

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

November 25, 2024

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:29 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
Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative

Absent:

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Veronica Newcomer, Deputy General Counsel
Ashley Nelson, Assistant General Counsel
Andrea Szabo, Land & Environmental Attorney
Tracy Lhotka, CFO
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Additions:

- Powwow Funds ~ Executive Session
- MAST ~ Executive Session

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to approve with additions: second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

RBC Meeting Minutes (10/25/24)

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve with changes: second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Old Business

CAFO Moratorium; Extend for 2 years.

Resolution – Division of Natural Resources – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Moratorium Extension:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 057-25-003; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

New Business

Shannon Heisler, Enrollments is present for the meeting.

A brief discussion was held on the WERBC Enrollments – Recognition of Red Lake Blood Quantum for Eligibility Criteria. The resolution is regarding acknowledging Red Lake blood quantum for White Earth enrollment eligibility criteria.

Chairman Fairbanks stated Leech Lake announced they would abide by the TEC rules at the next meeting. Phil Brodeen suggested Article 2 amendment to allow Red Lake Chippewa members to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. TEC is reviewing at this time. The resolution being reviewed today is to allow Red Lake Chippewa blood to come into White Earth.

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque asked how this will affect our enrollments. Our membership needs to know, and this is not approved yet at the TEC level. This will be voted on December 12th by the TEC for the amendment to the MCT Enrollment Ordinance. Ms. Heisler stated that they do not have account of how many people this will affect at this time.

A brief discussion was held on the Red Lake Blood option and concerns. Red Lake would share their data with White Earth if approved.

Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative, brought forward her concerns with D3 members having different questions regarding the Red Lake Blood option. The majority of people support this, and RBC is sitting at the table because they were elected by our members. RBC needs to ensure they have the proper time to speak with our constituents, and this is really important. No action should be taken until TEC votes on this. It is very important to have data before we make decisions.

Patty Straub, White Earth Delegate is present regarding discussion held on the Red Lake blood, the importance and is in support of amending the MCT Enrollment Ordinance to allow and include Red Lake Blood to meet MCT enrollment eligibility.

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque stated the amendment is not going to be that White Earth accepts Red Lake blood, Red Lake falls under Minnesota Chippewa blood. The change to the ordinance is going to be any Minnesota Chippewa blood.

Eugene Sommers, District II Representative, commented on the blood quantum and needed clarification. Recommendation to have information placed out to our members.

A Memorandum of Information was provided to the RBC with the Red Lake Blood Option, concerning this option and other options for their review. Ms. Straub stated they will be out in each community to provide education and information for members. The Delegates will be attending the TEC meeting December 12th.

Recommendation to have a discussion with the Red Lake Tribal Council.

Resolution WERBC Enrollments - Recognition of Red Lake Blood Quantum for Eligibility Criteria:
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve. Continued discussion held on the resolution.

Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative stated if the MCT does change it then White Earth will get information out to our members to make sure they understand it too before RBC acted. Representative Erickson brought forward a concern on the proposed resolution and referenced the Resolution WERBC Enrollments - Recognition of Red Lake Blood Quantum for Eligibility Criteria the last THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon amendment of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Enrollment Ordinance, the White Earth Nation will immediately add Red Lake blood quantum to its enrollment eligibility criteria.

Representative Erickson supports, however, wait until MCT amends the MCT Enrollment Ordinance and White Earth decides after.

A brief discussion was held on the proposed resolution brought forward to today's meeting.

Resolution WERBC Enrollments – Recognition of Red Lake Blood Quantum for Eligibility Criteria:
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve of the changes, removal of THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda / Signatory Requests and Ratifications for November 25, 2024

Additions:

- **Addendum to Property Management Agreement**
- **I.H.S Director's Emergency Funding Request**

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve with additions; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Henry Fox to go into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Meeting Recessed at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened at 10:14 a.m.

Land

Megan Bakken is present and provided updates.

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

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

Residential; District I – 2 sites:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Lakeshore; District II – 3 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Trail Permits; District I & II – 1 site:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Business; District II – 1 site: A brief discussion was held on the feasibility study.
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Other:

Feder Farms – Land Purchase:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Armstrong Property Fee to Trust – Withdrawal Letter

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Fee to Trust – Deeds: RBC in Consensus

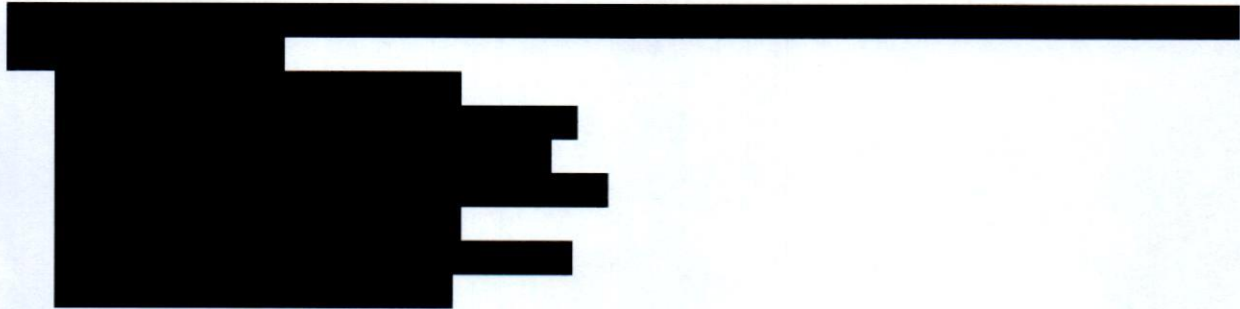
WELRP – WELSA; Land Transfer Parcel 1 and WELRP – WELSA; Land Transfer Parcel 2:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

A brief discussion was held on the following:

1. Bjerken cabin – Sealed Bid
2. Bjerken cabin – Raffle
3. Bjerken cabin – Live Auction

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to table; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.



Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4, for, 0 against.
Recuse, Eugene Sommers.

White Earth Enterprise:

Rachel Perks is present for a brief discussion held on White Earth Sanitation C&D Landfill. Enterprises are working with Natural Resources on the feasibility study for the environmental impact. Natural Resources assisted with the paperwork for the USDA grant. Cameras are out for surveillance for the White Earth Sanitation C&D Landfill. Rachel provided a brief overview of illegal dumping. Option to develop the road and shut off the other entry to the landfill, this area will be fenced and a gate with limited access. Phase 2 will be working with Natural Resources and the infrastructure piece for recycling for alternate services. Rachel is working on a business plan. Controlled C&D land fill; only certain items and will be controlled.

Tabled Signatory Requests

[REDACTED]

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to deny the business licenses; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Notice of Award for Rice Lake Water Extension Project:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

MAST – Donation Request \$15,000

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

Laurie York and Ayecia Kemp recused themselves from the meeting.

Powwow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 11:42 a.m.; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer