



IYAKAPTAPI 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, August 31, 2023 @ 6PM

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

BCD SWO Tribal Councilperson: Susie Lydia Amos

District Members Present (28):

Quorum established by District Chairperson Myrna Thompson, meeting called to order at 6:17PM

Opening prayer given by: Billy Kohl.

Motion#1: Made by LeeAnn Tallbear to adopt agenda, 2nd by Danielle DeCoteau, ? by Joseph Herman, MVC

Council Report by Susie Amos, she presented the following Council minutes:

- August 1, 2023 Regular Tribal Council Meeting
- August 2, 2023 Regular Tribal Council Meeting
- August 9, 2023 Special Tribal Council Meeting
- August 11, 2023 Special Tribal Council Meeting
- August 14, 2023 Special Tribal Council Meeting
- August 17, 2023 Special Tribal Council Meeting

Danielle DeCoteau wanted to make a statement, she talked about August 9, 2023 Tribal Council meeting, – she’s asking her (Susie) why she’s not hearing all the reports, she’s wondering why there’s statements being given such as Susie gave about not getting the report . Susie felt she didn’t lie, she said that she didn’t get a written even though Geri Opsal, RPC did give a verbal report for RPC. It was stated that we give verbal and submit written when not present but Geri Opsal is present at every meeting. Danielle stated to Susie no reason to get defensive she’s making a statement in a good way, she felt that there is no reason for the hostility we need to all work together. LeeAnn Tallbear asked to speak, she’s going to summarize on Motion #84. Why wouldn’t council take one of the three recommendations for replacement of Brandon Adams. She asked Susie why, Susie said its not a permanent decision it’s a 45 day position. LeeAnn is asking why BCD didn’t take the recommendations of the 3 OAD submitted. Susie said there was issues with the candidates and she

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can't say why. LeeAnn Tallbear wants it reflected in the minutes that our district stay out of other District's business, this is opening a can of worms, we should worry about all that is happening at our District and not stick our nose in other district business. Katy Hill is asking why they can't ask questions when Susie can't answer without taking it personal. Katy felt that Susie's responses and body language speaks for itself, Susie is saying that she will not be judged by her body language. Katy is asking why she is saying things about our district and members, and she feels she is making us look bad by the things she says about our District. Susie interjected while Katy was talking but was reminded by Sgt at Arms that Katy still had the floor. John German asked about the Cannabis code, asking if he can get a copy of it, Susie said when it's done she will pass it out. LeeAnn asked about August 2nd, Motion #59 Bluestone Agreement, what kind of agreement and what it's for. They are from California per LeeAnn. Susie said she didn't know but she thinks that it is for Energy grants and Treatment Center. LeeAnn Tallbear states she has a firm who writes grants and she's concerned about the Procurement Policy not being followed. She asked Susie to make sure the policy is being followed. Katy Hill is asking why Susie is supporting Lynn Halbert in court. She is asking why is she sitting there in court supporting her –Susie says it's a free country. Katy reminded her that Lisa Jackson was never allowed to sit in court nor Executive meetings. It was stated that it was reported to Tribal Executives regarding conflict of interest by our Councilperson. It was stated she needs to be ethical about her actions with this. She stated that Susie's actions speak for themselves; she is supporting someone who is wrong and she knows it. Because she (Lynn) is her son's girlfriend. She (Lynn) was told to leave the laptop and instead ran out the door with it.

MOTION #2: Katy Hill would like to make a Motion that Susie Amos not attend any more court hearings, 2nd by Danielle DeCoteau, ? by Ruth Hill, all in favor. Motion defeated.

Motion #3: Motion By Robert Kohl to approve Susie Amos council reports for the above meeting minutes (see above), 2nd by Phoenix Ironheart, ? by Dianne DeRosiers, MVC

District Chairperson Report: Busy month getting district business done, a lot of stuff, picking up pieces and getting work done that should have been done by previous executives. Billy Kohl went to the August 1st council meeting for the district meeting for July 2023. Chairperson feels that a council person needs to be unbiased, objective and ethical and that Susie Amos attending the court hearing in support of Lynn Halbert shows she is biased against our other district members. Katy stated it's biased because Lynn Halbert is Susie's son Joseph Herman's girlfriend. Robert Doody is Lynn's attorney, she requested a jury trial which will be next year sometime. Lexie, Vice Chairperson gave us a draft accounting manual to use as we have been operating without one all of these years. The SWO Vice Chairperson advised Myrna that Susie was given the ARPA financials to give to our Chairperson, this again was not shared with our Chairperson, Chairperson went to Susie Amos office and got the 20 pages of ARPA expenditures. Chairperson is stating that she is not getting the information from our Council representative and why? She also shared that Saville Flute is reordering the license plates for the truck as that also is still getting worked out due to lack of records or files from previous Chairperson. He also told her that there are no records on file for the garage at Big Coulee; he requested her to share invoices or whatever she can, to share with him-she did and emailed to him what she had but still has not found a contract but will forward to him if it is ever found; she stated that, again, this was during Lynn Halbert's tenure as Chairperson, lack of record keeping and accountability. Arnold Williams agreed to come and take pictures for insurance because the garage was never added to the district's insurance policy. Randy Richter, Roll the Dice is the Contractor. Reporting on GEO thermal situation; we were told that it would cost \$18,000; that it

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needed to be replaced. Whetstone Valley came to look at it and they discovered that only one unit needed to be repaired; also, they discovered that the gas/propane furnace was disconnected for unknown reasons. Our primary concern is heat for the winter. Chairperson stated that there are rumors being spread, that she is paying her family and operated in the RED, this is not true, we show expenditures every month, no one in Chairperson's family is getting preferential treatment, all policies are being followed we haven't been operating in the red. If you look on the Executive minutes, a copy of who got checks is listed and attached. Every large expenditure goes through a district motion, and for the record, Chairperson and Secretary do not vote when it comes to family due to conflict of interest. It was a statement in the crowd that people make up rumors to deflect from their own deficiency. Chairperson stated there are some action items she would like to entertain. One is that we need a laptop and QuickBooks as when Lynn stole the laptop it is kept as evidence in the tribal police station. Therefore, we need to purchase a laptop and QuickBooks. Also, we need an interim Treasurer. Chairperson stated we need to approve July minutes of July 6, 13 & 30th, 2023.

Motion #4: Motion by Katie Hill, to approve the May 25th, July 6th, July 13, July 30th and Executive Meeting minutes of August 14, 2023 and August 22, 2023, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Danielle DeCoteau, MVC

Chairperson said that Billy Kohl gave her paperwork for Francis Kohl living in the old district center. It was reported he is in jail, Chairperson will contact his Dad, Joe Kohl, Sr. Chairperson stated he had been taking very good care of the district center, lawn and outside the center. Regarding lawn care and snow removal, we will be advertising for those. Whetstone will be submitting a proposal before our next District meeting on September 28th, 2023; the Auditor Eide Bailly will present the audit findings at our next district meeting. Chairperson said we are at a standstill. We need a Treasurer. We should either remove her so we can get on with business or she is suspended until next year. The theft of the laptop, she is still going to court for this theft. Chairperson stated the laptop is being held by the tribal police as evidence until then and that isn't until next year. In the district constitution, under Article V – Vacancies, Removal and Recall: Section 1(a): "District office positions shall be decided at its next meeting". Provided she was given full opportunity to reply, which she was at the July 13, 2023 removal hearing, which it is a proven fact she was. Lynn Halbert raised her hand; she stated that the 1,000 missing checks were due to a double order. Chairperson stated 167 unused check blanks were delivered by her Mother on June 2, 2023 along with a pile of unspent completed checks, as well as many applications, also she herself delivered a printer to Billy Kohl's home who returned it to the district center. She had her opportunity to reply which she refused. Danielle DeCoteau said that she recalls that there was a dispute between Viva and Lynn, they did not have the information. She's asking why we can't comply and work together. Danielle is stating this was all said at her last meeting. And yet it continues.

Motion #5: Katy Hill made a motion to remove Lynn Halbert for gross neglect and improper conduct, 2nd by Danielle DeCoteau. 9 for 11 opposed. Motion defeated.

Danielle DeCoteau is asking why she ran out with it. Lynn said she felt she was being attacked. Danielle asked her how and why, no one raised their voice or threatened her, she was the one getting loud. She stated she was told to move from the table. Katy Hill stated she doesn't recall anyone being threatening or making her move, she asked who did this, Lynn didn't answer so Katie asked why she violated the directive. She didn't leave it at the police station, she left it at I.T. Katy stated that Lynn doesn't cooperate with anyone in the first place. The Chairperson had to call tribal police

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when she grabbed the laptop and took off out the door with it. She was asked to stop but she refused and took off with it.

LeeAnn Tallbear is asking if we can appoint an acting treasurer. And then we will have to advertise. LeeAnn is asking of the policy. LeeAnn is trying to figure out what would work for the Executives. LeeAnn says we need to get past this. Chairperson says she wants to seek legal counsel. It won't change putting her back in. Diane is asking if we can get a legal opinion. Katy Hill asks if she can be a petition carrier. She wants to document all of her violations, and wants the next step removal by petition along with the proof. Myrna had the proof on the table at the removal hearing. Every district member had opportunity for a month to review. Dianne said she missed it, Chairperson said its in the binder. LeeAnn Tallbear is asking if we can view the documents and see the proof in a binder on the table. Chairperson again stated we were not in NSF, in the red. Dianne is asking, March 7th, 2023 till July 2023 is this the issue? Question is the Constitution. Danielle is asking for login information. But Lynn is not answering. LeeAnn Tallbear said that Viva Jo was using Quickbooks. LeeAnn is tired of this, let's buy our own Laptop , buy our own Big Coulee Quickbooks LeeAnn said we need to move forward. Big Coulee needs to move ahead.

Motion#6: Motion by LeeAnn Tallbear that we buy a laptop and Quickbooks and set up a website , 2nd by Liz Hill , ? Katie Hill , MVC.

Motion #7; John German made the Motion to appoint Danielle DeCoteau , 2nd by Liz Hill , ? by Ruth Hill , All in favor 12 for 8 against. MVC.

Lynn Halbert stated she protests. She asked for a recount she wants a new count, the Chairperson appeased her and asked for a recount, Motion still MVC.

Chairperson asked Council person to swear in Danielle DeCoteau. Susie Amos swore in Danielle DeCoteau and read her the Oath of Office.

Diane DeRosiers discussed about Veblen giving each district member traveling to Carlisle \$500.00 each, she said her daughter is going and she doesn't have a job, she could use this but she won't take it for herself since she has a job and her daughter does not.

Motion #8: Sheila Ironheart made motion that \$500.00 to each Big Coulee District person going to Carlisle: William "Bill" Owen, Ella Robertson, Shay DesRosiers; 2nd by Rosanne Bartunek, ? by John German, MVC.

Motion #9: Made by Dianne DesRosiers to put Danielle DeCoteau on signature card at Dakotah Bank, 2nd by John German, ? by Ruth Hill, MVC.

Motion #10: Made by John German to approve Chairperson report, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Liz Hill, MVC.

Geri Opsal, District Secretary gave report, read the names of the Youth Membership request.

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Youth Requests for Membership:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Storm Marks Keoke | 347-00025625 |
| 2. TaWapaha Murrietta | 347-00025740 |
| 3. Waylon Phelps, Jr. | 347-00024920 |
| 4. Hawkley Phelps | 347-ineligible |
| 5. Liam Eastman | 347-00023926 |
| 6. Tamakoche Hill Arnold | 347-00025667 |
| 7. Kyrie Flute | 347-00025617 |
| 8. Lainey Kohl | 347-Pending enrollment number per Billy his(gdau) |

Motion #11: to approve Youth Membership Requests by Dianne Desrosiers, 2nd by Liz Hill, ? by Katie Hill, MVC.

Motion #12: to approve District Secretary report by Katie Hill, 2nd by Ruth Hill, ? by LeeAnn Tallbear, MVC.

Liz Hill, District Coordinator gave district coordinator report. She stated how she is staying on top of all applications that come in, and she reminded district membership that she is always here willing to help, so please call if you need assistance.

Motion #13: to approve District Coordinator Report by Katie Hill, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Billy Kohl, MVC.

Mike Greeley gave an elderly report regarding the food coupons and also elderly district day monies of \$400 per elderly and meal for Christmas to be held at Dakota Connection in October. He also stated there will be a survey in our next coupon. LeeAnn Tallbear talked about SWHA and that the Council needs to sit down and address our housing needs. Help get them more workers. LeeAnn asked Mike Greeley to go ask for help for the elderly that are suffering through the winter without heat and electricity. She wants everyone to work together and make things better.

Motion #14: by Lynn Halbert to approve elderly report, 2nd by Sheila Ironheart, ? by Joseph Herman, MVC.

Youth Board Report: Question by Gerald German, regarding youth committee and he's asking why some are helped with \$500.00 and some \$100.00, asking about consistency. Phoenix says he thinks it's in policies and procedures but he said he'll ask at the next youth committee meeting.

Motion #15: made by Gerald German that Youth Committee bring back a itemized list of current expenditures and approved policy and procedures of the Youth Board, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Dianne DesRosiers, MVC.

LeeAnn Tallbear is asking about the school clothes money; LeeAnn is asking if all the requests have been paid, is there a schedule for it? Phoenix said he and Doris are scheduling times to get checks written. LeeAnn asked what are the qualifications? Are school registrations required? Phoenix says proof your kids are a student, school confirmation, a legitimate registration, your kid is age 4 (preschool) on up to Senior, age 18. Danielle asked about one of the youth board members –

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Brandilyn Franzen Goodbird who helped both her kids who are both under the age of the required age of 4 and not enrolled in a school. Phoenix stated he did not know that she (B.GB- board member) did this, he said he signed a blank check, he didn't know that she would write herself the \$400.00 check (200 per child), Phoenix said he had no idea. LeeAnn Tallbear said it's a disallowable expense, LeeAnn said we need to follow criteria. And if it's the Tribes money, therefore we follow tribe policies, Dianne DesRosier's agreed. Also there should never be a cut off (of submitting an application) date due to the youth names being used by the Tribe to get the amount of \$200.00 each. This was discussed further and Diane stated that she felt it was wrong that a youth board member did this. Gerald German stated if she paid her kids who don't qualify for this, they need to pay all the others who are this age, LeeAnn stated this isn't the tribal policy and we cannot do that, it was a disallowed cost.

Motion #16: Motion made by Katie Hill that this person, (BGB), who is on the youth committee, that her stipend is withheld to cover this \$400 that she took illegally (200 per child), 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by John German, MVC.

Motion #17: by Sheila Ironheart, 2nd by Dianne DeRosiers, ? by to approve / acknowledge youth report, MVC.

Board, Committee or Commission	District Member	Present	Absent	Minutes
SWCC BOT	Mary Jo Keeble	X		220 students
SWO Human Service Board	Mary Jo Keeble	X		
SWO Gaming Board	Jerry Eastman	Excused		X
TZTS	Jerry Eastman	Excused		X
SWO Pow Wow Committee	Ella Robertson	X		X
SWO Natural Resources	Ella Robertson	X		X
SWO Tax Commission	Ella Robertson	X		X
SWHA	Robert Kohl	X		
SWO Constitution Revision	Viva Jo Dubois	ABSENT		
SWO Ordinance Workgroup	Michelle Brown	X		
SWO OEP	Brenda Jackson	ABSENT		
SWO THPO	Rosanne Bartunek	X		
SWO Personnel Committee	Dianne Desrosiers	X		
SWO Police Commission	Myrna Thompson	X		
Youth Board:	Doris, Lita, Brandy Phoenix XXXX	X Phoenix		

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SWO Reservation Planning Commission	Geri Opsal	X	X	
SWO TERO	Billy Kohl	X		
Sgt At Arms:	Billy Owen	X		

Chairperson stated that Ella Robertson presented a revision and submission of what she did so far, her invoice was presented by Chairperson Thompson in the amount of \$1,172.50.

Motion #18: by Leann Tallbear to pay Ella Robertson for the work put into what she \$1,172.50 for 16.75 hours, by 2nd by Liz Hill, ? by Sheila Ironheart, MVC.

Ella Robertson took the floor, she stated that since the laptop is in custody she wasn't able to obtain any information off of it so Chairperson Thompson shared that maybe should could get with Tribal Enrollment (Jason) which Ella stated she did work with Tribal Enrollment , Youth committee provided youth roster information to Ella. LeeAnn stated that we keep doing the same thing over and over why don't we work together; why do the previous people hold the information hostage and now work for the greater good of the district, its so frustrating and we will never move forward as a district.

Gerald German asked Susie Amos why she doesn't turn over the jump drive of the quick book information to the district since she was paid \$25,000 for it from the district, otherwise the district can take her to court. She said she will upload it to a jump drive, she has it on an old computer she uses, he reminded her she was paid \$25,000 for this and it belongs to the District.

Motion #19: made by Gerald German that Susie Amos turn over the jump drive to the District immediately; 2nd by Sheila Ironheart , ? Katie Hill, MVC.

Lynn Halbert stated that she has the sign in information to the Quickbooks – she was asked why she had it all this time? Lynn did not answer the question but stated she will give information to Danielle DeCoteau, Interim Treasurer, the sign in to QuickBooks tonight.

New Business:

Gerald German stated that he wants to talk about the CRP acres. He said that he has been accused of getting all the CRP acres. HE WANTS IT MADE KNOWN HE HAS NOT GOTTEN ONE CRP ACRE- another example of rumors. He was told that this person is spreading the rumor that he got all the CRP acres of which he did not receive one acre.

Motion #20: made by Gerald German that our District (Natural Resources) board member, Ella Robertson take back to board, and request a list of what each individual got and what protocol and requirement is in place and do they actually have the requirements as ownership. He requests this information/list be brought back to the district next month. (Gerald wants to go on the record that he did not get 1 (one) acre. It was brought up at the Tribe (again by a specific person), and he was notified about more lies that were spread about this.); 2nd by Sheila Ironheart, ? by Billy Owen, MVC.

Ella brought the CRP emergency hay agreement for viewing.

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Danielle stated that she still doesn't have her furnace due to Marshall Loney's electrical business not fulfilling the work; she had to take him to court and it was paid under the emergency furnace so that was a complete loss.

Motion #21: by Robert Kohl that the District to go on record to go back to the water treatment plants to drilling their own wells, 2nd Ella Robertson, ? Gerald German, MVC.

Home Repairs Requests at 5,000 each:

Water/sewer / electric:	Renetta Goeson	\$1536.	Pending Deed to Home.
	Juanita Benson	\$3600.	Pending Deed to Home.
	Fred Kohl	\$5000.	Pending Deed to Home.
	Sheila Ironheart	\$1105.24	Pending Deed to Home.
	Billy Kohl	\$5000.	*Motion to approve for Billy Kohl only.

Others incomplete: Steve Jackson Sr., Gerald Thompson, Jr., and, Lola Spider

Motion #22: by Dianne Desrosiers to approve only Billy Kohl's home repair application for \$5,000.00 since it was the only complete application and approval of the others once the others provide their Deed to the home, 2nd by Ella Robertson, ? by John German, MVC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,


Geri Opsal, District Secretary



**BIG COULEE DISTRICT
WELCOME
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
THURSDAY-AUGUST 31 , 2023 - 7PM
MEMBER SIGN IN ROSTER**

#28

1	Blmi Opsal
2	Matthew Thompson
3	Debbie Amos
4	Susie Jones
5	Billy Kohl
6	Lynn Halbert
7	Gerald Thompson Jr.
8	Robert Kohl
9	Phoenix Ironheart
10	John Tomber
11	Kate Hill
12	Danielle DeLoe
13	Mike Drexler
14	Bill Owen
15	My Berner
16	Robert Kohl
17	Kate Hill
18	Mary Keeble
19	Robert Owen
20	Randy Bartland

Big Coulee District
Regular District Meeting ~ Member Sign In Roster
THURSDAY - AUGUST 31, 2023 - 7PM

21	Megan Clark
22	Dianna Desrosiers
23	of Hill
24	Solomon Harvey Quinn Guest: wife
25	Sheila M. Ironheart
26	Michelle Brown
27	Erin S. Gerner Jr
28	Elia Robertson
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