

From "McLeod Report," pg 23
invasive species have nearly collapsed Lake Huron, and the pictures I saw of fish with two mouths, and the green slime that covers the lake bottom and fowls out our fishermen's nets. I spoke of the dead birds lining the shores of Lake Michigan after eating round gobies, an invasive fish that were infected with botulism. I asked Mr. Washburn to "sound the alarm," because if nothing is done, we are all in danger.

At MAST, I learned how important it is for us to communicate our needs at local and national levels. I plan to help "tell our stories" to legislators in any way that I can, up to and including walking the Hill in Washington, D.C. I am reminded of my ancestors who traveled to D.C. to speak for our people, and I am honored to follow in their footsteps.

In the area of education, I continue to serve as the chairperson of the Bahweting Fiduciary Committee. At our next meeting, we will have a presentation from the eighth grade class regarding their class trip and will discuss expansion plans for the school. We will also receive an update on how the school is addressing the academic needs of its students. I miss being a teacher, and having a daily impact on our children's education, and it is such a good feeling to still be involved with schools and students! I do not regret my decision to serve on our

tribes' board of directors, I just miss the kids!

In December, I will be hosting a FREE event for children. I plan to show the movie, "Polar Express," and kids are invited to attend wearing their pajamas! There will be a conductor punching tickets, hot chocolate and cookies served by dancers (like in the movie), train whistling and at the end, none other than Santa himself, handing out silver bells, so that all children will believe!

After spending time reflecting on the "matters of my heart" and narrowing my focus, I see that this past month has been productive and good. I attended the Drug Court Committee, Inland fishing, board workshops, as well as regular and special board of directors' meetings. I spent many days in "financial and budget" sessions, and I know that we are making headway. It has been a difficult time for our board of directors as we struggled with budgets, the needs of our tribe and a myriad of issues that have led to tough decisions and friction among our people. But, I continue to feel blessed by our members and am grateful for all the opportunities that I have been given to serve.

By the time my next unit report is due, we will know who the next president of the United States is. I will have more information available regarding the Affordable Health Care Act and how it affects Native people, and hopefully there

will be good news that sequestration is no longer a threat to federal programs. I have high hopes for the future!

Please continue to contact me with your thoughts and concerns.

I will be the reason that I am here. You can reach me through my personal phone, email, Facebook or Twitter. I appreciate those of you who have contacted me and I encourage others to reach out to

me as well. Miigwech to all.
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