

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

May 5, 2023

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman
Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative
Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative

Absent: Henry Fox, District I Representative

Others Present: Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Tracy Lhotka, Chief Finance Officer
Antonio Solorzano, General Counsel
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Additions:

- Human Services – Executive Session
- Land Purchase – Executive Session
- DNR – Executive Session

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve with additions; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

RBC Meeting Minutes (03/24/23)

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Reports

RBC will be attending the Urban Office Clinic open house: May 12, 2023

Elder Council

Miigwech, to the RBC for the courtesy invite and table for the State of the Band address. The elders would like to invite the RBC to the Wisdom Steps Conference June 13-15, 2023. 352 elders signed up for the conference currently. Wisdom Steps is the Preventive Health Program and provides services to elders throughout the State of Minnesota. 20 members will be eligible to go who are 55 or older and meet the health and walk requirements due to policy/bylaws. They are very excited to have the conference. Encouraging all elders to be part of the Wisdom Steps Program. They are requesting help with transportation to this conference.

Teedo thanked the RBC for attending their elder meeting. They advocate for the elderly and making sure services are provided for them.

Concerns brought forward regarding enrollments on receiving family history information. Forms are to be completed online. The elderly need training in how to use their computers. There has to be an easier way to get this information and have our own records in White Earth, MN. The records need to be requested from The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Brief update on the cemeteries and the importance of headstones.

Bus: what is happening with this? The elders have many events that are coming up this summer and need transportation to these events. They want to recognize and honor our ceremonies that are important to us. We have lost many elders and elders want to protect our history.

Indian Health Service: Teedo stated Laurie has completed a list of concerns and will present to Dan Fry. They have presenters attend their meetings. Elders have White Earth Housing Authority concerns and will address Michael Heisler.

Mother's Day Powwow: Elders need transportation to this event.

Michael LaRoque commented on the bus and met Scott Stevens on the bus issue. If elders provide enough time for events, Dan – SSC driver can transport the elders to events. This will accommodate until the bus issue is addressed. Recommendation to have a schedule of events and the RBC can reach out to Scott to help with transportation.

Elders Commission

- Not Present

Program Updates

White Earth Housing Authority (Please see attached report):

Michael Heisler and Jamie Londo are present. Mr. Heisler provided a brief update on White Earth Housing Authority.

Sam Crowell commented on houses that need to be renovated and brought forward concerns. Driveway concerns were brought forward for maintenance road repairs. Recommendation to reach out to Michael Bowman on the driveway concerns.

Brief discussion held on garbage pickup. Michael LaRoque stated they talked about third-party billing with Public Health and to identify all the elders that need a small dumpster.

Brief discussion held on the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program: White Earth Builders did assessments on the selected homes.

White Earth Indian Health Service:

Michael Fairbanks referenced the White Earth Indian Health Service report and updates:

- Renovation of the other half of the outpatient clinic should be complete toward the beginning of June. Optometry, Pediatric, and Audiology services will move into this renovated space.
- The next phase of renovation is where the Business Office, Patient Benefit Coordinators, and Medical Records (HIM) were located. They are now located closer to the outpatient clinics.

- This phase will include the area where Tribal Programs will be located in addition to the new business office, registration, and new facility entrance.
- A new Family Nurse Practitioner will be starting on May 21st. She is coming to us from another I.H.S site and has more than 20 years of experience in Family Practice.

White Earth Tribal & Community College (Please see attached report)

Michael Fairbanks referenced the WETCC report and updates.

White Earth Constitution Delegate Report (Please see attached report)

Patty Straub is present and provided updates. They have been in existence since 2018 and currently have 10 members. They recently had an election for District III and two were selected. They meet three to four times a month. Every third Friday of each month they attend the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe delegate meeting and is hosted by each reservation. White Earth will host a meeting in July of this year.

Community Council Updates

Callaway- No Active Community Council

Cass Lake – Not Present

Elbow Lake (Please see attached report) – Not Present

Cheryl references Elbow Lake Community Council Quarterly Report.

Iron Range – Not Present

Mahnomen – Not Present

Naytahwaush – Not Present

Pine Point – Not Present

Rice Lake – Not Present

Urban – (Please see attached report) – Not Present

Michael LaRoque references the Urban Community Council Quarterly Report.

Waubun –Not Present

White Earth (Please see attached report) – Not Present

Cheryl references the White Earth Community Council Quarterly Report.

Old Business

Pine Point Powwow Committee Request: Table

Pine Point Township Board Request: Table

New Business

MCT Enrollment Data Request Form ~ Enrollment Book

Michael LaRoque commented on the purpose for the police department having an enrollment book. The Police Department needs to verify enrollments when they do their Civil Regulatory offenses.

Michael Fairbanks stated in the future they will need to have a broader conversation on this. Mr. Fairbanks stated he advocates for legislation on the lack of funding from the State of Minnesota, Public Law 280, and our jurisdiction and police force. White Earth uses a lot of their gaming proceeds and general fund that goes into serving and protecting our people.

Cheryl commented on keeping the members' information confidential.

A brief discussion held on Civil Regulatory. Concerns brought forward regarding this issue. Recommendation to have a planning committee.

MCT Enrollment Data Request Form:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Cheryl is going to say no and stated they should have a full council before approving. Continued discussion held on the Police Department having access to an enrollment book.

Eugene Sommers rescinded his motion; Michael LaRoque rescinded his second motion.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to table MCT Enrollment Data Request Form; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Brief discussion held on the Grocery Store for the White Earth Reservation.

Consent Agenda/ Signatory Request

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve with additions; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against

Signatory Request – Ratifications

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to go into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Letter of Support for Mahnomem Health Center Funding Request:

Recommendation to get a letter of support for our Bonding Bill. There will be stipulations on the letter of support with a condition to provide the Band with a support letter.

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

Land

Homesites; District II – 8 sites and District III – 3 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

District I – 3 sites: Table

Residential; District III – 3 sites:

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Business; District II – 1 site:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against

Other:

A brief discussion was held on Long Lost Lake. Bid out the structure with the option to take the lease:

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moorhead Ag property:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Lease/Assignment; Templates:

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

The Conservation Fund Letter:

Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

2023 Taxes:

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

MNDOT Maps District I & II corrections made:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Verizon; District II - Lease Options: Table

██████████ District II - Bid Authorization:

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

Traditional Cemetery; District II – Naytahwaush:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Brief discussion held on ██████████ Ag Lease – District III. 70 acres for 1 year to harvest wheat.

██████████ Ag Lease:

Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Human Resources

Mindy Iverson is present and provides a brief report/update on the Negotiation Policy. Factors to consider for Negotiation:

- Rate of Pay is Negotiable for any Grade Levels – Following conditions are met
- Opportunity for advancement
- Remote, Hybrid, and On-Site Policy
- Training/Educational and Professional Development
- Paid Time Off Accrual
- Hire Bonus
- Referral Bonus
- HR/Payroll Incentive
- Retention Bonus
- Relocation Expenses
- Approved Expenses – Standard Agreement
- Repayment Provision
- Tax Consideration
- Insurance Plan Start Date Flexibility
- Paid Parental Leave
- Paid Medical Leave
- Cultural Leave
- Mental Health Days
- 90 Day Review and Increase in Pay
- 32 Hour work week
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Student Loan Repayment

To Do items were discussed.

Human Resources Negotiation Policy:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve. Second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Meeting recessed at 12:19 p.m.

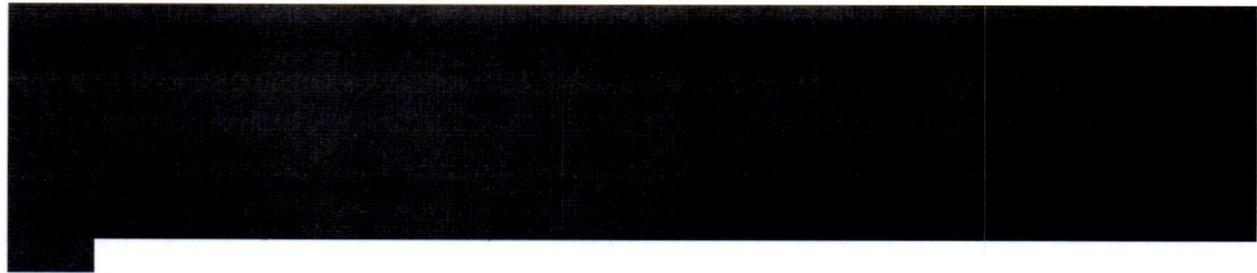
Meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Jamie Konopacky provided an update on the high-capacity wells. Appendix A; the regulatory of this area regarding water rights. Protection Ordinance was discussed. Jamie references the Resolution to the RBC.

- Section 1 – Title and Purpose: The title of this Ordinance is the White Earth Reservation Groundwater and Surface Water Protection Ordinance.
- Section 2 – Authority
- Section 3 – Applicability and Scope
- Section 4 – Definitions
- Section 5 – New and Existing Source Permits Required
- Section 6 – Permit Application Process
- Section 7 – Permit Application Contents
- Section 8 – Minimum Standards of Operation
- Section 9 – Reporting, Annual Report and Permit Renewal
- Section 10 – Inspection, Enforcement, Procedures and Penalties
- Section 11 – Effective Date
- Section 12 – Severability

Resolution:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve: second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.



Executive Session ended at 1:00 p.m.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 1:00 p.m.; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/ Treasurer