

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
July 1, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Tyler LaPlaunt, Shawn Borowicz, Kimberle Gravelle (Z), Isaac McKechnie, Larry Barbeau, Kimberly Lee, Rob McRorie, Aaron Payment (Z-signed in after roll call), Michael McKerchie, Bridgett Sorenson, Kimberly Hampton, Austin Lowes

Absent: Lana Causley-Smith

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McKerchie, to suspend the rules and add the following resolution to the Agenda, Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Appointment.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' Sorenson, Barbeau, Lee, McKerchie, Gravelle, Borowicz, LaPlaunt, Hampton supporting; Director McRorie opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director Barbeau, to suspend the rules and add the following resolution to the Agenda, Amending By-Laws of the Special Needs Enrollment Committee Resolution.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' McKerchie, Gravelle, Borowicz, LaPlaunt, Sorenson, Lee, Hampton, Barbeau supporting; Director McRorie opposing.**

Without objection, excuse Director Causley-Smith and Payment (Director Payment logged in via Zoom after this action).

No objection.

**Moved by Director Lee, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the agenda as read.**  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve the 6/17/25 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-144, Approving Third Amended and Restated Lease JKL School.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the Third Amended and Restated Lease for J.K.L. School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute the lease to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribe does hereby grant a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for declaratory and equitable relief only should an action be commenced under this Lease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by granting this limited waiver of sovereign immunity, the Tribe does explicitly state that no monetary damages may be awarded against the Tribe in any court or dispute resolution process. The Tribe will not be ordered to pay any money whatsoever, be it in damages, recoupment, equity, as a sanction, or in any other manner. This limited waiver will terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all its obligations under this Lease.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this limited waiver is granted solely to the JKL School Board, its successors, and assigns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this limited waiver will apply only to judicial action, limited to lawsuits for equitable or declaratory relief, in the Tribal Court of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and that the Tribe shall not and does not consent to suit in any other court or any other jurisdiction.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Lease shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the internal laws of the State of Michigan. The Board of Directors does hereby authorize the Tribe, as Lessor, to consent to the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court solely for equitable and declaratory relief, and no other, and this Lease shall not be construed so as to permit monetary damages or judgments against the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

**Motion carries with Directors' McKechnie, Hampton, Payment, McRorie, Barbeau, LaPlaunt, Lee approving; Directors' Borowicz, McKerchie, Gravelle, Sorenson opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-145, Partial Waiver of Convictions for Mr. Peter Sharp.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors, pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 76 grants a partial waiver to Mr. Peter Sharp.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-146, Lease Modification to Larry F. Harris and David Edwards Lease No: DD-0016(01).**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorize its Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute a Lease Modification to the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Larry F. Harris, a married man, the land being described as:

Cedar Grove Estates III, Lots 681 and 682

Part of Sec. 29 & S. 1/2 Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W, Kinross Township, Chippewa County, Michigan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Land Lease Modification documents.

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.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-147, Amending Tribally Funded Higher Education Scholarship Criteria.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKerchie, to amend to strike the last resolved, and add in, be it further resolved, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors supports transferring the balances of the Pamela Cable Gershon Scholarship and the Joseph K. Lumsden Scholarship to the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Fund and be it further resolved, with the transfer of the Pamela Cable Gershon Scholarship and the Joseph K. Lumsden Scholarship to the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Fund, those scholarships will adopt the same criteria as all scholarships currently awarded by the Tribe and be it finally resolved, that the terms of this Resolution shall be effective immediately and hereby control, supersede, and rescind any past resolutions or policies that are contrary to or conflict with the actions set forth in this Resolution.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion to amend carries unanimously.**



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby amends the criteria for all scholarships currently awarded by the Tribe, with the following criteria attached to the RIS and authorizes Sault Tribe administration to adjust the percentage of scholarships each year for undergraduate, graduate, and trade students based on application trends. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution has no impact on any scholarships awarded by the Tribe, which are privately funded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors supports transferring the balances of the Pamela Cable Gershon Scholarship and the Joseph K. Lumsden Scholarship to the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the transfer of the Pamela Cable Gershon Scholarship and the Joseph J. Lumsden Scholarship to the Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Fund, those scholarships will adopt the same criteria as all scholarships currently awarded by the Tribe.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the terms of this Resolution shall be effective immediately and hereby control, supersede, and rescind any past resolutions or policies that are contrary to or conflict with the actions set forth in this Resolution.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-148, Native Employment Works Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians designates Anishnaabek Community and Family Services as the tribal lead agency to receive and administer the Native Employment Works program through the period of FY 2025-2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairman, Austin Lowes, or his designee, to sign, negotiate, and execute documents on behalf of the Tribe, to obtain continued Native Employment Works grant funding.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-149, Low Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairman, Austin Lowes, or his designee, to sign, amend, negotiate, and execute any agreements thereof for the FY 2025 continuation of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Grant, authorized under the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, through FY 2028.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-150, Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) to reapply for and administer the CCDF Program for FY 2026-2028.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairman, Austin Lowes, or his designee, to sign, negotiate, and execute documents on behalf of the Tribe, to obtain continued CCDF grant funding.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously; Director Payment was signed out.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-151, Community Service Block Grant (CSBG).**



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) to reapply for and administer the CSBG Program for FY 2026-2028.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Chairman, Austin Lowes, or his designee, to sign, negotiate and execute documents on behalf of the Tribe, to obtain continued CSBG grant funding.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-152, Requesting USACE Technical Assistance Regarding Feasibility of Munuscong Dike Removal.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the submission of a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting technical assistance with a feasibility assessment for the removal, in whole or in part, of the Munuscong Bay Dike to support ecological restoration and hydrological connectivity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, 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 McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-153, State of Michigan Forest Management Plan (2024) Comment Letter.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the submission of the Sault Tribe comments on the proposed State Forest Management Plan (2024).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, 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 McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-154, Revising Tribal Code Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance Proof of Ancestry.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends Chapter 11 Membership Ordinance as follows:

11.106 Proof of Ancestry.

(7) Applicants may be considered eligible for enrollment through a collateral ancestor where the applicant's direct ancestor is not listed on a historic roll, but the Tribal Registrar has determined that the applicant descends from the same common ancestor as an individual listed on a historic roll. Applicants for enrollment through a collateral ancestor must submit sufficient documentation for the Tribal Registrar and the Special Needs/Enrollment Committee to determine that their direct lineal ancestor should have been listed on a historic roll and that the applicant is eligible pursuant to Article III, Section 1 (a), (b) or (d) of the Tribal Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above changes shall be effective immediately.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously; Director Payment was signed off.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-155, Revising Tribal Code Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance Loss of Membership.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends Chapter 11 Membership Ordinance as follows:

11.110 Loss of Membership.

(1) A member who has failed to document their ancestry as required by 11.106 shall not be granted a renewal of membership, and the name of such person shall be removed from the Tribal Roll.

(2) A legally competent adult member of the Tribe may relinquish their membership in the Tribe by furnishing a signed statement to that effect to the Registrar and appearing before the Board of Directors to state the reason for the relinquishment. The Registrar shall maintain a record of the relinquishment and remove the name of the member from the Tribal Roll. A relinquished member may be eligible to apply for re-enrollment in the Tribe after three (3) years from the date of relinquishment. A minor child enrolled under a parent shall not be removed from the Tribal Roll upon relinquishment by the parent, but shall remain enrolled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above changes shall be effective immediately.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' Borowicz, McKechnie, Hampton, Payment, McKerchie, Gravelle, Barbeau, Sorenson, LaPlaunt, Lee approving; Director McRorie opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve the license transfer from Paul Barbeaux to Kaleb Barbeaux; and from Kaleb Barbeaux to Paul Barbeaux.**

**Motion carries with Director Barbeau abstaining.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the license transfer from Joel Peterson to his son Steven Peterson.**

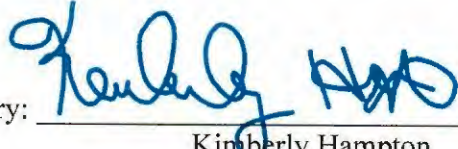
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, meeting adjourned.**

**No objection.**

Adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Date: 7/15/25

Secretary: 

Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ashlee Mielke, Bill Connolly, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Stephanie Sprecker, Chief Robert Marchand, Clarence Hudak, Helen Wilkins (Z), Danielle Fegan, Elaine Clement (Z), Josh Elliot, Megan Miller, Julie Salo