



WYAKAPTAPI BIG COULEE DISTRICT

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

P.O. Box 825

Agency Village, South Dakota 57262

Phone: (605)938-4475 Fax: (605)938-5475

Regular District Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 6th, 2023 – 6:00PM

(JUNE MEETING THAT WAS RESCHEDULED)

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 (39):

Quorum established by District Chairperson Myrna Thompson, meeting called to order at 6:08 PM.

Opening prayer given by Billy Kohl, Vice Chairman

Motion#1: Made by Diane Desrosiers to adopt agenda, 2nd by Megan Cook, ? MVC.

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

Council minutes for June 1, 2023, June 13, 2023 & June 14, 2023. June 20, 2023 (expenditure approval funding only prior to Pow Wow). She shared the elderly coupon over-expenditures monthly concern and stated the Tribal Elderly Mike Greeley will give the report.

Chairperson asked about Motion #52 regarding board structure at ESDS, she asked why Councilperson Susie voted for it but the District went on record to change it and it was taken to DCA and she didn't support the District Motion. Councilperson said the recommendation was made by the Department of Education by Dr. Sherry Johnson. Council person said she voted according to the information given to her. Lorraine German said the District wanted equal representation. Katy Hill said she should have advocated for the District Motion. Lorraine German asked they even came to Council, DCA was trying to change it to give equal representation to all the Districts. Chairperson said the point was taken that Susie did not vote according to the District wishes. LeeAnn Tallbear asked about Motion #36, she would like to register a protest to that Motion regarding qualified Tribal members being given the opportunity to apply, Leeann is asking that the Councilperson have representation for our Tribal members. Billy Kohl said it didn't go through TERO. The person who got the contract is from Turtle Mountain, LeeAnn just wants for the record that its documented to follow tribal preference.

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Motion#2 by Dianne Desrosiers to approve Councilperson Susie Rivera Report, 2nd by Luann Phelps, ? by Leeann Tallbear, MVC.

Motion #3: Carrie Godfrey made motion that Motion #36 from June 13th, 2023 that Tribal Council rescind Motion and RFP it out; 2nd by Katie Hill, ? by Lorraine German, MVC.

Motion #4: by Lorraine German, that Motion #52 to be reconsidered, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Lita German, 1 opposed MVC.

Chairperson Report by Myrna Thompson. She opened saying we are continuing to make progress despite the challenges & obstacles we still face. She thanked the district members that cooked for the Yukini Healing Horseback riders on June 30th for breakfast: Liz Hill, Nadine Fredericks, Katie Hill & Avina Hayes, Carol Schoenrock & Billy Kohl. Reported that Liz Hill continues to do the ARPA and continues daily operations & thanked her for being dependable. \$50,000 set aside has been depleted waiting for the report from Treasurer which was asked of & has not received, stated that she has not been provided the contract files with motions attached, nor the Covid-19 files and back up documents, on May 9th Executive Meeting – the missing check blanks. Chairperson reported that she filed the police report, she stated the Bank ordered the same #'s, on June 2nd, 2023 165 unused check blanks, appeared, being delivered by Lynn's Mom. (Esther McCoy) that we didn't even know were missing. Robert Kohl did bring the truck but we do need a battery. Regarding the elderly checkbook, the elderly made their own decision to keep checkbook. No payment has been made to Ella Robertson – Lynn never sent Ella the information to work with, Lynn stated she never paid Elderly or Youth yet. Myrna stated that the Youth Committee was given \$23,000 to be used for summer youth activities, the Treasurer apparently picked up the check last week and never reported this to the District Executives. She also stated that she was never made aware that the Elderly and Youth never received their distribution, it's the Treasurer's responsibility.

Chairperson stated it's been frustrating & discouraging due to the lack of communication from the Treasurer. She stated if the Treasurer stayed at the last meeting, she would have known the district asked the District Chairperson to take action and address the situation.

She read the Statement of Charges for Suspension Pending Removal against Lynn Halbert, Big Coulee District Treasurer, according to the District Constitution & By-Laws with a 5-day notice until Hearing scheduled for July 13th to ensure Due Process.

Exhibits I through VII were attached to the letter to support these actions.

Lynn interrupted and said Chairperson needs a petition to remove her; Chairperson said she doesn't need a petition, she's following the By-Laws, she read the By-Laws.

The district membership has continued to advise the Chairperson that she will be culpable if she doesn't handle this.

We need a motion to suspend pending removal of the Big Coulee District Treasurer for Gross Neglect of Duty and Improper Conduct Pending a hearing on July 13th at 6:00pm.

Motion #5: made by Katie Hill to suspend Lynn Halbert, District Treasurer, immediately for Gross Neglect of Duty and Improper Conduct pending the removal hearing. Removal Hearing will be held July 13th, 2023 at 6:00PM; 2nd by Nadine Fredericks, ? by LeeAnn Tallbear.

Lynn Halbert, Treasurer was advised that she is suspended and she was presented her charges & told she needs to leave the laptop which is district property & she agreed. Lynn sat there and said

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she was shutting down the laptop first. Chairperson thanked the membership and stated that it is very difficult working with someone whom you cannot trust to tell the truth or who refuses to work with the Executives.

Geri Opsal, District Secretary gave the District Secretary report, she has the following requests for membership.

YOUTH:

Christopher Quinn	347-00023178
Brie Bartunek	347-00025617
Leethal Blacksmith	347-00000000
Mato Ska Poorbear	347-00025516
Demond Poorbear	347-00025515
Wakinyan Maza Poorbear	347-00025517
Olowan Wastewin Poorbear	347-00025514
Jaceleonah LaFromboise Robertson	347-00000000
Luka Iron Shield	347-00025621
Liam Iron Shield	347-00015620
Alayla Jeffers	347-00025225
Lily Aadland	347-00000000

ADULT:

Eliana Sabino	347-00021960
Vicktor Robinson	347-00020119
Jacob Heminger	347-00020704
Tiffany Mylet	347-00020429
Dylan Graves Spider	347-00000000
Alyssa Feather	347-00023286

Motion #6 for approval of Youth membership By Liz Hill , 2nd by Dianne Desrosiers, ? by Lorraine German, MVC.

Motion #7 for adult membership made by Liz Hill, 2nd by Nadine Fredericks, ? by Dianne Desrosiers, MVC.

Motion #8 to accept District Secretary, Liz Hill, Katie Hill ? by John German, MVC.

District Coordinator Report by Liz Hill. July 2023, very busy. She also talked about a family game night tomorrow night. Also talked about the surveillance cameras. District Member interjected and stated that Lynn Halbert is in the District Coordinator's office, worried about what she is doing. Vice Chair Billy Kohl took over the meeting.

Motion #9 by Lorraine German to except District Coordinator report , 2nd by Louann Phelps, ? by LeeAnn Tallbear , MVC

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Mike Greeley giving Tribal Elderly report. Stated 2 action items. During this report Lynn Halbert, Treasurer came up to table and took District Laptop she was told she needs to leave it as agreed but she wouldn't answer and practically ran out with it. A call was immediately made by Chairperson to the Tribal Law Enforcement to report this theft of District property.

Motion # 10 by LeeAnn due to the Treasurer's theft of laptop act, that she is removed immediately. 2nd by John German ? by Shirley Isaac, MVC.

Motion was asked to be brought to the district at the request of the Tribal Elderly board, 55 and forward will be grandfathered in, 62-69 150 70+ 200 monthly. LeeAnn Tallbear said we have to reduce the cost and be part of helping the youth getting a youth center. Lorraine German said that we need to think about the working poor, the young adults. Everything is Elderly & Youth . Maybe they should budget for school clothes. Motion was not made.

Motion #11 by Lorraine German to leave elderly coupon as is, 2nd Nadine Fredericks ? by John German to leave as is, MVC.

Motion #12 by Carrie Godfrey to press theft charges on Lynn Halbert for theft of the laptop as it was agreed on by her to leave as reported to and the laptop is district property, 2nd by Katie Hill ? by Nadine Fredericks , MVC.

Motion #13 to approve Tribal Elderly report by Lorraine German, 2nd by LeeAnn Tallbear, ? by Nadine Fredericks, MVC.

District Elderly by Mary Higheagle. Elderly meeting on June 23, 2023. Last district meeting recommendations to amend elderly policies. Change in policies to be made at the district. Taking applications for elderly assistance \$200.00 per elderly. Says at last meeting did 56 applications. Also stated a special meeting on next Tuesday. LeeAnn asked how often, once year and \$200.00 per year. Changes are residency, quorum and stipend. Copies of proposed bylaws passed out and decided this will be handled at next meeting.

Motion #14: by LeeAnn Tallbear to table any new financial decisions until there is a review of district finances; 2nd by John German; ? by Phoenix Ironheart , MVC.

District Secretary will advertise.

There is concern how Lynn Halbert walked off with laptop with all our financials on it, and, with the proposed stipend requests in new elderly policies, we need to wait also.

Motion #15 : by LeeAnn Tallbear, 2nd by John German, ? by Carrie Godfrey, MVC. Meeting will be held on **July 30th , 2023 at 1PM., MVC. (Special Budget Meeting)**

Motion #16: Motion by Lorraine German to approve Elderly report with the exception of policies and procedures draft, 2nd by Louann Phelps, ? by Avina Hayes, MVC.

Motion #17: District Youth Report - Lita German/Phoenix Ironheart reported that 20 families attended youth movie night, thinking of teenage movie night since there's credit on the account. Also

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plan for a lake day; destination will be determined. Ideas for youth discussed. Where is the paddle boat and canoe; they are missing. Submitted their financial report. March, April & May.

Motion #18: by John German for approval of youth report, 2nd by Megan Cook, ? Katie Hill, MVC

Old Business: LeeAnn asked about the blue stump in, library, asking what they will do with the 3 old buildings. Mike Labatte provided inspection. Asking if anything is new on these buildings. Susie Amos, Councilperson stated they are trying to preserve the paintings in the old library. Not sure about the other 2 buildings. Properties are dangerous.

Motion # 19: by LeeAnn Tallbear that our Councilperson take this back to Council and request a plan of action be completed for these dilapidated buildings within 30 days; 2nd by John German, ? by Liz Hill. MVC.

LeeAnn asked who was hired as the Executive Director. Susie said her name is Tina something, she has no idea what her last name is.

LeeAnn asked Councilperson about the Tribal Energy Equity Summit, the clean energy meeting. She stated that her son is licensed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She finds it ironic that we (tribe) continue to reinvent the wheel. TallBear Solar is licensed by FERC and is in good standing. She wants it on the record we have a tribal member that is licensed.

NEW BUSINESS:

James German submitted an application for assistance and brought 2 quotes to get home unit repair under emergency sewer/water/electricity.

Motion #20 by John German to approve emergency SWE for James German and go with lower bid of \$3444.56, Renville 4 SEASON SERVICE; 2nd by Megan Cook; ? by LeeAnn Tallbear, MVC.

Ella wanted to give an update with Quickbooks. Ella met with Myrna and Liz. She did get roster from tribal enrollment, she has the baseline for current membership, she got youth roster from Brandilyn. She emailed Ross Kahrahrhah who did ARPA data online. She's asking if the executives can give her access to that on behalf of the District. She stated sadly the fact that Lynn hasn't assisted in helping giving her access to the information. Needs motion to go through Tribal Chairman to get Ross Karrassah to respond.

Motion #21: made by LeeAnn TallBear to give Ella Robertson an extension to September 15th, 2023 which would give her time to get help from executives, 2nd by John German, ? by Katy Hill. MVC.

Katy Hill asked that the charges be filed immediately that she get copy of police report. Get a 2nd back up Sgt at Arms. Reported that Law Enforcement was already called on theft immediately.

Motion #22: by Carrie Godfrey to advertise Sgt at arms, 2nd by Liz Hill, ? by Dianne Desrosiers., MVC.

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Motion #23: by LeeAnn Tallbear for the Councilperson to take back to the Council that to implemented the solar energy developed by Richard Tall Bear-Westerman with modifications as it is dated, Carrie Godfrey, ? by John German.

Motion #24: made by Carrie Godfrey that each youth get \$500 for school clothes; with \$250 from district and \$250 from youth., 2nd by Megan Cook, ? by John German, MVC.

Board, Committee or Commission	District Member	Present	Absent	Minutes
SWCC BOT	Mary Jo Keeble	X		
SWO Human Service Board	Mary Jo Keeble	X		
SWO Gaming Board	Jerry Eastman	Excused		
TZTS	Jerry Eastman	Excused		
SWO Pow Wow Committee	Ella Robertson	X		
SWO Natural Resources	Ella Robertson	X		
SWO Tax Commission	Ella Robertson	X		
SWHA	Robert Kohl	X		
SWO Constitution Revision	Viva Jo Dubois	X		
SWO Ordinance Workgroup	Michelle Brown	ABSENT		
SWO OEP	VACANT			
SWO THPO	Rosanne Bartunek	X		
SWO Personnel Committee	Dianne Desrosiers	X		
SWO Police Commission	Myrna Thompson	X		
Youth Board:	Lita G. & Phoenix I.	XX		
SWO Reservation Planning Commission	Geri Opsal	X		
SWO TERO	Billy Kohl	X		

Motion #25: made by Cody Toutges to reaffirm the motion to not allow Non-Indian deer rifle season., 2nd by Megan, ? by Viva Jo, MVC.

Per Cody Toutges, Brandon Adams said he gave Ella the financials. Dianne wants to know the amount of revenue. Cody answered said the sportsman group determined that what revenue would be lost, we increase turkey, waterfowl tags & pheasant tags and it more than makes up for it. No respect for Indian hunters on Indian land, or land owners, they also violate the 660 feet domicile.

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Motion #26: by Cody that Councilperson directed to take order to council to stop non-Indian deer license, 2nd by Viva Dubois, ? by Megan Cook. MVC.

Motion #27: Leeann Tallbear asked Robert Kohl find out if she can build on the Viking property , Robert will talk to Delray German to see if he can be rezoned. Robert Kohl is going to meet with the Chairman next week to help him speed up the process.

Motion #28: made by LeeAnn Tallbear to reaffirm motion that the Planning Director attend the Reservation Planning Commission (RPC) meetings and that Tribal Council defer to the RPC and base their recommendations accordingly; 2nd by Ella Robertson; ? by John German. MVC

Motion #29: by Ella Robertson, to approve all boards and committee reports , 2nd by Viva Jo Dubois, ? by Louann Phelps, MVC.

Motion #30: to adjourn Viva Jo Dubois, 2nd Carrie Godfrey, ? MVC. (9:07PM.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Geri Opsal, District Secretary

#39

**REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
THURSDAY , JULY 6, 2023 - 6PM
MEMBER SIGN IN ROSTER**

1	Don Opsole Secretary
2	Thomas Thompson, Chairperson
3	Shirley Joce
4	Mary H. Eagle
5	Billy Kahl
6	Lenora Guzman
7	Dale Hill
8	Robert John Gill
9	John [Signature]
10	Quinn Maph
11	Susan Amos
12	Mary [Signature] Phoenix Ironheart
13	Lorraine Pelman
14	M. Keeble
15	Walter [Signature]
16	Daniel Amos
17	Lita Geyman
18	Megan Cull
19	Cody Tougas
20	Taylor Corman

Big Coulee District
Regular District Meeting ~ Member Sign In Roster
Thursday, July 6, 2023 @ 6PM

21	[Signature]
22	Lou Anne Phelps
23	Dianne Desjardis
24	Dawn Hubert
25	Debra Tallman
26	Wm
27	Mike Greeley
28	of Hill
29	Jerry Eastman
30	Carlo Godfrey
31	Arna Hayes
32	Shanna Keoke
33	Nadine Frederick
34	Ruth Hill
35	Vera Heminger
36	Marcia Buringer
37	[Signature]
38	Francis Kane
39	Rosanne Bartunk
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