

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Regular Meeting

July 28th, 2023

Mahnomen, MN

Chairman Michael Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.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 ~ Via Teams

Others Present: Curtis Rogers, Deputy Director
Ayecia Kemp, Recorder
Antonio Solorzano, General Counsel

Agenda Approval

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

RBC Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve minutes; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried 4 for, 0 against.

Reports

Michael Fairbanks, Chairman

The chairman attended the following meetings: MAST, TEC, and the Naytahwaush Clinic grand opening ceremony. RBC has an upcoming legislation meeting to create legislation to get our State Forest back. Brief update on Cannabis doors opening next week.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer

Budget cycle for FY24 is coming up and working with Tracy and the directors to get their budgets in. Events attended: WECO meetings and addressing their concerns. Working with I.H.S and was in Michigan for their conference on the FY24 I.H.S pre-negotiation. This will be funding for the next 2-3 years. TEC meeting and we did move forward with the secretarial election 3215 with moving forward with election in the fall. Brief updates on TEC.

I.H.S 105 lease program currently working with Tracy and Pat. There are 4-5 on White Earth Reservation that we have leases on. June Powwow had good turnout, wisdom steps conference and tribal council did an opening. Attended White Earth Urban Picnic, Tribal State Relations is going to be held in August at the Casino.

Henry Fox, District I Representative

Childcare playground equipment and basketball courts will be provided to the Rice Lake Community. Rice Lake Community Council is working on sand volleyball and horseshoes. Elder Brief update on the elder homeowner repair. Had a sobriety feast on Wednesday night and has a guest speaker. Rice Lake has been very busy.

Eugene Sommers, District II Representative

April: Niibi event was held here at the SSC. NTW held the elders mtg, RBC met with DOT on the planning of the overpass in Mahnomen. Meeting held with the Department of Interior regarding returning the Tamarack National Forest.

May: Completed legislative session, we were granted concurrent Law Enforcement Jurisdiction, granted Tribal Impact Aid, WETCC granted \$1 million-dollar annual funding for the next four years. A TUC meeting was held with Houston engineering regarding developing a master infrastructure plan on possible EPA funding. The White Earth Child Care received a \$5.5 wage increase. The RBC visited the Cannabis facility in Red Lake, MN. Attended the Indian Education banquet, the MN Indian Affairs Council, and the Indigenous Parent Leadership Initiative. A meeting was held with the Mahnomen County Commissioner. Attended some bill signings over at the Capitol.

June: Met with the EPA regarding amendments and creation of new policy. A meeting was held with U.S. fish and wildlife service discussing co-management agreements. A meeting was held with the Minnesota Secretary of State to discuss voting and registration polling locations on the reservation. Attended the NTW clinic opening with community tour, The clinic will be open July 17 to the public. The elder picnic was held at the rediscovery center. Niibii hosted the Anishinaabe Law conference here at the SSC. RBC has been attending all the community picnics. At the TEC, Eugene sits on the education subcommittee meetings, and they accepted a report from the education department. They were informed they had an increase in funding for Indian Education. They accepted the Human Service report and reports from the Chemical Dependency Division. Eugene has been attending graduations as we had a lot of students graduating this year. Mahnomen and NTW will be getting double basketball courts and new playgrounds. Brief update on the elder home repairs program. Updating the camera systems in NTW. The Boys and Girls club in Mahnomen, they're looking at opening their location at Shopko sometime in November. Attended the employee picnic.

Cheryl Annie Jackson, District III Representative

The Wisdom steps conference was great. Cheryl has been trying to attend all the elders' meetings. June powwow was an awesome turn out. They had meetings yesterday with community councils about the playgrounds. Attended TEC meetings and will have a meeting with Elbow Lake Community Council on August 2nd, Sturgeon Moon Powwow is going on this weekend.

Elder Updates

Lucille "Teedo" Silk is present.

Had a lot of things we were involved with this past month, put the dates of our meetings in the paper it's every first Tuesday of the Month and they're rotated on the White Earth Reservation. Congregate Housing is a lot better with security and quieter just waiting for the kitchen to get done. We post when we have events going on and distribute them through the ENP, there was a group of 8 elders who went to Red Lake to the Health Fair. Wisdom step conference was a big project and there were some errors and hope we can bring it back to Shooting Star. July 11th, we had our regular meeting at Pine Point, it was also the same day as the NTW Clinic opening. Have a lot of discussions at our meetings. Attended the NICOA Conference and proposed resolutions. Powwow was great this year. Elder picnic went well. Entered the parade on July 15th and won third place. Round House: trying to get that improved, it has been a mess down there. Brief discussion held on Tiny Homes. Would like to see managers attend our meetings. A brief discussion was held on elder homeowner repair and re-looking and allocating money. Attended delegate meeting and nothing was accomplished.

Elders Commission

Pamela Aspinwall is present.

Attending our first NICOA Meeting, our mission is to advise the tribal council about recommendations for elders. We do have our District II vacancy election on August 8th. Have the election held in two locations NTW 12-3 and Mahnomen 4-7. Met with Monte and we are working on basic information for our elders for resources. Members brought up a concern about utilizing PTO for Elder Picnic and Elder Christmas Party they must take PTO through Casino side. Amendments for bylaws that will be brought forwards shortly.

Meeting recessed at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

Program Updates

White Earth Housing Authority:

Michael Heisler and Jamie Londo are present. Goals completed in the past three months: Hired three new maintenance workers, hired a new HR Manager, hired a property and procurement officer, purchased a new 3 software to help work order documentation/Tenant files, invoices and employee files. Riverland camera updates and system for ECI. The Rice Lake/ Pine Bend project is ending this winter. The new pet policy was approved, and we will be sending out shortly 60 days to comply.

Goals for upcoming months:

- Build an accessible website
- Start a Tenant housekeeping/ Lease training
- Enforce lease agreements
- Fill Vacant Units
- Request meetings with PD/ICW/Mental Health all involved programs

Vacant Houses/ Waiting List Numbers:

- 36 vacant units
- 102 Currently on Waiting List

White Earth Tribal and Community College:

The summer semester wrapped up at the college. This is the second summer we have offered classes since the start of COVID. The course selection was varied, and we were able to provide more courses for this term. The summer student count grew in attendance since last year. We plan to continue offering three educational terms for each academic year.

We are recruiting for the upcoming fall semester. Fall classes will start on Monday, August 28, 2023. We already have over 65 students registered for courses.

The Minnesota State legislative session was a success for the college. The college had a bill move through the process HF 750 and SF 636 which were included in the higher education omnibus bill HF 2073 and SF 2075. The higher education budget bill was passed this legislative year which appropriated one million dollars annually to each Minnesota Tribal Colleges (White Earth Tribal and Community College, Leech Lake Tribal College, and Red Lake Nation College) to provide general operations and maintenance expenses to the three TCU's. Another item that will positively impact our WETCC students starting fall 2024 is the North Star Promise Program. This new financial aid program will cover the cost of tuition and fees for Minnesota families earning less than \$80,000 adjusted gross income a year. Students will need to meet all state financial aid eligibility requirements.

The Charles and Ellora Alliss Educational Foundation approached the college several months ago to inquire about offering funding to our future students. The foundation approved this request, and we will start to assist students this upcoming academic year. The Alliss' created this foundation to assist Minnesota's young people in achieving their goals of obtaining a college education. Mr. Alliss, a lifetime 3M employee, believed that he could have advanced to higher levels within 3M if he had received a college education. This grant is intended to support students' individual educational journeys with the end goal of achieving a baccalaureate degree. The college will receive a fixed annual grant of \$5,000 for the next three academic years.

Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar have supported the Congressional Directed Spending Trades Building ask, that was submitted by the college earlier this year, by passing it along to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The congressionally directed spending process is competitive. The Committee will now carefully review all member requests for compliance with Committee and Senate rules. We anticipate projects selected by the Committee for funding will be included in Senate Appropriations Reported Bill Language sometime in July 2023. I continue to monitor this request. If the college receives this earmark, the federal government will fund approximately 75% of the trades building; the college would need to find an additional 25% to construct the building. The future trades building would support the offering of the Construction Technology AAS degree program that would provide a high-quality educational experience designed to prepare future focused professionals in the plumbing, carpentry, electrical, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and solar construction trades.

Community Council Updates

Iron Range:

Louie Johannsen is present.

We started a lot of new programs and a lot for our elder community, transportation for medical appointments, making sure they get their meals. Did snow removal for elders. Trying to utilize our high school kids to work on the elders' yards 3 officers stayed the same and split sec/treasurer we have a new treasurer. Changed our monthly meeting dates to the 1st Thursday of the month. We put on a meal for the graduates.

Mahnomen:

Josh Zornes is present.

In the past quarter, the Mahnomen Tribal Community Council (MTCC) has hosted an Easter Event on April 2nd, MMIW/MMIP Walk on May 5th, and joined the White Earth Behavioral Health CSOs to collaborate on a Community Picnic held on July 13th. We plan to participate in the National Night Out event hosted by the Mahnomen County Sheriff's Office, coordinate a Back-to-School event, and join in the Wild Rice Days event.

The MTCC has been working with White Earth Reservation Business Committee on the addition of a Playground and Basketball Court to be constructed on the lot located at the intersection of Birkett Avenue and Fifth Street in Mahnomen, as well as with White Earth Health on purchasing the equipment to install a sand Volleyball Court at the same location.

We met with Lisa McArthur and Dawn Miller on 07/27/2023 to go over where the Playground and Basketball court will be placed. On 07/25/2023 MTCC attended the Community Advisory Council meeting to discuss use of PSE funds.

All MTCC equipment has been stored at the Mahnomen Boys and Girls Club. During the time that it has been held there, there have been a couple of instances where we have been unable to access it due to being unable to get let in and, recently, the building being broken into, and items

rummaged through. However, to resolve this, MTCC had a shed built to store items and purchased cameras to monitor the building.

Naytahwaush:

Tara Mason is present.

The Naytahwaush Community Council has been busy. Since last time we reported NCC has hosted an Egg Hunt Event, White Earths FIRST Pride Parade & Event, 3rd of July, Moccasin Making, Beading Classes, Thursday Sewing, Opened the Old Center for Poker Nights, and have helped individuals and worked with entrepreneurs. We would like to thank our Naytahwaush Village, we have so many people step up and help us.

NCC would also like to thank the RBC for passing Resolution 001-23-033, acknowledging July, Odemiini-giizis, as LGBTQIA2SS+ as Pride Month, and Resolution 001-23-034, including the option of seeking. Not Gender Specific on our Tribal Identification Cards. These resolutions were drafted by one of our NCC members and fully supported by our entire Community Council.

Mid-April we met with Economic Development; we have not received any response. We understand next Tuesday we will finally meet on one of the issues. NCC has had a business plan for over a year and has not been able to receive any type of answer.

We held a Special Meeting this month to discuss the serious concern we are having with our Youth; this meeting was to discuss possibilities. We will be submitting a proposal and plan to you. We appreciate the Tribal Programs who attended.

The Requests That Have NOT Changed or Seen Progress:

- New Community Center, can we please set a date and time to discuss the next steps. Nobody has reached out to meet or discuss this with us. Our Children are celebrating holidays in a building with no kitchen, black mold, and asbestos. We need a COMMUNITY CENTER.
- We need only 5 minutes of your attorney's time to assist us with a 501c3. Please understand once we have our non-profit status, we will be able to help meet the needs of our Village members.
- Lighting and street signage for the junction of Workforce Center Road and County Road 4 The intersection is dangerous. We also continue to need signage for the Water Tower Projects. Nobody has talked to us about this. Ever.
- No movement on the Dog Issue.
- NCC submitted a request for funding last week. We were wondering how long a reasonable time is to wait for an answer.
- We would like the balance of the Youth and Elder Fund, and the new policies.
- We ask for a week's notice for the RBC Regular Meetings. We did receive an email this time, thank you, but if we cannot have notice we cannot attend. Many of our NCC members

work with members and have things scheduled with them. We understand the meeting is held on the last Friday of the month, but RBC has moved the meeting multiple times.

- The Drum Hall, a vent over the stove and the down spouts. This is a White Earth building.

NCC has an open invitation to our District II Representative and encourages all RBC members to attend our Regular Monthly Meeting, 2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm. We would like to thank the Secretary Treasurer for attending the meeting. NCC had been asked to explain why we requested a letter of support, signed by the Chairman, to pursue funding off the Reservation. As you are aware, there are several Tribal Funding sources which require a letter from non-Tribal Government organizations on the Reservation to pursue funding. We are aware other letters have been signed for other non-profits on the Reservation and we are requesting one.

Northeast White Earth (Cass Lake):

Monthly Meetings were held in April, May, and June at 5:30 in the White Earth Community Building.

The building renovation has 2 flooring items to complete, and the project is done. There were a few electrical outlets and lights that were required. The Heating System of the building remains a project in process. Financial assistance options are being reviewed. Several elders are submitting applications for home repairs. These repairs are roof and electrical repair, bathroom (toilet & tub) replacements and well & septic. White Earth and Leech Lake are collaborating on the Elder Ramp Project. White Earth purchases materials and Leech Lake provides (& compensates) the personnel to build the ramps. Security around the backside of building remains an issue. Temporary shelters and access to the area in the back. Different security options are being put in place. An Elder and Youth event is being planned for August.

Rice Lake:

Rita Swenson is present.

In April we had our easter event, Pow Wow, updated our parking lot. Ditch cleaning with Boys and Girls Club and it was 4 days of cleaning. May we did start at fundraiser. June helped with CSO picnic. Got rid of all the beds except 2. September 23rd is the battle of the bog. Installed our volleyball pit. Fireworks went well, going to work on a backpack drive.

Waubun:

Our Rising Sun Community Council made Waubun Days happen this year after none for several years. We had a parade, picnic, volleyball under the lights, bean bag tournament, chalk on the sidewalk contest, vendors, music in the park by local musicians, men's softball tournament, and a dance at Sundown. It was very well attended, and we served 297 meals. Next year after learning a lot and experiencing ups and downs we feel it will be much better, but we received many good compliments. We did help with and donated to the Community Picnic with Sue Hanks which was well attended and fun.

White Earth:

The White Earth Community Council has been busy planning the Sturgeon Moon Powwow which will be held July 28th — 30th, 2023. We currently have 36 Venders signed up and have had campers coming in Wednesday. We will have a 3 on 3 BB Tourney for all age groups. Also, there will be a Bean Bag Tourney during the Powwow.

The month of May we held Bingo at the Community Center that was open to adults only. We had approximately 200 people that attended. (Concessions were sold during bingo).

June 30th, we held our 4th of July Celebration at the Community Center and served "Taco-in-a-Bag", we served approximately 350 people, at dusk we had our Fire Work Display, " Big Thank you to everyone that helped make this a success".

White Earth CC donated door prizes and helped with the CSO picnic that was held on Thursday, June 15. We had approximately 100+ attend.

We are currently selling raffle tickets for a fund-raising event. Tickets are \$20.00 each. The prize you can win is a \$3,000.00 travel voucher and there will be 5 \$200.00 winners also. We are selling 400 tickets only.

We are excited about the new playground equipment each community will be receiving.

The center has been booked for birthday parties, showers, rummage sales, Childcare will be having a Backpack give away on August 24th from 3-7; Natural Resources will be holding their Wild Rice Drawing on August 15th, 6-8pm. Many of our youth (7th grade to 22 years) use the gym 3 to 4 times a week in the evening for BB. As always Funerals come first. If anything is scheduled, we notify who has it booked so they can reschedule.

White Earth Urban:

May 2023 was devoted to amending the Bylaws and Code of Ethics, and with a focus on the Behavioral Health recommendations to fulfill the required activities for the donation monies. WEUCC held the last Elder Bingo/Luncheon for a summer break during the summer months. With all the summer activities, Elders will have the opportunity to participate. The Elder Bingo/Luncheons will resume in September. May brought Indian Month activities thru out the Metro area. WEUCC along with the Businesses in the MCT Building held an Ice Cream Social. Drawings were held for gifts and gift cards. The ice cream with all the fixings was a great hit. WEUCC is searching for space in St Paul to hold Meetings/Events every other month. Alternating with Minneapolis and St Paul to be all inclusive with membership. We will start the alternating in September 2023. Starting in May 2023, Char picked up food bags from Division of Indian Works to coordinate emergency food bags for members with food emergency needs. Two bags of nonperishable food will be available and WEUCC will give a \$20.00 cub food or Walmart card to help with meat products. Three families were helped with food bags.

Bonni Boudreau is the Urban Delegate for the Constitutional Delegation. She has been giving updates on the Delegation Meetings. Insurance was secured for the WEUCC office at the MCT Building. Six families were helped with resources/referral.

June 2023, Bonni Boudreau resigned as WEUCC Treasurer due to health issues. We wish Bonni the best and hold her in our prayers for Healing. Annette Christensen was seated as Treasurer. She brings her accounting skills to the WEUCC. Sherri Loken was seated as Vice-Chair. She has a background in banking and has been a PCA for her brother. WEUCC is a fully seated Council. Twenty Urban Elders made the trip to the White Earth Elder Picnic at the Rediscovery Center. To pass the time on the bus, the Elders played Bingo as born bingo troupers do while wearing their rock star glasses. The laughter and smiles were a treasure beyond compare.

The Christian Fellowship Church in Detroit Lakes welcomed us as we took a break to eat Hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill. Miigwech for your generosity. It was wonderful to visit with relatives and friends at the Elders' Picnic. Miigwech to the Elderly Nutrition Program. We all appreciated the time spent at the Rediscovery Center. Thank you, Mike LaRoque, for the time and energy you put into helping WEUCC make the trip happen. The fun memories for our Elders were well worth sorting out the bumps in the road. Anything is possible. Hopefully your Bus Driver, Daniel will transport us again for other events. He was awesome!

Pow Wow: Committee formed to plan the White Earth Urban Pow Wow. The first meeting was held. Char contacted Jeff Burnett, WE Pow Wow Committee, to guide WEUCC through the planning process. WEUCC has the basics but needs help with detail. Char met with Jen Mely, Behavioral Health Director and Alesha Goodwin, Program Director, to coordinate activities. WEUCC and Urban Behavioral Health will plan a Family Fun Day for the end of July. Jen will be on the Agenda for the July 12, 2023, WEUCC Meeting to discuss the planning for the event. She will also teach the process to administer Narcan. Seven Members were helped with resources and unanswered questions.

July 2023: White Earth Urban Community Council held the Annual Picnic at Waubun Shelter in Minnehaha Park, Mpls, MN on July 8, 2023. The weather was beautiful, and the White Earth Urban members had an enjoyable day visiting with friends and family. There were T-shirts for the 17 Volunteers, delicious food, drawings for gift cards for adults and youth, face painting and balloons for the youth. WEUCC honored Carl Fransen with the "White Earth Has Talent" contest. It was Carl's idea to have the talent contest at the picnic, which is always a big hit and fun to see all the talent White Earth has. After White Earth Members took left over food, WEUCC set up a table in the AIOC WEUCC parking lot. The food that was left over from the picnic, we fed over a hundred of our relatives who are homeless. The unconditional love that was given in return was beyond words. They asked to take plates to relatives that could not make it to where we were. Pure love and respect were shown to us as we served them. Thank you, Mike LaRoque, for attending the picnic and your ongoing support.

Thank you to the two employees from Behavioral Health that attended. Sybil Gund, White Earth Urban Delegate, gave an update on the Constitutional Reform.

Upcoming Events:

August 1, 2023, WEUCC will meet with Dolly Boswell, Jen Mely, and Alesha Goodwin, to plan the Fun Day Event. Pow Wow Committee weekly planning meetings. Char secured backpacks for WEUCC to distribute to Youth for school. WEUCC will plan a fun event to give the youth a backpack. Char has secured a teacher for making moccasins, ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts. September, the Elder Luncheon/Bingo will resume.

Old Business

Adult Use Cannabis Code

Antonio is present.

RBC put out a proposed code for public comment and we only received two comments. Brief discussion held on the two comments and going over the code. The main thing is the use of adult cannabis that is authorized by the code. A facility will be licensed for consumption which would be a pop-up tent or a permanent place. RBC should do the 10% gross receipt tax on this.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve Adult Use Cannabis Code; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

New Business

Mahnomin Ordinance Amendment

Dustin Roy and Terry Jenise are present.

Brief discussion held on Mahnomin Ordinance and educational program to understand along with funding. Antonio recommends that this is to be tabled for further discussion and potentially put it out for public comment. Mike LaRoque said he talked with Tracy and Mike, the financial side of it is okay. Not taking it and throwing it into general fund then find its own grant with Econ Development to try to find funding. This will be put out for public comment.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the 14-day public for Mahnomin Ordinance Amendment; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Cheryl Annie Jackson left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Consent Agenda/ Signatory Request & Ratifications

Motion made by to approve Consent Agenda/ Signatory Request & Ratifications with additions; second by. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to going into executive session and recess at 1:09 p.m.; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve the Campground variance with land recommendations; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque left the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Michael LaRoque back in the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Land Department

Sarah LaFriniere & Megan Bakken are present.

Homesites; District I – 2 sites, District II – 6 sites and Tabled District III – 3 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Lakeshore; District II – 1 site and Tabled District III – 5 sites:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Business; District I – 1 site, District II – 3 sites and Tabled District III – 1 site.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Other Land Topics:

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Henry Fox. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Emergency Declaration for Elder Homeowner repair

Tracy gave a brief update on the Emergency Declaration for Elder Homeowner repair. A lot of bids have already taken place.

Motion made by Henry Fox to approve the Emergency Declaration Disaster Resolution; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 3 for, 0 against.

Elder Home Repair- Project- Notice of Award Tabled Signatory Request
Tabled.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 2:14 p.m.; second by Michael LaRoque.
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer