

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

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

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

Absent: None

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve 2/17/26 Meeting Minutes.

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, move Land Lease resolutions: Residential Land Lease Cancellation – Rittenhouse and Residential Land Lease – Joshua French to the top of the agenda.

No objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-63, Residential Land Lease Cancellation – Rittenhouse.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cancel Lease No. Lease No:469-2000540252, along with any Modifications or Assignments pursuant to applicable law and regulations.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-64, Residential Land Lease – Joshua French.

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 Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-65, ACFS Division – USDA 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 USDA with Federal USDA Revenue of \$20,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-66, Health Division - ARPA Maintenance & Improvements and COVID Services PRC FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

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 ARPA Maintenance & Improvements for a reallocation of expenses to purchase property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to COVID Services/PRC for a reallocation of expenses to renovate the newly purchased property.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-67, Health Division - Emergency Preparedness and Third-Part Revenue FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

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 Emergency Preparedness for an increase in State of Michigan Revenue of \$196,018.00 and a decrease in the transfer in of funds from Third Party Revenue \$55,879.05.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Third Party Revenue to decrease the transfer out of funds to Emergency Preparedness by \$55,879.05.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2026-68, Health Division – Administration and Third-Part Revenue FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

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 Health Center Administration a decrease in the transfer in of funds from Third Party Revenue \$118,796.48.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Third Party Revenue to decrease the transfer out of funds to Health Center Administration by \$118,796.48.

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

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-69, FY 2026 Budget Document 002 (Schedule B Budgets).

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 002 totaling \$11,949,456, of which \$517,505 comes from Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-70, FY 2026 Budget Document 003 (Schedule C Budgets).

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 003 totaling \$98,196,968, of which \$19,590,711 comes from Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (vote not recorded from Director McRorie).

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-71, FY 2026 Governmental Capital Expenditures.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 Governmental Capital Expenditure budget for a total of \$2,001,284, of which \$1,008,284 will come from Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, skip the following resolutions as they are no longer needed: Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental FY 2026 Schedule B Budgets (no Health Division), and Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental FY 2026 Schedule C Budgets (January to December).

No objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-72, Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2027 April to March.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the below cost centers for fiscal year 2027, at their 2026 spending levels, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2026:

2721 NSIP Grant	2724 Title VI	2651 SYEP Administration
2671 SYEP	2920 Jr. Police Academy	11669 Boreal Forest

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-73, NRD Application to Accelerating Natural Climate Solutions Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Natural Resources Division to submit a funding proposal to AFP for up to \$1,000,000 to enhance Tribal stewardship across the 1836 Ceded Territory.

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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-74, Authorizing Amicus Brief in Treaty Fishing Case.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorize and direct the drafting and filing of an amicus brief on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the matter of the *People of the State of Michigan v. Walter Joseph Caswell*.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and approves the 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 LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-75, Rescind Resolution 2024-54 Waiver for American Wagering, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby rescinds Tribal Resolution 2024-54 Authorization & Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction for Third Amended and Restated Online Gaming and Sportsbetting Agreement & Assignment and Consent Agreement with American Wagering, Inc.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-76, Protecting Tribal Artisans from Artificial Intelligence.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie to Amend to prohibit the use of AI generated American Indian art by employees and team members, prohibit the use of AI art that would mimic or recreate the work of a tribal member artisan either in official Tribal Government communications or in board of directors communications on behalf of the Tribal Government.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby prohibits the use of AI art in official Tribal Government communications and outreach to include but not be limited to official advertisements, flyers, social media posts, videos or other similar media that would mimic or recreate the work of a tribal member artisan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby prohibits the Board of Directors members to use of AI art in any official communications and outreach, on behalf of the Tribal Government, to include but not be limited to official advertisements, flyers, social media posts, videos or other similar media that would mimic or recreate the work of a tribal member artisan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs the Tribal Legal Department to bring forth proposed code changes to codify AI protections for Sault Tribe artisans in line with this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby prohibits the use of AI generated American Indian art by Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians employees and team members.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-77, Seeking Approval for Snowmobile Trail on the Keldon Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Director of Commercial Real Estate and Property Management to work with both the BIA and Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club on behalf of the Tribe to get any necessary right-of-way or easement in place for a snowmobile trail on the Keldon Property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and Tribal Treasurer to execute any and all documents that may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this Resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve a Resolution, A Resolution to Allocate a Portion of Hotel Tax Revenue to the Tribal Lands Claim Fund and to Cultural education & Enhancement Purposes.

Without objection, amend every reference of 2.5% to 2%.

No objection.

Moved by Director Lee, supported by Director Borowicz, to Table.

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

Is there any objection to doing all committee appointments together?

No Objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the following appointments/resignations:

1. Bernard Biron, Unit 1 Elder Subcommittee, Resignation, Regular Member, term expiring September 2029
2. Dell Powers, Unit 3 Elder Subcommittee, Resignation, Regular Member, term expiring March 2028
3. Carol Colegrove, Unit 3 Elder Subcommittee, Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring April 2027
4. Phyllis Smith, Unit 4 Manistique Elder Subcommittee, Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring January 2027
5. Dell Powers, Elderly Advisory Committee Unit 3 Regular Seat, Resignation, term expiring October 2029

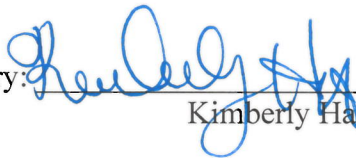
Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carries unanimously.

Adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Date: 3/24/26

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Jen Clerc, Gerard Sagassige, James Benko, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Dani Fegan, Andrew Lane, Sheila Kibble, Joel Lumsden, Heather Kerfoot, Jackie McLean, Helen Wilkins, Bob Marchand, Jamie Moran, Harrison Thorne.