

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Friday, April 28, 2023
Grand Casino-Mille Lacs
Onamia, Minnesota

A Regular Tribal Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by President Catherine Chavers at Grand Casino-Mille Lacs, Onamia, Minnesota.

Invocation: Joe Nayaquabe

Roll Call: Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth; Mike LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer, White Earth; Catherine Chavers, Chairwoman, Bois Forte; Robert Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage; April McCormick, Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage; Kevin Dupuis, Chairman, Fond du Lac; Faron Jackson, Chairman, Leech Lake; Leonard M. Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer, Leech Lake; Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Milles Lacs; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs; Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, Bois Forte.

Zoom: Robert Abramowski, Secretary-Treasurer, Fond du Lac

Others: Phil Brodeen, Legal Counsel, MCT; Beth Drost, Executive Director, MCT; Joel Smith, Director of Administration, MCT; MCT Staff and other interested parties.

President Chavers announced that the MIFPA signing will be today at the St. Paul Capitol at 3:45 p.m.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approval of Agenda. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Motion by Chief Executive Benjamin to approve the minutes of January 27, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUARTERLY REPORTS

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday for a consent agenda to approve all resolutions and quarterly reports, Seconded by Chairman Deschampe. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.

Phil Brodeen read the Resolution numbers aloud into the record under a consent agenda.

63-23 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte Eligibles (8)

64-23 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte Ineligibles (9)

65-23 ENROLLMENT: Bois Forte Relinquish to Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, MI (2)

66-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Eligibles (22)

- 67-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Ineligibles (21)
- 68-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change I
- 69-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change II
- 70-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change III
- 71-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change IV (3)
- 72-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change V (2)
- 73-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change VI (6)
- 74-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change VII (2)
- 75-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change VIII
- 76-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change IX (2)
- 77-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth Blood Degree Change X
- 78-23 ENROLLMENT: White Earth No Parent Enrolled (3)
- 79-23 ENROLLMENT: Fond du Lac Eligibles (14)
- 80-23 ENROLLMENT: Fond du Lac Ineligibles (7)
- 81-23 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Eligibles (39)
- 82-23 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Ineligibles (31)
- 83-23 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Relinquish to Red Lake Minor (1)
- 84-23 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake Relinquish to Robinson Rancheria Tribe (1)
- 85-23 ENROLLMENT: Leech Lake No Parent Enrolled (3)
- 86-23 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs Eligibles (24)
- 87-23 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs Ineligibles (23)
- 88-23 ENROLLMENT: Mille Lacs No Parent Enrolled (1)

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to approve consent agenda. Seconded by Chairman Jackson. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

BIA- MN AGENCY: Eric S. Bruguier, Superintendent

Superintendent Bruguier presented his report and invited the committee to the BIA-MN Agency Open House scheduled for May 10th, including fish fry, wild rice, fry bread. Chairman Jackson informed the Superintendent that May 10th will be Native American Day at the Capitol and many leaders will be there, suggesting Thursday May 11th? Superintendent Bruguier he would keep the committee updated on any changes.

UPDATE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MEETINGS:

Cheryl Edwards, Sally Fineday, Al Olson, Patty Straub, Michelle Beeksma

Proposal from the Constitution Committee requesting funding from the Tribal Executive Committee (part of the donation received from the Lutheran Synod discussed at previous TEC meeting). Cheryl read aloud a request for funding with the budget breakdown. Questions regarding timeline on expending funds, and plan for when meetings would be held and content of meetings.

Several TEC committee members reiterated that the TEC gave the Constitution Reform Committee direction to complete the draft Constitution by July 1st as agreed to in the previous TEC meetings by Sally and Cheryl. Expressing concerns about the ambiguity of tasks and the answers between Constitution Reform Committee. Questions regarding their emphasis on the educating/messaging of ‘other enrollment options’ separate of the Resolutions passed for the postponed Secretarial Election. For clarification, Secretary McCormick referred to the past minutes and read aloud “...the TEC has requested a deadline of July 1st to have a draft of the whole Constitution document submitted by the constitutional reform committee to the TEC and that the TEC is going to hold off until July 1st for the Resolution 31-15 and 32-15, plan for an election in fall,” explaining that they agreed to a whole draft constitution to be submitted to TEC.

Al Olson, Mille Lacs presented a 49-page report to the TEC titled: *A Preliminary Analysis of the Organization known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: A Report from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, MCT Constitution Reform Delegation*. Describing how they have done historical research and are presenting this as educational material.

Several TEC committee members had questions about how far along the Constitution Reform Committee is with completing their draft constitution. Conflicting answers, some said seventy percent complete, another said ‘very near completion of an Alliance Document,’ another asking for more time saying that ‘we do not have legal review of the document some don’t know what is in it’, and another stated that ‘they are not close to any consensus to give a solid recommendation for members to vote on. They have talked to the community but not nearly enough to come to a consensus on blood quantum. Sixty delegates cannot make a decision for our members’.

Phil summarized when the TEC asks a specific question of the Constitution Reform Committee that is your license to answer that question. TEC must vote to authorize a Secretarial Election.

LEGAL: Brodeen & Paulson

Phil Brodeen summarized the Order of Dismissal regarding Case: LaRose vs. MCT.

DISCUSSION: Enrollment Data Collection, DOI

Joel Smith presented the DOI letter dated March 17, 2023, regarding enrollment data collection. There is a certification page that needs to be signed by each Chairperson. MCT can report all enrollment numbers as of the end of March, including eligibles for this quarter, if the Bands would like us to submit on your behalf, please let Beth or I know.

NEW BUSINESS: Information on MCT Land Transfer

President Chavers provided information on the MCT Land Transfer Bill, the resolution was approved for the bill and submitted. The Bill itself has been on hold due to pandemic. Representative Stauber has the Bill.

Executive Director Beth, gave power point presentation regarding MCT Trust Land. Michael Northbird displayed the MCT Trust Land Map from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe website and described the GIS map depicts MCT Trust land within the red outlines.

Discussion amongst TEC, drawing the main points:

- Each Band manages land within their reservation boundaries with land regulations.
- Some Bands have their own realty and leasing departments, the MCT doesn't have a leasing or realty department, impacting home ownership by the lengthy process of titling leases through the BIA.
- Bands can use the HEARTH Act to expedite leases on trust land titled to the Band. BIA doesn't allow Bands to use HEARTH Act to title MCT trust land which created barriers for tribal members and Band's executing leases on MCT Trust Land.
- MCT Land held outside the exterior boundaries of a Band, but closest to each Band would revert to the nearest Band.
- Treaties are the supreme law of the Land, Treaties established Reservations as a land base for the Bands, these MCT Trust Lands at one point or another were titled to MCT, the MCT Land Transfer Bill is addressing the title issues to correctly title the land to the Bands, because these Trust lands are land reserved by treaty to each Band.
- Importance of education on the issue so progress can be made.
- The bill itself is a result of the work of the six bands together trying to remedy the title issue and was brought forward as a solution by six Band's Land and Realty managers and TEC leadership almost ten years ago.

Motion by Secretary-Treasurer Fineday to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. Seconded by Secretary-Treasurer LaRoque. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Motion Carried.