

MINUTES



Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe 1308 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 6-8:00pm

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Call Meeting to Order at 6:20pm
3. Wiisinidaa! Let's eat!

Old Business

New Business

Added: Maddie Harper from Minnesota Historical Society to discuss Grand Mound near the Canadian border and spoke about the need for Indigenous people to be involved in the management of the site.

- Maddie will visit all MN reservations and communities in exile to work to decide how to manage the site. There are options regarding who the site is open to – completely closed, open to everyone, always open to Native people or open by appointment only
- There are burials on the site
- This is a very remote site
- It is currently protected. An MHS worker goes to the site twice a week and checks for vandalism and cares for the land. Homeland Security checks in on the site.
- Rainy River First Nations people spend a lot of time
- On Bois Forte Treaty ceded territory
- If you want to share your opinions on who the site is open to, Maddie is taking input at the meeting, or you can email her at Maddie.Harper@mnhs.org. She is researching and collecting data until April 2018
- Maddie has met with two other Leech Lake LICs, 2 Bois Forte communities. Marilyn suggested that she talk to Midewiwin with protocol. Maddie has met with the tribal preservation officers for all of Minnesota
- MHS will make the decision in May and Maddie will summarize all of the input she's been given to share with MHS
- Native American Initiatives will make a suggestion to MHS and then the MHS will make a decision
- Lisa brought up the issue that the site has to be dated due to the fact the Blackfeet also have used the site in the past
- Info should be available on the website in a few weeks (to learn more)
- Lisa also mentioned that elders will have traditional knowledge and my not be looking at the internet to find the information.
- Maddie is willing to go meet with people and plans to travel

Roll Call:

Term ends 2018

X	Richard White
X	Christine Roy

Term ends 2019

ab	Norma Jean Smith
X	Shannon Nordby
X	Jean Howard
X	Lisa Bellanger
X	Avery Wind

Attendance: approximately 33 band members + 6 LIC + 3 RTC
Gift card winners: Howard White

4. Reports of

a) Chairperson

- We had a successful picnic in August 2017!
- Valleyfair went well and 172 tickets were given away and 78 sent back
- Toys for Tots – please register at the office
- November gift card giveaway is being planned

b) Vice Chairperson – not in attendance

c) Treasurer

- TCLIC was reduced from last fiscal year by \$5000. We're operating on \$7374 for this fiscal year
- Quarterly Meeting is scheduled October 13, 2017
- Our budget does not include money for travel and mileages
- Budget timeline is at the end of October and Chris will work on submitting the budget
- All LICs budget were reduced
- All LICs have the same budget now

d) Secretary

- Did everyone sign in?
- June minutes available
- July minutes will be available next month

e) Elder Representative

- Lisa talked about connecting with elders and figuring out what our needs are and how to connect with Leech Lake resources

f) Youth Representative

- Avery gave a report about who he is and his summer camp going to California
- He worked this summer at Migizi Communications

g) TCO/Elder Advocate/Community Resource Advocate Report

- See the Chairperson's Report
- Elder Advocate – not present
- Community Resource Advocate – not present, but Richard shared that Janelle has been writing and receiving grants for band member resources. She's been working with Roger Aitkin to find other funding

h) ICWA Report

- Diana Sanders from TC ICWA is interested in discussing the drug epidemic and how the Leech Lake ICWA office is working to deal with the situation
- ICWA needs more staff to help kids and families
- ICWA needs more funding to be able to help families
- This month there were 104 and down to 98 cases. 1 adoption coming up and 3 adoptions pending

- Case managers went to training. Patty Lafontaine discussed the Understanding ICWA Conference and received information about the ICWA laws regarding protections for the children. Whichever stage, new or rights terminated, the county has an obligation until the very last minute to provide active efforts for the family and county workers should be doing that.

5. Tribal Council

a) District 1 – not in attendance

b) District 2

- Steve White was in attendance and had a great turn out for Battle Point Powwow and a great regalia giveaway
- Next month in October there will be a get together in Bena so that energy applications can be turned in
- There is an upcoming pumpkin event for the kids
- Wild rice buyout was done last Friday up to \$2.50 a pound and 212,000 lbs were bought. We are the number one in the world in rice production. Green rice is also being sold to other reservations to revitalize their rice beds.
- There are kids events put on by DRM to help teach the kids to correctly and safely harvest rice
- Jean asked Steve if it's possible to set up a wild rice youth event for the Twin Cities to help them learn. Steve will ask Levi if he can come down to speak about planning something like that
- Chris asked for a timeline of Ojibwe events including hunting, fishing, berry picking. Can that be posted on the Twin Cities Leech Lake Website? Yes!
- Any flyers will be shared with Twin Cities so they can be posted on the website

c) District 3 – not in attendance

d) Treasurer

- Archie LaRose was in a Constitution Convention revision meeting and there are more upcoming meetings. Archie will send the flyer to Richard. We need many band members to attend this event! This is very educational about our Constitution. We definitely must be involved in helping to amend or revise our Constitution. There is a lot in the history of the Constitution that many do not know including blood quantum issues and the ways that we have supported each other in the past and eligibility in running for office for a reservation that you weren't enrolled in, but in 1972 there was a major change.
- Tribal Executive Committee - October 11 and 12, 2017
- Quarterly - October 13, 2017

e) Chairperson

- Faron Jackson was in attendance and discussed many issues
- There have been several bomb threats including one at the high school and one at Northern Lights

- September 13, 14, 15 there was a housing meeting among MCT reservations
- All LIC budgets were reduced for this fiscal year
- Approved for Native American Veteran Cemetary with a 3.3 million grant that Leach Lake was awarded. Will be put by the powwow grounds
- August 14 an 15th Faron went to an 11 member meeting with all the reservations on opiate issues
- Electric rates are very high and band members have lights turned off often and that is an issue when kids are in the home
- It was a very good year for rice and the quota was reached. The USDA is interested in buying 40,000 pounds at \$9 per pound
- We want to be a vendor and market our rice in the Twin Cities. Wendy Jourdain is working on rice contracts
- Land leases' being non-renewed has caused a stir. Reporters are going to Faron's house to report on the story. We have many people who are experiencing homelessness on Leech Lake and it doesn't make sense for non-Leech Lakers to have a "second home" on Leech Lake lakeshore land.
- Lisa Bellanger asked Faron to think about how to work with the rest of the MCT bands in sorting out the Leech Lake land leases
- Jean Howard asked about families experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities and asked Faron to remember that this is an issue in cities too
- Jean shared that you are not eligible to apply for an MCT home loan and that makes it extremely difficult to purchase a home. But you can try to work with Woodlands bank and you may have a better chance. (Archie said he would double check and that you are entitled to apply for a home loan. Rick Wuori is in charge of the home loan MCT loans. Please check with Rob Aitkin.)
- RTC will be sharing more on redistricting very soon and a referendum vote will take place
- Onigum Community Center will be opening in January 2018
- Faron is interested in getting the community centers open more often, including options for youth. Hopefully this can help battle drug addiction
- Next time we have a Quarterly meeting in Minneapolis, it needs to be a full house.
- How engaged is the Leech Lake Local Indian Council with the community people in the Twin Cities? What more can we do for our youth and elders? Share ideas on how the RTC up north can help.
- Funding for TCO was \$320,000 and ICWA office \$380,000 for fiscal year programming
- How can we do more with less?
- 1000 Gaming employees and 900 government employees are employed by Leech Lake at \$75 million administrative cost
- We need education for young people on life skills including budgeting and care of a home
- Sign up for housing if you need housing because when Leech Lake goes to Washington, more funding can be appropriated

- Faron is monitoring the credit spending for the council. It was going unmonitored, but Faron is now monitoring the credit cards and suspending RTCs credit cards if needed

6. Questions /Comments /Concerns/Open Floor

- Comment from an attendee regarding the tickets for the raffle at the picnic and shared wishes that employees should be able to get in on the raffles. There were issues with the Valley Fair tickets from the office. There were tickets being given away by Leech Lake Twin Cities Office with confusing criteria, which were cleared up by Richard White sharing that he was ill and unable to directly share the criteria with the LLTCO office worker.
- Patty asked about our volunteer list and Shannon responded that we need a coordinated list for volunteers.
- Jean M. asked if Tiara will be full time and Richard said yes. There are issues with phones not being answered. There are issues with office workers, office skills and the need for more training.
- Free Halloween Party at Church of Kateri 10/28/17 from 1-3
- No Overdose Event on 10/25/17 at Church of Kateri
- Wendy Jourdain is working on rice contracts for Twin Cities

Handouts:

- None

Next Meetings/LIC Endorsed Events:

- October 24, 2017, 6-8 pm - *Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting*
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building
1308 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
***NOTE THIS IS SECOND TO LAST ~~WEDNESDAY~~
TUESDAY***

Adjourned at 9:09pm
Respectfully Submitted,



Twin Cities Local Indian Council Secretary