

2023 WHITE EARTH  
**STATE OF  
THE NATION  
ADDRESS**



# 2023 WHITE EARTH STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024  
SHOOTING STAR CASINO

## White Earth Nation Program Exhibits

8am – 2pm

## Social Hour

9am

## Address Begins

10am

## Master of Ceremony

Vince Beyl

## Grand Entry Song — Flag Song — Veteran Song

Manoomin Drum

## Presentation of Colors

White Earth Guard — White Earth Royalty

## Pipe Ceremony & Invocation

Rob Tibbetts

## District I Report

District I Representative Henry George Fox

## District II Report

District II Representative Eugene Sommers

## District III Report

District III Representative Cheryl “Annie” Jackson

## Secretary/Treasurer Report

Secretary/Treasurer Michael LaRoque

## State of the Nation Address

Chairman Michael Fairbanks

## Traveling Song and Community Feast



# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE



**Michael Fairbanks**  
Chairman



**Michael Laroque**  
Secretary/Treasurer



**Henry George Fox**  
District I Representative



**Eugene Sommers**  
District II Representative



**Cheryl "Annie" Jackson**  
District III Representative



Tribal Government Areas	General Fund	Other Funding Sources	Total Tribal Expenditures
Community Service FY22	657,342	191,951	849,293
Community Service FY23	558,480	107,596	666,076
Culture & Recreation FY22	969,844	1,175,143	2,144,987
Culture & Recreation FY23	1,125,756	3,120,995	4,246,751
Economic Development FY22	123,724	281,893	405,617
Economic Development FY23	73,826	233,130	306,956
Transportation FY22	121,460	3,082,228	3,203,688
Transportation FY23	475,596	2,657,040	3,132,636
Conservation of Natural Resources FY22	2,556,273	2,580,111	5,136,384
Conservation of Natural Resources FY23	1,296,240	4,185,434	5,481,674
Public Safety FY22	888,382	2,707,058	3,595,440
Public Safety FY23	931,980	1,765,995	2,697,975
Human Services FY22	1,480,166	41,290,426	42,770,592
Human Services FY23	1,177,953	46,116,864	47,294,817
Education FY22	9,856	8,419,543	8,429,399
Education FY23	-	8,806,430	8,806,430
Health Services FY22	2,422,616	41,122,206	43,544,822
Health Services FY23	2,511,536	51,838,566	54,350,102
General Government FY22	6,530,162	2,778,868	9,309,030
General Government FY23	9,181,494	3,117,691	12,299,185
Public Works FY22	2,539	743,231	745,770
Public Works FY23	6,902,612	262,495	7,165,107



# SHOOTING STAR CASINO FINANCIALS

	FY2022	FY2023
SSC Revenue	\$100,151,518	\$98,866,608
Operating Expenses	\$80,036,922	\$77,405,651
Operating Income	\$20,114,596	\$21,460,957
Non-operating Revenue (Expenses)	\$155,128	\$893,743
Net Income	\$20,269,724	\$22,354,700
EBITDA (Proxy for Cash Flow)	\$26,681,888	\$28,615,796
Payroll & Fringe Benefits	\$27,410,537	\$30,582,693



# FINANCE DIVISION

## Tracy Lhotka

Finance Director

## Tribal Affiliation

White Earth Descendant

The White Earth Tribal Finance Department provides quality, efficient financial services to our departments and our members while maintaining the highest degree of respect, fairness, public trust, and integrity. These services are balanced and reflect our traditional beliefs, our compliance with regulatory requirements, and the needs of our constituents. These financial services are provided in a timely and competent manner. We strive to work with the tribal departments to create a vibrant and healthy workplace environment.

Our objective is to provide financial management, information, and grant management skills to administration, departments, agencies, and our tribal members so they have confidence in the government's ability to make informed decisions to achieve results for the benefits of the Tribal Nation.

The finance department provides supportive services to every division within the tribal government. In fiscal year 2023, we provided accounting services for 443 funds, which included the following:

- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Payroll
- Grants management, tracking, & reporting
- Cash management & bank reconciliations
- Construction management & reporting
- Inventory & fixed asset tracking
- Investment tracking
- Travel authorizations
- Insurance renewals
- Credit card reconciliations
- Purchasing management

Finance completed a successful audit for fiscal year 2022 and submitted the annual indirect cost proposal in a timely manner. During 2023, there was a software upgrade to our GP and Paramount system to ensure our system can operate accurately. We also processed and released all tax documents including 1099s and W2s in a timely manner.

We processed 949 travel vouchers, 300 COVID-19 checks, 140 Nelson Minor checks, and 19,500 regular accounts payable checks (which account to about 49,900 invoices). We provided payroll services for an average of 1,100 employees.



The contracting department was involved in the administration of the following projects:

- Mahnomen Boys and Girls Club
- Demolition of Blight Buildings
- White Earth Child Care
- Tribal Health Building Remodel — Tribal Health and Behavioral Health Spaces
- Jack Haw — Men's Acute Care
- Jack Haw — Men's Acute Care — 2nd Resident Cabin
- White Earth Family Treatment Outpatient Renovation (Former Christian Retreat)
- White Earth Family Treatment — 4 Plex Construction (Former Christian Retreat)
- Naytahwaush ENP Kitchen Remodel
- White Earth Congregate Kitchen Remodel
- Naytahwaush Health Center
- Oshki Manidoo — Outpatient Treatment Renovation of Existing Administration Building
- Gwayako — Housing 1st Project
- Homeless Shelter — Weimer House
- White Earth Health Center
- Mahnomen Wellness Center
- Forestry and Wildland Fire Facility
- Transit Building
- Ridgeway
- Elder Home Repair
- Mahnomen Behavioral Health Modular Building
- Mahnomen Head Start Bus Garage
- Rice Lake Tiny Homes
- Jack Haw Farm Site — Phase III — Tiny Home Addition and Administration Building

The team ensured compliance with various funding agencies and White Earth Tribal Nation policies. A portion of the projects are completed while some are still ongoing.



# ENROLLMENT & VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

This office is available to assist individuals who are already enrolled or are seeking enrollment into the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The regulations for enrollment are governed by the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). Members of the White Earth Nation comprise almost one-half of the entire MCT.

## ENROLLMENTS

### Descendant Verifications

New members: **141**

Ineligible: **136**

No parent: **20**

Incomplete: **32**

Number of address updates completed: **300**

### Membership

Deaths reported: **196**

Current total members: **17,130**

Enrollment applications: **329**

## DECENDANTS

### Descendant Verifications

First: **900**

Second: **386**

### ARPA Payments

- Processed over 700 ARPA applications, including members reapplying for a second \$3,200 one-time payment
- Completed 293 payments to members
- \$937,600 paid to members

The (one-time) ARPA payment application deadline will be September 30, 2024. We have been processing applications since July 21, 2021.

## ARCHIVES

### Special Projects

1089 List TEC Resolution 36-19 full blood list. Through research of records, 1891-1901 White Earth Land Allotment list, 1910 Hinton Blood Roll, 1920 Blood Roll, and the 1941 Base Roll, including the available records, 1,089 allottees were identified to be 4/4.

- Number of completed allottees to 4/4: **10**
- Descendants of the allottees affected: **6,827**
- White Earth enrolled members affected: **3,122**

## RECORDS

### Enrollment Verifications

ICWA: **1,356**

Universal: **96**

Health: **240**

Education: **300**

Finance: **60**

JOM: **327**

### Files Made

Members: **3,163**

Descendants: **0**





# WHITE EARTH NATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) DEPARTMENT

**Division:** White Earth Nation IT Department

**Address:** 35500 Eagle View Rd, Ogema, MN 56569

**Location:** White Earth RTC Building (IT Garage)

**Hours of Operation:** Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm (on-call for 24/7 programs)

**Director:** Monte Bellanger

**Contact:** monte.bellanger@whiteearth-nsn.gov

**Phone:** 218-983-4658

**Email:** whiteearth.helpdesk@whiteearth-nsn.gov

**Support Site:** <http://wehelpdesk.com/>

## Monte Bellanger

IT Director, White Earth Nation

### Tribal Affiliation

Enrolled member of White Earth Nation

## Scott Schermerhorn

IT Manager, White Earth Nation

### Tribal Affiliation

Descendant of White Earth Nation

White Earth has IT for the government divisions and health divisions. There is also a dedicated IT person for the urban offices.

The mission and primary goal of the White Earth Nation IT Department is to make sure that all technology operations are running smoothly so the White Earth Nation can provide services to its members.

The White Earth IT Department installs and maintains all information technology systems. Additionally, WEIT provides information security, computer support, and end user support for all divisions at White Earth Nation. This can include installing new software and hardware, repairing hardware problems, troubleshooting computer problems, and training end users on using computer systems. All computers, printers, and server hardware are ordered through the IT department. The IT department has its own divisions. These divisions are helpdesk, applications, systems, networking, and security.

White Earth IT helps with other tribal entities to provide IT support when possible. IT also helps to support and have training with tribal members on technology needs when asked.



White Earth IT Department highlights over the past year:

- New phone system for White Earth Nation.
- Upgrading network infrastructure for most White Earth Nation buildings.
- Upgrading systems and server infrastructure.
- Building strong cyber security.
- Changing internet plans for multiple buildings to cut costs and get more network speeds.
- Provide Wi-Fi for Naytahwaush and White Earth powwow grounds (Pine Point is in the works).
- White Earth Nation mobile app is being made.
- Working on building e-forms so it's easier for tribal members to submit forms or applications to programs.

**Monte Bellanger:** IT Director

**Scott Schermerhorn:** IT Manager

**Don Heisler:** Tribal Health IT Manager

**Matthew Roy:** Senior IT Technician

**Emily Olsen:** IT Technician

**William Stone:** IT Technician

**Colton Lee:** IT Technician

**Brad Riggle:** IT Technician

**Sheldon Burnette:** Helpdesk Specialist

**Clinton Stearns:** Helpdesk Specialist

**Ian Stech:** Applications Analyst

**Dennis Hisgun Jr.:** IT Project Coordinator

**Jesse Fain:** Systems Administrator

**Keith Frohman:** Network Administrator

**Jacob McGrath:** Security Administrator

**Susie Snetsinger:** Computer  
Management Analyst in NTW

**Digide Johnson:** Urban Office IT



# WHITE EARTH TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The White Earth Tribal Health Division remains a constant source of healthcare services, aimed at protecting the health and wellbeing of the clients we serve.

## HOME HEALTH

White Earth Home Health continued to see an increase in clients receiving home care services. Home Health persisted in its COVID-19 and flu vaccination efforts. Staff offered several vaccination clinics, CPR courses, and blood pressure and footcare clinics throughout the year.

- Home Care Visits in 2023: **9,791**
- Vaccination Administration in 2023: **1,000**

## LIFE PROGRAM

The LIFE program increased caseloads for both Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) as well as Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs. NFP had an increase of 95% and PAT had a program increase of 100%.

- LIFE Visits for 2023: 155 families and 161 children with 2,353 home visits completed.
- 18 children graduated from the program.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Tribal Community Health Assessment

In 2023, White Earth Nation Tribal Public Health finalized its first Tribal Community Health Assessment (TCHA). The community health assessment was conducted to hear the voices of our community members to better understand our community's health needs and concerns, and to gain a sense of the overall health status of our community.

## OUR HEALTH IS SACRED

This year marks the second year of the Our Health is Sacred (OHIS) program, a school-based tribal public health promotion and prevention program taught in partnership with school culture teachers. The program has been taught to students in Naytahwaush Community Charter School and Pine Point School, and has been expanded to the Circle of Life Academy this year. The program teaches approaches to strengthen their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health through hands-on, interactive activities. Students learn about topics such as eating healthy nutritious/Indigenous foods, staying active, avoiding unhealthy behaviors, and ways they can keep themselves safe and healthy.

## CHR/MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

CHR purchased two handicap-accessible vans to better assist clients served.

- Mileage for medical transports in 2023: **344,798**
- Personal contacts: **5,792**
- Home visits: **5,748**



## LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

LTSS was selected as one of the few testers for Minnesota State DHS for the revised MNChoices assessment. LTSS completed the review of their programming and received excellent reviews. They received one of the highest compliance rates in the state of Minnesota.

- LTSS assessments completed in 2023: **343**

## ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) held the grand opening of the newly renovated White Earth Congregate ENP site. Elderly Nutrition also hosted several events for Elders to get them out and active in community.

- ENP meals served in 2023: **156,000**
- Elderly Nutrition Christmas Party attendee count: **630**

## HARM REDUCTION

Blending health education with traditional language and teachings, Harm Reduction takes a holistic approach to facilitate healing. Harm Reduction partners with White Earth Ambulance Service to assist clients with baseline medical assessments. Helped establish a rapport with clients so they could put an identity and personality to the face of the emergency responders.

- Clients served in 2023: **264**
- 1,600 Harm Reduction encounters

## AMBULANCE

White Earth Ambulance achieved authorization for a rural pilot program aimed at giving immediate medical Suboxone bridging to individuals who have suffered a near fatal opioid overdose. White Earth Ambulance is one of two programs offering this service in the state of Minnesota. This program gives an individual a way to alleviate severe withdrawal of opioids anytime, day or night and seven days a week. Having immediate access will allow an individual to contact recovery services to start them on their journey to recovery. Fran Carlson, Ambulance Manager, taught EMT courses in collaboration with the White Earth Tribal and Community College. There were eight EMTs who attended the course!

- White Earth service calls in 2023: **604**
- Naytahwaush service calls in 2023: **386**

## TRIBAL HEALTH CELEBRATIONS

- Grand opening of the Naytahwaush Health Center joint venture project.
- Pat Butler, Health Director, retired after 25 dedicated years of service.



# WHITE EARTH HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The Human Resources Division remained focused on promoting a culture of care, wellness, and healthy work environment to improve the employee experience. It is Human Resources' goal to take care of our employees so they in turn take care of our Tribe, our communities, and our people.

## HUMAN RESOURCES STATS

- 1,205 employees
- 72% of our workforce is Native American
- 28% of our workforce is non-Native
- Out of 1,205 employees, 108 of our employees are at a Director/Manager Level
- 84% of our leaders are Native American
- 16% of our leaders are non-Native
- In December of 2023, we recognized 63 employees for having over 25 years of service

This is important that we lead the way in ensuring we are promoting our Native Preference Policy and employing our people.

These numbers are a true reflection that in comparison to other tribal nations, we again are the frontrunners.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Directors and Managers were introduced to the following 11 Sessions, of Series 1:

- Professionalism
- Employee Performance Statements
- Active Listening Skills
- Leading Effective Meetings
- Time Management
- Project Management
- Departmental Investigations
- Onboarding New Employees
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Rewards and Recognition
- Directors completed Sessions 1-4 of Building Your Leadership Philosophy to include DISC Profiling Training

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Cultural Sensitivity Training
- Stay Interview Training
- Training for Rebuilding Native Nations
- Training for Generational Differences in the Workplace
- Wage Analysis Training
- Golden Rules of Leadership Training
- Administrative Professionals I-IV Training
- Urban Employee Training



## EMPLOYMENT

- Wage surveys to ensure competitive wages
- Focus on growth and development by tiering job descriptions for upward mobility within divisions
- Regular HR auditing
- Focus on accuracy of records
- Department-specific onboarding

## PILOT PROJECTS AND POLICY UPDATES

- 32-hour work week
- YOS Bonus
- Internships
- Flex Scheduling
- Remote Work Productivity
- Recognition Letters to Outstanding Employee Achievements
- Recognition of Retiring Employees
- Celebrating Individual and Team Success
- Parental Leave
- PTO Donation, Carryover, Buyout Policy
- Policy Handbook Completion in January of 2024; it is now in stages of final review and approval

## HR EMPLOYEES' COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Cultural Committee
- Benefits Committee
- Fisheries Committee
- White Earth Housing Authority
- White Earth Rediscovery Board
- MMCDC
- White Earth Investment Initiative
- Tribal Utility Commission

## CREATION OF COMMISSIONS

- Medicinal Cannabis Control Board
- Tribal Utility Commission



# WHITE EARTH LAND SETTLEMENT ACT (WELSA)

The WELSA staff continues to work through the 2,035 claims identified, approved, and published in the Federal Register.

In this prior year, the Probate Department completed 177 Heirship Determinations (probates). The yearly goal is 108; they surpassed the goal by 63%. The Payment and Claims Department would combine to process monetary compensation from one hundred thirty-three (133) claim numbers, which would produce payments for 3,863 claimants.

Conversations with the Office of Hearing and Appeals regarding technology improvements to the processing of Heirship Determination process have taken place. This will expedite the process by eliminating the time to mail information to the Office of Hearings and Appeals and exchange of information through a secured connection.



# WHITE EARTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

The White Earth Police Department now has concurrent jurisdiction, meaning the White Earth Police Department has the same rights and responsibilities as other departments throughout the state. They provide 24/7/365 police officer coverage. In 2023, there were 15,184 calls for services on the White Earth Reservation. Investigators have been working endlessly to address the drug issues within all communities of White Earth Reservation. Multiple people have been involved in fatality overdoses, and multiple people have been charged with third-degree murder. There are multiple cases that are still under investigation. In 2024, officers will be receiving specialized training focused on narcotics and Community Policing. Officers collaborate daily with several other agencies: Paul Bunyan Task Force, FBI, Becker, Mahnomen, Clearwater Sheriff's department, BCA, and many more. The BCA currently has an office at White Earth Police Department with one personnel that mainly focuses on narcotics and violent crimes. White Earth Police Department has the City of Mahnomen Law Enforcement Contract. The Police Department collaborates with several White Earth divisions daily and attends several committees monthly to help provide services to the people. Police officers attend community events/policing such as picnics, powwows, COLA basketball games, and much more.

## THE WHITE EARTH POLICE DEPARTMENT SEIZED THE FOLLOWING NARCOTICS IN 2023

- Methamphetamine: **505 grams**
- Heroin/fentanyl powder and pills: **429.3 grams**

The estimated street value of drugs seized in 2023 is over \$200,000.

## DISPATCH

The dispatch was upgraded to the newest technology and provides 24/7/365 coverage. Besides law enforcement, dispatchers dispatch ambulances, fire departments, and other first responders like the overdose response and Community Service personnel depending on the situation. Dispatchers also coordinate with natural resources for conservation officers and making sure there is wood delivered to residences for spirit fires.

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

The animal control officers continue to work in communities across the Reservation with animal issues. A Vet Clinic was just conducted in March in Naytahwaush, allowing members to bring their cats and dogs to get vaccinated and spayed.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS CSO

The White Earth Community Service Officers assist with all services that are not covered by general services provided by other White Earth divisions, including but not limited to transport when requested, cultural programming, talking circles, drumming with youth, hand drum making, helping with all overdoses and items for family members, and offering support. Community Service Officers most recently held their fourth annual fishing tournament, which was a big success.





## DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

White Earth DMV serves White Earth Enrolled Members, descendants, and individuals enrolled in other federally recognized tribes. White Earth Reservation signed a reciprocity agreement with the State of Minnesota for registering vehicles in 1986. We have registered over 25,000 vehicles since establishing a motor vehicle department. We currently issue approximately 2,000 individuals a year for various harvesting permits for harvesting Natural Resources here on our Reservation. We issue State Park permits, physically disabled parking permits, and other various services we provide for White Earth members and non-members. In August 2022, we signed a contract with the MinnCorr Industries (MN prison systems) to produce our license plates, which are better quality and will better guarantee that the plates won't become defaced, guaranteeing that they will be legible for seven years and beyond.



# WHITE EARTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION FY2023 REPORT

The White Earth Behavioral Health Division has been a beacon of positivity and cultural preservation in our community throughout Fiscal Year 2023. Here's a glimpse of our achievements, initiatives, and challenges we've overcome.

## CULTURAL PROGRAM

Our Cultural Program organized various events and ceremonies to promote healing and unity, with 474 participants in Cedar Healings, Endizho Nitawaawigaming, and more. Traditional ceremonies like the Nibi Water Ceremony engaged 791 participants throughout the year, fostering cultural pride and community spirit. Community-building events like the WE Parade and Indigenous Doula Training further strengthened bonds within our community.

## OSHKI MANIDOO RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

Our Women's Wellbriety program supported 337 women dealing with substance abuse and mental health challenges, implementing specialized programs and initiatives tailored to the unique needs of program participants, such as Indigenous Doula Training and Grieving Remembrance Ceremony.

## MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Our initiatives focused on crisis intervention and community support, aiding 774 individuals through various programs. Workshops like SafeTALK and ASIST equipped 90 participants with vital skills to address mental health crises. Events like Hope and Healing gatherings spread resilience and mental wellness across all age groups.

## URBAN (MOMS, MAT, AND WESA)

Despite staffing challenges, our Urban programs have provided culturally appropriate care, showcasing resilience and effective collaboration. We're addressing staffing issues by hiring dedicated program managers to fuel future growth.

## ACUTE CARE

Our culturally specific residential treatment program for men saw significant success, serving 42 clients, and is planning expansion to accommodate more individuals, creating job opportunities within our community.

## ACCESS TO RECOVERY

Our Access to Recovery program dedicatedly supported individuals on their recovery journey, offering community engagement activities, comprehensive assessments, and wellness initiatives.

## WESA

Our Substance Abuse program continued to be a vital resource, offering comprehensive services and community engagement efforts, supporting 606 clients with cultural resilience and recovery.



### MOMS/MAT

Our MOUD programs celebrated achievements, had several graduates, and pioneered cultural healing practices like Staff Sweat ceremonies. Engaging 144 dosing relatives underscored our program's reach and impact.

### FIRST THUNDERBEING HOUSE

Transitioning smoothly, our program provided various counseling sessions and engaged in cultural collaborations to enhance services. Provided crucial support and intervention for youth involved in the justice system, aiming to restore wellness and prevent further involvement. Our programs, including Circle Back, Tribal Juvenile Wellness Court, and Dually Involved Youth, address complex needs holistically.

The White Earth Behavioral Health Division has shown unwavering dedication to mental wellness, substance abuse treatment, and cultural revitalization in FY2023. Through resilience, innovation, and community engagement, we've made significant strides in promoting healing and empowerment, creating a healthier community for generations to come.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CONTINUING OUR GROWTH

A key challenge confronting Native American Tribes today is creating sustainable economic development and building wealth for tribal members. The White Earth Reservation is preparing to address these issues by developing an economic development plan that not only identifies strategies to diversify the Tribe's economy, but also identifies strategies to improve the quality of life for tribal members.

Economic development has continued to focus on business development, tribal member-owned business development, grants, and infrastructure needs for the White Earth Nation.

White Earth Band of Ojibwe has secured funding for the Small Business Credit Initiative program, which is operated under the funding requirements of the US Department of Treasury. The White Earth Investment Initiative is the SSBCI Contracted Entity for the White Earth Nation.

White Earth Nation continues to focus on Renewable Energy, Green Energy, and Low-Carbon Energy to cut energy costs for businesses owned or operated by the White Earth Nation. The White Earth Economic Development Department and the newly created Tribal Utility Commission have collaborated to move this energy independence forward.

### WHITE EARTH WILD RICE

White Earth Nation has secured a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture for 60,000 pounds of White Earth Nation wild rice.

Along with the USDA contract, White Earth Market is in the process of being moved under the Enterprise location in Waubun. This move is to provide a better marketing and sales campaign for our wild rice.

### GIZHIIGIN

The Gizhiigin Arts Incubator is an artist-led initiative of the White Earth Nation's (WEN) Economic Development Division. Launched in 2015, Gizhiigin provides career consultations for Indigenous artists and space for artists to create, exhibit, and teach their art. Gizhiigin also works collaboratively with artists, businesses, non-profit organizations, city governments, county governments, and tribal nations to develop the Indigenous arts economy in our region.



## WHITE EARTH COMPLIANCE DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The Compliance Division started a surveillance conversion and company-wide update. We added to the system 16 buildings, which were updated or installed. Waabigwan Mashkiki and its retail properties are now part of the surveillance system. The community centers in Naytahwaush and Rice Lake are completed. The White Earth Community Center and the powwow grounds are currently being installed.

Charitable Bingo is back! Tribal Gaming successfully created a system for Charitable Bingo regulations that was approved by the White Earth Gaming Commission and put in place to be available to the communities to raise money for benefits, fundraising, and other events.

Adjudication and Drug Testing have been diligently working to ensure all regulations are followed in their respective areas.



# WHITE EARTH EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The White Earth Education Division is committed to advocacy and action for student needs, including cultural relevance and respect, equity, inclusion, and content, that protects and strengthens the educational experience and outcomes for Indigenous students of all ages at White Earth and throughout Minnesota. Through our early childhood through adult programming, we are dedicated to providing culturally centered learning experiences and improving communication, cooperation, and consultations with area schools.

## THE 2023 MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT ABOUT MEANINGFUL CHANGES

- All K-12 schools must now teach about the Indigenous people of Minnesota, embedding appropriate information in all subject areas.
- Tribal Nations must be included in the revision process of all academic standards, including new work on the Genocide and Holocaust, and Ethnic Studies Standards.
- American Indian Education Aid, that schools receive to improve educational outcomes of our learners, received a funding increase and requirement that all AIEA be used solely for our students.
- A stronger, funded focus on supporting Indigenous people who want to become educators.
- All schoolteachers seeking re-licensure must complete a minimum of 8 hours of cultural competency training specific to American Indian culture.
- Tribal Nations now have access to educational student data to support the educational attainment of our students.
- Schools with a certain percentage or number of American Indian students are required to provide culture and language classes.
- Grant funding to support Native Language Revitalization will be offered to schools to help pay for their language teachers, professional development, curriculum, and resources.
- Schools with American Indian mascots are required to change them unless no Tribal Nation or the TNEC voted they must make the change.
- Indigenous students have the right to wear tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies.
- Increased funding focused on early childhood family engagement and education programs and outreach, including a set-aside of 10.72% of the total Minnesota annual allocation for Tribal Head Start programs.
- Grants and scholarships covering tuition and fees are or will soon be available for enrolled citizens of a federally recognized tribe or Canadian First Nation who are seeking a credential at a tribal college or their first bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State College and University institution.

## WHITE EARTH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

- Six clubs located in Mahnomon, Naytahwaush, Pine Point, Rice Lake, Waubun, and White Earth with plans to reopen Callaway and Elbow Lake Clubs within the next calendar year.
- 2023 Data (all sites): Average Daily Attendance was 140 youth; Total Youth Served was 27,998; Total Meals Served was 30,606.
- Provides healthy lifestyle and educational supports and cultural enrichment activities that support the whole child.
- Currently collaborating with Behavioral Health to bring additional supports to the youth of White Earth



## ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

- Restructured and expanded services and community outreach.
- New, local provider of Pearson Vue GED testing.
- High post-pandemic graduation rate of 9 for 2023.

## CHILD CARE

- 236 children are receiving services in our tribal licensed centers/home family child cares and 10 children are in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care, for total of 246 children.
- 16 tribally licensed in-home child cares, 4 licensed WECC-operated centers and have licensed St. Michaels School, and Oshki Manidoo Child Care for a total of 22 sites on or near the Reservation.
- Hosting the 20th Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference on August 14 and 15, 2024, with Preconference August 14 at the Shooting Star Casino & Event Center.
- Construction of New White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program Building — open date of fall 2024.
- Funding used for the installation of 7 community playgrounds with 4 sites to have basketball courts for our youth and families this spring/summer of 2024.
- Funding used to support summer of 2023 community events on Reservation communities for powwows and other children/family events.
- Additional grants received to support the following services and events: Early Learning Scholarships Program, Child Care Assistance, families co-pays, Community outreach events — Festival of Fathers, Week of the Young Child, Backpack and Book Giveaway, State Compensation and stabilization funding for providers, and continuing education of staff with Conscious Discipline Curriculum.

## HEAD START

- Six classroom sites in Mahnommen, Rice Lake, Waubun, Pine Point, Waubun, and Naytahwaush.
- Home Base educational services in 6 villages, for 0-3-year-olds and pregnant women.
- Current enrollment is 107.
- Implemented Continuous Head Start for summer programming at White Earth site.
- Provide wrap-around services in the morning and afternoon at all sites.
- Increased programming by 20% through extending the learning week from 4 to 5 days.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Hosts annual Career Fair at Shooting Star Casino.
- Provides information and support at local events and school Financial Aid Nights.
- Education Assistance served 3 students for a total of \$2,981.
- Graduation Incentives served 15 students for a total of \$4,100.
- Johnson O'Malley Program: 283 student requests for a total of \$41,244.
- Post-Secondary Scholarships: 289 scholarships for a total of \$734,285.



# LEGAL DIVISION

**Andrea Kingbird**

General Counsel

**Tribal Affiliation**

Enrolled Member of Oglala Lakota Nation

The role of the Legal Department is to serve as the legal advisor to the Nation in order to protect the Nation's interests. Protecting the Nation's interests is primarily achieved by defending the Nation's sovereign status in all arenas — from basic transactions to asserting inherent sovereign rights and treaty rights. The Legal Department works to support the Nation's leadership and government as it acts to protect and enhance the health, welfare, culture, and economic status of the people of the White Earth Nation.

Additionally, the functions of Government Relations and Tribal Historic Preservation are housed within the Legal Department. Government Relations assists the White Earth Nation with government-to-government relationships at the Federal and State level. This includes organization, coordination, and implementation of State and Federal legislative priorities and consultation. The mission of the White Earth Tribal Historic Preservation Office is to locate, protect, and preserve White Earth cultural resources so that knowledge, history, and traditions may be accessible to the White Earth people and passed down for generations to come.





# WHITE EARTH NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2023

Natural resources remained dedicated to the management of our resources and committed to protecting the Treaty Rights of our tribal membership.

## YOUTH EDUCATION

Joint effort from many departments within White Earth Natural Resources and a variety of other White Earth Tribal Government programs:

### 2023 White Earth Nation Fishing Derby was held on North Twin Lake on February 4.

- **963** registered participants
- **417** youth under the age of 16 registered for the event

### Hosted Youth Education Courses and Events. Attendee numbers:

- 4 Take a Kid Ice Fishing Events: **170**
- Hatchery Tour: **72**
- 4 Furs Presentation: **231**
- Treaty Presentation: **40**
- Wild Ricing Education Class: **55**
- Netting and Fish Fillet Class: **15**
- Certified for Snowmobile Safety: **20**
- Certified for Firearm Safety: **32**
- Certified for ATV Safety: **25**

## ENVIRONMENTAL

- In January 2023, a grant from MPCA for \$250,000 was received to increase recycling. Three hydraulic lift trailers and recycling receptacles were purchased. Two of the trailers are located at Naytahwaush Complex and one at Shooting Star. Over 1,000 lbs. of recyclables has been collected so far.
- A QAPP to test for radon was approved, and testing of homes on Reservation started October 2023.
- 32 surface water lake samples were collected during the 2023 sampling season.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FY23 was a busy year for the Emergency Management Department.

- Partnered with the White Earth Public Health Department to purchase 750 first aid kits.
- Participated in several regional exercises, including how to open and manage a Family Assistance Center and Operation Glowing Rails.
- Partnered with local first responders and area schools to plan and stage a mock crash to demonstrate to area students the dangers of driving drunk.
- At the beginning of “summer storm season,” partnered with the National Weather Service to provide Skywarn Spotter training to area emergency response agencies and citizens to help identify and report severe weather for our area.
- A major accomplishment and undertaking for 2023 was being able to update White Earth’s Emergency Operation Plan, enabling us to provide a road map for managing emergencies that may occur in our communities.



The Emergency Management Team added new and improved equipment to our inventory.

- Acquired a portable 50' radio antenna to deploy when needed.
- Purchased a new mobile command trailer for improved emergency scene management.
- Purchased two new drones to assist with various emergency operations.

### WILD RICE

This year, the Tribe purchased 250,014 pounds of wild rice from ricers, with 144,241 pounds harvested from Reservation waterbodies. Over \$1.3 million went to ricers during the buying process.

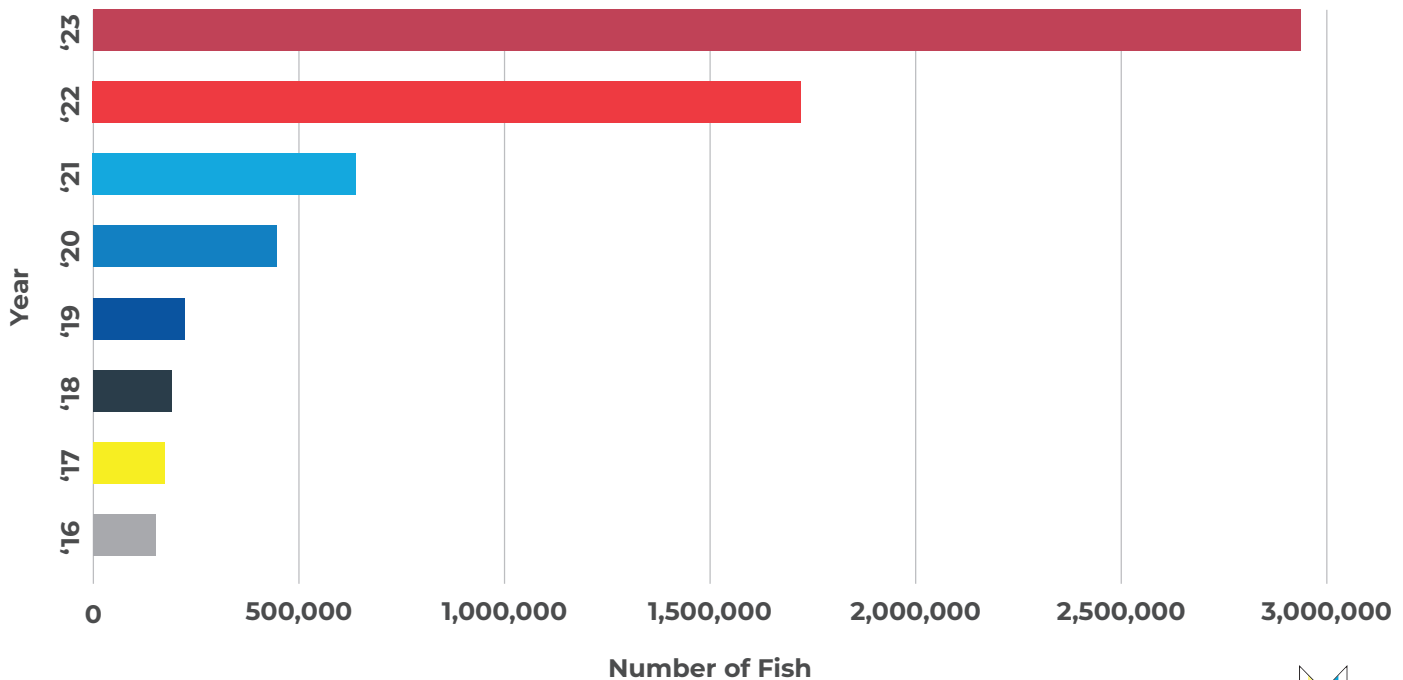
### LAND OFFICE

The Land Office manages an estimated 84,000 acres for the White Earth Reservation, striving to meet land use goals while balancing the development and preservation of the lands for our current and future generations. Land, although often unthought of and overlooked, is an integral part of our Tribe and is tied into almost everything we do, including hunting, gathering, development, etc.; without land, we would not be able to exist as we do today.

- Purchased almost 1,100 acres of property plus an additional three commercial properties located in Bemidji and Mahnomen.
- Official notice of the completion of the Bagley Casino fee-to-trust packet. This will save the casino and Tribe about \$73,000 in taxes on the property annually.

### WATER RESOURCES — FISHERIES

White Earth Fisheries 2016 to 2023 Walleye Production



### PARKS

- Lynwood Park at 85% completion.
- Bass Lake snowmobile landing road widened and flooded timber removed to allow ice fishing access.
- Distributed 12 deer hunting box stands throughout the Reservation for Elders and youth to utilize.
- Fishing pier for Big Basswood assembly and installation.
- Rediscovery beach improvements and summer maintenance to make it more family-friendly.
- BAB improvements to park.
- Snowplowed landings and lakes for easier access to tribal lakes for winter usage.

### AGRICULTURE

The White Earth Agriculture department is committed to strengthening food sovereignty and security as well as environmentally responsible agricultural practices for the people of White Earth Reservation.

- Bison Herd Development Project: In collaboration with the Intertribal Buffalo Council, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Nature Conservancy, the White Earth Bison Program has introduced four yearling buffalo to White Earth Reservation under a pilot project in a multi-phased approach toward developing our own sustainable breeding buffalo herd. This pilot project will provide us with the knowledge and experience to develop this program respectfully and wisely for the people of White Earth Reservation. Further additions to our herd and considerations for expansion onto larger available tribal pastures are currently underway.



# INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

## INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

**White Earth, Waubun, Mahnomen, Bagley, Duluth, and Minneapolis**

**Office hours:** 8am – 4:30pm | **Reach us by phone 24/7/365:** 218-983-4647

### Lauretta Blakely

Moose Cree First Nation &  
First line Leech Lake Descendant

**Email:** lauretta.blakely@whiteearth-nsn.gov

**Phone:** 218-983-4647 / 218-850-9976

### Cera Swiftwater

Hayes, Oglala Lakota

**Email:** cera.swiftwater@whiteearth-nsn.gov

**Phone:** 218-983-4647 / 218-850-9985

**How many staff are in your department?** 38

### Summary of Services Provided

White Earth Indian Child Welfare provides case management services to families that are eligible for ICWA services. In 2023, ICW provided \$319,472 in direct assistance to individuals as a part of active efforts to prevent out-of-home placement or for efforts to reunify.

### Accomplishments and Recognition

ICW's Adoptions Program was awarded the Permanency Support Services for American Indian Families Grant from MN DHS. This grant provides support to youth in foster care, kinship, or adoptive placements. Services include information and referral, training and education, parent-to-parent support, peer-to-peer support for youth, family activities, respite care, crisis services, educational support, and mental health services for children and youth in adoption, foster care and kinship placements, and adoptive, foster, and kinship families.

ICW's Gizhawaaso Program (Parent Support Outreach PSOP and Voluntary Services) continues to grow. With the new federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), MN DHS has provided funding to ICW to strengthen our prevention services, providing direct assistance to families who are at risk of entering or reentering the child protection system. ICW continues to provide holistic cultural components to case plans, which many Native people seek for healing historical and generational trauma. ICW assists all families we serve who are seeking a cultural way of life and traditional teachings. In 2023, this program served 75 families.

In 2023, we celebrated family reunifications. The Child Protection Program collaborated with the White Earth Tribal Court to commend families who successfully completed their case plans and reunified with their children. We celebrated the hard work and efforts done by the parents. Reunification ceremonies were held after dismissal court hearings, which included parents and children, relatives, and a spiritual leader, who prayed and smudged with the family and sang a song, finishing with a feast. The families were gifted medicines, ribbon skirts, and ribbon shirts. In 2023, there were 18 parents who reunified, and 23 children were returned home. Overall, the Child Protection program serviced 144 families (104 adults, 132 children).



## TOTAL BUDGET

### Funding Source(s)

- American Indian Child Welfare Initiative Grant BIA Grant
- Casey Family Programs Allocation CHAFEE — Independent Living Skills Grant
- Child Welfare Targeted Case Management Children's Mental Health Screenings Grant Customary Adoptions Grant
- ICWA Primary Grant
- Opioid Allocation
- Parent Supportive Outreach Services Allocation
- Permanency Support Services for American Indian Families Grant Special Focus Grant
- STAY (Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth) Grant
- Title IV-E Time Studies
- Title IV-E Reimbursements

### General Fund

- White Earth ICW does not receive assistance from the General Fund.

## Departments

### Gizhawaaso Program

The Gizhawaaso Family Program works with families to access services that will help protect them from out-of-home placement of their children. The Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) and the Child Welfare Program are under the Gizhawaaso Program and offer an array of intensive services for families with a cultural perspective.

### IV-E Program

IV-E Program works with child welfare to obtain medical assistance for children in foster care and to obtain reimbursements from foster care, child care, and other eligible services.

### Customary Adoption Program

Customary Adoption works with relatives of children and makes additional relatives for children who cannot return home to the custody of their parents in the foreseeable future.

### Independent Living Skills Program

The Independent Living Skills Program works with youth aged 16-23 to assist with life skills and services.

### Extended Foster Care Program

Extended Foster Care Program works with youth 18-21 who choose to stay in foster care.

### Educational Neglect Program

Educational Neglect Intervention Program works with school-aged children and families to address excessive absenteeism with support and interventions.

### Intake and Assessments

Intake and Assessments handles all child maltreatment calls on the Reservation to screen and determine whether an assessment is warranted, the type of assessment, and the immediate response.



## Child Protection

The Child Protection Program handles all child protection matters on the Reservation under exclusive jurisdiction authority. Provides secondary case management and ICWA Compliance off the Reservation in the counties and metro areas. Also provides ICWA compliance and support to families and jurisdictional territories out of state.

## Foster Care Program

The Foster Care Program provides care on a tribal level to our children when their parent or caretaker is unable to do so. Foster parents are to be committed to the sacredness of our children: respecting, honoring, and nurturing them when they are faced with the trauma of being separated from their parents. The Tribe and foster parents are responsible for ensuring that children receive the highest care possible. In 2023, this program had 87 licensed foster homes.

## Parenting Visitation Center

The Parenting Visitation Center provides supervised visitation to parents and their children in foster care. The main site is in Mahanomen, and there are three satellite centers in White Earth, Pine Point, and Bagley.

Completed by: Laretta Blakely

Date: 2/20/2024



# WHITE EARTH JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

## COURT

The Tribal Court provides services in the following areas, including but not limited to: adoption, appeal, child support, general civil, civil commitments, conservation, custody, dissolution, employment appeals, garnishment, guardianships, housing, child protection, juvenile matters, paternity, probate, traffic, truancy, name change, order for protection, small claims, and marriages. In 2023, the Court had 630 new cases filed and 2,358 hearings held.

## WELLNESS COURT

Court occurs every other week, and individuals who are under surveillance are tested for alcohol and other chemicals at their home, employment, and during office visits approximately two times per week. During this reporting period, the probation agents and surveillance officer continue to have direct contact on a random but continuous basis, covering a wide geographical area within Becker, Clearwater, and Mahnommen Counties and the White Earth Reservation.

	WE/Becker DWI	WE/Mahnomen DWI	WE/Mahnomen Drug
Current	9	7	11
Completed	28	20	5
Non-Completed	23	12	3
Transferred	3	1	0
Total	63	40	19
Completion Rate	44%	50%	58%

## PROBATION

The Tribal Probation program has been operational for two years. This collaboration was forged to improve outcomes for high-risk individuals residing within the White Earth Nation boundaries.

- As of February 26, 2024, we have 64 clients participating in the ATPO program.
- Of these 64 clients, 9 are currently on warrant status or in jail pending resolution of their violations.
- As of 2/26/24, we have 37 clients who have been discharged from the ATPO program, as follows:

Discharge Reason	Number
Sentence Executed (Probation Case)	2
Returned to Prison/SR Revocation	5
Successful/Expiration	25
Relocated	1
Successful/Reduced Supervision	4

## PEACEMAKING COURT:

On December 5 – 7, 2023, the court hosted a three-day peacemaking circle facilitator training with Kay Pranis at the Shooting Star Casino and Event Center. There were eighteen (18) participants that attended from several tribal agencies, area schools, and communities. The Peacemaking Program has held 13 circles. There has been one (1) family group decision making and twelve (12) custody agreements.



# LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIVISION

## GANAWENDANDAA IW GAA-MIINIGOOYANG DA-OJIBWEWANISHINAABEWINAGAK APANE

Let's take care of that which was given to us so that there will always be Ojibwe culture. The cultural division was without a coordinator for the majority of 2023, as the former coordinator transferred to a different department. A new coordinator was hired in November of 2023. The Language and Culture Division is taking the opportunity during this transition to focus on revitalizing and reclaiming Ojibwemowin, our heritage language, in addition to adding culture to the daily operation of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

Our language is the soul of our Tribe. Our Ojibwe language was given to us by the land and our language is as old as the Anishinaabe people. Ojibwemowin is the way that was given to us to sound, to relate to the world, and it is a blueprint for our relationship to all of creation. We as a people have survived a great deal of adversity. It is through the tenacity of those that came before us that we still have our language and our custom. Maintaining and revitalizing the culture that was given to us is how we honor them.

For a period of roughly 100 years, our Ojibwe language was moribund; there weren't Ojibwe language speakers being produced as fast as we were losing Elders whose mother tongue was Ojibwe. Knowing our Ojibwe language is imperative for our sense of identity, intellectual and spiritual continuity, and properly conducting ceremony. Reversing the momentum of language loss, and as a result of language loss, culture loss, is not an easy accomplishment. It will take collaboration with organizations and other tribes outside of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. There is currently collaborative work with a local nonprofit, the Nibi Center, to build capacity for an immersion program in the not-too-distant future.

The Language and Culture Division had a hide-tanning clinic. While the participants learned the process of tanning a hide, they also learned about some of the traditional ideas and language associated with tanning hides and traditional teachings associated with respecting and honoring the animals that give themselves to support our lives.

The Language and Culture Division also had a legend-telling event at the drum hall In Naytahwaush. We had the opportunity to accept food on behalf of (to feast) the legends that were told. Legends were told in Ojibwe with an English translation afterwards. There are several legends that are only told when snow is on the ground, but there are other legends that have different purposes told at different times of the year. There are also legends that are told strictly as part of ceremonies. Our culture lies within our legends and in our language. It was appropriate and refreshing to hear our language used for the purpose of telling legends.

Due to the abnormally warm winter with little snow cover, we did not boil sap this spring. However, in the future, look for the Language and Culture Division to promote activities associated with the Ojibwe seasonal round.





# WHITE EARTH PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS 2024

## WE DOT

The White Earth Department of Transportation is actively pursuing funds to address the pedestrian/vehicle safety issues on the Reservation. A comprehensive highway safety plan was recently completed, outlining the safety needs across the White Earth Nation. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has provided funds to contract a consultant to write a grant in an attempt to secure funds to address some of the safety concerns for White Earth.

A pedestrian study and a road safety audit was recently completed on a portion of state trunk highway 113, as MnDOT had scheduled a mill and overlay for highway 113 from Waubun to state trunk highway 71 when the Tribe raised concerns about the pedestrian traffic. MnDOT issued contracts to have a consultant assess the pedestrian concerns as well as the road safety audit to determine the needs to address the safety concerns. In turn, a funding package is being developed to do the preliminary engineering report for a section of highway 113 from approximately the Waubun school forest to just east of Elbow Lake Village. Ideas of widening the shoulders and a separated use path (SUP) will be given serious consideration.

There are several roads being considered for a mill and overlay this summer. As many as a dozen roads located throughout the Reservation that need to be resurfaced will get the much-needed attention. A grade separation feasibility study will get underway shortly for Mahnomen. This study will assess and determine the feasibility to develop alternate methods of crossing the railway system in town without the threat of delays, especially when emergency vehicles are being dispatched. Upon completion, the feasibility study report will be used to pursue funds to construct the selected method.

The roads department received grant funds to address issues in Naytahwaush with the lack of streetlights and sidewalks. A safe routes to school plan was recently developed and approved. This plan was effectively used to secure funding to address needed services throughout the village of Naytahwaush. Upgrades will begin in 2025.

## TRANSIT

White Earth Public Transit has started construction on its new transit building project in Waubun. White Earth Public Transit has secured funding through FTA (Federal Transit Administration) for \$3.6 million in federal funds along with \$898,000 in state funding through the IJA grant to assist with the local matching dollars for the building.

White Earth Public Transit has also secured federal funding for capital and operating funding, including but not limited to \$6.6 million, which includes the new building. White Earth has managed to change its fleets, fuel emission to propane-powered buses, which are low- or no-emission buses, changing its carbon footprint. Approximately 90 percent are now propane. White Earth Public Transit has gone to propane-powered buses to lessen the need for gasoline buses, making it more affordable while reducing greenhouse gases.

White Earth Public Transit is also undergoing a new branding campaign rollout, including an updated logo. White Earth Public Transit continues to lead the industry in innovations for rural communities in Minnesota and has been chosen for three additional awards in 2023, thus making White Earth Public Transit a 7-time award-winning transit agency. Awards include: 1 national-level, 4 state-level, and 2 tribal-level awards.



## WATER AND SEWER

- Design of White Earth and Naytahwaush water treatment plants is 50% complete.
- Pine Point pilot study to determine most efficient water treatment to be conducted summer 2024.
- Pine Point wastewater pond reconditioning project completed spring 2024.
- Rice Lake wastewater extension is being designed for construction in 2024; the project will eliminate failing septic systems near Water Tower Loop within the community.
- Naytahwaush wastewater ponds will be reconditioned (berm elevations restored, rip rap to prevent erosion).
- Scattered site construction and repairs to tribal homeowner septic systems.
- Equipment — John Deere Mini Excavator.
- Equipment — Imperial Septic pumping truck set for delivery spring 2024.
- Equipment — Wastewater lift station repair truck delivery summer 2024.

## FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS — TIMELINE TENTATIVELY SET

- White Earth water treatment plant 2024
- Naytahwaush water treatment plant 2025
- Pine Point water treatment plant/water main 2026

## ELDER/VETERAN SERVICES

- Snow plowing — 33 providers prepared to serve 550 Elders.
- Roof snow removal — 24 providers prepared to serve 398 Elders.
- Lawn mowing — 24 providers served 308 Elders.
- Driveway repair — 78 Elder driveways repaired.



## WHITE EARTH ENTERPRISES

White Earth Enterprises, LLC is a tribal business providing goods and services to the tribal community and surrounding area. We continue to add new products and services to our product mix. Additionally, we are creating meaningful employment opportunities for tribal members and communities as part of the economic arm of the Tribe.

White Earth Business Products, LLC continues to grow and is currently adding an Amazon store and other local and national Native art to the product mix, and creates branding and logos for attire and stationery. Additionally, the business will be acquiring wild rice as a product line mix along with maple syrup, honey, and birch bark crafts. Our new vendors: Pendleton, Eighth Generation, 49 Dzine and the NTVS. These businesses create on-the-spot new designs for custom apparel.

White Earth Building Supplies, LLC continues to add products to the inventory for building supply needs. New items added are Pepsi products and free popcorn. Current projects are Federal Home Loan remodel with Housing, Pine Point remodel, and WESA remodel Phase 1.

White Earth Builders, LLC offers project management construction services. White Earth Builder's latest projects have included Jack Haw Phase II, Mahnomen Boys and Girls Club, Mahnomen Homeless Shelter, WEFT 4-Plex, Waabigwan Mashkiki — Grow Room Expansion, Waabigwan Mashkiki — New Retail Store, Rice Lake Tiny Homes, Elder Emergency Home Repair Project, and WEHC Remodel and Addition.

White Earth Sanitation, LLC provides solid waste disposal services within the boundaries of the Reservation to approximately 2,100 customers and businesses. A new service at the Waubun site is cardboard recycling for free.

Waabigwan Mashkiki, LLC is the cannabis factory and dispensary operating under the White Earth Cannabis Control Code. Waabigwan Mashkiki, LLC strives to provide product to all consumers, medically and recreationally. The facility building renovation is complete. Waabigwan Mashkiki is open, and they are in the works for creating the new dispensing location for products.





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