

# When will we start holding people accountable?



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT IV**

As I begin this month's report, I start going through all the reasons I ran for a board seat. Having worked for the tribe a total of 21 years, I watched our tribe become the biggest workforce in the U.P. with a lot of inner turmoil. During those years, people with the right contacts, which meant friends or family of certain board members, were untouchable. People got jobs back because some board members watched each others' backs. Good, hard working, dependable people that were let go because they tried to stand up against the corruption going on in the tribe. Bad management allowed to run our business into the ground and

no one is ever held accountable. I have seen people let go for drunk driving while others kept their jobs. Supervisors having affairs with their employees some have been let go, while others just changed supervisors or it was just overlooked. Job descriptions written to make sure a certain person qualified for the job. These are just some of the things I have witnessed while I was a tribal employee and the reason I ran for the board was to stop the corruption that is so ingrained within our tribe. I have to be honest with you, it is a long, hard road but I and other board members have been putting up a good fight to start holding people accountable. I want to apologize in advance that my report is a little more about politics this month than I like to do, but I feel the membership needs to know the other side.

The chairman has put out that the board did not support the Indian Health Service Special Diabetes program. This was totally false information, actually the resolution for the IHS Special Diabetes Program was not even on the agenda at our meeting held in St. Ignace on Oct. 22. The reason I did not add it to the agenda was it was brought to our attention and the executive director during a financial review that the grant funding was exhausted Oct.

1, but they had continued to run the program with no funding in place. I had questions and I wanted answers who allowed this over spending to happen without board approval. In years past, this program ran on funding overage until they received their award letter. This year, the funding was gone and, with no award letter in place, someone allowed tribal dollars to be spent without board authorization. This very reason is why the board has a resolution in place to stop unauthorized spending. I felt the chairman just wanted to get the resolution passed and then the health division was off the hook for unauthorized spending. I take nothing away from this program, I once worked in health with many diabetics. I know it is essential for our members. At a time when we still do not know what federal sequestration is going to be, divisions should not be allowed to spend tribal support dollars that we may need down the road. The IHS Special Diabetes Program was passed Oct. 29 and, at the time, we still did not have a guaranteed award letter, but the chairman assured us it was coming I hope he treats all programs this way.

We have seen a lot of scare tactics and mass hysteria sent out to the membership and team members via email, social media

and letters sent to team members' homes by our chairman. What good does this do our tribe? I feel these are stall tactics to stop any forward movement except what is on his personal agenda. At last week's board meeting, the chairman put two items on the agenda: capping salaries at the max for all government, enterprise and casino team members at max savings to minimize adverse impacts on services — or — reducing the tribal board and chairman salaries in half with savings to minimize adverse impacts on services. The chairman campaigned to cut his pay in half, the members voted with his promises; now he says to the members that voted for him and his promises that he will not cut his pay, he is giving back to the members instead. If any board member or chairman felt the need to run and earn votes by telling the membership you would cut your pay then do it. The reason that the wages for the board were even put up on the agenda was because the board did not put the IHS Special Diabetes on the agenda at the St. Ignace meeting so the chairman thought he would punish the board with cutting our pay or at least try to embarrass us when voting. The other item on the agenda the over the max list didn't get passed so the chairman has stepped down from

our Lansing casino committee. This is exactly what he told our elders he would do because if the Constitution didn't get passed, he would kill our Lansing casino. Our tribe needs the Lansing casino to increase revenue, so we can put back services that were taken in 2008, increase elders' checks, no income guidelines for funeral assistance, elders' recreation funding back, etc.

Director Chase and myself have great respect for our tribal fishermen and what it takes for them to make a living, especially now with the invasive species invading their waters. I hope our chairman is able to put forth as much energy and effort into fighting the invasive species that are overtaking our Great Lakes and killing our fishermen's livelihood as he has been in trying to stop the wolf hunt to now trying to change the Washington Redskins mascot. Our fishermen and the Great Lakes are a priority for myself and Director Chase.

If I can answer any questions, feel free to me a call at (906) 203-6699 or send email to me at [dmorrow@saulttribe.net](mailto:dmorrow@saulttribe.net) or [darcymorrowforunit4@yahoo.com](mailto:darcymorrowforunit4@yahoo.com).

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow,  
Unit IV director