

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

February 28, 2024

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:31 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
Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative

Absent:

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Tracy Lhotka, Chief Finance Officer
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel
Ayecia Kemp, Executive Administrative Assistant
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Additions:

- Elders Bus for the next TEC Meeting – New Business
- ICWA MFPA Resolution – New Business
- Executive Session
 - WEDOT
 - MPCA Letter
 - Two Contracts
 - BIA Application
 - Mississippi Pillager Resolution
 - Bremer Bank Resolution and Contract
 - Emergency Management Resolution and Contract
 - Lower Sioux Resolution
 - White Earth State Forest Resolution
 - White Earth Wild Rice Market Discussion

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

RBC Meeting Minutes (01/26/24 & 02/06/24)

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve with changes; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Old Business

White Earth Fire Department:

Recommendation to move forward with the annual payment of \$25,000 for White Earth Fire Department and Twin Lakes Fire Department:

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

A brief discussion held on the Ogema Fire Department request. Recommendation to provide the Ogema Fire Department with what was paid to Carsonville Fire Department, onetime payment.

Gizibii Membership Invoice and Council Member Appointment:

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

New Business

Pine Point Powwow Committee – Pine Point Traditional Powwow Budget:

Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

White RBC Vice-Chairman; Henry Fox:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

MCT Enrollment Data Request Form:

A brief discussion was held on request. This request was approved and completed recently.

Elders Bus Next TEC:

The elderly are requesting assistance to travel to the next TEC in Grand Portage. They are requesting transportation and rooms. Recommendation to have a budget and to collaborate with WECO and a number of rooms that they will need.

Contact Person: Please reach out to Lucille “Teedo” Silk if elders are interested in attending. They will have more discussion to be held in an RBC debriefing.

ICWA:

Laurie provided a brief overview of the Resolution and last year’s Legislative session. This year is phase two in MFPA. There are 10 areas they focus on in a work group.

Resolution - Amendments to Minnesota Laws Affecting Custody of Indian Children:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 064-24-051; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda / Signatory Request and Ratifications for February 28, 2024; revised:

- Pull – Red Circle Contract and Resolution – Executive Session
- WEDOT Hwy 113 – Executive Session

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

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to go into Executive Session at 9:59 a.m. second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

*Meeting Recessed at 9:59 a.m.
Meeting Reconvened at 10:15 a.m.*

Land

Sarah LaFriniere and Jacob Syverson are present.

Homesites; District I – 4 sites, District II – 1 site:

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

District III – 1 site – Table

Other Land Topics:

Wark Property – General Fund and Wark Property – WELSA:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

White Earth Enterprise Board Member

[REDACTED]

White Earth Enterprise Board Member:

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

Tabled Signatory Requests

MN American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council – Table

MN American Indian Substance Abuse Advisory Council – Table

[REDACTED]

WEDOT:

A brief overview of the correction to the original resolution and Andrea referenced the new resolution.

Resolution - State Trunk Hwy 113, segment 2 Preliminary Engineering Costs, Amendment to Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan and WERBC Contribution:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 071-24-006; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

MPCA Letter:

Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Two Contracts - Two separate letters of engagement:

A brief discussion was held on Pathfinders. A brief discussion was held on Dream Catcher Homes and Colorado property management.

Henshaw: Contracts for Pathfinder:

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

Henshaw: Contracts for Dream Catcher Homes:

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

Resolution - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Litigation Support Application [REDACTED]

Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve Resolution No. 001-24-025; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried; 4 for, 0 against.

Resolution - Mississippi Pillager LLC Second Amended and Restated Promissory Note:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. 001-24-024A; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Resolution - Bremer Bank Contract: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity:

Motion made By Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 001-24 026; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Resolution – Natural Resources 2024 HSEM Region 3 Mutual Aid Agreement:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. 057-24-017; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Resolution – Amicus Support for Lower Sioux Indian Community:

Andrea provided a brief overview of the Lower Sioux Resolution and a conflict with Red Wood County on a case.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. 001-24-027; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Resolution – Division of Natural Resources – Return of White Earth State Forest:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 057-24-016; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

White Earth Wild Rice Market Discussion – Table

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to adjourn meeting at 11:10 a.m.; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer