

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINO AND CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
August 19, 2025

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

Present: Kimberle Gravelle, Kimberly Hampton, Lana Causley-Smith, Bridgett Sorenson, Rob McRorie, Shawn Borowicz, Larry Barbeau, Kimberly Lee, Tyler LaPlaunt, Aaron Payment, Michael McKerchie, Isaac McKechnie, Austin Lowes

Absent: None

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to add Authorization of Tribal Participation Forms Entering into Recent Opioid Settlements and Authorization of Tribal Participation in Revised Purdue Bankruptcy Plan under Resolutions and HRSA Tribal Advisory Appointment under New Business.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve the agenda as read. Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the 8/5/25 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion carries with Director Causley-Smith abstaining.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-191, Governmental Elections – FY 2025 Budget Modification.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 budget modification to Elections for an increase in Tribal Support of \$49,371.59.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2025-192, Approving Contract Clear Ballot Group, Inc.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to add, be it finally resolved, at the Election Commission meeting on August 18, 2025, the Commission designated Chairperson of the Election Commission, Michael Larson, to execute all documents with Clear Ballot Group, Inc., to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Motion to amend carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend to add, in the last be it finally resolved, after all documents are reviewed by Legal.

Motion to amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the contract with Clear Ballot Group, Inc. for \$54,754 for year one and a support service fee for year two of \$14,490 out of the Elections Cost Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in subsequent years, the Clear Ballot Group, Inc. support service fee will be identified in the budget for Elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Election Commission to designate someone to execute all documents with Clear Ballot Group, Inc. to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, at the Election Commission meeting on August 18, 2025, the Commission designated Chairperson of the Election Commission, Michael Larson, to execute all documents with Clear Ballot Group, Inc., to carry out the intent of this Resolution; after all documents are reviewed by Legal.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-193, Amending Chapter 10: Election Commission Priority Items.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby amends Tribal Code Chapter 10: Election Ordinance, to incorporate the attached priority changes from the Election Commission.

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

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-194, Approve Application for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby supports and recommends the submission of the One-Time Supplemental Funds for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families to the Office of Head Start (OHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves its Chairman, or his 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 Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2025-195, Appointing Workers Compensation Committee Members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Robert Schulte, Candace Blocher, and Cheryl Nolan are hereby removed from their position on the Committee, as they are no longer in their roles for placement on the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors shall appoint someone from the Board to serve on the Committee for appeals. General Counsel, CFO, and the HR Director shall appoint someone from their respective department to serve on the Committee for appeals, and one person with Medical Insurance background shall serve on the Committee for appeals until such time as the Board determines otherwise.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-196, Residential Land Lease – Zoey Small and Dalton Maahs.

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 Zoey Small, and Dalton Maahs, the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan

Sec. 29, T 45 N, R 1 W (.038 acres)

Lots 689 AND 690, Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Residential Land Lease documents for BIA approval.

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 McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-197, Amending Resolution 2024-45.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby clarifies the method of taxation for vape sales and the allocation of tax proceeds. Vape products shall be taxed on a per-unit basis, similar to cigarettes. A tax of \$1.00 per unit shall be levied on all vape sales occurring on trust land. This \$1.00 per unit shall constitute revenue to the Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that of the revenue generated from the \$1.00 per unit tax, 50% or \$.50 shall be allocated to the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program, and 50% or \$.50 shall be allocated to the Land Claims Fund.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to make any required budget modifications administratively to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries with Director Payment abstaining.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-198, Authorization of Tribal Participation Forms Entering into Recent Opioid Settlements.

Without objection, change it from eleven manufacturers and pharmacies to ten.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors does hereby authorize and approve entering into the Tribal Participation forms to effectuate the settlements with another ten manufacturers and pharmacies pursuant to the terms as described in the Tribal Participation Forms.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairperson, or his 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 Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-199, Authorization of Tribal Participation in Revised Purdue Bankruptcy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors does hereby authorizes the firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP to cast the Tribe's vote in favor of approving the newly revised and proposed Purdue Pharma bankruptcy plan.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairperson, or his 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.

Without objection, bundle some of the committee items together.

No objection.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Kellie Shirley and Latisha Willette's appointments to the Child Welfare Committee with terms expiring in November 2026 and January 2027.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Cheryl Flowers removal from the Unit 1 – Sault Elder Subcommittee; seat term expires November 2027; seat will be declared vacant.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Phillip Martin's reappointment to the Unit 5 – Munising Elder Subcommittee with a term expiring in August 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Mary Morairty's appointment to the Elder Advisory Committee with a term expiring in August 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to nominate Director Aaron Payment to the HRSA Tribal Advisory to fill one of the vacancies currently posted and to authorize the Tribal Chair to submit the nomination and assign a Resolution number; 2025-200.

Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Date: 9/2/25

Secretary:



Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ashlee Mielke, Bill Connolly, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Clarence Hudak, Josh Elliot, Robert Marchand, Helen Wilkins (Z), Dan Doyle (Z), Shondra Gervais, Latisha Willette, Doug Goudreau (Z)