



# WYAKAPTAPI BIG COULEE DISTRICT

## Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

P.O. Box 825

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### Regular District Meeting Minutes Thursday April 27th, 2023 – 6:00PM

#### BCD Executives Present:

**Chairperson:** Myrna Thompson  
**Vice Chairman:** William ‘Billy’ Kohl  
**Treasurer:** Lynn Halbert  
**Secretary:** Geraldine ‘Geri’ Opsal

**BCD SWO Tribal Councilperson:** Susie Lydia Amos

#### District Members Present (45):

Quorum established. District Chairperson Myrna Thompson, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Opening prayer given by Gerald Amos.

**Motion#1:** Made by Diane Desrosiers to adopt agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson, ? by Katie Hill, MVC.

#### Guests (2):

The District Chairperson introduced our first guest, Lorraine Rousseau, Buffalo Lake District Member regarding SWC, sequence of events. She provided handouts. She wanted everyone to know of the seriousness of the college’s accreditation being potentially affected. She said she is willing to answer any questions from our membership.

The District Chairperson introduced our next guest, Eric Shepherd, Executive Director of SWHA. Eric asked the membership what our concerns were. The response was that our discussion and concern was why so many homes are boarded up. Eric explained that due to the pandemic, they were operating with a skeleton crew. There are 810 units total. There were 57 vacant units, down to 42 vacant units now; tribal subcontractors will repair these in the next ninety (90) days. Rental rehab dollars are at a minimum. Eric spoke of budget. Spoke of many services such as, subsidizing propane, etc., leaves minimal resources to repair homes. There were 1400 members that were able to receive help with rental assistance during the pandemic. Back to ground zero after all the funds expended. Securing tribal subcontractors to start fixing units here in Big Coulee. Also applying for external grants. Only 3 units vacant at Long Hollow District. At the SWHA for 3 years. Eric stepped into 1.4 million dollar in debt when he took job 3 years ago. Using a million dollars toward rehabilitation.

Approved Regular District Meeting May 25, 2023 Motion 11  
Approved by Tribal Council/DCA on Tuesday, May 2, 2023

We have 5 TERO approved contractors now in comparison to the past few years. He has secured over 26 million dollars since he has been here. Eric asked please read general council reports. A question was asked regarding how they handle vandalism. He responded that SWHA does a budget and takes it to his board of commissioners. An elder raised a concern regarding the housing authority's recording phone system; it is hard for the elderly, it's a long one and she hears from others that it is hard to use. She also asked about eviction in the dead of winter. Eric Shepherd, 1-605-419-1570; he gave his cell in case anyone needs to call. Nita Kirk is going to answer telephones. Francis Crawford, SWHA residential services coordinator. He gave his cell #605-268-3527. A question was asked about back pay for the employees. Payroll manager still has to handle it. Ella Robertson, Tax Commission talked about tax office not receiving taxes. Confidential process. Contract specialist is Dave Spider & Simon Keeble. LeeAnn TallBear, asked about water & sewer funding allocated to City? Is property in trust behind bowling alley, Eric said not yet. She feels its important to allocate that money to fix infrastructure.

**Motion #2:** LeeAnn TallBear made motion that our Tribal Councilperson support the 1.2 million funding be allocated specifically for the water & sewer of the bowling alley (Hippen/SWHA) property; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson; ? by Wayne German, Sr.. MVC.

More discussion regarding who the supervisor of the maintenance crew is at SWHA. Francis says they are evaluated annually. She's asking about inspections, Ryan German & Mikey Selvage, Jr are currently doing inspections. Maintenance Manager does inspections, Kojak Heminger, does the inspections; he has 11 under him, Jerome Renville along, Chris Kohl has 5 under him.

Lorraine spoke of Big Coulee housing, she spoke of bricks are falling off the houses, she's asking if they can think about helping get housing in Big Coulee. Big Coulee is in the 10-year plan. Eric spoke of nailing down location, get letter to Bank to securing some funding. A comment was made that the Housing sites are very trashy, the public have to see all of this. Francis stated it's the tenant's responsibility to clean up their yard, they provide dumpsters. The overflowing dumpster in Long Hollow was put there by the college for Earth Day. Discussion regarding stray animals also. Leeann spoke and said she volunteered to share a Big Coulee Housing Survey & quantify it. 2004 Reservation-wide study she can also share. The ARPA Needs Assessment was also mentioned.

Eric answered all the questions and thanked the district to allowing him to speak tonight.

Suzu Amos took the floor to give the Tribal Council Report. She talked about the needs assessment that has been put out by the Vice Chairman's Office. She presented the following Tribal Council Reports:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Wednesday, April 12, 2023



Susie talked about: BIA Assistance of \$1.9m for a WWTF; Severance Pay; new Fuel, Inc. Manager is Ross Torgerson, and a situation with Fuel Inc. and the \$700K bailout; the Budget Program discrepancies. Ella noted that it sounds like a budget/bookkeeping issue. She also said they owe Tax Office a lot of money. Susie said they weren't filling the tanks full when they were making deliveries. She reported they are undergoing an audit.

Lisa asked if they could get a report on the legal work done for Dawn regarding Donovan. John asked if Matt Thompson is required to come to RPC. LeeAnn said the RPC needs the support – the RPC represents the people. Lisa had a comment her understanding is ex-officio had a letter sent to the ex-Chairman that allowed the Planning Director to attend the meetings. LeeAnn will find all her information and send it to Council. Jerry Eastman talked about Motion 63, will the Secretarial election on absentee voting be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>?

Katy Hill requested to come up to the podium. Katy stated that Susie Amos as our council representative needs to respond to her constituents. She stated Susy was being rude on the phone and in person. The lateral violence against her daughter is an example. She read some texting between Susie and herself and just wanted to share with the membership. And how can she have the elderly checkbook if she's our council representative, it's not right.

**Motion #3:** Katy Hill made a motion that Susie Amos is removed as Elderly Treasurer tonight and turn the check book and all paperwork & minutes over to the District Chairman Myrna Thompson immediately. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson, ? by Ruth Hill. MVC.

Discussion: Lisa's question was how can a tribal councilperson hold a checkbook on a district board and get paid? As Katy read a motion that Susie Amos received a \$500.00 Christmas bonus along with the other district elderly board.

Myrna Thompson, Chairperson, said she does not invite the Council person to our Executive meetings, as the Executive Committee, we handle all requests and concerns.

**Motion #4:** Made by Viva DuBois to accept the council report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne Derosiers, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC.

#### **District Chairperson's Report:**

Myrna is recapping some of what she reported last month. Requested a list from Treasurer a list of ARPA checks, has not received a status update - \$50,000 set aside has been depleted on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, but have not received a list of who received it. Reported that she asked Lynn (former District Chairperson) for the contract file for Roll the Dice but she did not know where it was; nor was it found; asked if there was an inspection done on the garage, Lynn said there was not. Myrna stated that if it involves federal funding, we need to follow the rules or could be an audit finding. Purchase of pick up, battery is dead and sitting at Viva Jo DuBois' since July 2021. Requested the Covid 19



files, people paid with backup documentation; have not received it yet. Gave District Operations update.

**Motion#5:** to approve Executive Meeting Minutes: April 11, April 18 & April 24<sup>th</sup>  
By: Leeann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie, ? by Avina, MVC.

**Motion #6:** for approval of Regular District Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2023. Motion made by Avina Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Godfrey, ? by Lisa Jackson, MVC.

**Motion #6:** Made by Carrie Godfrey to approve purchase of surveillance system from M2JK Entertainment LTD (John Seiber), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leeann Tallbear, ? by Liz Hill, MVC

District Coordinator is doing great, unpaid wages were received. Myrna wants to get her the premium pay as other District Coordinators received it; she also revised her job description. She read it to the members and requested the district's approval for the job description.

**Motion #7:** Motion made by Lita German to approve District Coordinator job description, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Colleen Cordell , ? by Avina Hayes, MVC

**Motion #8:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey for Myrna Thompson, District Chairperson, have authorization and approval for DaCotah Bank to allow her access to our Business On-Line Banking Big Coulee District accounts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ella Robertson;? by Colleen Cordell, MVC.

Lisa Jackson asked Lynn Halbert, Treasurer, if she has a list of who should have a signature card, Youth Elderly do they have signature cards. Ultimately, Lynn you're responsible for the accounts. She should have a list of signature cards and when they expire.

**Motion # 9:** LeeAnn TallBear made a motion that Ella Robertson present a proposal to help our district get set up on Quickbooks; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avina; ? Gerald with a Question . MVC.  
Lisa says to put on record this is what the district needs and wants. Majority wants the accounts streamlined.

**Motion #10:** Motion made by Leann TallBear, to close the all Youth & Elderly accounts within 30 days and have one check book, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerald German, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC. Discussion: Leann was thinking she could help with a district operations budget it helps with a historical costs to be able to set one up. Time frame is 60 days. Plan for July meeting a budget and work forward.

**Motion #11:** Motion made by Lisa Jackson, that Myrna Thompson, District Chairwoman take to DCA that the Tribe create a Water Rights office, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ella Robertson, ? by John German, MVC.



**Motion #12:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey, that ESDS have a 7- member school board for equal representation for students as the Enemy Swim Day School receives federal funding. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wayne German, Sr., ? by Colleen Cordell. MVC.

**Motion #13:** Motion made by Lisa Jackson that Susie Amos, Councilperson, bring information back to the district on how a 25% increase in district distributions would affect the tribe; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Godfrey, ? by Ella Robertson, MVC

**Motion #14:** by Jerry Eastman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ella Robertson; ? Carrie Godfrey for more information to be brought back to the district regarding the request for the monthly \$1500 elderly allocation from tribe to increase to \$2000.00. MVC.

**Motion #15:** by Gerald German, Jr. to take to DCA that the home repair funding (that Sonny, Russell, Terri are in charge of) be allocated/distributed equally among the seven (7) districts, based on tribal membership home ownership; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Godfrey, ? by Ella Robertson. MVC.

**Motion #16:** Motion by Carrie Godfrey to approve the District Chairperson report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ella Robertson ? by Colleen Cordell , MVC.

**District Treasurer's Report:**

**Motion #17:** Motion to except District Treasurer;s Report, Viva, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa ? by Sheila, MVC

**District Secretary's Report:**

**Motion #18:** Motion by Dianne Derosiers; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz Hill; ? by Sheila Mendenhall; to except adult membership as listed: MVC

- Blossom Tiomanipi 347-\*00019703
- Raia Renee Higheagle 347-\*00025619

**Motion #19:** Made by Carrie Godfrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avina Hayes, ? by LeeAnn TallBear, to approve District Secretary's report. MVC.

**District Coordinator Report:**

**Motion #20:** by LeeAnn TallBear to approve the District Coordinator report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson; ? by Avina Hayes. MVC.

Discussion on the district member's need for gravel.



**Motion #21:** by Gerald German to secure bids from an outside resource for gravel for district members if Tribal Roads isn't going to assist those that need gravel; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lorraine German; ? by Ella Robertson, MVC.

**Motion #22:** by LeeAnn TallBear to get a report from Dept of Transportation regarding where all the gravel is allocated to; and, what they are doing; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avina Hayes, ? by Liz Hill, MVC.

**Mike Greeley:** gave Tribal Elderly report. Reported there is a new Tribal Elderly Protection Team (TEPT): Ron Redday, Terri Brooks, Lorrene Mallory, Gary Gaikowski, Rhonda Kampeska, and Bonnie Thompson. And that they are going to ask for funding to hire a part time Investigator. There was a question regarding the discrimination of the disabled; why those elders using walkers, or in wheelchairs are not allowed to go on the elderly trips to the National Indian Conference on Aging (NICOA). Discussion about NICOA group every other year, it seems the same elderly go.

**Motion #23:** by Dianne Desrosiers to accept Tribal Elderly report , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Godfrey, ? by Viva Jo Dubois, MVC.

**Motion #24:** Susy Amos was asked to give District Elderly report; she reported LouAnn Phelps has the report and she will get it to Myrna Thompson, Chairperson this coming week.

#### **Youth Report:**

Phoenix Ironheart, Lita German & Brandilynn Franzen all came up, Phoenix took the mic, he read the minutes of their meeting; Doris was absent due to a family medical. They are interested in doing horse therapy with Veterans Memorial Youth ride for horse therapy. ARPA funds: all new youth members can receive ARPA, Thinking of sponsoring a category at SWC powwow; reviewed birthday applications. 103 youth showed up for the latest event; 112 adults, pizza ranch after. April expenditures 2023 \$4,478.83.

**Motion #25:** Made by Carrie Godfrey to approve Youth Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Colleen Cordell, ? by Diane Desrosiers, MVC.

**Old Business:** No old business

New Business: Robert Kohl, presented a reasonable price for a shed from Sisseton, Dave Wallenstein. 8x12, he would make a cut in the door for a concession stand, Robert is making a recommendation for a shed to be placed on the Big Coulee (Viking) property on the corner. One shed to start; Robert is recommending rent-to-own price.

**Motion #26** by Avina Hayes, to purchase rent to own from David's Sheds- David Wallenstein at \$163.70 per month for now. Cash price \$3536. Rent it for 2 months and revisit to see if we want to buy it out. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC.



**Motion #27:** Carrie Godfrey made motion Executives create a use agreement for this shed, including insurance, deposit, contact, 2nd by Lisa Jackson, ? Avina Hayes, MVC.

**Motion #28:** by Carrie Godfrey that Robert Kohl be responsible to take the lead and set this purchase up and all it entails; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Kopas; ? by Liz Hill. MVC.

**Boards & Committee Reports:**

<b>Board, Committee or Commission</b>	<b>District Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>SWCC BOT</b>	<b>Mary Jo Keeble</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Human Service Board</b>	<b>Mary Jo Keeble</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Gaming Board</b>	<b>Jerry Eastman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>TZTS</b>	<b>Jerry Eastman</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Pow Wow Committee</b>	<b>Ella Robertson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Natural Resources</b>	<b>Ella Robertson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Tax Commission</b>	<b>Ella Robertson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWHA</b>	<b>Robert Kohl</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Constitution Revision</b>	<b>Viva Jo Dubois</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Ordinance Workgroup</b>	<b>Michelle Brown</b>	<b>E</b>		
<b>SWO OEP</b>	<b>Angela Amos</b>	<b>UE</b>		
<b>SWO THPO</b>	<b>Angela Amos</b>	<b>UE</b>		
<b>SWO Personnel Committee</b>	<b>Dianne Desrosiers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>SWO Police Commission</b>	<b>Myrna Thompson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Youth Board:</b>	<b>Doris L, Brandylin G. Lita G. &amp; Phoenix I.</b>	<b>EXXX</b>		
<b>SWO Reservation Planning</b>	<b>Geri Opsal</b>	<b>X</b>		



<b>Commission</b>				
<b>SWO TERO</b>	<b>Billy Kohl</b>	<b>X</b>		

**Motion #29:** Made by Dianne to approve draft MOU to formalize collaboration between the SD Fish & Wildlife and the SWO for co-stewardship of Waubay National Wildlife Refuge; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson; ? by Carrie Godfrey. MVC.

**Motion #30:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey, to use Horton's Meat Locker to get 1 Buffalo processed not to exceed \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne Desrosiers; ? by Lisa Jackson, MVC.

**Motion #31:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey set cannabis tax at 6% & to take it back to the Tax Commission; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Avina Hayes, ? by Dianne Desrosiers, MVC.

**Motion #32:** Motion made by Lisa Jackson to take the limits off the purchase of tobacco; 2<sup>nd</sup> Avina Hayes, ? by Dianne Desrosiers. MVC.

**Motion #33:** made by Ella Robertson that the Planning Director attend the Reservation Planning Commission (RPC) meetings; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson; ? by Avina Hayes. MVC.

**Motion #34:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey to accept all Board, Committee and Commission Reports, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Jackson, Question by LeeAnn TallBear, MVC.

**Motion #35:** Motion made by Carrie Godfrey to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Viva Jo Dubois, ? Robert Kohl, MVC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Geri Opsal, District Secretary**







**BIG COULEE DISTRICT  
WELCOME  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 - 6PM  
MEMBER SIGN IN ROSTER**

# 45

1	Geri Oppele
2	Natie Hill
3	Arma Hayes
4	Bianca Warner
5	Sage Thompson
6	Suzie Ames
7	Viva DeBar
8	Joseph A. Brown Jr.
9	Dianne DeRogez
10	Daraine Dorman
11	Wayne Dorman Jr.
12	<del>Eric Shepherd</del>
13	Len Jones
14	Robert [unclear]
15	Robert [unclear]
16	Eric Shepherd
17	Robert [unclear]
18	<del>Eric Shepherd</del>
19	Lenora Gorman
20	May Hyslop

Big Coulee District  
 Regular District Meeting ~ Member Sign In Roster  
 THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 - 7PM

H.

21	Jerry Eastman
22	Billy Kohl
23	Correen Cordell
24	Jim A
25	Jay A
26	<del>Strickland</del>
27	Michelle Bdm
28	Smith Hill
29	Rita Finley
30	Gene Amos
31	Mike Mesley
32	John T. B.
33	Naught Madril
34	Ed Hill
35	Bob Rubin
36	Jim T
37	Chris J. J.
38	Mary Jo Kuehl
39	Lita German
40	Carl Schoenrock
41	Ann Phoenix Ironheart
42	Keri Eckhoff
43	<del>Chris</del>
44	Melvin C.
45	Meyna Thompson
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	