

Quarterly Board Meeting


Wednesday February 21, 2024

Fortune Bay Event Center, Pine/Cedar, 1430 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Meeting called to order – Robert Larsen, Board Chair
- II. Invocation and Prayer – Chairwoman Cathy Chavers/ Chair President Larsen/ Vernon Adams/ Drum Group: Bois Forte Singers
- III. Roll Call – Executive Director Shannon Geshick

MIAC Executive Board Members	
<i>Board Chair</i> —Robert L. Larsen, President Lower Sioux Indian Community	PRESENT
<i>Board Vice-Chair</i> — Robert (Bobby) Deschampe, Chairman Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Kevin R. DuPuis, Sr., Chairman Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Cathy Chavers, Chairwoman Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Grant Johnson, President Prairie Island Indian Community	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Mike Fairbanks, Chairman White Earth Nation	ABSENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Samuel Strong, Secretary Red Lake Nation	PRESENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Cyndy Milda, for Business Council of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	ABSENT
<i>Board Member</i> —Melanie Benjamin Chief Executive Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	PRESENT

8 out of 10 present

A quorum was present

Non-voting members present:

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan – Governor’s Office Tribal State Relations Patina Park

Representative Bobbie Harder

Representative Liish Kozlowski

Senator Mary Kunesh

Commissioner of Administration – Tamar Gronvall

Commissioner of Corrections – Paul Schnell

Commissioner of Education –Willie Jett

Commissioner of DEED – Tribal Liaison Kirk Crowshoe for Matt Varilek

Commissioner of Health – Brooke Cunningham

Commissioner of Human Services – Jodi Harpstead

Commissioner of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency – Jennifer Leimaile Ho

Commissioner of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen
Commissioner of Transportation – Nancy Daubenberger
Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation – Ida Rukavina
Commissioner of Veteran Affairs – Ron Quade for Interim Commissioner Brad Lindsay

Non-voting members absent:

Senator Paul Utke
Commissioner of Human Rights – Rebecca Lucero

Visiting Commissioners present:

Commissioner of Agriculture – Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey for Thom Peterson
Commissioner of Commerce – Tribal Liaison Jackie Dionne for Grace Arnold
Chair of Met Council – Charles Zelle
Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget – Erin Campbell
Commissioner of Military Affairs – MG Shawn Manke
Commissioner of MnIT – Tarek Tomes
Commissioner of Office of Higher Education – Dennis Olson
Commissioner of Labor and Industry – Tribal Liaison Helen Waquiu for Nicole Blissenbach
Commissioner of Pollution Control Agency – Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester for Katrina Kessler
Commissioner of Revenue – Paul Marquart
Commissioner of Bureau of Mediation Services – Johnny Villarreal
Chair of Public Utilities Commission – Katie Sieben

Visiting Commissioners absent:

Commissioner of Public Safety – Bob Jacobson (Excused)

- I. **MIAC MEETING MINUTES** – MOTION by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa to approve the August 2023, minutes, SECOND by Gichi-Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 8 For 0 Opposed 0 Silent**

- II. **MIAC STAFF REPORTS** – Executive Director, Cultural Resources, Grants Manager, Communications Specialist – bypassed due to executive session. No motion
**Copies of staff reports are available on the MIAC website.*

BOARD UPDATES: Governor's Office Patina Park Executive Director Tribal State Relations; Representative Bobbie Harder; Representative Liish Kozlowski; Senator Mary Kunesh
Department of Administration – Commissioner Tamar Gronvall; Department of Corrections – Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey; Department of Education – Commissioner Willie Jett;

DEED – Tribal Liaison Kirk Crowshoe; Department of Health – Commissioner Brooke Cunningham; Department of Human Services – Commissioner Jodi Harpstead; Department of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency – Commissioner Jennifer Leimaile Ho; Department of Natural Resources – Commissioner Sarah Strommen; Department of Transportation – Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger; Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation – Commissioner Ida Rukavina; Department of Veteran Affairs – Director of Veterans Services Ron Quade

AGENCY UPDATES: Department of Agriculture – Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey; Department of Commerce – Tribal Liaison Jackie Dionne; Met Council – Chair Charles Zelle; Department of Minnesota Management and Budget – Commissioner Erin Campbell; Department of Military Affairs – Major General Shawn Manke; MNIT – Commissioner Tarek Tomes; Department of Office of Higher Education – Commissioner Dennis Olson; Department of Labor and Industry – Tribal Liaison Helen Waqui; Department of Pollution Control Agency – Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester; Department of Revenue – Commissioner Paul Marquart; Department of Bureau of Mediation Services – Commissioner Johnny Villarreal; Public Utilities Commission – Chair Katie Sieben

III. **REPORTS:**

Ombudsperson for American Indian Families – Jill Esch
Addiction and Recovery Director, Jeremy Drunker
Urban Indian Advisory Board – Written Report
Tribal Nations Education Committee – Laurie Harper
Joint Advisory Committee – Virgil Sohm and Pam Hughes

I. **APPOINTMENTS and RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Task Force for Pregnancy and Substance Abuse Disorder** – Margarita Ortega, MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Misi-zaaga'iganiing/ Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed 1 Silent** and Marlena Hanson, MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECONDED by Misi-zaaga'iganiing/ Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed 1 Silent**
2. **Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee** – Jennifer Ballinger, Mille Lacs, MOTIONED by Misi-zaaga'iganiing/ Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, SECOND by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong/ Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed 1 Silent**
4. **Office of Ombudsman for American Indian Families** – Stephanie Graves, MOTIONED by Miskwaagamiiwi-Zaagaiganing / Red Lake Nation, SECOND by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

5. **Resolution for Legislative Changes to MIFPA** – MOTIONED by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, SECOND by Gichi-Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
6. **Resolution for Indian Recovery Act** – *Tabled*
7. **Resolution for PUC** – MOTIONED by MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowiniwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
8. **Resolution to Support Rights of Manoomin** – MOTIONED by, Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowiniwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**

II. OLD BUSINESS:

III. NEW BUSINESS:

IV. Public Comments: Office of Ombudsman for American Indian Families Chair appointment; Dawn Goodwin: Hemp growing help, policy regulations, aquafers, MDH Letter, need clarification; IRA.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 PM MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowiniwag, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community **PASSED 6 For 0 Opposed 0 Silent**

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Geshick, Executive Director
Opalina Peralta, Executive Admin. Assistant