THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE  
TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  

Special Meeting  
July 1, 2013

A special meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee was called to order by President Norman Deschampe at 1:55 p.m. at Black Bear Casino Resort, Carlton, Minnesota.

Roll Call: Norman Deschampe, April McCormick, Kevin Leecy, Dave Morrison, Carri Jones, Donald Finn, Karen Diver, Ferdinand Martineau, Melanie Benjamin, Curtis Kalk, Erma Vizenor, Robert Durant.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Gary Frazer, Executive Director, MCT; Reid Lebeau, Legal Counsel, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Sandy Blake, Rep., Mille Lacs; Elaine Smith, Legal, Mille Lacs; Sylvia Villebrun, Legislative Branch, Mille Lacs; Lenny Fineday, Legal, Leech Lake; Kenneth Bevins, Rep., White Earth; Terrance Tibbetts, Rep., White Earth; Joe Plummer, Legal, White Earth; Mike Swan, DNR, White Earth; Ray Toutloff, Rep., Bois Forte; Corey Strong, Exe. Dir., Bois Forte; Kevin Dupuis, Rep., Fond du Lac; MCT Staff and other interested parties.

Motion by Karen Diver to approve the agenda. Seconded by Melanie Benjamin. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Election Ordinance, 2nd Tuesday of June, General Election. 10 weeks prior is Primary – 1 year before primary. April 1, 2014 – date to be eligible = residency requirements.

Nothing today for action on Election Ordinance. Bring any issues or questions to July 30th TEC meeting.

Erma Vizenor – Joe Plummer – ID on Ordinance – check Photo ID with address.

Kevin Leecy – Problem with ID issue – spent money on challenging the State. Erma stated we have a lot of people jumping districts, Election /Precincts Boards don’t know all people, check updated ID will help this. Erma, our election Board proposal is to raise the election age to 25.

Gary Frazer – Check – how do you define “ever”. If you were ever convicted of a felony it is still on record other places besides the court that expunged you. Gary if everyone agreed to what “ever” means. Also the definition of expunged or pardon.

Robert Durant – ever is plain and simple. Donald Finn agreed to “ever convicted”

Kevin Leecy questioned the filling fee.
Kevin Dupuis – Interpretation of electioneering.

Norman, we can’t go backwards. Kevin Dupuis asked why is it in the Election Ordinance. Norman stated that we need to define. Gary Frazer informed the Committee to submit any recommendations within the next couple of weeks.

**Wolf Hunt 2014**

Joe Plummer presented a resolution in regard to the wolf hunt. Robert Durant asked if this would help stop the hunt. Joe stated, it is best if we have the start for a management plan. Curt Kalk asked how this affects ceded territories, the resolution should include reservations and ceded territories. Kevin Leecy stated to include in paragraph 6 violation of state consultation agreement.

Mike Swan informed the Committee that the State of Minnesota is meeting on Tuesday, July 9th to set the hunt in Grand Rapids, Regional Headquarters (National Resource Managers).

Norman asked, what is a comprehensive plan? Does it include ceded territories? Commissioner of DNR is meeting with White Earth. Joe Plummer stated that it would include all six reservations. Kevin Leecy commented that each reservation should be able to make their own plan. Norman stated a resolution to get them to write a plan that would include all 6 reservations. This isn’t supporting White Earth.

Erma stated White Earth Reservation is sanctuary for wolves. Issued criteria (collected data) Government asserting jurisdiction – need to take a stand. Erma stated that all reservations are different.


Mike Swan stated that MCT get U.S. Fish & Wildlife to recognize within reservation lands. Need to recognize authority.

Erma stated that we need something passed today – support of tribes that we have jurisdiction on our reservations.

Motion by Erma Vizenor to approve Resolution 72-13 regarding development of Tribally centered wolf management plan and tribal authority and sovereignty of constituent bands including ceded territories. Seconded by Curt Kalk. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.
Enrollment Applicants born before 1941

Gary Frazer informed the Committee of a handful of enrollment applications for individuals born before 1941. There are 47 that applied and are not enrolled, they were denied, just sitting in limbo as language doesn’t apply. Brian Brunelle stated as of 2001 there were 47 applicants. There was a resolution in 2003 allowing correction of the base roll if evidence supports.

Melanie asked the 1941 Base Roll, were there other rolls prior. Gary stated yes, but not included.

Mother of individual had siblings. 24 Fond du Lac, 17 White Earth. Erma, White Earth position – enroll. Norman stated we need a resolution. Gary informed the Committee that we can’t enroll deceased individuals. Erma responded that this was a government error; it is our obligation to correct.

Discussion: Cobell Letters

Letter requesting information from individuals, last date to file was today. It is a messed up system.

Erma asked Joe Plummer, what can be done about this. Erma stated that individuals have been calling and phone is not being answered.

Motion by Erma Vizenor to approve letter to extend deadline for Cobell information for 90 days include that it doesn’t affect current payouts. Seconded by Carri Jones. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.

Gary informed the Committee that included a reminder for the Running Wolf Fitness center request. Karen Diver asked if the reservations contribute would they meet their goal. Erma responded that letter was received but White Earth is not going to assist. April McCormick asked how does it address the long term issue. Decision was made not to assist with funding.

Motion by Kevin Leecy to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m. Seconded by Curt Kalk. 11 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent. Carried.