

MINUTES



Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
2300 13th Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404
May 29, 2018 6-8pm

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Call Meeting to Order
3. Wiisinidaa! Let's eat!

Old Business

4. Wild Rice Investigation

- Shannon is continuing to email people up north.
- LeRoy was able to ask a few people about the requested investigation. He let us know that people were questioning if we are able to actually request an investigation.
- LeRoy let us know that everything checks out from accounting and there is no need to continue to investigate.
- LeRoy was able to initiate discussion with others about how investigations are initiated. Sometimes it requires three signatures.
- MOTION TO CEASE THE WILD RICE INVESTIGATION made by Shannon, seconded by Jean. Passed.
- We do not have wild rice at the TCO yet. LeRoy shared with us that the wild rice was not selling very well five years ago. There were many individuals taking advantage of this. Leech Lake was able to give wild rice away. But this year a large amount of wild rice, 35,000 pounds, was sold to USDA at \$10 a pound and this went back into the budget for wild rice. Because of this we will be able to pay more to the pickers. We do have federal grants to help market wild rice. What are the tribe's priorities? Economic development? Subsidize harvesters? To hold an abundance of wild rice? At this time Leech Lake donates rice to elders for elder's celebrations. There was a meeting with DRM and Rich Robinson and there is a policy in place. A priority is set so that families can have enough rice to feed their families. The policy is set for 100 pounds per family per year. The rice is ready to come down as long as the policies are in place. Five dollars a pound no longer will cover the cost of rice production; it may go up to eight dollars a pound.

Roll Call:

Term ends June 2018

X	Richard White
ex	Christine Roy

Term ends 2019

X	Shannon Nordby
X	Jean Howard
X	Lisa Bellanger
X	Avery Wind
X	Diana Sanders

Attendance: approximately 30 band members + 6 LIC + 3 RTC
Door prize winners: We did not have a giveaway this month

- Who will sell it?
- Who will keep track of the money and the inventory?
- Who will account for the receipts?
- Financial policies and procedures are set by Leech Lake RTC and TCO will follow those procedures.
- Wild rice is in the food redistribution program.
- Richard White will supervise the process and he will designate one person to do the work.

5. LIC Election Committee

- Jean is willing to be on the election committee.

6. Nomination of LIC Candidates

- Shannon passed out nomination forms.

New Business

7. LLTCLIC Candidate Speeches

- There were no LIC candidates to give their speeches.

8. Reports of

a) LIC

- Shannon April 2018 Minutes

b) TCO

- We are so thankful to be back at MIWRC! We have been asked to leave three times in the past. We must ensure that we hold a respectful, responsible meeting. We must be out by 8:00pm at each meeting. We are very thankful for the in kind donation for the use of this space. Howard White shared the idea that we should have the larger events at other spaces. We will be checking the bathrooms before the meeting and again after the meeting. We will begin shutting the meeting down at 7:45pm so we have time to clean up.
- Richard White said that he appreciated his time at the TCO and feels that he is on his way out. He shared that the office is not operating efficiently. He feels that there was resistance to his leadership by some staff members. Richard felt that he didn't get enough support from the home office up north. Without that support it will be very difficult for the supervisor to have an effect. There is an RTC member who continues to interfere with the TCO work.
- Carrie Day asked what could we do to fix it? A few band members said that the leadership starts from the top. Carrie shared the idea that we should get the

strength of the people to carry out what Leech Lake Band Members need in the Twin Cities. We need to reengage what we want and need.

- May 11 there was a listening session held to find out what Leech Lake Band Members want and need from TCO.
- There has been a person hired to supervise the TCO. There was also a resource advocate and receptionist hired.
- Maybe the LIC can create a needs assessment, work on it over the summer and share in a few months.
- Once the supervisor is hired, LIC will hold an open house.
- April asked about the RTC member who has control over the TCO.

c) TCO Elder Advocate

- Barb White shared with member that Elder Advocates will start taking applications July 1st for Elder Fund. People with disabilities can apply and anyone 54 and under qualify for a Walmart card, must include a SSN.
- Avis also shared that there was an elder celebration and they provided gas cards and hotel rooms for the night.
- Wisdom Steps is out of MCT. Dec 30th there is a little booklet that comes out. It must be presented by March 30 with the \$20 payment for the conference.

d) ICWA – Cheyenne Kingbird

- “Ain Dah Yung's open house is tomorrow, and I greatly encourage people to try and attend. So many services available to families, and I hear soon new housing projects through that agency. The open house runs from 11-2, at 1089 Portland Ave St. Paul.”

9. Tribal Council

a) District 1

- Not present

b) District 2

- Steve White was present and asked if RTC candidates will get a chance to talk? Yes, but Steve gives his speaking chance to Mick Finn and Rose Robinson.

Handouts:

- April 2018 Minutes

c) District 3

- LeRoy talked about the interpretation that we really need to have an in depth conversation about what is happening in the Twin Cities.

d) Secretary Treasurer

- Archie Larose was present, but used his time to talk about his platform. See below.

e) Chairperson

- Faron Jackson talked about his time on the LIC: bring back meals and ribbon shirts. We need to be positive. We are in trying times.
- RTC is working on land and pipeline issues. They are lobbying to get it changed so that Ojibwe elders can get into the classroom; right now workers in the classroom must have a college degree and many elders don't have a college degree.
- Many positive things are happening – early head start positive review, jobs building the new casino, best burial plan of all Minnesota reservations. There is room for improvement.

10. Questions /Comments /Concerns/Open Floor

ADDED: RTC Candidates

- Mick Finn talked about getting elder assisted living back on track and that everything is a priority. Someone asked him if he gets in will he fire everyone? The answer is no, he does not have the authority to fire everyone
- Rose Robinson worked at MIWRC when she left Leech Lake and not knowing much about Minneapolis. She would like to see more collaboration here, including resources available in the Twin Cities. It seems like TCO works in isolation, but we really need to pull together. After the supervisor is hired, we need more input from the people who get the services.
- Archie Larose really likes getting out here and working for the people. He believes that he's doing a great job and thanks the Twin Cities for such a great turnout in the primary. His style is reaching out to the people (visited 48 homes) and finding out what their wants and needs are. As a tribal leader, there has been a lot of positive things happening; created many jobs at Shing-o-bee. Carrie Day asked about what Archie's vision for reaching out looking for grants, more services. Many of the grants up north, must stay up north. He's very confident that he will win this election. I look forward to this election. May the best man win?

Next Meeting/LIC Endorsed Events:

- June 26, 2018, 5:30-8 pm *Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting*
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
2300 15th Avenue South | Minneapolis, MN | 55404

Adjourned approximately 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Twin Cities Local Indian Council Secretary