

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

September 29, 2023

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman
Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer
Henry Fox, District I Representative
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative

Absent: Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative – Excused

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Antonio Solorzano, General Counsel
Tracy Lhotka, Chief Financial Officer
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Additions:

- **Government Budget Approval FY2024**
- **Headwaters – Strategic Planning Grant**
- **Waabigwan Mashkiki – Executive Session**

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

RBC Meeting Minutes (07/28/23 & 08/31/23)

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Old Business

No old business for discussion

New Business

Government Budget Approval FY2024:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Headwaters Regional Development Commission

Luke Wakefield is present. Mr. Wakefield is the Economic Development Specialist for Headwaters Regional Development Commission in Bemidji, MN, and the Staff Liaison for the Mahnomen County Economic Development Authority. Mr. Wakefield provided a brief overview of a handout that was provided to the RBC for review; Recompete Pilot Program Fact Sheet and to talk about the strategy development grant application. This is a pool of funds for strategy development that are meant to help communities that have barriers to employment and communities that have economic distress. This would create a comprehensive economic redevelopment strategy. Mr. Wakefield is asking for three things for today:

1. Would the White Earth Nation sign on as co-applicant for the funds?
2. Would the White Earth Nation be willing to sign a letter of support for getting the grant/submission?
3. Submitting the grant in a timely manner. The grant is due October 5, 2023.

Michael LaRoque stated that he did speak to Joe Tonihka who sits on the EDA Board of Mahnomen. This is a grant that White Earth is not putting in for. Recommendation to collaborate with them.

Michael Fairbanks commented on what EDA does and how they have helped many communities, towns, and cities.

Recompete Strategy Development Grant Support Letter:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda / Signatory Requests and Ratifications for September 29, 2023, with additions. License renewal will be brought into Executive Session for discussion.

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

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to go into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m.; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollments:

Shannon is present and provided brief updates.

Enrollment (Eligible) – 57 Individuals:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (Ineligible) – 37 Individuals

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (No Parent) – 2 Individuals:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (Relinquishment) – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Michael LaRoque commented on DMV and descendent cards. Shannon provided a brief overview of this process.

Enrollment (Dis- Enrollment) – 1 Individual:
Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (Dis-Enrollment) – 1 Individual:
Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED] second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (Dis-Enrollment) – 1 Individual:
Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 2 Individuals:
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

1089: more individuals that will be corrected. Brief overview of Blood Quantum Correction.

Land:

Megan Bakken and Sarah LaFriniere are present and provided updates.

Homesites: District II – 2 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Lakeshore: District II – 5 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

District III – 1 site will be tabled until Cheryl “Annie” is present.

Business: District II – 1 site and District III – 3 sites:

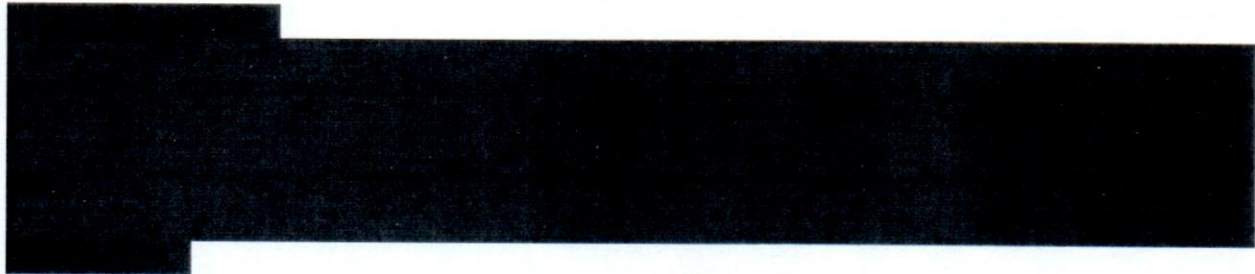
Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Other Land Topics; Purchase Agreement Authorization, Buschelle – General Fund, Buschelle – WELSA, Kugler – General Fund, Kugler – WELSA and the Conservation Fund:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Bremer Bank - New Certificates of Deposits:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to authorize the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer to sign the agreements; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.



WETN Proposed Contract Changes 2023 – Barb Rohde:

Proposed contract changes with updated information were provided to the RBC for review. Antonio brought forward his concerns with Barb Rohde and Tom Brierton. Antonio and Laura will work with Barb and Tom to make sure they have information available for the RBC when they do visits. The contract will be tabled for the Special Executive Finance meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Recessed at 11:06 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

Peebles Kidder Presentation on Lobbying Service:

Xavier Barraza, Senior Associate, is present and Patrick Bergin, Equity Partner is present Via Conference call. Xavier provided a brief overview of the Peebles Kidder Firm. This is Native American Law Firm across the Nation. Overview:

- Native American Gaming
- Natural Resources Management
- Natural Resources Development
- Tribal Law Enforcement
- Tribal Cannabis
- Tribal Housing
- Long-Term Tribal Political Planning
- Tribal Specific Legislation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MCT Data Request form requested from Melinda Iverson, TUC:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Executive Session ended at 1:33 p.m.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to adjourn meeting at 1:33 p.m.; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer