

# FISCAL YEAR 2019



White Earth Band of Ojibwe  
State of the Nation Report



# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

where opportunities become success stories





# BOOZHOO

Boozhoo Gaa-waabaabiganikaag Anishinaabeg,

I am honored to be the Tribal Chairman for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe! This past fiscal year has been one of change for the White Earth Band, but we continue to forge forward as a nation. The following State of the Nation Report showcases many, but not all, of White Earth's accomplishments for fiscal year 2019. While we have done so much already, our job is not finished. There is always room for more progression and development to continue to put White Earth ahead and being the catalyst for innovation.

In the time that I have been Chairman, I have worked hard at initiating and beginning positive changes for White Earth. Nevertheless, no matter how hard I have worked, I am proud and humbled to see our employees and communities working even harder. With a unified and strong dedication to White Earth Nation, I know we can continue to thoroughly give our people what they need in order to achieve personal success and growth.

In the past and our present, there are challenges our Nation faces; these barriers range from ensuring a family has shelter, food and heat, to ensuring our MOMS and MATs programs have the ability to sustain themselves through third party billing. While these are internal challenges, we also face external obstacles every day such as fighting for our right to exist as a nation through our tribal sovereignty. When we are questioned on our rights, it tests our relationship as a nation with the United States government. Much as we have done our entire lives, we must remain steadfast in our rights and continually advocate for our people.

When we are met with these various types of challenges, oftentimes we are reacting to the immediate problem or incident. While this is an important part of what our programs and staff do for the nation, we do need to be more effective with our resources and time. To do this, we need to be more proactive and make strategic decisions; meaning, we need to plan. Planning is looking at our past successes and failures in order to learn from them; both the good and the bad. As Chairman, I am committed to planning for White Earth's future with my fellow Reservation Business Committee members.

As we do plan for our future, I have great confidence in White Earth. We have proven over and over that we are a strong, resilient tribe who can overcome anything together. With the guidance of our elders and the enthusiasm of our youth, I know we can overcome any challenge we are faced with. Our nation is strong, and our nation is ready for the prosperity of our future. Together, we are the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

Miigwech!



Michael Fairbanks  
White Earth Reservation Chairman



## White Earth Reservation Business Committee



**Michael Fairbanks**  
Chairman



**Leonard Alan Roy**  
Secretary/Treasurer



**Raymond Auginaush, Sr.**  
District I Representative



**Kathy Goodwin**  
District II Representative



**Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts**  
District III Representative

### Directors

**Elizabeth St. Clair**  
Executive Director

**Joan LaVoy**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Ben Bement**  
Human Services

**Patricia Butler**  
Health

**David DeGroat**  
Judicial; Chief Judge

**Michael Bowman, Sr.**  
Public Works

**Mike LaRoque**  
Public Safety

**Veronica Newcomer**  
Judicial; Lead Attorney

**Ronald Buckanga**  
Education

**Scott Omlid**  
Finance

**Lori Thompson**  
Judicial; Court Administrator

**Thomas Bement**  
Economic Development

**Dennis Jackson**  
Housing

**Vacant**  
White Earth Enterprises

**Karl Biederman**  
IT

**Christie Haverkamp**  
Compliance

**Martha Williams**  
Behavioral Health

**Monica Hedstrom**  
Natural Resources

**Nakoa Graff**  
Human Resources

**Vision:** The White Reservation Earth Business Committee will be a proactive organization that makes sound decisions promoting mino-bimaadiziwin (The Good Life). The White Earth Nation will be a safe place where all people have access to quality employment, housing, education, health and human services. While we protect our inherent right to self-governance and identity, we are a community of respect where cultural, historical and environmental assets are treasured and conserved for future generations.

# HISTORY

## Wiidaawaso (Naming Ceremony)

Waawiindaasowinan (naming ceremonies) are very important to us Anishinaabeg. Traditionally, babies were named at birth and again as they entered adulthood. While the baby was still in the womb, the mother was given many teachings. This was a time when all of her family and community would talk about what was to come for her child. A common practice was for both the maternal and paternal grandparents to find a name for the baby. This happened through mutual respect and discussion. If the baby's parents were from two different tribes, the baby would sometimes be given two names at birth. Another name was then given during the transition of becoming an adult. Our names are gifted to us by Creator, they are sacred and we honor them in that way. We have a naming ceremony, which has been passed down from generations before us. Although most people would receive their spirit name before they reach adulthood, it can be received at anytime.

We have individuals in our communities who have been given the responsibility to give names. These individuals usually have spent time in the woods looking for guidance through gii'igoshimowin (fasting). If you are wanting to learn your Anishinaabe name, there is often a protocol you will follow. Assema (tobacco) is offered to an individual with the responsibility of giving names. Once your tobacco is accepted the process of seeking it begins, done through fasting, meditation, prayer or dreaming. This is often a long process and may take months as the name has to fit your spirit. When the time comes, the name is presented in ceremony to the grandfather spirits in the four directions. Our Anishinaabe name is gifted to us, it gives us purpose and guides us on our journey.

Our naming ceremony, like all of our other ceremonies, have been given to us Anishinaabeg so that we can have minobimadiziwin (good way of life); keeping us in balance and connected Chi manidoo.

Miigwech!

White Earth Reservation  
Business Committee  
Cultural Division



*Dried tobacco leaves.*

## **WE RBC Extends Land Access Permits to Descendants**

During a special meeting held Monday, Oct. 15, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (RBC) passed a resolution reinstating land access for descendants of White Earth enrolled members. A tribally issued card will be honored as a Land Access Permit for White Earth descendants that will allow access onto or through tribal land for the purposes of hunting, fishing and trapping during state seasons. Descendants will abide by state rules and regulations while exercising these privileges on tribal land.

The Tribal Descendant card will allow access onto or through tribal land for hunting, fishing and trapping as long as the cardholder is in possession of a current state license or permit. Those activities not allowed include the gathering of firewood, recreational (ATV, snowmobile, etc.) and camping without a tribal permit. These restrictions do not apply to roads that have easements or rights of passage through lands owned by the tribe.

## **FY2019 Grants**

White Earth worked diligently this year in finding and receiving grant monies from outside sources. This year, White Earth was awarded more than \$7 million in grants. These grants ranged in funding from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health & Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education and many more. White Earth is proud of all the employees working hard to receive various grant funding.

*\*Please note that the \$7 million does not include automated grants, grants carried over from previous years or programs who received grants without Economic Development assistance.*

## **White Earth RBC authorizes \$1 million for funeral fund**

The White Earth RBC, by a vote of 2-0, authorized \$1 million to be deposited in a funeral fund for White Earth members during a Special Meeting held July 31. The decision was reached during discussions related to life and death benefits. A motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer Alan Roy and seconded by District 1 Representative Raymond Auginaush to authorize the fund for implementation on Oct. 1. Currently, tribal members receive \$400 for funeral expenses. The new fund will substantially increase the amount available. Program eligibility and funding availability will be published by the White Earth Constituents program, which will be provided before Oct. 1.



*For eight consecutive years the RBC has financially supported the WE Reservation Christmas Toy Program.*



*White Earth recently welcomed U.S. Attorney Erica H. MacDonald at the RBC headquarters. MacDonald is the U.S. Attorney for the Minnesota District.*



*White Earth RBC and staff met with Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota, at WETCC to discuss several criminal justice issues.*



# **GOVERNMENT**

## Housing Issues Discussed with Senator Tina Smith

Minnesota Senator Tina Smith held a listening session with tribal leaders from many Ojibwe and Dakota Nations at the 15th bi-annual Minnesota Indian Housing Conference held Aug. 21-23 on the lands of the Prairie Island Indian Community.

White Earth enrolled member Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan was a keynote speaker at the conference and met privately with tribal council representative Umsy Tibbetts discussing issues of joint interest between the state and our nation. White Earth was well represented at the conference with two councilmen, a number of housing board members, staff of the housing office and representatives from health and human services.



Supportive housing developments, in Ogema (Dream Catcher) and Naytahwaush (Giiwaanaamiikiin), were highlighted at the conference as successful models in supportive affordable housing partnerships between White Earth and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. White Earth Housing staff joined councilman Tibbetts in consultations with Minnesota Housing Commissioner Jennifer Ho and members of her staff discussing current and future housing development proposals, two of which are currently under consideration for funding this fall.

## White Earth RBC to Establish Independent Gaming Commission

On Wednesday, May 15, the White Earth RBC unanimously voted to approve a new White Earth Gaming Ordinance. A key change in the ordinance is that the Tribal Gaming Commission will now be made up of non-elected officials and will be independent from the tribal government. Currently, the RBC members make up the Commission.

The new ordinance states the tribe will establish a Tribal Gaming Commission and their duty is to regulate licensed gaming operations within the jurisdiction of the tribe. The Gaming Commission is an agency of the White Earth RBC and is subject to the review and oversight by the Council. The Commission will consist of five members that will be appointed by the RBC. The regulation of gaming operations shall be the sole responsibility of the Commission.

Members of the Gaming Commission must hold a valid gaming license and will be required to successfully pass a background investigation, which will include a review of their financial, criminal and employment history. Open positions on the Gaming Commission will be filled through the current hiring policy of the White Earth Reservation Human Resources Department. The RBC will appoint each commissioner after reviewing submitted applications.

## 2019 State of the Nation Awards

During the 2019 State of the Nation, the White Earth RBC presented nine awards for community members and employees of both Shooting Star Casino and the tribal government. Recipients of these awards were nominated by their peers:

- » Community Leadership Award: Donovan Burnette, Sr.
- » Distinguished Elder Award: Beverly Karsten
- » Tomorrow's Leader Award: Opwaganse "Puggy" Goodwin
- » RBC Professional Innovation Award: Julie Williams
- » RBC Exceptional Service Award: Sarah Jasken
- » RBC Chairperson's Award: Patricia Butler
- » SSC Professional Innovation Award: Robert Stevens
- » SSC Exceptional Service Award: Vickie Heisler
- » SSC Chairperson's Award: Julie Doerfler



## White Earth Reservation Business Committee Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Overview

White Earth Nation continues to expand as we increase the resources we offer our tribal members through programs and services. With an expenditure of \$104.6 million in 2019, we have invested more revenue into community service efforts, human services, economic development and health services. Increasing our spending in these areas will invest in future generations and will protect our resources.

Total tribal expenditures is comprised of two different funding sources: general fund and other funding sources. The general fund consists of income from gaming revenue, cigarette tax and sales tax as allocated by the RBC. Other funding sources is composed of grants and third party billing revenues. Both grants and third party billing provide White Earth Reservation the ability to expand on services, advanced programing and innovative care. With the expansion of other funding sources, employment opportunities have grown.

In fiscal year 2019, out of the \$104.6 million of total expenditures spent, over \$59 million was designated for payroll and benefits for the tribal government. When payroll and benefits from Shooting Star Casinos Mahnomen and Bagley are combined with the tribal government total, employment expenditures increased by \$31.9 million totaling over \$90.9 million annually for both entities.

<b>Tribal Government Areas</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funding Sources</b>	<b>Total Tribal Expenditures</b>
Community Service FY2018	\$1,179,257	\$0	\$1,179,257
Community Service FY2019	\$1,381,229	\$558,346	\$1,939,575
Culture & Recreation FY2018	\$2,382,685	\$672,251	\$3,054,936
Culture & Recreation FY2019	\$1,733,416	\$424,397	\$2,157,813
Economic Development FY2018	\$170,910	\$153,467	\$324,377
Economic Development FY2019	\$258,283	\$204,781	\$463,064
Transportation FY2018	\$140,529	\$3,000,275	\$3,140,804
Transportation FY2019	\$240,187	\$2,762,510	\$3,002,697
Conservation of Natural Resources FY2018	\$1,717,416	\$2,557,774	\$4,275,190
Conservation of Natural Resources FY2019	\$2,068,369	\$1,921,206	\$3,989,575
Public Safety FY2018	\$2,796,718	\$869,057	\$3,665,775
Public Safety FY2019	\$2,004,495	\$928,828	\$2,933,323
Human Services FY2018	\$2,008,558	35,629,825	\$37,638,383
Human Services FY2019	\$1,388,661	42,558,078	\$43,946,739
Education FY2018	\$414,005	10,267,696	\$10,681,701
Education FY2019	\$424,081	\$9,130,176	\$9,554,257
Health Services FY2018	\$2,151,512	21,957,046	\$24,108,558
Health Services FY2019	\$1,196,646	26,777,664	\$27,974,310
General Government FY2018	\$8,198,403	\$8,198,403	\$11,453,674
General Government FY2019	\$4,901,037	\$4,901,037	\$7,412,720
Public Works FY2018	\$299	\$788,184	\$11,453,674
Public Works FY2019	\$0	\$1,252,240	\$1,252,240
<b>Totals for Fiscal Year 2018</b>	<b>\$21,160,292</b>	<b>\$79,150,846</b>	<b>\$110,976,329</b>
<b>Totals for Fiscal Year 2019</b>	<b>\$15,596,404</b>	<b>\$89,029,909</b>	<b>\$104,626,313</b>



# FINANCIALS



## FY 18 & FY 19 Audits

Audits are used to examine organizations to ensure their finances are in accordance with federal and internal guidelines. The White Earth RBC authorized resolution #001-19-002 which called for additional audits.

- » Fiscal Year 2019: additional audits were requested for Star Lake Casino, Bagley Casino, culture fund, micro loan program, BIA roads, Circle of Life Academy (COLA), Behavioral Health and White Earth Housing. An executive summary will be issued by the White Earth Legal Department as the audits are still in investigatory status.

As White Earth looks into financial matters, the White Earth RBC will use transparency to inform the public of all findings.

## Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures are categorized as funds used for an organization's fixed assets like land, buildings, equipment, etc. For fiscal year 2019, total capital expenditures were \$15.5 million with major projects costing:

- » Naytahwaush MAT/MOMS building; project cost \$8,800,000
- » Pine Point Community Center; project cost \$2,300,000
- » Naytahwaush water tower; project cost \$1,100,000
- » Mahnomen Head Start; project cost \$979,000
- » WE Clifton building; project cost \$925,000
- » Rice Lake Community Center; project cost \$187,000
- » Strawberry Lake Retreat; project cost \$157,000
- » WE Tribal Health building; project cost \$141,000

## Shooting Star Casinos Mahnomen & Bagley Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Review

	<i>Fiscal Year 2019</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2018</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2017</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2016</i>
SSC revenue	\$101,343,408	\$102,678,967	\$103,070,835	\$96,712,379
Operating expenses	\$88,439,607	\$93,466,288	\$93,544,940,	\$87,829,221
Operating income	\$12,903,801	\$9,212,679	\$9,525,895	\$8,883,158,
Non-operating revenue (expenses)	\$197,493	(\$5,149,387)	\$170,580	\$179,577
Net income	\$13,101,294	\$3,793,292	\$9,696,475	\$9,062,735
EBITA	\$21,527,480	\$12,158,340	\$18,340,349	\$15,926,577
Payroll & fringe benefits	\$31,935,311	\$34,971,261	\$34,955,367	\$33,031,058

- » **Mahnomen Casino:** Shooting Star Casino Mahnomen had a total revenue of \$92.5 million with a total expenditure of \$81.5 million, generating a net income of \$11.2 million.
- » **Bagley Casino:** Shooting Star Casino Bagley had a total revenue of \$8.8 million with a total expenditure of \$6.9 million, creating a net income of \$1.9 million.



## White Earth Reservation Pow Wows

- » Honoring Our Mothers Pow Wow; Mahnomen
- » Harvest Fest Pow Wow; Naytahwaush
- » Rice Lake Memorial Day Pow Wow; Rice Lake
- » Pine Point School Pow Wow; Pine Point
- » Circle of Life Pow Wow; White Earth
- » Annual White Earth Celebration and Pow Wow; White Earth
- » Waubun Community Council Pow Wow; Waubun
- » Naytahwaush Community Charter Schools; Naytahwaush
- » Mahnomen Public Schools Pow Wow; Mahnomen
- » Shooting Star Contest Pow Wow; Mahnomen
- » New Year's Eve Pow Wow; Naytahwaush
- » Pine Point Pow Wow; Pine Point
- » Head Start Pow Wow; Rice Lake
- » Veterans' Pow Wow; Mahnomen



Rice Lake Pow Wow



Circle of Life Academy Pow Wow



Pine Point Pow Wow



Mother's Day Pow Wow



Naytahwaush Pow Wow

## 151<sup>th</sup> Annual White Earth Celebration Pow Wow

More than 800 registered dancers attended the 151st annual White Earth Celebration Pow Wow held June 14-16.

2019/2020 royalty are:

- » Tyson Norcross; Senior Brave | Cherlece Thompson; Senior Princess
- » Keagon Goodman; Junior Brave | Kyra Zornes; Junior Princess



White Earth Pow Wow





## Vets Represent WE at Awards Ceremony

The White Earth Veterans Association and Honor Guard attended the Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony on Oct. 7 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The Veterans' Voices Award honors actively engaged former and current military service members in Minnesota who are making outstanding community contributions.



## Veteran Benefits

On Nov. 21, the White Earth RBC passed the Veteran, Service Member and Veteran Family Care Resolution (#001-19-006). This resolution provides for veterans and their families through various programs and benefits:

- » Military leave
- » Veteran preference and benefits
- » Special disabled veterans
- » Special disabled veteran hiring authority
- » Individual unemployability and veteran spouse interviews
- » Active duty and service member spouse interviews
- » Purple Heart or Medal of Honor citations
- » Fee waivers
- » Veteran constituent services
- » Veterans court
- » Veteran identification card & promotion
- » Homeless veteran benefit
- » Tribal veteran service officer
- » Veteran killed in action, active POW status, or MIA
- » Veteran suicide

## Arlington National Cemetery Welcomes WE Veteran

Peter Thompson, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and member of White Earth Nation, was buried with honors at Arlington National Cemetery — a first for the tribe. On May 8, the WE Honor Guard led a special blessing for Thompson who passed away in January. Thompson was injured six times serving two tours as a teenager in Vietnam; he survived wounds from enemy gunfire, tank explosions and grenade blasts. After the war, Thompson returned home and became active in veteran groups. He was just one of a few in the nation to receive the much-honored War Bonnet, adorned with six red-tipped white feathers, for the six Purple Hearts. The War Bonnet made the trip to Arlington along with the White Earth Honor guard, for a final salute to the soldier.

## White Earth Honor Guard Remembers:

Kenneth “Babe” Jackson  
 Peter Thompson, Jr.  
 Elmer “Gene” Tibbetts  
 Arthur Bevins, Sr.  
 Daryl “Gramps” Moran, Sr.  
 Russell Warren  
 Gordon St. Claire  
 Herbert “Herb” Roy  
 Franklin “Frank” Miller  
 Albert “Junior” Basswood, Jr.  
 Harold “Monk” Brown, Sr.  
 Bruce Alger, Sr.  
 Leo Roy



Almost 200 dancers, royalty and 13 drums attended the annual White Earth Nation Veterans' Powwow held Nov. 11 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. 10

# COMMUNITY



*The Mahnomen FFA student volunteers and their advisors organized and hosted the annual Mahnomen 5K Color Run/Walk on June 27.*



*Rachel Fineday (frybread) and Michelle Christenson (chili) were winners of the annual Pine Point Chili and Frybread Cookoff. Those featured are the judges.*



*WE Natural Resources dedicated a sign to Jeff Wark for his work at the Roy Lake and Little Elbow Lake Park recreation areas.*



*More than 600 children and adults attended the annual Festival for Fathers and Families at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center.*



*The annual Men's Night Out sponsored by WE Public Health was held Feb. 28 at the Shooting Star Casino Event Center. More than 80 men attended the event that addressed men's health.*



*The annual Tribal Canoe Drawing was held June 21 at Shooting Star Casino. Five lucky tribal members walked away with a 17-foot Michi-Craft aluminum canoe with paddles.*



*The Circle of Life Academy hosted their 20th annual Anishinaabe Quiz Bowl competition on Feb. 11 with 12 teams competing against each other.*

## **WE Police Department Takes on the Thunderbirds**

The Mahnomen-Waubun Thunderbird seniors took to the basketball court one last time on April 11 to take on the local law enforcement. These games have expanded since the White Earth Police Department first played against COLA. This time around, WE PD joined forces with the Mahnomen PD and a few Mahnomen-Waubun coaches to take on the Thunderbirds after their great basketball season. The Thunderbird seniors won the game with a three-point lead; 71 to 68.



*The Naytahwaush Community Charter School held their 9th Annual 5K Walk/Run on May 10. Awards were presented to the first place boy/girl in each grade and the open class category.*

*Tours were given of a walkthrough inflatable colon March 7. The Health Center teamed up with WE Public Health for an educational event during Colorectal Cancer Month.*

## **WETCC Students and Staff Attend AIHEC**

On March 16, seven students from the White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) along with four staff members left for Billings, Montana to join 36 tribal colleges throughout the U.S. at the annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Student Conference. WETCC participated in a t-shirt exchange, pow wow, parade of flags as well as competitions in the hand drum contest, art exhibit, chess games and knowledge bowl. After the competitions were complete, the students enjoyed some site-seeing in Montana before they returned to Minnesota on March 20.



*Members of the Naytahwaush Boys and Girls Club hold up four of the 15 computers WETCC recently donated to the club.*

*Students from Mahnomen Public Schools in Central Park in New York City. The students also traveled to Washington, D.C.*

*Customers buy goods at the White Earth Community Farmers' Market located on South Main Street in Mahnomen. The Market will open late spring on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m.*



*Several youth participated in a basketball camp sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of the White Earth Reservation. The program is centered around discipline of the game and skills.*

*It was the 11th anniversary of the WE American Indian Science Fair at COLA. Seventy-six students from three schools participated in this year's science fair held Dec. 7.*

## White Earth Council of Elders

The White Earth Council Of Elders (WECOE) is an LLC organization that is under the auspices of the White Earth RBC. The purpose of this organization is to improve the economic, physical and spiritual lifestyles of American Indian tribal elders within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Nation. WECOE is restoring our traditional position of respected advisors and leaders. WECOE coordinates with other programs to enhance the lives of elders and promote communication with all agencies that serve our Elders.

The Executive Board duties are to be the policy making body of the organization, to ensure programs are responsive to WECOE membership needs, to advocate on behalf of tribal elders and to establish and maintain an administration support staff. They will make recommendations for actions to the general membership for approval at the monthly meetings. The Executive Board are elected by the general membership on a bi-annual basis.

Every month the minutes and financial reports are prepared and must be approved by the governing body. WECOE reports to the White Earth RBC at their regularly scheduled meetings.

Executive Board | Years 2020 - 2021

- » Chairperson: Lucille “Teedo” Silk | 218-983-3768
- » Vice Chair: Sam Crowell | 218-252-9390
- » Secretary: Stephanie Williams | 218-983-3121
- » Treasurer: Colleen Blattenbauer | 218-473-2250



## Elder Events in Fiscal Year 2019



*Left: The annual Take an Elder Fishing was held July 18 at Little Elbow Lake Park with more than 30 elders attending the event. Middle: The White Earth Elder Christmas Party was on Dec. 12 at the White Earth Community Center; there were 221 elders in attendance. Right: 206 elders attended the annual Elder Picnic at the Waubun City Park on July 16.*



*Muriel Alvarez, left, and Denise Guinn were honored by WECOE for work in their communities.*



*These White Earth elders attended a Water Ceremony at the headwaters of the Mississippi at Itasca State Park.*

ELDERS



## White Earth CSO Program

The White Earth Community Service Officer (CSO) Program worked with multiple programs to provide youth with events or sporting equipment to stay active. In FY 2019, the CSO Program worked to create a new basketball court with hoops behind the Riverland Apartment building. Additionally, they were able to partner with the Boys & Girls Club to buy 10 basketball hoops to put up across the reservation. The CSO Program also created/funded basketball leagues and events, brought the Brother Eagle prevention programming to schools, participated in prevention events and much more.



## White Earth Warriors of Wellness

The White Earth Warriors of Wellness (WE-WOW) project was created to increase health equity among children and young adults on or near the White Earth Reservation by addressing risk factors, increasing social capital and supporting the adoption of healthy behaviors and decision-making skills. These learned skills will enhance Indigenous protective factors and resiliency to prevent or mitigate physical, mental and behavioral health disparities. This project seeks to serve as the foundation for ongoing culturally-grounded wellness programming that capitalizes on youth leadership to sustain the impact and longevity for years to come.

WE-WOW is based on community-driven initiatives that are grounded in traditional beliefs and value systems of the Anishinaabe that creates opportunities for youth to be actively involved in healthy behaviors that reduce the likelihood of poor physical, mental and behavioral-health outcomes. During FY 2019, WE-WOW helped youth participate in a variety of projects such as; hand drum making, painting a large mural as a team, beading projects, listening to a variety of speakers and much more.

## Students Visit Washington D.C.

Due to generous donations, 11 Waubun High School students visited Washington D.C. for five days. Students learned about their history, visited with MN senators and congressmen, debated and learned about current issues, etc. This trip truly opened up their eyes and let them see that they can make a difference.



70 reservation youth attended Take a Kid Fishing. They were treated to a day of fishing, games, interactive science exhibits and a picnic lunch. The second day was cancelled.



Subaru of St. Cloud provided 450 filled backpacks to Boys & Girls Club youth.



The WE Scholarship Program sponsored their 23rd Annual Career and Job Fair April 26 at COLA.



Angel Beckett: first-place winner for the Positive Lifeways Poster Contest hosted by Mental Health.



COLA students had their first robotics competition and competed in the VEX robotics competition.

## ICW Implements Parent Support Outreach Program

Since 2016, Indian Child Welfare (ICW) has provided supportive services to families to prevent entry and re-entry into the child welfare system through the successful Gizhawaaso Program. Services provided were specific to cultural values and skills, ultimately reducing out of home placement of our children on the reservation. In 2019, ICW continues the Gizhawaaso program by using Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) funds to continue providing services.

Both are early intervention programs that provide short-term voluntary supportive services to our children and families. We can connect families with cultural- specific services in addition to other types of assistance, such as energy assistance, food, clothing, housing, parenting, transportation, visitation and budgeting. Referrals are made for family healthcare, medical care, mental health, chemical dependency and financial assistance. We focus on family strengths and needs, connecting them with community resources. Participation is voluntary and can last up to six months. For more information, please call: 218-983-4647.

## White Earth Ambulance

During the fiscal year, White Earth Ambulance, along with Naytahwaush Ambulance, responded to 916 calls for service. Additionally, White Earth Ambulance received two donated ambulances from Ridgeview Ambulance Service; this allows us to only lease one ambulance from GSA.

## Acute Care

Acute Care has been making new relationships with surrounding reservations and local agencies in preparation for their new facility that will be opening in 2020. We have been successful at providing culturally-based programming where the men are able to heal as the creator intended and keeping ourselves at full capacity.

## Wild Rice

It was a historic year for wild rice on White Earth Reservation this year. The highest total ever on record, the RBC purchased 266,000 lbs. of green rice and sold 30,000 lbs. to other tribes in Minnesota. There was around 238,000 lbs. for the RBC, which finished out at 106,000 lbs. That is as much finished rice as green rice bought in 2018! Out of that 106,000 lbs., the U.S.D.A. purchased 50,000 lbs. of wild rice as a traditional midwest food product to be distributed by tribal food distributions across the country.



*Conservation officers assist the Wildlife Department with an injured owl.*

## Resource & Supportive Services

Resource and Supportive Services accomplished many goals set for FY 2019. Here are some of our highlights:

- » The Cass Lake office held a community meal during Thanksgiving and served over 350 people
- » We have aided approximately 220 individuals and households in the last year through our Homeless Program
- » The White Earth Energy Assistance Program served 800 households with primary heat grants
- » The White Earth Constituent Program provided financial assistance of over \$211,000 to almost 1,000 tribal members
- » Coordinated and developed multiple events/services for urban members



**HEADQUARTER**

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered outdoors. They are wearing casual clothing and some are wearing hats. The word "HEADQUARTER" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters across the bottom of the image.



## White Earth Child Support

White Earth Child Support has had a progressive FY 2019 and this can be seen through amended legislation and the following highlights:

- » Total collections: \$656,868.93 (67% of current support collected)
- » Past due support collected: \$72,282.50 (24% increase from FY 2018)
- » Past due support owed to the State of Minnesota that had been written off through payment plan agreements in the amount totaling \$43,372.92 across multiple NCP's cases
- » Paternity establishment: 88%
- » Amended legislation allowing tribal child support programs access to vital records including certified birth/death certificates for child support purposes

## White Earth Department of Transportation

The White Earth Department of Transportation (WEDOT) was awarded a grant to locate a sustainable aggregate source. WEDOT then contracted a geologist to assist in the search for aggregate. A source was located and gradation tests were performed. The test result showed a favorable location and crushing aggregate began in September of 2019. Application of the aggregate on our gravel roads will begin in the spring of 2020 as soon as road restrictions are lifted.

## White Earth Compliance

In August 2019, an updated White Earth Gaming Ordinance was passed that established the new White Earth Gaming Commission whose primary responsibilities are to protect the assets of the casino, ensure the integrity of Indian gaming and implement Tribal Internal Control Standards. Commissioners are Emily Annette, Jody Kent, Tom Spry, John Buckanaga and Chris Londo. Their duties are to regulate gaming activities to ensure compliance with tribal law, federal and state regulations and Operational Internal Control and Procedures.

## DWI Court

Since beginning in 2013, 51 Individuals have been approved and started either the Mahnomen or Becker County DWI Court Programs: 21 graduates, 19 terminations and 11 participants for a 52% graduation rate. This fiscal year, there were 23 individuals referred with five starting the program; 17 were eligible to be screened, six were not eligible or changed their mind, five started the program and two had other felony offenses and were committed to prison (therefore denied). On average, it takes 23 months to complete the White Earth/Mahnomen program and 17 months for the White Earth/Becker program. Each program is set up differently and has various guidelines to follow.

## Maadaadizi Workforce Center

The Maadaadizi Workforce Center served a total of 783 unduplicated participants in 2019.

### Activities:

- » 363 participated in employment goals
- » 236 participated in education/training goals
- » 771 participated in miscellaneous objectives
- » 366 were referred to other agencies for services
- » 222 individuals applied for Giizhaa temporary employment
- » 78 individuals worked in Giizhaa temporary employment
- » 117 individuals applied for construction site jobs
- » 44 individuals worked in construction sites

### Successful exits:

- » 120 entered unsubsidized employment
- » 24 obtained a degree/certificate
- » 126 other educational outcome
- » 174 other miscellaneous

## White Earth MOMS Program

The White Earth Reservation Maternal Outreach and Mitigation Services (MOMS) began in 2015. Since opening, there have been 52 clients who have graduated MOMS. In FY 2019, the MOMS Program had 21 intakes and graduated 13 clients. In the spring of FY 2020, the MOMS new building will be ready to start serving clients.



# HEADQUARTER

## Enrollment Numbers FY 2019

- » Total enrollment numbers: 18,018
- » New enrollment numbers: 112 (age 0+)
- » Deaths (reported): 279
- » Band transfers: 11
- » Relinquishments: 6
- » Denials: 112
- » Descendant certifications: 400
- » Enrollment cards: 600

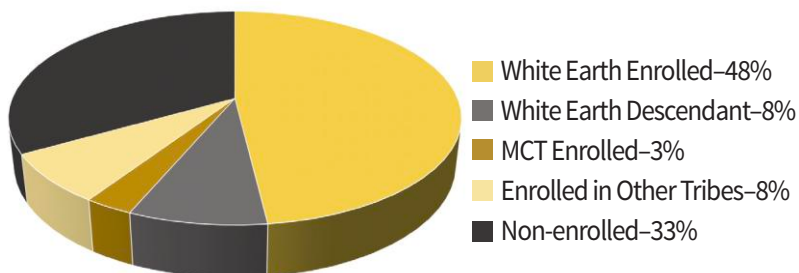
## White Earth Land Office

The White Earth land program has been working diligently on a variety of projects including: identifying 68 sites ready for new home site assignments, completed a tribal inventory project of building/property assets owned by the tribe, development of their online GIS program, added 156.321 acres of land into trust for White Earth, continue to assist members with assignments/ownership/probate questions and much more.

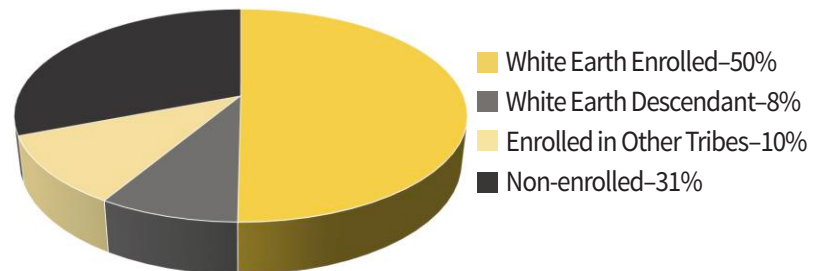
## Human Resources Employment Highlights

In 2018, White Earth headquarters employed 1,117 staff, with 48% of staff being White Earth enrolled and 8% being descendants. In contrast, during 2019, White Earth employed 1,116 employees with 50% of staff being White Earth enrolled and 8% being descendants. The tribal government also went from having 978 full-time employees in 2018, to 1,110 full-time staff members in 2019.

2018



2019



## Water & Sewer

The Water and Sewer Department takes care of drinking water wells and septic systems for homeowners; covering installations, repairs, plugged and frozen service lines. Our community systems are responsible for water production of approximately 190 thousand gallons of water daily throughout the reservation. The Water and Sewer highlight of 2019 was completing the Naytahwaush water tower which provides the community with 150 thousand extra gallons of water. With the extra water capacity, it will allow the community to continue to grow in the future.

Water and Sewer will continue making improvements to the treatment plant to better the water quality in Naytahwaush. Also, in the past year, we have partnered with an engineering firm to assist the tribe in seeking funds to replace the treatment plant in White Earth. This is a small step in a larger plan to update our current infrastructure to better serve our communities. Water and Sewer will continue to search for ways to improve water quality as well as service not only to the tribal communities, but to tribal homeowners as well.





## **UWESA**

The Urban White Earth Substance Abuse Program (UWESA) has been able to provide culturally-specific outpatient treatment programming to our urban community members. The program is very active in encouraging community engagement by exposure of sober activities around the Twin Cities area. There has been multiple events offered such as Language Table, Cedar Healing Ceremonies, men/women gatherings and sweats.

## **Head Start**

At the White Earth Head Start Programs, we are working hard at giving our children the best educational start possible. We have implemented a variety of new techniques including the use of Bluebee Pals in our classrooms (an interactive plush stuffed animal that allows you to connect through Bluetooth technology), using the Time-to-Sign: Ojibwe curriculum in all of our center-based classrooms, creating three books highlighting ASL and Ojibwe and piloting an extended year option with three of our head start center-based classrooms.

## **Tribal Historic Preservation Officer**

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) continued the process of locating, organizing, repairing and photographing items from White Earth; this includes photographs and sound recordings from the early 1900's recorded at White Earth. The THPO is engaged in ongoing work to ensure these photographs and recordings ultimately become accessible to community members where the community will also be able to contribute their knowledge.

Additionally, White Earth was one of only six tribes selected as part of the 2018-2019 Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program offered through the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation through Washington State University Libraries Pullman. The White Earth THPO along with Tammi Jalowiec, White Earth Tribal College Librarian, completed this program in May 2019. The goal of this program was learning best practices for safely managing tribal archival collections, while also working with digital archive programming resources to ultimately provide community accessibility upon completion.

## **You Care: Diabetes Community Clinic**

White Earth Public Health has brought a new and innovative way of seeing a doctor on the reservation called "You Care: Diabetes Community Clinic." You Care is a shared medical appointment currently held in the communities of Mahnommen, White Earth, Rice Lake, Pine Point and Naytahwaush. During visits, our nurses, dietitians, a CHR driver and a doctor from Indian Health Services comes to your community and provides a group educational gathering and will see patients privately, as needed, at that time and location. During the clinic, there is also a nutritional meal/snack making demonstration which is diabetic friendly. Meal/snack sample ingredients are given away so it can be made at home by You Care attendees.

During our clinics, real appointments do occur with weight, blood pressure and needed blood draws are completed and documented in your chart. The doctor and nurses provide the same care you would receive at the clinic, plus they provide a group educational gathering with question and answers, diabetic socks, cooking demonstration/samples and a ride to the You Care: Diabetes Community Clinic. If you would like to attend, please call the Health Division at: 218-983-3286.



*The White Earth Conservation Law Enforcement Department was deeply saddened to lose a member of their team. Richard E. Fox, Jr., Conservation Officer #882, was a wonderful man who was loved by many. Date of birth: July 30, 1964; end of watch: June 29, 2019.*

## Forestry and Wildland Fire

White Earth firefighters conducted 45 prescribed fires in the tribal communities and prairie areas. The total acres treated were 529.2. Our firefighters responded to 65 wildland fires on the reservation that burned a total of 101 acres. Twelve White Earth firefighters were dispatched on off-unit assignments. These assignments were across seven different states on all corners of the United States including: Minnesota, Washington, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, West Virginia and South Dakota.

## Oshki Manidoo Residential Treatment

During 2019, Oshki had 73 new intakes for their Women's Wellbriety (WW) program and 30 new intakes for their youth program. Ten youth and 35 WW successfully graduated their respective programs, while there were 20 youth and 34 WW clients who left without staff approval. Most clients, both youth and WW, are from either White Earth, Red Lake or Leech Lake reservations and are on average 10-50 years old.

## Water Resources

White Earth Water Resources staff completed a multitude of projects this year including fish stocking and surveys for invasive species. Here are their findings and stocking quantities:

Invasive species:

- » 120 Lakes and ponds surveyed for Zebra Mussels, Faucet Snails and other Aquatic Invasive Species
- » North and South Twin Lakes were found to have infestations of Zebra Mussels
- » Signs were posted at public and tribal access points
- » Public outreach was conducted to curb the spread of these species and communication/training was had with lake shore providers, resorts, land owners, fisherman, wild ricer harvesters, bait harvesters, hunters, recreationists and the public

Sturgeons stocked:

- » White Earth Lake - 2,000 6.5in fish
- » Round Lake - 1,800 6.5in fish
- » Wild Rice River - 8,200 6.5in fish

Walleyes stocked within White Earth's waters:

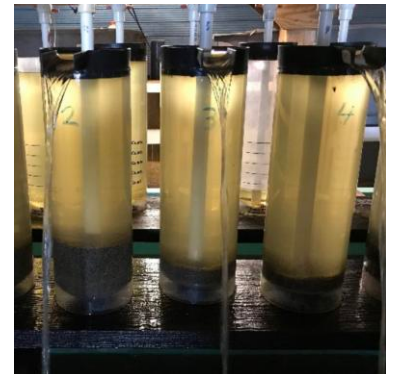
- » Spring two-inch stock - 96,506 walleye
- » Fall fingerling walleye stock - 99,677 walleye
- » Grand total for 2019 walleye stock - 196,183 walleye

## Emergency Management

Emergency Management (EM) has had a busy but successful FY 2019. On Jan. 29 through Feb. 1, White Earth EM responded to the River Land Apartment freezing incident. EM prepared reports, organized meetings, tracked resources and lead a mission to shelter 155 residents in response to the extremely cold weather. EM also assisted on a range of projects including the White Earth We Are One training, Critical Incident Stress Management, area flood efforts, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day events, on-scene response and more.

## Food Sovereignty

The White Earth Food Sovereignty Initiative completed many projects in FY 2019 including: the tilling of over 70 gardens for community and area residents, constructed a greenhouse, purchased storage refrigerators and freezers to locally store area-grown/produced goods/foods, grew a plot of traditional Oneida white corn and black beans and received a grant to prepare meal kits which over 125 were produced and sold.



# HEADQUARTER

## White Earth Builders

White Earth Builders, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of White Earth Enterprises, have had a busy fiscal year repairing buildings and working on construction sites. In FY 2019, a variety of projects were completed, including: Clifton building remodel, Elbow Lake Community Center repairs, old Rice Lake Community Center demo, Pine Point Community Center remodel and the White Earth Tribal Health building roof repair. Going into FY 2020, White Earth Builders is still currently working to finish the Boys & Girls Club in Mahnomon, Men's Acute Care, Strawberry Lake Family Center, White Earth Tribal Health and MOMS/MAT in Naytahwaush.



## Project launch

White Earth Nation's Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH) under the White Earth Home Agency (WEHHA) began in October 2018 after the White Earth RBC was awarded their grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a project period of 9/30/18 – 9/29/2023. Throughout the past year, Project LAUNCH worked on developing and implementing comprehensive programming for culturally informed mental health and wellness promotion and prevention practices for children ages birth to 8-years-old and their families throughout the reservation.

Project LAUNCH has fostered collaboration with key partners, community partners, a parent partner and formed an advisory board. The advisory board takes a collaborative team approach by focusing on community strengthening, capacity building and workforce development, systems integration and public education/awareness activities. Project LAUNCH developed a strategic plan in collaboration with the advisory board members to develop goals and objectives for implementing practices and services in working toward infrastructure development and direct services. The infrastructure goal is to improve community-wide infrastructure to create an integrated system of care promoting the wellness of young children, and the direct services goal was developed to implement culturally-grounded, trauma-informed, practice-informed and evidence-based programs and promotional activities to support young child wellness and access to supportive services within the White Earth Tribal Nation.

## Naloxone Rescues

From February 2019 until January 2020, the White Earth Ambulance has conducted 15 naloxone rescues. Of those 15, nine were male and six were female with ages ranging from 16-years-old to 62-years-old. From those rescues, 59.9% resulted in excellent/good/fair outcomes, whereas 40% resulted in poor/death outcomes. At the casino, there were an additional four naloxone rescues with all surviving their overdose.

Throughout this past year, there have been increased areas of concern and new issues arising. The White Earth Reservation Ambulance Service crews are seeing a relatively higher rate of fatal overdoses and poor outcomes, despite continuing robust, best-practices rescue attempts. This is likely due to several issues of concerns such as: more citizen-only rescues (a significant number of rescues are likely not called in to 911), inaccurate reporting due to not calling emergency services, not seeking correct medical attention after an overdose, highly dangerous fentanyl cut-ins leading to irretrievable death before help is available, some of the reservation is served by other ambulance services and other circumstances faced. Nevertheless, with the coordinated efforts of multiple on and off reservation-based services, we are making an impact and saving lives.



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## 20,000 Registered Vehicles

Since their beginning in 1986, White Earth Motor Vehicle is pleased to announce that they have officially registered over 20,000 motor vehicles! They wish to thank all of their customers over the years and express sincere appreciation for making this possible. If you are needing assistance from White Earth Motor Vehicle, please call: 218-983-3285 or stop in Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:15pm.



## 2019 Calls for Service Information

Within the White Earth Reservation boundaries, there were 16,825 calls for service. White Earth Public Safety responded to 10,963 or 65%\* of those calls.

410.25 pill pharmaceuticals	\$2,767
1143.65g meth	\$91,492
222.8g heroin	\$53,472
27.44g cocaine	\$3,292.80
236g marijuana	\$5,875
15g hash Oil	\$1,020

**Total street value: \$157,918.80**

- Cash seized: \$13,058
- Firearms off the streets: 12
- Amount of drug arrests: 119
- Cars seized: 9

*\*Other emergency services responded to the remainder.*

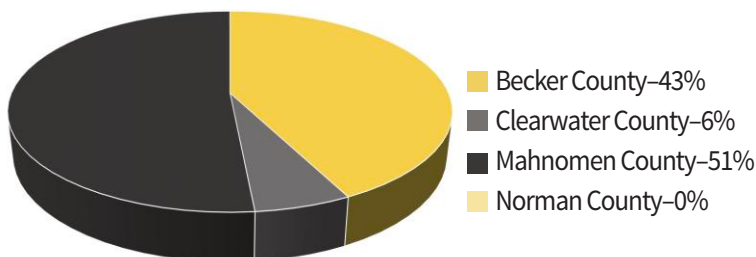
**Anonymous Tip Line: 1-877-410-8550**

## 2019 Motor Vehicle Statistics

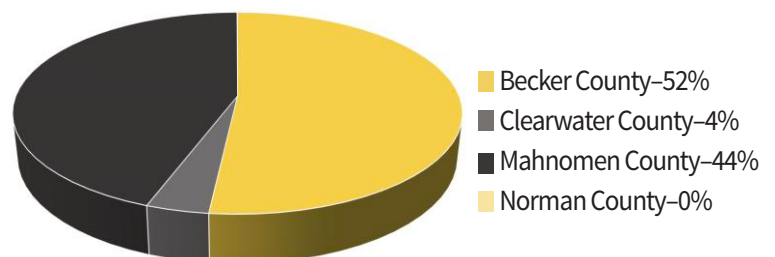
Issued permits, plates, etc.	Total
Numerical Plates:	639
Tax Exempt Plates:	39
Veteran Plates:	29
Motor Cycle Plates:	18
Utility Trailer:	16
Truck Tractor:	1
Trucks:	4
Semi-Trailers:	14
Lifetime Trailer Stickers:	24
Recreational Vehicle Registration:	88
Expedited Titles:	51
Leech License:	109
Canine Registrations:	7
Seasonal Use Permits:	47
Natural Resource Permits:	1,914
Deer Tags:	2,580
Vehicle Renewals:	1,320

**Total Deposits: \$161,648.75**

## Calls for Service by County



## Calls responded to by WEPD



## *Programs and Services Directory*

<b>Behavioral Health</b>	218-983-3286	<b>Health</b>	218-983-3286
Men's Acute Care Facility	218-936-5830	Community Health	218-983-3286
Circle Back Center	218-983-3285 ext 6402	Elderly Nutrition	218-983-3286 ext 1266
Mental Health	218-983-3286	Diabetes Project	218-983-3286 ext 1356
Oshki Manidoo	218-751-6553	Health Education	218-983-3286 ext 1356
Substance Abuse	218-983-3286 ext 1297	White Earth Ambulance	218-983-3286 ext 1263
Women's Wellbriety Facility	218-751-6553 ext 6202	<b>Human Resources</b>	218-983-4646
MOMs Program	218-936-2442	<b>Human Services</b>	218-935-5554
Urban MOMs Program	612-872-8208	DOVE	218-983-4656
MAT Program	218-983-3286	Employment and Training	218-935-5554
Urban MAT Program	612-872-8208	Food Distribution	218-935-2233
WESA	218-983-3286	Homeless Program	218-983-5554 ext 3263
Urban WESA	612-872-8208	Resource & Support	218-935-5554
Juvenile Wellness	218-983-3026	Vocational Rehab	218-935-5554
Indian Child Welfare	218-983-4647	<b>Housing</b>	218-473-4663
Mental Health	218-983-3285 ext 1284	<b>Judicial Services</b>	
Dream Catcher Home Services	218-983-3011	Child Support Enforcement	218-983-4641
<b>Business Enterprises</b>		Court	218-983-4648
White Earth Builders	218-473-2145	Legal	218-983-4649
White Earth Building Supply	218-473-2145	<b>Marketing &amp; Communications</b>	
White Earth Business Products	218-473-2146	Creative Services	218-983-3285 ext 5907
White Earth Sanitation	218-473-3222	General Communication Needs	218-983-3285 ext 5917
White Earth Market	218-936-3112	Public Relations/Newspaper	218-983-3285 ext 5903
<b>Compliance</b>	218-935-2148	<b>Natural Resources</b>	218-935-2488
<b>Economic Development</b>	218-983-4640	Conservation	218-935-2578
Gizhiigin	218-936-3100	Emergency Management	218-935-2488
<b>Education</b>	218-983-4642	Environmental Affairs	218-935-2488
Circle of Life Academy	218-983-4180	Fisheries	218-573-3007
Early Intervention Program	218-983-3285 ext 5306	Forestry	218-935-5967
Head Start	218-983-3285 ext 1353	Invasive Species	218-935-2488
MSUM/White Earth		Land Office	218-983-4650
University Program	218-983-3285 ext 5301	Pesticides	218-935-2488
Scholarships	218-983-4642	Underground Storage Tanks	218-935-2488
White Earth Child Care	218-983-3285 ext 1380	Water Quality	218-935-2488
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs</b>		Wetlands/Prairie Restoration	218-935-2488 ext 2102
Callaway	218-375-2220	Wildlife	218-935-2488 ext 2102
Elbow Lake	218-734-2419	Zoning/Land	218-983-3285 ext 5800
Mahnomen	218-936-6010	<b>Public Works</b>	218-983-3202
Naytahwaush	218-935-5554	Fleet	218-983-3292
Pine Point	218-573-3328	Transit	218-983-3283
Rice Lake	218-694-3539	Water & Sewer	218-983-3202
White Earth	218-983-3174	<b>Veterans Service Office</b>	218-983-3285 ext 5904
<b>Energy Assistance Program</b>	218-473-2711	<b>White Earth Land Settlement</b>	218-751-6619
<b>Enrollment &amp; Vital Statistics</b>	218-983-4643	<b>Weatherization Program</b>	218-473-4663
<b>Finance</b>	218-983-4645	<b>White Earth Public Safety</b>	218-983-4651
		Crime and Elder Abuse Tip Line	877-410-8550
		Dispatch	218-983-3263



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**White Earth Reservation  
Business Committee**

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591

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