

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
February 3, 2026

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

Present: Larry Barbeau, Michael McKechnie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt (Z), Robert McRorie, Kimberle Gravelle, Isaac McKechnie, Kimberly Lee, Shawn Borowicz, Lana Causley-Smith, Aaron Payment (Z)

Absent: Kimberly Hampton

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to excuse Director Hampton. Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the agenda as read.

1. **Resolution, Governmental – Enrollment Establishment of FY 2026 Budget, was not read in to agenda.**

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the minutes from 1/6/26 and 1/20/26.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-37, Natural Resources Division – Nunn's Creek Rehab Hatchery 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 FY 2026 budget for Nunn's Creek Rehab Hatchery with Federal BIA Revenue of \$123,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-38, Natural Resources Division – GLRI Monitoring & Restoration of St. Mary's River 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 FY 2026 budget for GLRI Monitoring & Restoration of St. Mary's River with Federal BIA Revenue of \$242,995.80. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-39, Natural Resources Division - Black Tern and Mudpuppy Amend Resolution #2025-248 and Approve FY 2026 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby amends Resolution #2025-248 to correct the date pattern from January through December to October through September to follow the grant dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Governmental CFO and Budget Department to perform any

administrative budget modification necessary to carry out the intent of Amending Resolution 2025-248.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget for Black Tern and Mudpuppy with Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service Revenue of \$81,804.27. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-40, FY 2026 Budget Document - Health Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 Budget Document for the Health Division totaling \$70,373,399.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-41, Health Division - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 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 \$219,944.

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.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-42, Approving Data Sharing Agreement - University of Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors approves the Data Sharing Agreement between the Tribe and the University of Michigan School of Social Work on behalf of the Tribe's Health Division.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Health Division CEO, or their designee, to execute any and all documents to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-43, Application to 2026 BIA Circle of Flight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$100,000 in BIA Circle of Flight funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-44, Application to 2026 BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$4,500,000 in BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-45, Contract with UM-SEAS for Academic Support with the Hemiboreal Decision Support Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves awarding a professional services contract to UM-SEAS, for the period January 10, 2026-December 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$585,000.00 to support one Postdoctoral Researcher, one Ph.D. Student, and one Master's Student in furtherance of the Hemiboreal Decision Support Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRD and CCER are authorized to administer the contract, charge allowable costs to approved budgets and/or grants, and ensure compliance with reporting, audit/records, IP, and other applicable requirements.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to enter into and execute the contract and to sign any and all necessary supporting documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the following Re-appointment:

1. **Kimberle Gravelle, Re-appointment to Enrollment Committee, term expiring in February 2030.**

Motion carries with Director Gravelle abstaining.

Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the following Resignation and Removal:

1. **Sherri O'Crotty, Resignation, term expiring May 2029.**
2. **Kellie Shirey, Removal, term expiring November 2026.**

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, adjourn.

No objection.

Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Date: 2/17/26

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Jessica Dumback (Z), Gerard Sagassige, Ryan Mills, Lona Stewart, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Jennifer Clerc, Michelle Moore, Scott Church, Robert Marchand, Samuel Derusha, Officer Harrison Thorne.