarter report ending September 30, 2024. Our Fiscal year runs from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

#### Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Due to the fiscal year dates, the RBC must have a general fund budget in place by September 30, 2023. This budget was approved by the Tribal Council and adopted by resolution on September 30, 2023. The budget adopted accounts for revenues in the amount of 15.96 million which consists of State of MN Tax revenue and expenditures in the amount of 22.46 million. These expenditures are incurred for departments that operate more for the good of the band members than to make a profit. These include education, public safety, general government, human services, public works, economic development, and culture among others. This allows for a budget deficit of 6.34 million which will be funded by distributions from the Shooting Star Casino. This deficit includes all capital expenses.

#### Fiscal Year 2024 4th Quarter

##### General Fund

This quarters FY24 budget for governmental activities ending June 30, 2023, is at \$22.4 million with expenses at \$18.8 million with a balance of \$3.6 million.

##### Gaming

Consolidated revenue for Mahnomen, Bagley, and all other gaming revenue for the 4th Fiscal Quarter of FY2024, ending September 30, 2024, was \$32.5 million. The consolidated expenses for the Quarter were \$26.9 million. Consolidated net income for the quarter was \$5.6 million; Mahnomen is at \$4.7 million, and Bagley is at \$882k.

The budget through the 3rd Fiscal Quarter was \$110.8 million of revenue and \$98.1 million in expenses for a budgeted net income of \$12.7 million for the first nine months of FY2024. YTD Revenue was \$9.2 million higher than the budget while expenses were \$2.6 million lower than budget resulting in net income being \$11.8 million higher than budget.

The Bagley Casino for the 3rd quarter ending September 30, 2023, earned \$3.3 million in revenue with expenditures of \$2.4 million. Bagley Casino has a net income for the quarter of \$882K.

Shooting Star Casino cash on hand on September 30, 2024, was \$75.2 million. The cash on hand at the close of the last fiscal year, September 30, 2023, was \$77.2 million. After Shooting Star Casino capital improvement spending and over \$22.0 million distributions to the White Earth RBC, cash has increased by \$2.0 million during the first three quarters of the fiscal 2024.

The Unaudited preliminary numbers are subject to change as the numbers are finalized.

#### **ARPA (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund)**

This quarter FY24 ARPA funds a cash balance of \$16.3 million with \$18.0 million in expenses with revenues balance of \$33.0 million.

#### **Other Grant Funds**

In this quarter of FY2024, we have recorded \$60.9 million dollars in other grant funding while recording \$80.57 million in expenditures. The other grant funds consist of grants from Federal, State, and local funding agencies. The funds are meant for a specific program, service, or activity and must be budgeted as such.

#### **Behavioral Health**

In this quarter of FY2024, we have accounted for \$40.2 million in revenue while recording \$39.18 million in expenditures. This leaves us with 1.2 million. The ending cash balance in Behavioral Health funds is \$51.1 million, in addition, there is an investment account of 15.0 million.

#### **Youth and Elder Funds**

The casino purchased twelve AGS machines, one-sixth of the gaming revenue from those machines provide the funding for the Youth and Elder Fund. Six of those machines are in the casino on the back wall near the Smoke Restaurant. The remaining six machines are in the middle of the northern portion of the floor. All AGS machines on the casino gaming floor earn guest rewards points when playing with their player card. (This is not the case with AGS machines offsites.) The funding in this program is designed to help assist with costs associated with group activities supporting enrolled youth and elder members of White Earth Nation. These donations are authorized by the Tribal Council.

In this quarter of FY24, we have \$556,514 in revenue while recording \$181,788 in expenditures. This leaves us with a cash balance of \$384,726.

I would also like to say that I have been holding all Divisions in line to stay within their approved budgets or come in under these approved budgets. The last two years we have been under budget with no budget amendments.

I am at the two-year mark of my term as Secretary/Treasurer, and I have always said that we need to continue to move forward and secure our future for our next generations to come. I look forward to continued success for the next two years of my term.

In closing I want to thank the members of the White Earth Nation for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for this great nation. I look forward to moving forward with great progress and optimism and I hope we can work together for a brighter future. Miigwech!

Michael J. LaRoque  
Secretary-Treasurer