

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Resolution No. 001-24-025

- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Reservation pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the revised constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and organized under Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly authorized governing body of the White Earth Band, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee adopted the White Earth Reservation Groundwater and Surface Ordinance on May 5, 2023 by White Earth Reservation Business Committee Resolution Number 057-23-017, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee adopted the White Earth Reservation Groundwater and Surface Ordinance upon the identification by scientific and community experts of significant threats to the Band's health, welfare, cultural, and economic well-being, and as well as to other retained treaty rights, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee intended the Ordinance to protect, restore, and regulate the natural resources of the Band, in order to ensure environmental and human health and protect the spiritual, cultural, and economic sustainability of the Band, and
- WHEREAS,** since the Ordinance was adopted, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee has had to take enforcement action in order to protect the health, welfare, economic, and cultural well-being of the White Earth Nation, and
- WHEREAS,** enforcement of the Ordinance has lead to costly litigation and significant expert costs necessary to develop the evidence showing the threat to the Band's health, welfare, cultural, and economic well-being, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee's jurisdictional and regulatory authority to protect the health, welfare, economic, and cultural well-being of the White Earth Nation has been challenged thereby threatening the Nation's reserved and retained treaty rights, and
- WHEREAS,** the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, pursuant to 25 C.F.R. Part 89, may authorize expenditure of appropriated funds to assist with litigations support funds, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation intends to request said funds for FY 2024, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby authorizes a request be made to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Litigation Support Funds in the amount of \$109,266.94.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 silent, a quorum being present at a regular meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee held on February 28, 2024 in Mahnomen, Minnesota.



Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman



Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer