



YAKAPTAPI BIG COULEE DISTRICT

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

P.O. Box 825

Agency Village, South Dakota 57262

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Regular District Meeting Minutes Thursday May 25th, 2023

BCD Executives Present:

Chairperson: Myrna Thompson
Vice Chairman: William 'Billy' Kohl
Treasurer: Lynn Halbert
Secretary: Geraldine "Geri" Opsal

BCD SWO Tribal Councilperson: Susie Amos

District Members Present (signed in): 52

Total District Membership: (5/2/23): 1135

Quorum established by District Chairperson Myrna Thompson, meeting called to order at 6:04 PM. Opening prayer given by Avina Hayes.

Motion #1 by Katie Hill to adopt agenda, 2nd by Ken Heminger, ? Carrie Godfrey by MVC.

District Councilperson Report by Susie Amos. She is presenting the minutes dated of:

May 2nd, 2023; May 3rd, 2023; May 11, 2023 and May 16th, 2023.

Wayne asked about the jail, Susie updated him about the water system they will be putting in which will be a 2 year project to put in water system. 2 million fund from federal government and another 2 million for a total of 4 million for water project. She stated Tribal police have no place to put prisoners if picked up. Leeann asked motion #59 on the 150,000 allocation for Buffalo Lake why they got the economic development. Suzie said that only Section 17 can only be done at the Tribal level, only the Tribe can operate under Section 17. Suzie said they did not get it yet. She's talking about small business grants., regarding the rules of significant loss. Leeann was asking about the Section 7 in the ND compact. Leeann states there's a obligation to comply with the ND compact. She wants to know how many times does a district get a 150,000 grant like Buffalo Lake. Suzie stated that if you submit a budget proposal for business you can apply. Susie said she can talk to Planning about it. RPC Rep Geri Opsal stated she wasn't at RPC meeting when Buffalo Lakes was approved, Billy Kohl was not either it was probably done before she took position on board. Leeann is talking about the wind studies done in 2004 and doesn't want the Tribe to reinvent the wheel and pay for another study that was already done. We can still apply for renewable energy initiative, we have until August 2023 to fill in the blanks and apply for the funding. At some point the District needs to go after it.

Motion #2 to approve council report by Viva Jo, Michelle Brown ? by Danny Mahler, MVC.

Susie said that she is going to leave the meeting, she said she is going through some medical issues, she said she doesn't feel like she has to tell everyone what is going on & she has a very stressful 3 weeks. She said in how someone stood up there at last district meeting and she had to listen to someone humiliate her. She said come to her office at the tribe and visit with her if you have a problem. She said she gave her council report and she will give a report on what her plans are at the next meeting. Brenda has something to say she has compassion for Susie but she has a question, and she said that it happened before. She stated that when she tried to sit down with Susie she called Security and got her escorted out of her own Tribal Building, she stated she has been treated the same by Susie and wants her to know that. Brenda said they have history so she wasn't allowed to speak up for herself or afforded the opportunity that time. Brenda said she has some issue she wants Susie to bring up. She asked to bring up issues about the store she would like her to bring to her. Brenda's questions on the store; she's asking for a copy of the store contract. Susie said there is none here, Brenda said it's a 5 year contract, she said they were supposed to identify a tribal member to be trained in as management. She's asking Susie to bring the contract back for the people to see, and also speak to the other council and execs. Susie said a year ago there was a meeting at Rosalies, they addressed a concern, about training people, he told them there is no one that is trainable or qualified. Brenda asked that they still push for this to be pursued. Brenda stated she thinks there are trainable people there. She said that we should get some advertising & having someone shadowing for training. She wants Susie to bring a copy of the contract back.

District Chairperson started her report; she stated she has never seen a Councilperson leave a meeting and that we need a strong leadership that can advocate and help us as a District get things done. She stated that she is working hard to have transparency, getting the books in order, audit, following policy & she don't understand why it is getting people up in arms. District Constitution is in back, she stated our responsibility is to have an audit annually. The giyapi needs to stop. Theres giyapi and theres truth. When you aware of things thing you know the truth. The Constitution states the elected officials are suppose to be transparent & we have a responsibility when we sit up here including have a annual audit. Tribal Council had a resolution which she is seeking a copy of it that in order to get the distribution. We have been faced from resistance from the beginning. This job has been very difficult due to no one forthcoming with information. The former Executives, has to dig and seek and find information that should already be in files, no contract file for the garage. The membership this accountability and transparency is for you. She said Susie is not a victim, she has victimized her (Chairperson) because she is standing on policy and procedure. She wants to have respectful meetings, agree to disagree and not take it personal, get explanations. She stated that Elizabeth is doing great and that she is a hard worker. Liz did all the ARPA applications so people can get their checks, she did 32 in one day. She directed the treasure to do this and she didn't get it done. We still need the contract for the garage (Roll the Dice), the Covid 19 files are not located yet, we caught up with all the applications, until the May 9th meeting due to the checks being lost. , therefore a police report was filed and checks had to ordered and canceled (the lost 1000 checks). Would have cost 30,000 to cancel 1,000 checks but they decided they would only charge 30.00 The check blanks came in today. Chairperson stated she sent the ex Treasurer Viva Jo Dubois a certified letter regarding the missing information including the checks, the auditor and criminal investigator are aware of the missing 1,000 check blanks, Viva Jo responded and stated she turned everything over to Lynn the current Treasurer yet she continues to say she does not have them. Councilperson set up at Agency to send mail through there eliminating the need to purchase stamps. This will be a point of contention: The elderly check book was never turned over by our Councilperson Susie Amos. Chairperson went

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to DaCotah Bank at Nov 2018 Entity operation – only Mary High Eagle, A. Lydia Rivera & Margaret Bourelle can close the elderly check account. The lady at the bank said it was misleading the way it was written saying Mary HighEagle is the Chairperson. The action item we need to do is to get a Motion to close this entity operation. 301 elders of Big Coulee district constitute a quorum. Myrna stated the District Constitution and Elderly By Laws are in back where it clearly states District is over Elderly. Myrna stated she asked District Elderly (Mary High Eagle) to postpone the meeting. They did postpone it and she's thankful. Due to the meeting isn't valid & they were going to give out checks that night. Leeann said how can they have a meeting if they never reach a quorum. She's asking if why we don't have enough people coming to the meeting why have it. Lorraine stated that she was ask to write the policy and procedures and the old one was still valid. Lorraine said it needs to be researched or we may lose our elderly funds. Lisa asked about the entity authorization form.

Motion #3: Make a motion to terminate Entity Authorization of Nov 2018 at DaCotah Bank to get in compliance with our District Constitution by Lisa Jackson 2nd by Ken Heminger, Question by Brenda Jackson, MVC.

Motion #4: Lisa made a motion that all future board by district motion authorized to be put on signature cards, 2nd Brenda Jackson, ? Nadine Fredericks, MVC.

The District Chairperson did say a motion was already made to consolidate all the accounts.

Chairperson is discussing the Quickbook's proposal by Ella Robertson as requested by the district. Estimate is \$23,090. Brenda Jackson asked if they would be able to capture the old documents, Ella stated focus first this fiscal year forward each person and each child. Carrie asked about if this is this fiscal year, audit is in effect for 4 years. Ella called Liz about laptops available and they want to work on it 8 hours per day on the stationary work station. Nadine stated the auditor can link it our books and can work into where ever he's at. It was mention the district can get reimbursed for the \$10,000 for our audit. Question on software of Quickbook's and what version. Quickbook's 2020 software. Lynn said she has everything done 2021, 2022 its all reconciled up to Dec 31st. Jan, Feb, Mar, April 2023. John asked about back up records, she has bank statements and checkbooks entered. General operations is ready to do checks from Quickbooks. We still need to prepare for the Youth and the Elderly. Lynn stated all the address need to be put in with Quickbooks. We need data entry. We can still use the proposal. Lisa said she has a question, elderly, youth accounts together. Lynn stated she did 2021, 2022 and up April 2023. Chairperson stated this is news to her and to the other Executives as we have been asking with no response. She said she only has general operations done not elderly or youth. Ella will include with writing an accounting manual format for the BCD. Leeann stated that Viva Jo did Quickbooks from May 2021, 2022, and up to April 2023; Viva Jo concurred, she had 320 hours accomplishing this task. Lynn stated she has the current Quickbooks. Leeann wants all the information given to Ella so she can get it done. Ella will re read her proposal; \$23,090. Ella stated potentially that the would try to work the program that they can digitalize the checks. She will take payments. She will also do the policies and procedures and complete in 60 days. Viva Jo stated she turned over everything to Lynn, they only thing she doesn't have is a printer. Chairperson thanked Viva Jo for all her work and she reiterated she heard all this information from Lynn the Treasurer for the first time and we asked.

Motion #5: by Leann Tallbear to except the proposal by Ella Robertson of \$23,090 with policy manual as well a deadline of 60 days, 2nd by Lisa Jackson, ? by Brenda Jackson. MVC

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Chairperson stated that Eide Baily asked this statement to be read to the district membership. The update was read dated May 23, 2013. They will provided a summary in the next few weeks we will ask for supporting documentation and document any unauthorized transactions, We will do our best to find his back up but again we have no records but we will do the best.

District Chairperson brought up DCA Report.

Again because Council Susie Amos left, we cannot ask her about requesting the 25% increase in funding. And the 1500.00 elderly be increased to 2000 for 2024 year, as she was supposed to bring back some figures back to membership regarding financial impact.

Motion #6 by Nadine Fredericks, Wants to reaffirm a 7 member school board at ESDS, 2nd Carrie, ? Brenda. MVC.

DCA wants a 10 year plan from Planning Department. Question was made that they thought the District brings motions to DCA not have DCA brings motions to the District to get passed; Chairperson agreed, that , yes that is the political process.

Motion #7: IHS honor medical marijuana cards for pain management to comply with Tribal code made by Brenda Jackson, Carrie Godfrey , Viva Jo Dubois?, MVC

Motion #8: Motion by Carrie Godfrey, that a tribal detention officer be posted at county detention center, 2nd by Lisa Jackson , ? by Nadine Fredericks, MVC

Motion #9: Motion that a Public Health Nurse be allowed to visit at the RC jail 3 times per week, Lisa Jackson, 2nd by Michelle Brown, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC.

Motion #10: Motion by Carrie Godfrey, that Tribal Council accept all District minutes as presented; 2nd by Katie Hill, ? by Ken Heminger, MVC

Motion #11: Made to accept Regular District minutes dated April 27, 2023 & Executive meeting minutes dated: May 9, 2023 with attachments of expenditures by Carrie Godfrey , Avina Hayes , ? by MVC

Motion #12: Made by Carrie to except District Chairpersons report , 2nd by Liz Hill, Avina Hayes, MVC to except District Chairpersons report.

Wayne questioned about the truck the district owned, its at Viva Jos house, a plow was never put on. Chairperson talked with Arnold regarding, truck, building . Robert offered to help get the truck running and brought over to the district center. Lynn was given the whole covid file from Viva Jo and when asked she said she doesn't have it with her.

Motion #13: Lorraine made a motion Lynn Halbert as Treasurer and as past Chairperson get insurance of building , of truck, burnt out district center reports, all files , contract of Roll the Dice & clear it up bring and share it to next meeting, Carrie, ? Lisa, MVC.

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Chairperson stated that she reached out to Jeff Pagler, the Fire Marshall for the report; and, also Tribal Law Enforcement. She was told that Coke LaFonatine will be able to give her the tribal police report on the fire at the old district center.

Motion #14: Made by DeVonna Goodteaceher to give Robert Kohl authority to get truck going and get it back to the district, 2nd by Michelle Brown , ? by Viva Jo Dubois, MVC.

Treasurers Report: Lynn Halbert, Treasurer went over report. And shared that part of her report was in Quickbook format. Quickbooks reconciliation report . Lynn was asked how many copies she made she said 20 as over half membership did not get a copy.

Danielle has a question about dispersement. Per Lynn our total in the bank should be about : \$6,196.91 Does not include youth or elderly or stipends or education, or birthday monies. Billy stated school clothes loan paid off and now district days loan to be paid off owe about 4 more months worth. Lynn said she thought just do birthday, grades, funeral and emergency medical.

Motion #15: by Lisa to finish applications received that were received prior to todays date and to only do birthday, grades, funeral and emergency medical until September 2023 when loan is paid off. 2nd by Viva, ? by Brenda, MVC.

Motion #16: to except Treasures report: Made by Michelle Brown, 2nd by Viva Jo Dubois, ? by Luann Phelps, MVC.

Motion #17: made by Brenda Jackson to get District website operational by end of July 2023 2nd by Avina Hayes, ? by Liz Hill. Brenda asked for this previously when Susie Amos was here, the Coordinator would be responsible for putting approved minutes on. Billy stated they don't have the rights to access the account Ross Karahrah created, Chairperson stated that she will research it and bring it back.

District Secretary Geri Opsal gave verbal & written report to include Memorial Day schedules at all the cemeteries. Also made a public apology to Viva Jo Dubois as they were led to believe she had all the documents, files and the 1,000 missing checks, she thanks her for the letter to the Executives clearing up that she gave them to the current Treasurer in the past. So with that I apologize for being hard on you thinking you had the files and checks and just didn't turn them over when indeed all that time you did turn them over; it was just that the Treasurer failed to report it to us, and that she had them all along.

There are 5 requests for District Memberships; they are as follows:

Brooklyn Salway	347-*00025594
Doreen Heminger	347-*00014064 (relinquished from O.A. 4/24/23)
Dakota Amos	347-*00019970
Victor L. Robinson	347-*00020119
Paerus Robertson	347-*00020172

Motion #18: made by Brenda Jackson to approve the 5 district request for membership, 2nd by Ken Heminger, ? by Danielle, Decoteau, MVC

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Motion #19: made by Viva Jo made motion to approve Secretary report, 2nd by Louann, ? by Ken, MVC.

John asked why Lynn got up and left and why Lynn Halbert , Treasurer why she didn't tell us she had the checks that were turned over to her, why did she just get up and leave and not answer our questions.

District Coordinator report, Liz gave updates of what work she has done . She did all the reports for ARPA because she didn't want our members to miss out.

Motion #20: Motion by Louann Phelps Liz Hill and sister strip the old wax ad wax and buff the district center floor for \$300.00 , 2nd by Carrie Godfrey , ? by Danielle DeCoteau to strip , wax, MVC.

Motion #21: Made by Brenda Jackson, 2nd by Danielle DeCoteau, ? by Michelle to approve District Coordinator report. MVC.

District Eldery Report: Mike Greely gave Tribal Elderly report. 1500 worth of grocery cards for drawings for elderly picnic, he said will meet again on the 5th.

Motion #22: Made by Carrie Godfrey to except Tribal Elderly report, 2nd by Lisa Jackson, ? by Brenda, MVC.

District Elderly Report: Mary Higheagle. according to the elderly policies, she's wondering how we make amendment changes. The other one was the quorum amount, she feels like that its interesting to have these meetings, home repair, medical transportation, health, elderly abuse, district days. Can make amendments

Motion #23: Lisa Jackson stated she bring back a draft of changes to next meeting , 2nd by Lorraine German , ? by Carrie Godfrey MVC.

Question was asked where the check book is, etc. Mary stated most elderly just want their \$200.00 but not participate in the meetings. Mary Jo is working on what is the balance in the elderly account.

Motion #24: by Viva Jo Dubois to approve District Elderly report given by Mary Higheagle , 2nd by Lisa Jackson, ? by Brenda Jackson, MVC.

Youth Report given by Doris Lewis, Chairperson of Youth Board. All Youth Board Present. Will have movie night, no wrist bands this year for carnival as it doubled in price \$40.00 per band. Will continue to have a trip during the year.

Motion #25: made by Danielle DeCoteau, to give the youth board authority to seek out non profit assistance such as the Diversity Foundation Lyle Rustad., 2nd by Sheila Ironheart, ? by Ella Robertson MVC.

Motion#26: Michelle Brown to except youth report 2nd by Danielle DeCoteau, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC.

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Motion #27: by John German, Danielle DeCoteau, ? by Katy Hill for Lynn to make 40 copies of her Treasurer report as she only made 20 and half the people got a copy.

Motion #28: by Ella Robertson each District household get 2 loads of gravel, 2nd by Sheila Ironheart, ? by Danielle DeCoteau, MVC.

Floor given to Avina Hayes spoke of Healing Circle/Hope in God, June 11, 2023 dedication for sex child abuse of people healing, please share. Shared a dream shared with her trauma & in her heart to help her people. Avina is inviting all to this. Starts at 3:00PM, eat and light the circle, and visit and pray and get healed. Need to Mow and spray for mosquitos. Open to public.

Danielle DeCoteau, Sgt At Arms requested the floor.

Sitting back there , we voted everyone in these positions. As a member of the District she wants to make mention that out of respect for one another we need to all be accountable for own actions and words, we all elected these people to sit up here they need to handle their emotions and put their personal feelings aside. In watching the lack of respect for the membership in getting up and leaving, as our Representative their needs to some accountability. What are we going to do this as a membership and is this going to be allowed each time. Why are we allowing them to not respect us and turn in the records at the district level I feel really disrespected as a member that our Council representative who is suppose to represent us all, she leaves, this isn't right; its not right the lack of respect. The treasurer didn't even sit up there with you all she was walking around no respect. This isn't for this family or that family its for the whole membership, something needs to be done, this needs to be addressed. That checks need to be written and Lynn just left as Treasurer & left the other Executives to handle it all. Dereliction of duty and total disrespect.

Motion #29: by Ella Robertson, Danielle DeCoteau, Sheila Ironheart to authorize Billy Kohl & Myrna Thompson to write checks that are need for district members., MVC.

NOTE: Chairperoson stated that Lynn Halbert, Treasurer said she was leaving and won't be here for 2 weeks. Chairperson asked her about the checks that needed to be written, she just shrugged her shoulders, said I don't know, and left. It was asked why Lynn got up and left before meeting is even over. Chairperson stated Lynn did the exact same thing that Susie Amos, Council person did just walked out on the membership.

District Chairperson said it needs to be addressed. It seems our Councilperson isn't well enough to handle her position. Chairperson stated Lynn did the exact same thing that Susie Amos, Councilperson did, just walked out on the membership.

Danielle said in the military that leadership has to be fit for duty, that to your best ability and serve represent the membership. A lot of stress comes along with the job. Carrie Godfrey asked Billy Kohl about Chapter #3 or the constitution someone needs to get a petition. How about the Treasurer, malfeasance or negligence? Katie asked who writes those charges. Carrie asked process, they are presented to the district for presentation to except the charges. Katie felt the remarks were made to her directly and she felt that she shouldn't have been on the Elderly Board as Treasurer in the first place and that's all she stated. Katie said she doesn't have regrets, it was Susie's personal feeling.

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She said what she said. Chairperson will take it under advisement. Lorraine said Lynn shouldn't have thrown Viva Jo under the bus. That she withheld information, how sad. Malfeasance of office and withholding information.

Board, Committee or Commission	District Member	Present	Absent	Minutes
SWCC BOT	Mary Jo Keeble		Excused	x
SWO Human Service Board	Mary Jo Keeble		Excused	
SWO Gaming Board	Jerry Eastman		Excused	
TZTS	Jerry Eastman		Excused	
SWO Pow Wow Committee	Ella Robertson	Present		
SWO Natural Resources	Ella Robertson	Present		
SWO Tax Commission	Ella Robertson	Present		
SWHA	Robert Kohl	Present		
SWO Constitution Revision	Viva Jo Dubois	Present		
SWO Ordinance Workgroup	Michelle Brown	Present		
SWO OEP	Angela Amos		Absent	
SWO THPO	Angela Amos		Absent	
SWO Personnel Committee	Dianne Desrosiers		Excused	
SWO Police Commission	Myrna Thompson	Present		
Youth Board:	Doris L, Brandylin G. Lita G. & Phoenix I.	Present		
SWO Reservation Planning Commission	Geri Opsal	Present		No meeting due to death in family of board member
SWO Tero	Billy Kohl	Present		

Motion #30: Sheila Ironheart up to declare the position vacant THPO & OEP vacant, 2nd by Viva, 2nd by Michelle, MVC.

Motion #31: Sheila made motion to seat Rosanne as the THPO to seat Rosanne Bartunek as the next highest vote getter Viva, Michelle MVC.

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Motion #32: by Lorraine German, that REB establish criteria for candidates of education criteria to be elected 2nd by Avina, ? Nadine, MVC.

Motion #33: Sheila Ironheart to advertise OEP board vacant and to be filled, 2nd by Michelle Brown ? MVC.


Ella Robertson, Pow Wow Committee stated each district select a princess judge; Viva Jo Dubois volunteered to be the SWO princess judge at 4th of July pow wow per Ella Robertson request on pow wow committee.

Carrie has a motion that our councilperson businesses are getting turned away due to Covid, Carrie want the resolution to be amended from taxes to tribal business license. Geri, RPC report stated that it was brought to her attention our councilperson Susie Amos went to Planning to see Will Fish and asked about one of our district members Small business grant, she didn't have any written complaints but said she had concerned district members, Ella stated this is a concern of privacy, why was she shown their business license, why is she harassing this particular person. Geri stated that Brandon Adams, is our RPC ex-officio and she will bring this to his attention as it should have probably went through him but it should have been a written complaint if indeed there was a complaint. Otherwise advise file a restraining order or harassment charge if it continues.

Motion#34: by Louann Phelps to approve all board & committee reports, 2nd by Viva Jo Dubois , ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC.

Motion #35: to adjourn by Nadine Fredericks , 2nd by Viva Jo DuBois, ? by Ella Robertson.

Adjourned @ 10:30PM,



**Respectfully Submitted,
Geri Opsal, District Secretary**

#52

BIG COWLEE (11)

REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Thursday- May 25, 2023 6PM
MEMBER SIGN IN ROSTER

1	Chris Opsal, Secretary
2	James Heminger Sr
3	Donald Thompson Jr
4	John Hill
5	Charles Thompson
6	James Warner
7	Sam Thompson
8	Rich Hill
9	Walter Hill
10	Alma Hayes
11	Dulveta Bortleach Jr
12	DeWonna Goodtree
13	John Hill
14	Paul Hill
15	Susie Amos
16	Tanya Goodtree
17	Vera Heminger
18	Lamarie Hill
19	Wayne Warner Jr
20	Paul Amos

Big Coulee District
 Regular District Meeting ~ Member Sign In Roster
 Thursday - May 25, 2023 6PM

21	Wm
22	Danielle DeCoteau
23	Phoenix Ironheart
24	Ken Heminger
25	Lore Anne Phelps
26	Billy Kohl
27	Mary D. Eagle
28	Jenara German
29	Justin Opsal
30	Warrior Dyer
31	Ruth Roberts
32	Lynn Palbert
33	Arrie Owen
34	Lita German
35	Shirley
36	Bela Julez
37	Brenda Jackson
38	Glenn German Jr
39	Esther McCoy
40	Lucretia Jackson
41	Cheryl Roberts
42	Barbara Goodbird
43	Robert John Kohl
44	Nadine German - Frederick
45	Joseph G. Thomson Jr.
46	John German Sr
47	Edith M. Thompson
48	Ed Hill
49	Michelle Brown
50	Rosanne Hartman

Big Coulee District
Regular District Meeting – Member Sign In Roster
Thursday – May 25, 2023 6PM

51	DORIS Lewis
52	Maryna Thompson
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