BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DOUBLETREE HILTON HOTEL
LANSING, MICHIGAN
July 21, 2026

This meeting was opened at 4:02 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Rob McRorie, Kimberly Lee, Aaron Payment, Ashley Gravelle, Kimberle Gravelle, Cole Goudreau, Michael McKerchie, Sue St. Onge, Lana Causley-Smith, Tyler LaPlaunt, Larry Barbeau, Bridgett Sorenson, Austin Lowes
Absent: None

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve the agenda as read.
Without objection, add the following to the agenda:

- Reaffirming Domestic and International Advocacy in Support of Decommissioning Enbridge Line 5

No objection, resolution added.
Motion carries unanimously

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director K. Gravelle, to approve 7/6/26 Special Meeting Minutes.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve 7/7/26 Minutes.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-209, ACFS – Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) FY 2026 Budget Modification.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to CCDF for an increase in Federal HHS Revenue of $31,236.29. This budget modification will change the personnel sheet. No effect on Tribal Support.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-210, Natural Resources Division – Nunn's Creek Fisheries FY 2026 Budget Modification.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Nunn's Creek Fisheries (CC#2870) for an increase in Other Revenue of $5,000.00. This budget modification will change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses. Nunn's Creek utilizes BIA and Other Revenue, with no effect on Tribal Support.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-211, Natural Resources Division – NRCS Aquaculture Pond Improvement Project Establishment of FY 2026 Budget.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2026 budget for NRCS – Aquaculture Pond Improvement Project with Federal USDA Revenue of $61,758.00. No effect on Tribal Support.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-212, Language and Culture Division – Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) Establishment of FY 2026 Budget.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2026 budget for GLITEC with Other Revenue of $60,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-213, Telecommunications Capital Expenditures FY 2026 Budget Modification.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Telecommunications Capital Expenditures for an increase of $75,000. This increase will come from Telecom's Fund Balance. Telecommunications utilizes Other Revenue and Fund Balance, no effect on Tribal Support.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-214, Audit Committee: Appointment of Committee Members Appointment of Chairperson.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby appoints the following sitting members of the Board of Directors to serve as members of the Audit Committee, with each such appointment being effective through the remainder of each such designated Director's current term of office: Director Tyler LaPlaunt, Director Lana Causley Smith, and Chairman Austin Lowes.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors designated Michael McKerchie to serve as the Chairperson of the Audit Committee through the end of his current term as Treasurer of the Tribal Board of Directors.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-215, Appointing Tax Commission Members.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby appoints the following three people for a three-year term to the Tax Commission, in accordance with Section 43.1001 of the Tribal Tax Code: Director Michael McKerchie, Director Tyler LaPlaunt, and Chairman Austin Lowes.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby appoints for a three-year term Michael McKerchie as the Tax Commissioner, as provided in Section 43.1005 of the Tribal Tax Code.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-216, Health Division – Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Support 2 – 2026 Acceptance.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Health Division's acceptance for the PHEP Grant Agreement Funds in the amount of $15,760.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Health Division CEO, or their designee, to execute any and all documents as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-217, Residential Land Lease Modification Jackie and Theresa Germain.
Without objection, amend resolution to add remove Jackie Germain from lease.
No objection.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes its Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute the Lease Modification to the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Theresa Germain and Brandon LaPonsie, the land being described as:
Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Part of Sec. 29 & S. 1/2 Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W (.22 acres more or less)
Lot 678 Cedar Grove Estates III
Part of Sec. 29 & S. 1/2 Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W (.170 acres more or less)
Lot 677 Cedar Grove Estates III
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Jackie Germain is hereby released from BIA Leases Nos. 469-2000190151 and 469-2000430252.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-218, Residential Land Lease – Cecilia Fox.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the Treasurer to execute a Residential Land lease for the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Cecilia Fox, the land being described as:
Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Sec. 29, T 45 N, R 1 W (.21 acres more or less),
Lots 715 Cedar Grove Estates III
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Residential Land Lease documents for BIA Recording.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Residential Land Lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been

determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-219, Residential Land Lease – Richard V. Willis IV.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the Treasurer to execute a Residential Land lease for the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Richard V. Willis IV., the land being described as:
Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Sec. 29, T 45 N, R 1 W (.313 acres more or less),
Lots 612 and 613 Cedar Grove Estates III
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Residential Land Lease documents for BIA Recording.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Residential Land Lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-220, Authorizing Litigation to Protect the Tribe's Interest.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribe's General Counsel, or his designee, to initiate litigation on the Tribe's behalf to protect its interest in Indian Energy, LLC.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' LaPlaunt, Causley-Smith, Sorenson, and St. Onge opposing; Director Payment abstaining.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-221, Authorizing Cooperative Litigation Agreement.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribe's Chairman or the Tribe's General Counsel to enter into a cooperative litigation agreement with Earth Justice, the Native American Rights Fund and our sister tribes regarding the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director K. Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-222, Approval to Submit Unleashing Tribal Energy Development Grant Funded by DOE Indian Energy and Policies.
Without objection, waive reading.
No objection.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Energy under DE-FOA-0003548, Unleashing Tribal Energy Development, Topic Area 1, for the project titled Sault Tribe Critical Facilities Battery Resilience, Solar Plant, and Energy Cost Stabilization Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Director of Strategic Planning is designated as the Business Contact for the grant and is authorized to act on behalf of the Tribe in connection with the application and award negotiations.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Project Manager for the project will be defined after award.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribe commits to the proposed project and commits to providing the required cost share of up to \$833,334, representing 10% of total proposed project costs of \$8,333,334, regardless of the source of such cost share, recognizing that the Tribe is legally responsible for the full required cost share if an award is made.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost share is expected to be provided as both in-kind project management and cash by Cloverland Electric Cooperative, as documented in participant letters of commitment. The business and economic model shall be further developed and evaluated to determine the long-term financial viability, operational impact, and overall feasibility of the project prior to proceeding with final grant submission. If the completed evaluation determines that the project is not financially or operationally viable, the grant application shall not be submitted.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the project is under Tribal control and will be implemented at facilities owned or controlled by the Tribe or otherwise supported by land/building holder letters of commitment if required.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairperson, or authorized designee, is authorized to execute all documents, forms, certifications, assurances, amendments, and related materials necessary to submit the application, accept the award if selected, and carry out the project.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director K. Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-223, Establish a Joseph K. Lumsden High School.
Moved by Director Payment to amend to state that we would target the existing campus for the location of the high school and also that we would assign our Facilities and Planning staff to come back with a detailed plan with costs and options.
Any objection to amend what Director Payment just stated?
No objection.
Any objection to removing all Whereas's from the resolutions?
No objection.
Any objection to changing the title to just state JKL High School?
No objection.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby appropriates up to \$1.5 Million from the JKL Fiduciary Fund Balance to fund the construction of a JKL Highschool.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a phased construction approach shall accommodate a Phase I to open a 9th grade high school beginning fall of 2027 with Phase II expanding to accommodate thereafter adding space for Grades 10, 11, and 12.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the existing campus will be targeted for the location of the high school and Facilities and Planning Staff are assigned to return to the Board of Directors with a detailed plan of costs and options.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-224, Authorizing Health Division Eligibility Change.
Without objection, waive reading.
No objection.
Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Payment, to amend to have this resolution apply only to the Marquette Health Center.
Motion to amend carries unanimously.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs the Health Division and Health CEO to implement the updated, and attached, Benefit and Eligibility policy for health services.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board has determined, pursuant to Section 813 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), 25 U.S.C. §1680c(c)(2), that services to the general public will not result in the denial or diminution of services to eligible beneficiaries.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any services made available to the general public shall be made on a fee-for-service basis calculated in an amount not less than the actual costs of providing such service.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any significant evidence is obtained that the provision of services to the general public will impact services to eligible beneficiaries, the Health CEO shall immediately present such evidence to the Board for them to make a full determination of the impact.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health CEO and the Health Division shall start the provision of services to the general public with the Marquette Health Center.
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution and policy change shall be effective immediately and that the Health CEO and the Health Division shall immediately make all procedural changes necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McRorie and A. Gravelle opposing.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-225, Authorization to Negotiate/Accept Donation Lone Susan Island.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Tribe authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to negotiate and accept the donation on behalf of the Tribe.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon successful negotiations, the Board of Directors authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designees, to sign any and all documentation to complete the property donation.
Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-226, Reaffirming Domestic and International Advocacy in Support of Decommissioning Enbridge Line 5.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby reaffirms its dedication to the domestic and international advocacy efforts to obtain the final goal of decommissioning Enbridge Line 5 and eliminate this threat to the Great Lakes.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Tribe hereby authorizes the Tribal Administration to dedicate available staff and resources to the domestic and international

advocacy efforts to obtain the final goal of decommissioning Enbridge Line 5 and eliminate this threat to the Great Lakes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Tribe, or his designee, is authorized to execute or amend any and all documents relating to this effort.

Without objection, approve with unanimous consent?

Motion carries via unanimous consent

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to accept the following Committee Re-Appointments and Resignation:

Without objection, handle all at once.

No objection.

1. Boyd Snyder, Unit 5 Marquette Elder Committee, Re-Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring July 2030
2. Cynthia Crowley, Unit 5 Marquette Elder Committee, Re-Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring July 2030
3. Jane Karacson, Unit 5 Marquette Elder Committee, Re-Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring July 2030
4. Ernest Demmon, Election Commission, Resignation, Regular Member, term expiring November 2028

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Date: 8/4/26 Secretary: Ashley Gravelle

Ashley Gravelle

Others Present:

Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Sawyer Dowd, Joseph Street, Kayla Gutierrez, Damien Hopper, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Michelle Moore, Cody Jodoin, Dan Barnett, Dan Doyle (Z), Dani Fegan (Z), Megan Miller (Z), Jami Moran (Z), Helen Wilkins (Z), Larry Jacques (Z), Nick Eitrem (Z), Heather Kerfoot (Z)