

# 2022 White Earth

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS



WHITE EARTH NATION

# 2023 White Earth State of the Nation Address

WEDNESDAY MAY 3, 2023  
SHOOTING STAR CASINO



White Earth Nation Program Exhibits

8AM-2PM

Social Hour

9AM

Address Begins

10AM

Master of Ceremony

Vince Beyl

Grand Entry Song - Flag Song - Veteran Song

Manoomin Drum

Presentation of Colors

White Earth Honor Guard - White Earth Royalty

Pipe Ceremony & Invocation

Merlin Deegan

National Anthem & Ojibwe Songs

Circle of Life Academy

District 1 Report

District 1 Representative Henry George Fox

District 2 Report

District 2 Representative Eugene Sommers

District 3 Report

District 3 Representative Cheryl "Annie" Jackson

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Secretary-Treasurer Michael LaRoque

State of the Nation Address

Chairman Michael Fairbanks

Traveling Song and Community Feast

# White Earth

## RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN



**MICHAEL  
FAIRBANKS**

SECRETARY/TREASURER

**MICHAEL  
LAROQUE**



DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE



**HENRY GEORGE  
FOX**

DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE

**EUGENE  
SOMMERS**



DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE



**CHERYL "ANNIE"  
JACKSON**

WHITE EARTH NATION



Tribal Government Areas	General Fund	Other Funding Sources	Total Tribal Expenditures
Community Service FY21 Community Service FY22	379,440.00 657,342.00	52,175.00 191,951.00	431,615.00 849,293.00
Culture & Recreation FY21 Culture & Recreation FY22	1,180,370.00 969,844.00	189,111.00 1,175,143.00	1,369,481.00 2,144,987.00
Economic Development FY21 Economic Development FY22	94,115.00 123,724.00	24,954.00 281,893.00	219,069.00 405,617.00
Transportation FY21 Transportation FY22	399,946.00 121,460.00	2,576,820.00 3,082,228.00	2,976,766.00 3,203,688.00
Conservation of Natural Resources FY21 Conservation of Natural Resources FY22	1,329,532.00 2,556,273.00	2,170,383.00 2,580,111.00	3,499,915.00 5,136,384.00

# FINANCIALS



Tribal Government Areas	General Fund	Other Funding Sources	Total Tribal Expenditures
Public Safety FY21 Public Safety FY22	1,521,282.00 888,382.00	1,619,642.00 2,707,058.00	3,140,924.00 3,595,440.00
Human Services FY21 Human Services FY22	2,156,839.00 1,480,166.00	27,985,878.00 41,290,426.00	30,142,717.00 42,770,592.00
Education FY21 Education FY22	2,529.00 9,856.00	8,089,759.00 8,419,543.00	8,092,288.00 8,429,399.00
Health Services FY21 Health Services FY22	6,568,770.00 2,422,616.00	87,306,550.00 41,122,206.00	93,875,320.00 43,544,822.00
General Government FY21 General Government FY22	7,635,199.00 6,530,162.00	2,219,414.00 2,778,868.00	9,854,613.00 9,309,030.00
Public Works FY21 Public Works FY22	2,539.00 2,539.00	19,400.00 743,231.00	21,939.00 745,770.00

# FINANCIALS



## **Enrollment/Vital Statistics Division**

Shannon Heisler

**Enrollment Coordinator**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The White Earth Nation is the largest Tribe in the state of Minnesota in geographic size and population. The Enrollment/Vital Statistics team is available to assist individuals who are already enrolled or are seeking enrollment into the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Enrollment Applications and new members:

365 Enrollment applications processed

Total new members from October 2021 to September 2022 = 298

ARPA Funds for member assistance

1,286 members were paid \$3200 ARPA assistance equivalent to  
\$4,115,200.00

As of April 17, 2023 we have 17, 149 members

Of the 17, 149 members 1,301 are minors

Descendants:

Descendant applications processed

154- 1st generation

88- 2nd generation

# ENROLLMENTS



## **Information Technology (IT) Division**

**Monte Bellanger**

**IT Director**

**Tribal Affiliation**

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The White Earth Information Technology (WEIT) Department provides direct oversight and governance of the company's technological systems, maintenance of the infrastructure and functionality of the systems overall.

The mission and primary goal of the White Earth Nation IT Department is to make sure that all technology operations are running smoothly so the White Earth Nation can provide services to its members.

The White Earth IT Department installs and maintains all information technology systems. Additionally, WEIT provides information security, computer support, and end user support for all Divisions at White Earth Nation. This can include installing new software and hardware, repairing hardware problems, troubleshooting computer problems, and training end users on using computer systems. All computers, printers, and server hardware are ordered through the IT department. The IT department has its own divisions. These divisions are helpdesk, applications, systems, networking, and security.

White Earth IT also assists with other tribal entities to provide IT support when possible. IT will also aid in supporting and training tribal members on technology needs when asked.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



## **Tribal Public Health Division**

Pat Butler

### **Tribal Health Director**

The mission of the White Earth Nation Tribal Health Program is to improve the health and wellbeing of the White Earth Nation through the service of our dedicated team who work within our programs.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the White Earth Tribal Health Division continued providing essential services such as Ambulance Services, Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP), CHR Transportation, Public Health, LIFE Maternal Child Home Visiting, and Home Health Nursing Services. In addition, to providing services, new ways of service delivery which had not been done before had to be developed to serve the people of White Earth. With these new efforts and the need to keep members safe the Health Division provided 19,440 vaccines and performed case management, education, and contract tracing to 34,774 persons.

#### **Health Division Programs:**

White Earth Tribal Home Visiting Program (LIFE/PAT)

Anger Management Program

White Earth Harm Reduction

White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health  
Health IT

Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS)

Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP)

White Earth Tribal Health-Home Health

White Earth Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

CHR/Transportation

White Earth Reservation Ambulance Service

# HEALTH



## Human Resources Division

Melinda Iverson

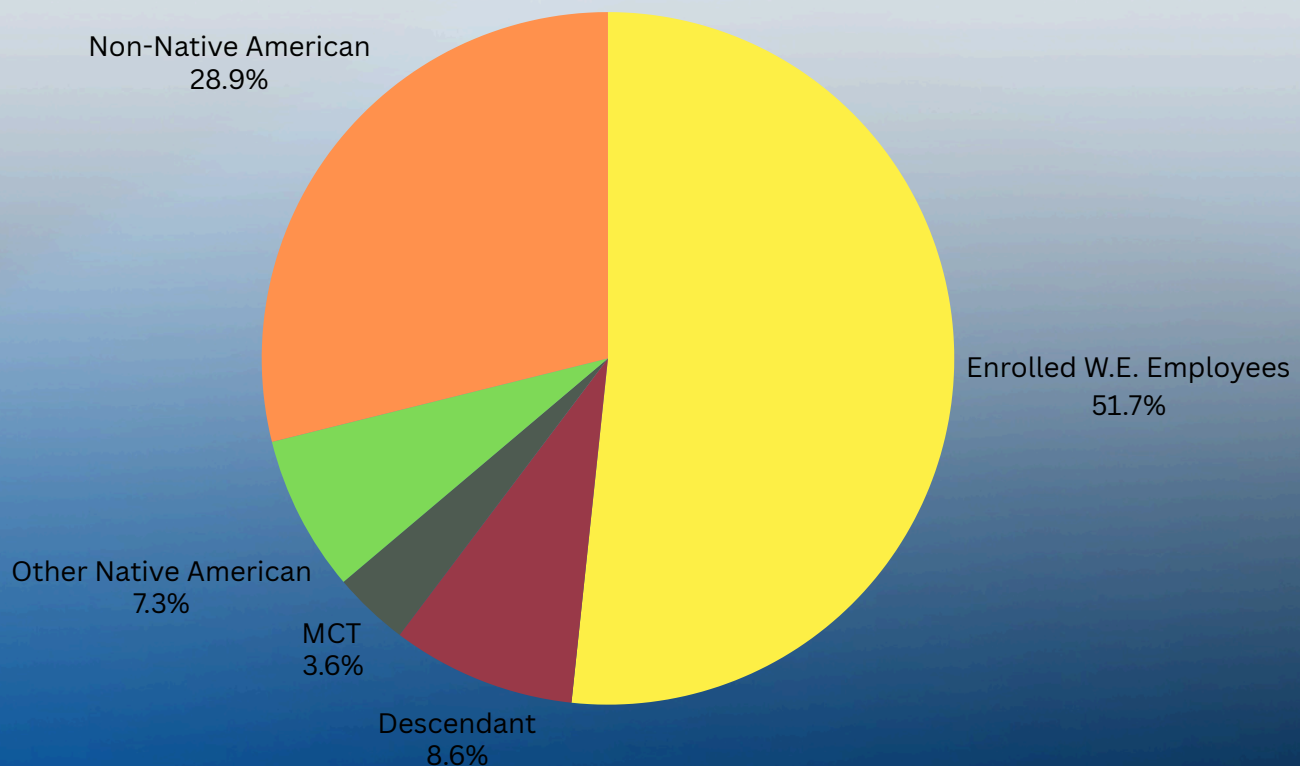
### Director of Human Resources

Tribal Affiliation

### Enrolled member of White Earth Nation

Human Resources (HR) supports the White Earth Reservation Business Committee's Mission to promote and enhance our quality of life. HR's goal is to support our tribe's principles, values, and vision by utilizing our most valuable resource- people.

·HR will proactively support our organization in making sound, fair and consistent employment decisions for our people promoting mino-bimaadiziwin (the good life). HR manages the Tribal employment process and is dedicated to encouraging our people by exemplifying our 7 Grandfather Teachings in all that we do with: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth.



# HUMAN RESOURCES



## **White Earth Land Settlement Act**

Jolyn Donnell

**WELSA Administrator**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The WELSA Department is responsible for the settlement of claims on certain lands within the boundaries of the White Earth Indian Reservation. Collaborating with the Office of Hearings and Appeals for the probate process. The location of heirs for the issuance of Monetary Compensation.

These functions are briefly explained as:

- Analyze title issues. Obtain and review information from National Archives, Department of Interior and Minnesota Counties.
- Prepare Claim for Publication in the Federal Register.
- Research and Compile Family History. Gather information supporting the Federal and Minnesota Inheritance Laws.
- Provide Probates to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). Testify at hearings held by OHA.
- Prepare Compensation Award Letters by calculating a value for Undivided Interests inherited

Coordinate bi-weekly and monthly staff meetings to review processes, data, and timelines of program.

**WELSA**

The logo of the White Earth Public Safety Division is a circular emblem with a central sunburst design. It features a compass rose and various symbols, including a tree and a person. The text "White Earth Public Safety Division" is written around the perimeter of the circle.

## **Public Safety Division**

Merlin Deegan

## **Public Safety Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The mission of the White Earth Public Safety Division is to provide courtesy, service and protection throughout the White Earth Reservation.

### Values:

- Integrity: We demonstrate through our actions honesty and respect for others.
- Excellence: We strive to be outstanding in everything we do.
- Accountability: We seek and accept responsibility for our conduct.
- Teamwork: We work closely with and assist others.

### Strategic Goals:

- Prevent crime
- Save lives and protect property
- Maintain public order
- Provide effective, efficient, and secure licensing services

### Approximate total weight of seized drugs in 2022:

- Methamphetamine 411 grams,
- Fentanyl 637 grams, Fentanyl Pills 1,497 pills,
- Heroin 31.7 grams, Guns 9
- The estimated street value of drugs seized in 2022 is over \$200,000.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**



## **Behavioral Health Division**

Clinton Alexander

### **Behavioral Health Director**

Tribal Affiliation

### **Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The White Earth Behavioral Health Division is designed to meet the needs of White Earth Tribal members and their families. Our programs provide a comprehensive plan for counseling, SUD services, education, and support.

**White Earth Urban:**

White Earth Substance Abuse mentioned as one of the top treatment facilities in Minnesota in Newsweek magazine 2022.

**White Earth MAT:**

White Earth MAT program serves an average of 80 individuals each month.

**Administration/Clinical:**

Creation of a new model of care based on the medicine wheel and medication first approach.

**Circle Back Program and Juvenile Healing to Wellness:**

Maple Syrup camp for the first-time spring of 2022

Halloween event at Christian Retreat for over 2,700 attendees.

Halloween Dance on October 14th, 2022 for 250 attendees

Thanksgiving feast and community bingo in November for 100 attendees.

**Mental Health:**

Over 20,000 points of contact for mental health services in 2022

Number of adult client assistance requests in 2022: 570

Number of children's mental health respite requests in 2022: 64 children

Awarded suicide prevention grants applied for in the amount of:

\$3,250,000 over the course of 5 years

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The logo for the White Earth Economic Development Division is a circular emblem. It features a central sun with rays, surrounded by a ring of text in both English and Ojibwe. The English text includes "White Earth Economic Development Division" and "White Earth Reservation". The Ojibwe text includes "Gwaadwanaganibaa" and "White Earth". The logo is overlaid on a background of colorful, stylized geometric shapes in shades of blue, yellow, and red.

## **Economic Development Division**

Jacob McArthur

**Economic Development Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

White Earth Economic Development Division provides the following services:

- Assist the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council with economic development strategies, community planning, revitalization strategies and business development.
- Assist White Earth Tribal members with business plans, proposal preparation, start-up assistance, applications, technical support, and locating financial support.
- Create, implement, and direct effective economic development strategies that improve the overall economic conditions for residents of the White Earth Reservation
- Establish economic development programs and practices that lead to private sector projects on the Reservation that result in capital investment, job creation, creative and niche development, and/or other quality developments.
- Grant writing assistance, enabling our Tribal programs to grow and strengthen their programming to better serve the people of White Earth Nation.

Our Planning department and team of grant writers have successfully written several grants, with award funds totaling \$19.2MM in 2022. Special recognition goes to Pam Keezer, for her exceptional work writing grants and assisting her fellow grant writers.

Economic Development has been awarded grant funding in the areas of renewable energy and broadband, both of which are program goal areas and priorities.

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



## **Compliance Division**

Christie Haverkamp

## **Compliance Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

White Earth Compliance Division:

Develop programs to be sustainable and fully maximize resources to meet the needs of programs, businesses.

Provide guidance and support on issues relative to the Compliance Division Managers, Tribal Divisions and Gaming.

Prepare applicable reports, schedules, and related for the White Earth Gaming Commission.

Respond to written notices, audit findings, and submit gaming rules, internal controls, standard operating procedures, exhibits, and compendiums for regulatory approval when required.

Reviews and interprets unusual transactions, adjustments, or unexpected results to determine which Tribal Gaming department to oversee the investigation.

Resolves problems that are within the scope of authority and recommends courses of action to resolve problems that are beyond the scope of authority to the Tribal Gaming Commission and Tribal Council.

Have knowledge of the ordinances, regulations, laws, policies, and procedures relating to the regulation of gaming.

# COMPLIANCE



## **Education Division**

Dana Goodwin Williams

### **Education Director**

Tribal Affiliation

### **Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

Adult Basic Education:

19 Graduates in 2022.

Boys & Girls Club:

Announces \$1.25 million Gift from MacKenzie Scott June 11th, 2022.

Fashion show with club youth held at the Shooting Star Casino on August 22nd.

Wild rice camp held with youth at Little Elbow August 16 & 18th.

Child Care:

New Playground Equipment was installed in 16 licensed Child Cares.

Operating our Maamigin Achigaazo (The Gathering Place) and providing library and play spot services for the community and early childhood programs.

220 children are receiving services in our tribal licensed centers/home family childcares.

Head Start:

As of March 2023, 98 children were attending the White Earth Head Start Program classrooms; 30 children were enrolled in Early Head Start home visiting services.

Scholarships:

313 Scholarships Awarded for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, for a total of \$679,861 of financial assistance provided to our White Earth post-secondary students.

# EDUCATION



**Legal Division**

**Antonio Solórzano**

**General Counsel**

**Tribal Affiliation**

**Enrolled Member of Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

White Earth Legal Department provides the following services:

Legal review of Signatory Requests.

Assist Band Divisions and Programs to fulfill their responsibilities to the Band and Band Members.

Represent the Band in Tribal, State, and Federal courts.

Protect the Band's natural resources and the rights of Band Members.

Ensure the Band's Divisions and Programs comply with all funding requirements imposed by grant funding agencies.

**Major Accomplishments:**

Defended the Band from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO).

Expanded Band's footprint in Bemidji, MN with the purchase of the Ridgeway Apartment complex.

Collaborated with state and federal counterparts to address public safety on the White Earth Reservation.

**LEGAL**





## **Natural Resources Division**

Dustin Roy

**Natural Resources Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

### Youth Education:

2022 White Earth Nation Fishing Derby was held on Strawberry Lake.

- 606 registered participants
- 280 children under the age of 16 registered for the event

### Conservation:

- ATV Safety – 26 youth certified
- Firearm Safety – 58 youth certified
- Boating safety – 18 youth certified

### Wild Rice:

The 2022 ricing season resulted in purchased 171,239 lbs. of unfinished rice.

### Land Office:

During 2022, The Land office added to the tribal land base:

- City lot in Mahnomen
- 80-acre parcel North of Waubun
- 40 acres near Ebro
- WELRP land transfer 2 parcels 79.5 acres near pow wow grounds
- Ridgeway in Bemidji – Collaborative project with White Earth Behavioral Health

### Forestry:

Delivered firewood to 54 families for spirit fires in each community and surrounding areas

# NATURAL RESOURCES



## **Indian Child Welfare Division**

Lauretta Blakely

**ICW Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

White Earth Indian Child Welfare provides case management services to families that are eligible for ICWA services.

### **Foster Care Program:**

The Foster Care Program provides care on a Tribal level to our children when their parent or caretaker is unable to do so. Foster parents are to be committed to the sacredness of our children: respecting, honoring, and nurturing them when they are faced with the trauma of being separated from their parents. The Tribe and foster parents are responsible for ensuring that children receive the highest care possible. In FY2022 this program had 87 licensed foster homes.

ICW's Parent Support Outreach (PSOP) and Voluntary Services Program provides services to families as a prevention method, helping families who are at risk of entering or reentering the child protection system and/or out of home placement. ICW assists all families we serve who are seeking a cultural way of life and teachings. In FY2022, this program served 35 families (35 parents, 38 children).

Recently, the Child Protection Program collaborated with the White Earth Tribal Court and conducted our first reunification ceremony. We celebrated the hard work and efforts done by this single parent, who successfully completed their requirements of their child protection case plan and court-ordered services. In FY 2022 this program serviced 132 families (125 adults, 152 children). ICW had a total of 92 children in either foster care or pre-adoptive homes. 66 children were on trial home visits, in their reunification homes.

**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**

The seal of the White Earth Nation is circular with a central sunburst and a star. It features the text "White Earth Nation" and "Soo Waaboojig" in Ojibwe. The seal is partially obscured by the text on the left.

## **White Earth Judicial Services**

Lori Thompson

**Court Services Manager**

Tribal Affiliation

**First Generation Descendant of White Earth Nation**

### **Summary of Services Provided:**

The White Earth Tribal Court consists of a Chief Judge and two associate judges. All White Earth judges must be licensed attorneys and abide by the White Earth Code of Judicial Conduct.

The District Court handles civil regulatory matters including, but not limited to, child welfare, juvenile court, civil commitments, marriage licensing, divorce, child custody, alimony, visitations, child support, name changes, protection from domestic abuse (OFP), adoptions, guardianships, small claims, traffic matters, and natural resources.

The White Earth Appellate Court consists of a Chief Justice and two associate justices. Appeals from the District Court are heard by a panel of three Appellate Court Justices.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) are available through the court. They are appointed to investigate what is in the best interest of the child in matters such as child protection, order for protection, custody, and divorces.

### **Accomplishments:**

2022 Recipient of the President's Award from the Minnesota Department of Corrections Association.

# **JUDICIAL SERVICES**

The logo of the White Earth Nation Cultural Division is a circular emblem with a central sunburst design. The sunburst has four points, each with a different color: yellow, blue, red, and green. The words "White Earth Nation" are written in a circular path around the sunburst. The text "Cultural Division" is written below the sunburst. The logo is positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

## **White Earth Cultural Division**

**Merlin Deegan**

**Cultural Coordinator**

**Tribal Affiliation**

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The White Earth Nation Cultural Division exists to help ensure culture is being integrated into the programs, events and schools on the White Earth Nation.

Another main focus is to preserve the Anishinaabe language and encourage White Earth Nation people to continue practicing it. Incorporating culture in our every day lives will help our quality of life. Take part in our cultural community outreach activities such as beadings, quill work, dance groups, drum making, singing and drumming, and more to get involved and keep our heritage alive.

White Earth Tribal Nation history, communities, language, land, natural resources, natural medicines, oral stories, foods, gardens, economy, and the physical, spiritual, cultural, and our way of life are preserved for our future generations.

**CULTURE**



## **Public Works Division**

Michael Bowman Sr.

## **Public Works Director**

Tribal Affiliation

## **Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

The Public Works Division consists of five departments; Fleet, Transportation, Water and Sewer, Water and Sewer Construction and Transit.

The White Earth Department of Transportation maintains 150 miles of roads on the Reservation. Services provided include snow removal in the winter. Blading the aggregate roads year around as well as additional aggregated as needed. Brushing and crack sealing along the road way are also included in our services.

The Water and Sewer Department handles water and wastewater systems in our tribal communities of White Earth, Naytahwaush, Pine Point, Rice Lake, Elbow Lake and the Chippewa Ranch. Collectively water produced and treated are approximately 175,000 gallons per day. Tribal systems consist of water treatment plants in each community as well as several wastewater lift stations pumping sewage to the treatment ponds.

White Earth Public Transit offers safe, reliable, affordable transportation to programs and people of the White Earth Reservation and the surrounding area. White Earth Public Transit works with other departments and clients to schedule rides through our dispatch center.

White Earth Fleet is the official auto maintenance and repair team for not only White Earth program vehicles, but is open for White Earth membership as well. From anything like standard oil changes and tires, to major mechanical work and everything in between, depend on the brand that keeps White Earth moving.

# **PUBLIC WORKS**



## **Human Services Division**

Michael Thompson

### **Human Services Director**

Tribal Affiliation

### **Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

Elders Vulnerable Adult Protection Program has assisted 300 plus elders and vulnerable adults with various services.

Financial Services provided services for 2,776 cases in 2022. The growth of the program now has 5 locations that include, Bagley, Naytahwaush, Mahnomen, Detroit Lakes, and Pine Point.

White Earth Food Distribution is a federal program that has been in operation since 1980. White Earth & Leech Lake were the first to pilot the program in 1979. There are 450 customers that enjoy their shopping experience each month. Sixty homebound customers receive home delivery services each month.

Feeding Our Families Food Program is serving a monthly average just over 400 families, around 1000 individuals, 240 elders, 370 adults, and 380 children.

Omiimii Wadiswan Equay (DOVE) Shelter mission is to provide shelter services to women and their children who are experiencing current victimization of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking. The White Earth Child Advocacy Center is the first tribally operated Child Advocacy Center in the state of Minnesota. Since opening in March 2022 it has served 40 plus children and their families.

White Earth assisted 800 households with Covid emergency rental assistance grant from the US. Treasury. Which totaled 2.8 million in assistance used for rental and utility assistance.

# HUMAN SERVICES



## **White Earth Enterprise**

RaeAnn Smith

**Executive Director**

Tribal Affiliation

**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**

White Earth Enterprises, LLC's continues to stimulate the economy of the Tribe and to create employment opportunities for tribal members and surrounding communities as part of the economic arm of the Tribe.

White Earth Building Supplies, LLC recently remodeled the storefront and floor area to expand and enhance our lumber, plumbing, building materials, power tools, carpentry, and paint supplies.

White Earth Business Products, LLC has recently updated our equipment to create larger in-house embroidery on apparel and now offer in-house custom branding for customers and their businesses.

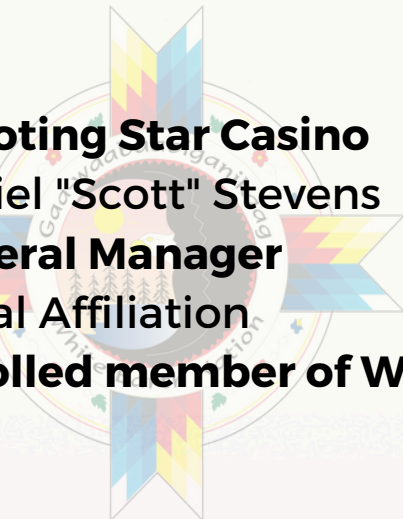
White Earth Builders, LLC offers project management construction services. White Earth Builders latest projects have included completion of Jackhaw Men's Acute Care Facility Phase I, Pine Point Clinic, renovation of Food Distribution facility, updates to the Mahnomen Ag Building, and new roofing at the White Earth Congregate Building.

White Earth Sanitation, LLC provides solid waste disposal services within the boundaries of the reservation to over 2,100 customers and businesses.

Waabigwan Mashkiki, LLC is the medical cannabis factory and dispensary operating under the White Earth Cannabis Control Code. Waabigwan Mashkiki, LLC strives to provide product to eligible patients. The facility building renovation is nearing completion. Waabigwan Mashkiki is working with the Cannabis Regulatory Commission preparing for the initial opening and dispensing of products.

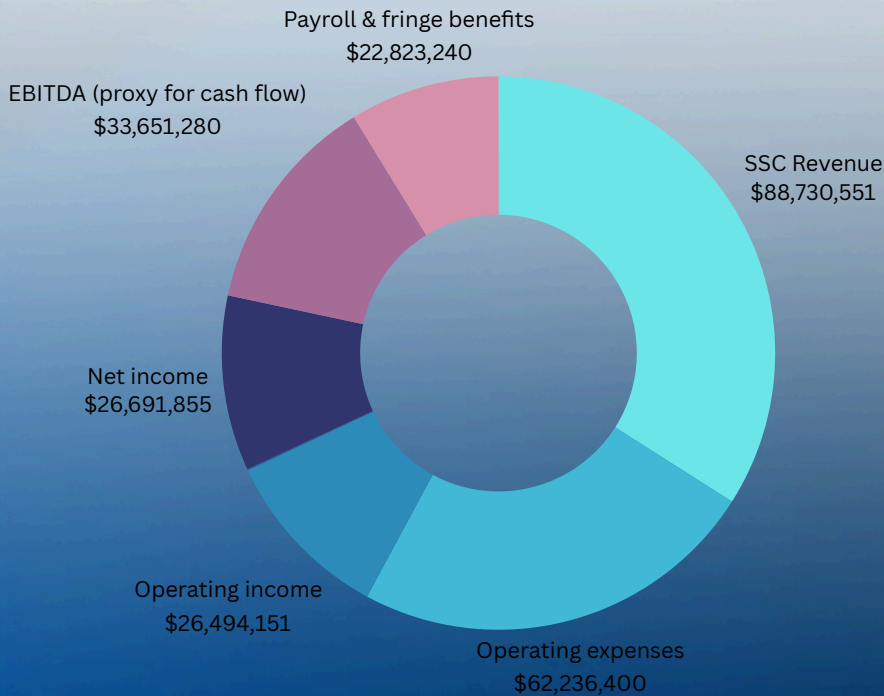
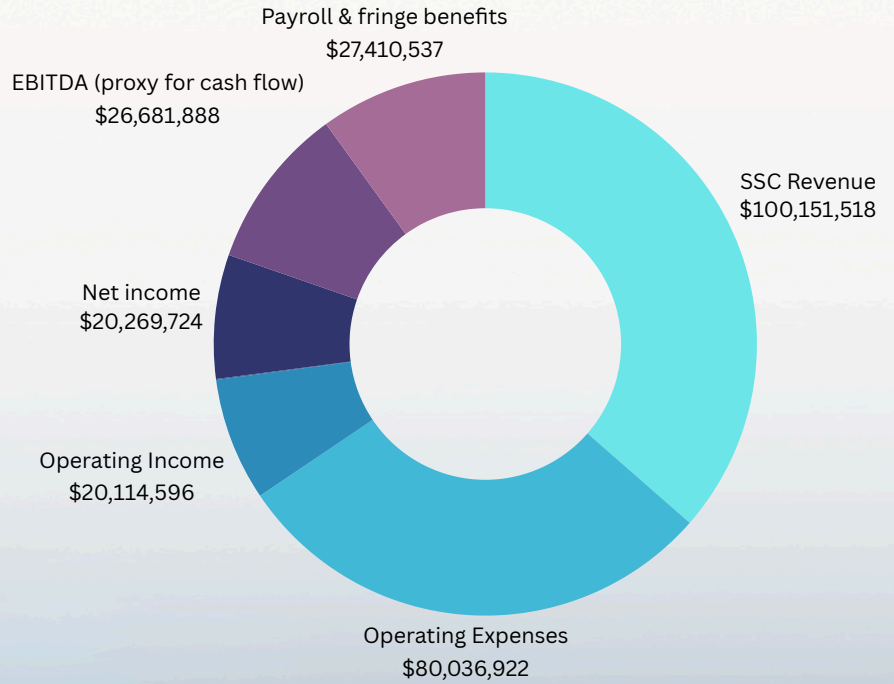
# WHITE EARTH ENTERPRISES

**Shooting Star Casino**  
**Daniel "Scott" Stevens**  
**General Manager**  
**Tribal Affiliation**  
**Enrolled member of White Earth Nation**



- SSC Revenue
- Operating Expenses
- Operating Income
- Non-operating revenue (expenses)
- Net income
- EBITDA (proxy for cash flow)
- Payroll & fringe benefits

**FY 2022**



**FY 2021**



The White Earth Reservation Business Committee  
thanks you for your attendance today



Go to [whiteearth.com](http://whiteearth.com) for a full list of 2022 division  
accomplishments



© Copyright 2023 White Earth Reservation

White Earth Reservation

Business Committee

P.O. Box 418

White Earth, MN 56591

[www.whiteearth.com](http://www.whiteearth.com) - [www.facebook.com/WhiteEarthNation](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteEarthNation)