

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

This meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman, Austin Lowes.

Present: Robert McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt, Michael McKerchie, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Shawn Borowicz, Betty Freiheit, Darcy Morrow, Kimberly Lee, Kimberly Hampton and Austin Lowes.

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the agenda as read.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**Without objection, will remove and add the following items to the agenda:**

- 1. Removed Correct Board Administrator Job Description from New Business**
- 2. Removed Organizational Charts/Budgets from New Business**
- 3. Added Mackinac Straits Hospital Project to New Business**

**No objections.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve the Meeting Minutes from:**

- 1. 01/03/23, with correction on page 7**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-053, MEDC Tamarack Establishment of FY 2024 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of the FY 2024 budget for the MEDC Tamarack with State of Michigan Revenue monies of \$150,000. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-054, ACFS – Indian Child Welfare Act Establishment of FY 2023 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of the FY 2023 budget for the Indian Child Welfare Act with BIA Revenue monies of \$196,955.00 and \$127,834.36 in Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors McRorie, Sorenson, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Causley-Smith, McKechnie, Borowicz, Freiheit, Lee and Hampton approving; Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-055, ACFS – USDA Food Distribution on Indian Reservation Establishment of FY 2023 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of the FY 2023 budget for USDA Food Distribution on Indian Reservation with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$200,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2023-056, Health Center – Manistique Dental FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification for Health Center – Manistique Dental for a change to the personnel page and a reallocation of expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2023-057, Health Division – Mental Health and Third-Party Revenue FY 2023 Budget Modifications.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Mental Health for a decrease in Third-Party Revenue monies of \$13,494.45. 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 FY 2023 budget modification to Third-Party Revenue decreasing the transfer out of \$13,494.45. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-058, Health Center – Special Diabetes Establishment of FY 2023 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 2023 budget for Special Diabetes with IHS Revenue monies of \$275,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-059, Health Center – Third Party Revenue FY 2023 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Health Division – Third Party Revenue for an increase in Revenue of \$1,880,000. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2023-060, Grand Assembly Establishment of FY 2023 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 2023 budget for Grand Assembly with Tribal Support monies of \$85,000.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors McRorie, Sorenson, LaPlaut, Morrow, Causley-Smith, McKechnie, Borowicz, Freiheit, Lee and Hampton approving; Director McKerchie opposing.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-061, Legal – Tribal Attorney Establishment of FY 2023 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 2023 budget for Tribal Attorney with Tribal Support monies of \$1,104,943.86.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2023-062, Tribal Operations Establishment of FY 2023 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 2023 budget for Tribal Operations with Tribal Support monies of \$657,700.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors McRorie, Sorenson, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Causley-Smith, McKechnie, Borowicz, Freiheit, Lee and Hampton approving; Director Morrow abstaining.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-063, Approving Temporary Surface Activities License Agreement.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to sign, amend, negotiate, and execute the Temporary Surface Activities License Agreement with Cloverland Electric that is attached and incorporated by reference.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairman, or designee, to execute any and all documents, including ancillary or supplemental documents or forms as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this Resolution.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-064, Wheelchair Accessible Van Purchase for Elder Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes and approves the purchase of five (5) wheelchair accessible vans at a cost of \$411,675.00, to respond to the ongoing negative impacts on elder Tribal members from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairman, or designee, to execute any and all documents necessary to facilitate the purchase of five (5) wheelchair accessible vans.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Lee, to approve Resolution 2023-065, GLRI Habitats & Species Grant Ma'iingan in Boreal Forest Ecosystems.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized representative, to sign, negotiate, amend and execute any agreements thereof for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-066, 2023 BIA GLRI – Invasive Species Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized representative, to sign, negotiate, amend and execute any agreements thereof for the 2023 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-067, Application Approval for 2023 BIA Circle of Flight Program Funding Opportunity.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Wildlife Program to apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Circle of Flight Program grant opportunity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized designee, is authorized to sign, negotiate, amend, or rescind any agreement thereto.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-068, Application Approval for 2023 BIA – FWR Invasive Species Program Funding Opportunity.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Wildlife Program to apply for the 2023 Bureau of Indian Affairs FWR – Invasive Species Program grant opportunity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized designee, is authorized to sign, negotiate, amend, or rescind any agreement thereto.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-069, 2023 BIA GLRI – Commercial Fishery.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized representative to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements thereof for the 2023 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2023-070, 2023 BIA GLRI – Deepwater and Spawning Site Survey.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized representative to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements thereof for the 2023 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-071, 2023 BIA GLRI – Whitefish Rearing.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his duly authorized representative to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements thereof for the 2023 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-072, Acceptance of Forensic Audit Proposal for JKL Fiduciary Committee.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby appoints REDW Advisors & CPAs to perform the Forensic Audit of the JKL Fiduciary Committee, for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, for the period January 1, 2008 through September 30, 2022 for an amount not to exceed a total of \$75,000, with funds found within the current budget. No effect on Tribal support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors Sorenson, Morrow, LaPlaunt, Lee, Hampton, McRorie and Freiheit approving; Directors McKechnie, Borowicz, McKerchie, Causley-Smith opposing.**

**Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve the resolution regarding the Forensic Audit Proposal for Sault Tribe, Inc.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors Lee, Freiheit, McRorie, LaPlaunt, and McKechnie approving; Directors Borowicz, Morrow, Causley-Smith, Hampton, McKerchie, Sorenson opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-073, Award Contract to RSM US LLP for Accounting Services.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribe wishes to award a contract to RSM US LLP for accounting and compliance services related to Generally Accepted Standards Board Statement 87, Leases (GASB 87).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairman to execute any and all documents to engage the accounting services of RSM US LLP, and authorizes the CFO to create the necessary budget documents that appropriate the funds, not to exceed \$170,000 from Tribal Operations (Cost Center #1160) necessary to complete the project.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-074, Possession and Return of Public Records, Tribal Records, and Documents of the Tribe.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any Tribal member or Board of Directors member who is in possession of an original Public Record, Tribal record, or Tribal document of the Tribe shall immediately return such original Public Record, Tribal record, or Tribal document to the Tribe's Public Records Officer.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that failure to return such original Public Records of the Tribe will result in penalties as proscribed under Tribal law, including but not limited to, Chapter 71, Criminal Offenses, and Chapter 14, Rules of Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2023-075, Supporting the Seneca Nation of Indians in Denouncing Governor Hochul's Veto of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby joins the Seneca Nation of Indians of New York in denouncing Governor Hochul's veto of the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Sorenson, to table the resolution regarding the MIS Gaming Staff Transfer.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie to appoint Kristi Franklin to the Health Board, Regular Member, four-year term, expiring February 2027.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie to reappoint Kim Roman to the Unit 4 Escanaba Elder Committee from an Alternate Member to a Regular Member, four-year term, expiring February 2027.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie to reappoint Brenda Kinnart to the Unit 4 Escanaba Elder Committee from an Alternate Member to a Regular Member, four-year term, expiring February 2027.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director McRorie to accept the resignation of Becky Kolbus from the Elder Advisory Committee, declaring seat vacant.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt to appoint the following to the Food Sovereignty Committee, Regular Member, two-year term, expiring February 2025.**

- 1. Jonathon Biron**
- 2. Charlee Brissette**
- 3. Monica Cady**
- 4. Jennifer Dale-Burton**
- 5. Danielle Fegan**
- 6. Casey Hinkson**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Morrow to appoint the following to the Food Sovereignty Committee, Regular Member, four-year term, expiring February 2027.**

- 1. Larry Jacques**
- 2. Katy Matson**
- 3. Amy McCoy**
- 4. Colleen Medicine**
- 5. Martin Reinhardt**
- 6. Marie Richards**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Morrow to accept three (3) Relinquishments.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McRorie to accept two (2) Disenrollments.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, D&D Morrow Construction Services LLC was removed by sponsor from New Business.**

**No objections.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the New Business item regarding the IT Firewall.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director McKerchie to table.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve the New Business item regarding Resolution 2019-278.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson to table.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors Sorenson, Morrow, Borowicz, McKerchie, Lee, Hampton, McRorie and Freiheit approving; Directors LaPlaunt, McKechnie, Causley-Smith opposing.**

**Without objection, Kewadin Human Resources Transition was removed by sponsor from New Business. No objections.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie to stream live meetings and open workshops to Board of Directors Facebook page and log on website.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Causley-Smith, Freiheit, Borowicz, Lee and McRorie approving; Directors McKechnie, Morrow, Hampton, Sorenson opposing.**

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Date: 3/7/23 Secretary: 

Others Present: Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback, Robert Schulte, Aaron Schlehuber.