

**White Earth Reservation Business Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**September 27, 2024**

**Mahnomen, MN**

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Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:36 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  
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel  
Veronica Newcomer, Deputy General Counsel  
Tracy Lhotka, CFO  
Maria Bevins, Recorder

**Agenda Approval**

**Additions:**

- 2 Resolutions ~ Executive Session
- Legal Updates ~ Executive Session
- 2025 Annual Budget ~ New Business
- CSC Billing Revenue ~ Executive Session
- Health Rates ~ Executive Session
- Boxing Event ~ Old Business
- Judicial Contracts Signatory Request ~ Executive Session
- Discussion will be added to Land ~ Executive Session
- Public Safety – HSUS Pets for Life Grant ~ Executive Session

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

**RBC Meeting Minutes (08/30/24)**

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

### **Old Business**

Andrea Szabo is present and has provided a brief overview of the Co-Stewardship Agreement for Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. A brief discussion was held on the agreement being a draft form, however Ms. Szabo stated this is the final form. A brief discussion was held on the agreement and changes to the document.

Laura Lee Erickson, District III Representative, commented on the data and brought forward concerns. Ms. Szabo stated that the MOA signed in June discusses sharing data as it relates to Natural Resources and references areas in the agreement pertaining to culturally sensitive information.

Legal – Signing Co-Stewardship Agreement with USFWS for Tamarac NWR:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 001-24-071; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Boxing Event:

Eugene Sommers, District II Representative, has been working on establishing an Athletic Commission for White Earth Nation. There is a proposal for the Shooting Star Casino to have a boxing event sometime in November. Working with the MN Athletic Commissioner who will be helping with the framework for this.

### **New Business**

2025 Annual Budget: Secretary/Treasurer Michael LaRoque provides a brief overview of the budget. Tribal members can request the information.

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

### **Consent Agenda / Signatory Requests and Ratifications for September 27, 2024**

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

Tim Rindahl, Missy Fairbanks and Colleen Blattenbauer are present. Colleen Blattenbauer provided a brief update on the trip they attended for the Urban picnic. The elders took a picture with Lt. Governor Flanagan. Colleen provided a brief update on the White Earth Council of Elders financials.

*Motion made by Michael LaRoque to go into Executive Session at 10:20 a.m. second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.*

*Meeting Recessed at 10:20 a.m.*

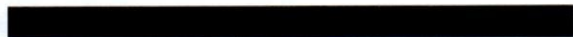
*Meeting Reconvened at 10:46 a.m.*

### **Land**

Megan Bakken and Sarah LaFriniere are present and provided updates.

Homesites; District II – 2 sites and District III – 6 sites:

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



Lakeshore; District II – 2 sites:

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

Agriculture; District III – 1 site:

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

Business; District III – 1 site:

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

Other; McCullum Property / WELSA Fund and McCullum Property / General Fund:

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

Purchase Property in St. Cloud for Medical Cannabis: RBC in consensus.

### **Enrollments**

Kathy Warren is present and provides brief updates.

Enrollment – Eligible; 32 individuals:

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

Enrollment - Ineligible; 28 individuals:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve [REDACTED]; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Enrollment No Parent; 2 individuals:

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

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change; 1 individual:

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

Band Transfer; 1 Individual:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve [REDACTED]; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Band Transfer; 1 Individual:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve [REDACTED]; second by Laura Lee Erickson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Band Transfer; 1 Individual:

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

Band Transfer; 1 Individual:

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

### **Tabled Signatory Requests**

Renewal Business License [REDACTED]

Edit to say within the boundaries of White Earth Reservation. Laure York provided a brief update on receiving ordinances and codes.

Clarification is needed. Is this allowable to issue in other states? Veronica provided a brief overview of operations in other states and updating the White Earth Code. A brief discussion held on jurisdiction to enforce White Earths Business Code. Recommendation to have a memo in writing from the Legal Department on updating the White Earth Code.

Motion made by Laura Lee Erickson to table request; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Post-Award Claims for Contract Support Costs (CSC):

Tracy referenced the memo to the RBC and provided a brief update. For fiscal year 2018, White Earth must submit its claim no later than September 30, 2024. Certification is subject to negotiation with the Indian Health Service.

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

Health Rates. Tracy provided a brief overview of the health rates to the RBC.

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

Resolution – Tribal Health Board Establishments:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 001-24-075; second by Michael LaRoque.  
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against,

Resolution Behavioral Health – Boys & Girls Club:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Resolution No. 064-24-108; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

Contract Renewals:

Andrea provided a brief overview of the Judicial Code as structured and questions regarding approving contracts for Judges and Attorney contracts. A brief discussion was held on the contracts and the continuity of care for the department. Pass contracts with amended code in upcoming months. Prioritize the Judicial Code and bring it back to the Tribal Council for review.

Motion to approve the contracts directive to fix the Judicial Code:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRaque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against. Laura Lee Erickson is silent.

Resolution Public Safety – HSUS Pets for Life Grant \$75,000. A brief discussion was held on the Pets for Life Grant.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 001-24-077; second by Michael LaRoque.

Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.



Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 11:50 a.m.; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

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Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer