

**White Earth Reservation Business Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 24, 2023**

**Mahnomen, MN**

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Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 11:17 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 Financial Officer  
Antonio Solorzano, General Counsel  
Ayecia Kemp, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Maria Bevins, Recorder

**Agenda Approval**

**Additions:**

- **Consent Agenda: Commitment Letter**
- **ICW Advisory Council Member – Executive Session**
- **MCT Enrollment Data Request form – Executive Session**

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

**State of the Nation was moved from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the TEC meeting being held in Mille Lacs, MN.**

**RBC Meeting Minutes (02/24/2023)**

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

**Program and Community Council updates will be done quarterly. Next reporting date will be in April 2023.**

## **Elders Council**

Lucille "Teedo" Silk is present and provided updates.

The White Earth Reservation Council of Elders monthly meeting dates for 2023 schedule was provided to the Tribal Council. All meetings are held at the Village Nutrition sites. Teedo was elected for Wisdom Steps. Wisdom Steps is a partnership with the eleven Minnesota Indian Tribes. Teedo has participated in this programming since 1999. They will be holding the Wisdoms Steps Conference at the Shooting Star Casino this year. The Wisdom Steps Board letter was brought forward for Tribal Council approval.

Concerns brought forward:

- Office hours for the RBC. It has been difficult to reach programs when needed. Recommendation to reach out to Tribal Council assistants.
- Round House:
  - Concerns with rats in this area and the safety of the elders
  - Concerns with ice on the roof
- Mike Heisler, new White Earth Housing Authority Director. The elders would like to meet him and address their concerns. Recommendation to reach out to Mr. Heisler and invite him to the elders meeting.
- Day Labor:
  - Assistance to help elders when they are in need
  - They are having trouble getting to their tanks due to the snow
- Price of Propane to heat homes discussion.

Michael LaRoque commented on getting our own propane company for our members to receive a better price and prebuying our own propane. Brief discussion held on day labor cleaning out the areas around tanks.

- Indian Health Service Concerns:
  - Taxes taken from patients
  - Moral
  - Medicines
  - Favoritism
  - Being rude to members

Michael LaRoque commented on having meetings with Indian Health Service. Recommendation to get a letter of concerns for the Tribal council to address. Laurie stated that she has been go over all the notes from meetings for action items to address with the Indian Health Service. Michael LaRoque commented on the issues that they have addressed.

- Suicide / Overdoses – Where do our members go for these issues. Programs need to address these problems with follow-up.

Current Projects for Behavioral Health:

- Mens Acute Care at Jack Haw
- A Family Treatment Facility at the old Christian Retreat
- The Old Men's Acute Care Facility will have renovations completed

Cheryl stated that women and children need a place as well. There will be a Family Treatment Center. They currently have OMC for women and children. The elderly needs this information, so they are able to refer to these programs. Recommendation to place on their agenda to address their concerns.

Concerns with funeral homes were brought forward. The elderly has invited Donehower Funeral Home to their meeting.

Home Health Checks concerns brought forward. Cheryl stated the elders Advocate Program has been doing home checks for elders.

The elders will be attending the 2023 National Indian Conference on Aging September 25 -29, 2023, at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort Cherokee, North Carolina.

*Meeting reconvened at 11:30 a.m.*

*Meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m.*

### **Elders Commission**

Pam Aspinwall is present and provided a brief update. They provide recommendations on services to the elderly. A letter was provided to the Tribal Council for review on the National Indian Council on Aging, it's their 24<sup>th</sup> conference on aging in Indian Country. The Elder's Commission is requesting funds to attend this conference. Five members of the Elders Commission will be attending. September 25 -29, 2023, at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort Cherokee, North Carolina.

The Wisdom Steps Board letter for Lucille "Teedo" Silk:

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

### **Old Business**

- No old business

### **New Business**

*Medical Cannabis Control Commission:*

Lisa Brunners is present and provided a brief update. They did an interview for the third commissioner and selected Regina Murray.

Appoint Third Commissioner - Regina Murray:

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

### **Consent Agenda / Signatory Request for March 23, 2023:**

#### **Addition:**

- Commitment Letter

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

#### *Ratifications:*

A project to enhance the behavioral health of the White Earth Band – Executive Session

Letter of Support – Benson Turner Foods:

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

NAP Wild Rice Crop Insurance:

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

Letter to Mahnomens School District:

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

***Motion made by Michael LaRoque to go into Executive Session at 12:56 p.m.; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.***

*Enrollments:*

Shannon Heisler is present and provided brief updates.

Enrollments (Eligible) – 22 Individuals:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (Ineligible) – 21 Individuals:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Enrollment (No Parent) – 3 Individuals:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

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Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers.  
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

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Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:  
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Add Parent and Blood Quantum Change – 1 Individual:  
Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Blood Degree Change – 2 Individuals:  
Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Blood Degree Change – 1 Individual:  
Motion made by Henry Fox to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against. HF/ES

Blood Degree Change – 2 Individuals:  
Motion made by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Blood Degree Change – 1 Individual:  
Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. [REDACTED]; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

*Mother’s Day Powwow:*

A brief discussion was held on powwows and the funding they receive. It is the responsibility of each Powwow Committee to spend money on the powwow obtaining receipts and signatures. After each powwow event, receipts should be turned into finance. This is a donation and can hold accountability. If they spend more than the funding allocated, they can be reimbursed for anything over. This is bringing accountability for the funding. Brief discussion held on the following finance procedures. For White Earth large powwows, we need to follow Finance procedures. This is something that needs to be established for all the community powwows. Recommendation to provide names of all powwows and budgets.

There can be other programs to help with the cost and send to the donations committee. If they cannot help with the cost, they can bring it back to the RBC. Recommendation to refer to programs for assistance to help reduce costs. Recommendation for Antonio to draft a letter with a disclaimer for powwows and start a committee moving forward for consistency on what Powwows RBC will fund. \$35,000 is allocated currently for community council powwows. Each powwow committee will need to sign a disclaimer.

[REDACTED]

*2023 Mother's Day Powwow and Budget:*

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

*Pine Point Powwow Committee Request: Table*

*Medical Cannabis Control Commission:*

[REDACTED]

Recommendation to hire two full time commissioners; Marcy Hart and Regina Murray:

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

Taxation:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Ogema Organics – Letter of Support:* Invite to the debriefing meeting to be held on Monday, March 27, 2023.

*Capital Projects:*

[REDACTED]

Motion to use [REDACTED] towards the Weimer House Project:

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

WELSA:



*Cheryl left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.*

*Meeting recessed at 2:15 p.m.*

*Cheryl returned to the meeting and the meeting reconvened at 2:25 p.m.*

*Pine Point Township Board Request for assistance with bill – Table*

*Tabled Signatory Requests:*

Brief discussion held on I.H.S 105 Lease Renewal. Waiting on a list of buildings from Clinton.

I.H.S 105 Lease Renewal – Table

Natural Resources Land Lease for Star Lake. Recommendation two-year lease:

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

ICWA Commission Bylaws – Language amendment Change: Section 3.04 Conflict of Interest, No. 2 Foster Parent / Advocates. Antonio will work on the changes. Bring out to public comment:

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

ICW Advisory Council Member; Laurie York for a four-year term:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Resolution No. 064-23-059; second by Cheryl “Annie” Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Graduate Stipends for Class of 2023. Ineligible will be paid out of general fund and reimbursed from Dana’s fund once eligible:

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

Letter of Support of Mahnommen Health Center Funding Request.

A brief discussion was held on the Mahnommen Health Center. This is their hospital and nursing home. Table

Wellstone:



*Jamie Konopacky Updates:* Invite to the debriefing meeting to be held on Monday, March 27, 2023.

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to adjourn at 2:55 p.m.; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

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Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer