

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
February 4, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Kimberle Gravelle, Aaron Payment, Shawn Borowicz, Larry Barbeau, Rob McRorie, Isaac McKechnie, Lana Causley-Smith (Z), Kimberly Hampton (Z), Michael McKerchie, Tyler LaPlaunt, Bridgett Sorenson, Kimberly Lee (not present for roll call), Austin Lowes

Absent: None

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting January 21, 2025.

Motion carries.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve a Resolution, FY 2025 Budget Document 003 – Schedule C Budgets.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to Amend to insert at the end of 2nd Resolved: “based on a balanced budget”.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Gravelle, to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries, with Directors’ Hampton, Causley-Smith, Borowicz, Barbeau, Sorenson, Gravelle, McKerchie supporting; Directors’ McRorie, LaPlaunt, McKechnie, Payment opposing (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve a Resolution, FY 2025 Governmental Capital Expenditures.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Sorenson, to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries, with Directors’ Sorenson, LaPlaunt, McKechnie, McKerchie, Borowicz, Hampton, McRorie, Causley-Smith, Payment, Barbeau supporting; Director Gravelle opposing (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-27, Governmental – Sault Tribe Broadband Planning Grant Establishment of FY 2025 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for Sault Tribe Broadband Planning Grant with Federal Department of Interior Revenue monies of \$156,026.06. No effect on tribal support.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-28, Natural Resource Division – Utility Authority Environmental Contract Establishment of FY 2025 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for Utility Authority Environmental Contract with Other Revenue monies of \$56,418.72. No effect on tribal support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-29, Natural Resource Division – Uranium Testing Establishment of FY 2025 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for Uranium Testing with Federal IHS Revenue monies of \$11,308.41. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-30, Consortium Cooperative Ecological Resilience (CCER) - Technical Services I, GLRI Adaptive Management, Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) Ishkode II, and USFWS Interagency Decision Support Establishment of FY 2025 Budgets.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for CCER Technical Services I with Federal Department of Agriculture – Forest Service Revenue monies of \$63,560.47. No effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for CCER GLRI Adaptive Management with Federal BIA monies of \$54,147.29. No effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for CCER TFPA Ishkode II with Federal Department of Agriculture – Forest Service Revenue monies of \$14,060.19. No effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2025 budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Inter-Agency Decision Support with Federal Department of Interior Revenue monies of \$435,681. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-31, Enterprises – White Pine Lodge FY 2025 Budget Modifications.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 budget modifications to the White Pine Lodge Administration, Convenience Store, and Motel with total budget amounts referenced in the RIS.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' Payment, McRorie, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, McKechnie, Barbeau, Gravelle, Borowicz approving; Directors' Sorenson, Hampton opposing; Director Causley-Smith abstaining (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-32, Applying for BIA GLRI – Coastal Restoration 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$1,250,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-33, Applying for BIA-GLRI: Atikameg (L. Whitefish) From Start to Finish 2026/28 and Enhancing Native Ogaa (Walleye) Stocks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for a three-year grant totaling \$215,404.80 for BIA GLRI Enhancing Native Ogaa (Walleye) Stocks within the 1836 Ceded Territory and a three-year grant totaling \$1,314,638.25 for BIA GLRI Atikameg (L. Whitefish) From Start to Finish 2026/28.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-34, Approval of Contract Award for Reverse Osmosis (RO) System Installation Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the proposal of Nicolet Shores Plumbing Inc. to purchase and install one reverse osmosis (RO) system in each of eight separate residences and conduct post-installation water quality testing for uranium at each location.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to negotiate a contract

between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Nicolet Shores Plumbing In., with review of the Legal Department, to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-35, Approving Contract with Next Gen Healthcare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the contract with NextGen Healthcare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute all documents and agreements to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director Lee was present but unable to vote).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-36, Bgwasendam Gamigong Lodge of Hope – LEO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairperson, Austin Lowes, or his designee to sign, negotiate, and execute documents on behalf of the Tribe.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director Hampton abstaining *(Director Lee was present but unable to vote).*

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-37, Bgwasendam Gamigong Lodge of Hope – MDHHS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairperson, Austin Lowes, or his designee to sign, negotiate, and execute documents on behalf of the Tribe.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director Hampton abstaining *(Director Lee was present but unable to vote).*

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKernie, to approve Resolution 2025-38, Acceptance of the Tribe's 401K Audit Proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby appoints Dennis, Gartland and Niergarth to perform the Tribes 401K Audit, for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, for the years ending December 31, 2024, 2025 & 2026, for an amount not to exceed a total of \$50,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CFO can sign the Engagement Letter/Contract and any changes in scope in order to comply with any Federal or Regulatory Auditing Standards in order to complete the audits for the FY ending in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries *(Director Lee was present but unable to vote).*

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-39, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Authorizing Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement with Sacred Path for Enhanced Tribal Cards.

Without object, waive the reading.

No Objections.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as follows:

Section 1 FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS:

The Board of Directors finds and determines that:

1.1 The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure agreement with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe allowing for disclosure of the detailed breakdown of costs to have Sacred Path setup the Sault Tribe ETC program; and

1.3 The Pascua Yaqui Tribe will not enter the agreement without a waiver of sovereign immunity or Tribal Court jurisdiction; and

1.4 In order to enter into the Agreement, the Tribe is required to confirm that the Tribe and all other entities claiming by, through or under the Tribe, will not claim tribal immunity with respect to any disputes or causes of action between the parties that might arise from, or relate to, in any respect, the Agreement. All of the foregoing are referred to herein as the "Waiver and Consent Obligations."

1.5 It is in the Tribe's interest to resolve as stated herein.

Section 2 WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY; CONSENT TO JURISDICTION; GOVERNING LAW

2.1 The Tribe hereby waives its sovereign immunity from suit in favor of Pascua Yaqui Tribe only should an action be commenced under the Agreement.

This waiver:

- i) shall terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all of its obligations under the Agreement;
- ii) is granted solely to Pascua Yaqui Tribe;
- iii) shall extend to inter alia, any judicial or non-judicial action, including, but not limited to, any lawsuit, arbitration, and judicial or non-judicial action to resolve disputes between the Tribe and Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the assertion of any claim in a court of competent jurisdiction or with any arbitrator or arbitration panel to enforce the obligations under the Agreement;
- iv) shall be enforceable only in a Arizona state court located in Tucson, Arizona, or a federal district court in Arizona; and
- v) shall be enforceable against the assets of the Tribe to the extent necessary to satisfy the Tribe's obligation in the Agreement; and
- vi) the Agreement, and other associated documents shall be construed in accordance with and governed by all applicable laws and regulations of governmental bodies with competent jurisdiction, as set forth in such documents.

Section 3 WAIVER OF TRIBAL COURT JURISDICTION

3.1 The Board of Directors waives the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribal Court over any action arising under the Agreement. The Board authorized the Tribe to consent to the jurisdiction Arizona state court located in Tucson, Arizona, or a federal district court in Arizona, including any courts to which decisions may be appealed, with respect to any controversies arising from this resolution or the Agreement.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4.1 This waiver shall become effective upon the final execution of the Agreement executed by the Chairman or his designee. Failure or refusal of any individual to execute the Agreement shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 5. AUTHORIZATION

5.1 The Chairman of the Tribe or his designee is authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the foregoing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (*Director Lee was present but unable to vote*).

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve a Resolution, Protecting Tribal Government and Services Jobs.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to Amend to strike the last two Resolved's.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend carries, with Director McRorie opposing (*Director Lee was present but unable to vote*).

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Gravelle, to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries with Directors' Hampton, Gravelle, McKernie, Barbeau, Lee, Sorenson, Borowicz, Causley-Smith supporting; Directors' Payment, McRorie, McKechnie, Laplaunt opposing.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve a Resolution, Establishing Annual Performance Review Process for Team Members.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve the Disenrollment of Eria M. Falls.

Motion carries with Directors' Payment, Causley-Smith, McKechnie abstaining.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the Disenrollment of Linda Skaggs.

Motion carries with Directors' Payment, Causley-Smith, McKechnie abstaining.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve the Disenrollments of Nicole Kangas and her minor child, Konnor Kangas.
Motion carries with Directors' Barbeau, Payment, McKerchie, McKechnie abstaining.

Without objection, adjourn.

No Objections.

Adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Date: 3/18/25

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumbach, Aaron Schlehuber, Robert Schulte, Ryan Mills, Jennifer Clerc, Gerard Sagassige, Robert Marchand, Larry Jacques, Robin Bouschor, Eric Clark, Dan Doyle, Jaime MacDonald, Brandi MacArthur, James Benko, Megan Miller, Stacey Synett, Julie Salo