

Quarterly Board Meeting


Thursday, May 23, 2024

Jackpot Junction, Crossed Arrows Ballroom, 39375 County Hwy 24, Morton, MN 56270

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

## MEETING MINUTES

- I. Meeting called to order – Robert Larsen, Board Chair
- II. Invocation and Prayer – President and Chair Robert Larsen/ Drum Group: Red Tree Group
- III. Roll Call – Executive Director Shannon Geshick

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

Commissioner of Administration – Tamar Gronvall

Commissioner of Children, Youth and Families – Commissioner Designee Erin Bailey

Commissioner of Corrections – Paul Schnell

Commissioner of Education –Willie Jett

Commissioner of DEED – Matt Varilek

Commissioner of Health – Brooke Cunningham

Commissioner of Human Services – Jodi Harpstead

Commissioner of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency – Tribal Liaison Corey Strong for Jennifer

Leimaile Ho

Commissioner of Transportation – Tribal State Relations Training Director Mary Otto for Nancy Daubenger

Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation – Deputy Commissioner Al Becicka for Ida Rukavina

Commissioner of Veteran Affairs – Deputy Commissioner Ben Johnson for Brad Lindsay

**Non-voting members absent:**

Representative Bobbie Harder

Senator Mary Kunesh (excused)

Senator Paul Utke

Commissioner of Human Rights – Rebecca Lucero

Commissioner of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen

**Visiting Commissioners present:**

Commissioner of Agriculture – Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey for Thom Peterson

Commissioner of Commerce – Grace Arnold

Chair of Met Council – Councilmember Robert Lilligren for Charles Zelle

Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget – Erin Campbell

Commissioner of Office of Higher Education – Dennis Olson

Commissioner of Labor and Industry – Tribal Liaison Naheeda Hirji-Walji for Nicole Blissenbach

Commissioner of Bureau of Mediation Services – Johnny Villarreal

Commissioner of Pollution Control Agency – Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester for Katrina Kessler

Commissioner of Public Safety – Bob Jacobson

Commissioner of Revenue – Tribal Liaison Dawn Blanchard for Paul Marquart

**Visiting Commissioners absent:**

Commissioner of Military Affairs – MG Shawn Manke

Commissioner of MnIT –Tarek Tomes

- I. **MIAC MEETING MINUTES** – MOTION by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa to approve the February 2024, minutes, SECOND by Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community **PASSED 8 For 0 Opposed 0 Silent**
  
- II. **MIAC STAFF REPORTS** – Executive Director, Cultural Resources, Legislative Director, 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 Liish Kozlowski; Department of Administration – Commissioner Tamar Gronvall; Department of Children, Youth and Families – Commissioner Designee Erin Bailey; Department of Corrections – Commissioner Paul Schnell; Department of Education – Commissioner Willie Jett; Department of DEED – Commissioner Matt Varilek; Department of Health – Commissioner Brooke Cunningham; Department of Human Services – Commissioner Jodi Harpstead; Department of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency – Tribal Liaison Corey Strong; Department of Transportation – Tribal State Relations Training Director Mary Otto; Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation – Deputy Commissioner Al Becicka; Department of Veteran Affairs – Deputy Commissioner Ben Johnson

**AGENCY UPDATES:** Department of Agriculture – Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey; Department of Commerce – Commissioner Grace Arnold; Met Council – Councilmember Robert Lilligren; Department of Minnesota Management and Budget – Commissioner Erin Campbell; Department of Office of Higher Education – Commissioner Dennis Olson; Department of Labor and Industry – Tribal Liaison Naheeda Hirji-Walji; Department of Bureau of Mediation Services – Commissioner Johnny Villarreal; Department of Pollution Control Agency – Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester; Department of Public Safety – Commissioner Bob Jacobson; Department of Revenue – Tribal Liaison Dawn Blanchard

### III. **REPORTS:**

Ombudsperson for American Indian Families – Jill Esch  
Addiction and Recovery Director, Jeremy Drunker  
Urban Indian Advisory Board – Margarita Ortega (absent/ no report)  
Tribal Nations Education Committee – Jesse Kodet  
Joint Advisory Committee – Lori York

### I. **APPOINTMENTS and RESOLUTIONS** (*Voted upon at Executive Session*)

1. **Urban Indian Advisory Board – TABLED**
2. **Policy Advisory Committee** – Jason Hollinday (Ojibwe seat) MOTIONED by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed 1 Silent**; Dakota Seat – *Motion Tabled*
3. **Guidebook Technical Advisory Committee** – Mike Moilanen (Ojibwe seat), MOTIONED by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed 1 Silent**; Dakota Seat – *Motion Tabled*

4. **Prioritization Technical Advisory Committee** – Travis Morrison (Ojibwe seat) MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Gichi-Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**; Dakota Seat – *Motion Tabled*
5. **Minnesota Forestry Affairs Council** – Chairman Faron Jackson, MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
6. **Local Road Improvement Program, Active Transportation and Safe Roads Routes to School** – Chairman Robert “Bobby” Deschampe, MOTIONED by Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag / Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, SECOND by Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
7. **Legislative – Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources** – *Motion Tabled*
8. **Resolution to Support a Permanent Ceasefire Against the Israeli Government** – *Motion Dead*
9. Letter of Support for Our Children are Sacred within Proof Alliance, MOTIONED by Miskwaagamiwi-Zaagaiganing / Red Lake Nation, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
10. Letter of Support for Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division and an American Indian Substance Use Disorders Strategic Action Plan, MOTIONED by Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag / Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**
11. Letter of Support for the American Probation and Parole Association Project, MOTIONED by MOTIONED by Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag / Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, SECOND by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa **PASSED 7 For 0 Opposed and 1 Silent**

II. OLD BUSINESS:

III. NEW BUSINESS:

IV. Public Comments: Tonya Long: Johnson O’Malley eligibility changed.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:07 PM MOTIONED by Zagaakwaandagowininiwag, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, SECOND by Gichi-Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa **PASSED 8 For 0 Opposed 0 Silent**



Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Geshick, Executive Director  
Opalina Peralta, Executive Administrative Assistant