

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Special Meeting

June 1, 2023

White Earth, MN

Chairman Michael Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael Fairbanks, Chairman
Michael LaRoque, Secretary/ Treasurer
Henry Fox, District I Representative
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative
Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
AmiJo Wadena, Recorder
Antonio Solorzano, General Counsel

Agenda

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

RBC Meeting Minutes (No Meeting Minutes for Approval)

Natural Resources

Pesticide Code

Renee Keezer and Dustin Roy are present.

Dustin and Renee present the updated Tribal Pesticide Code.

Updated language pertaining to increase requirements regarding certifications and trainings to transport, use and store pesticides within the reservation boundaries.

Added language in the code to address prohibited use of more volatile pesticides.

Increased language on prohibited pesticide usage near water and wetlands.

Question raised about the ability for Tribal Members to report pesticide related incidents. Members will be able to report to the Natural Resources department within RBC business hours.

Reports can be made with Conservations Officers and White Earth Police Dispatch after normal business hours.

Discussion on the ability to enforce code compliance with companies and farmers within reservation boundaries. The code outlines the fines for first, and repeating code violations. If violations continue, the state can become involved, with potential for loss of certifications and licenses.

Once approved, the amendments will be put up for public comment.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the amended Pesticides Cooperative Agreement and to put it out for public comment, second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Legal

Antonio Solorzano is present.

Unclaimed Funds

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to give Tracy Lhotka signing authority regarding unclaimed funds, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion Carried; 4 for, 0 against.

Cannabis Code

Language amended from allowing use for a "serious medical condition" to a "qualifying medical condition". Language change regarding handling by medical caretakers.

Provisions changed to the growing aspect of the code. Updated definitions section.

Language changed regarding the term length of the commissioners. Terms have increased from two years to three years. Discussion was held on changing the total number of Commissioners from three to five.

Discussion held on whether White Earth members who possess and use cannabis will have to give up their right to possess a firearm, as it is still not federally legal. More discussion will be needed in the future.

Chairman Fairbanks exited at 4:21 p.m.

Regarding authority of the commission, language was added to allow the commission authority to conduct inspections of growing areas.

Added language to allow patients/applicants to self-certify needs in their applications.

Adding language regarding updates to the list of qualifying medical conditions.

Discussion on whether to include language, giving the RBC ability to determine tax rates for the purchase of medical cannabis.

Changed a provision regarding ability of commissioners to handle the cannabis. Previously, the commission had no authority to grow, possess, store or transport cannabis. Provision changed to allow commissioners to possess it in the event a cannabis plant requires handling.

Facility licensing, the commission may change the size and hours of a growing facility. The current code states that growing facilities cannot operate within range of a school zone, church or tribal housing unit. Language was changed to exclude growing facilities that are already in operation, allowing the chip factory to remain in operation.

Chairman Fairbanks returned to the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

There was a provision in the code, regarding background and credit checks on perspective growers. The language was removed.

A duplicate provision was removed.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve updated Medical Cannabis code, with revisions, and to put it out for public comment, second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Donation Letter for Shakopee Wellness Center

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the donation letter for the Shakopee Wellness Center, second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve the consent agenda, with revisions, second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried; 4 for, 0 against.

Meeting went into Executive Session at 4:25 p.m.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to go into executive session; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the changes to the White Earth Enterprise Board, second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m., second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer