



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 13, 2016. Speaker Johnson thanked everyone for coming out in this blistery cold weather and being here to share this wonderful meeting. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Darleen Martin, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer.

Thank you Lord, for letting us all be here today with safe travels here.  
Let them have safe travels back home.  
Hopefully they will have minds that are thinking straight today.  
Mine is not that way today.  
Thank you for everything they have done.  
Peace to everybody. Miigwech.

Speaker Johnson apologized to Darleen Martin and that he should have said something earlier in the prayers. Johnson said Stella Gibson is in the hospital in Grand Rapids and to keep her in mind and in their prayers as she is recovering.

Ogema Romanelli asked if they could also keep Alfred Olsen in their prayers too because he is going through some issues too.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order but the time was not noted.

**B. Roll Call**

J. Riley - Present	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Present
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Present	M. Wabindato -Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	V. Johnson - Present	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Grace Hendler, Darleen Martin, James Derouin, Lee Mc Caslin, Corey Jerome, Archie Martell, Robert Medacco, Julie Wolfe, Frank Figgels.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: George Le Vasseur, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer Matt Umlauf, Shayne Machen.

Speaker Johnson said he cannot speak for Councilor Crampton but Councilor Burger is out on travel and attending a meeting on Contract Support Costs so she will not be here but he hopes she is doing a good job to help them out in their future Budgets at the federal level.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS IS;** by Medacco; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #1**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**D. Tribal Council Minutes    □ 1/6/16**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MINUTES DATED 1/6/16 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #2**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**1. Approval of grant submission to the Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for assessment of Nme (Lake Sturgeon) for \$100,000**

Natural Resources is applying for grant funding from EPA to use a fish weir to evaluate the Streamside Rearing Program and the population demographic and genetic status of Nme in the Manistee River. The reproductive success of Streamside Reared Fish directly addresses the success of Sturgeon rehabilitation, and of Streamside Rearing Facilities throughout the Great Lakes Region.

Corey Jerome, Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist from the Natural Resource Department represented this agenda item. Jerome said he would like to also mention that Archie Martell is also there with them. Jerome said A.1 is a grant submittal to EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for Assessment of Nme Lake Sturgeon in the amount of \$100,000. Jerome said this is to start looking at adult Lake Sturgeon populations in the Manistee River, again, they have not been assessed since the early 2000's and with the success of their streamside they are looking to reassess the population in the streamside rearing success to the adult recruitment.

Councilor Di Piazza asked if those funds will be to install a weir.

Corey Jerome answered that this is to help install a weir, yes, and to look at maturation of.....

Councilor Di Piazza said the work session they had prior about the portable weir.....is that.....

Corey Jerome replied yes.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, asked Councilor Di Piazza if he could tell them a little bit what a portable weir is because they have no clue what he is referring to.

Councilor Di Piazza said well he will let the expert explain it.

Corey Jerome said they have been working with a contractor, Cramer Fish Science, on a design of a portable weir and it is a system that is placed across the river channel that will block Lake Sturgeon travel into a trap where they then can be assessed biological data allowing other fish to pass through unimpeded upstream and downstream. Jerome asked Julie Wolfe if that answered her question.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0113-006;  
APPROVAL OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GREAT LAKES  
RESTORATION INITIATIVE FOR ASSESSMENT OF NME  
(LAKE STURGEON) FOR \$100,000; by Riley; supported by Medacco.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #3**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**2. Approval of grant submission to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Restoration Initiative FY2016 for Nme (Lake Sturgeon) and Wild Rice Restoration and Protection for \$185,000**

Natural Resources is applying for grant funding from BIA to continue the Nme (Lake Sturgeon) and Wild Rice Restoration and Protection. For Nme they plan to rear Larval Lake Sturgeon within a Streamside Rearing Facility, evaluate the success of Streamside Rearing through the assessment of returning spawning adult Lake Sturgeon, and protect Lake Sturgeon during Sea Lamprey chemical applications. For Wild Rice they propose to develop a Wild Rice Restoration and Protection Plan.

Corey Jerome, Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist from the Natural Resource Department represented this agenda item. Jerome said A.2 is the second grant submittal that they are working on to, again, fully fund this weir and also assists with the Streamside Rearing Facility operation and the continuation of their Wild Rice Program within the department. Jerome said this is for \$185,000 and through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Jerome said this is funding that they have been receiving in for the last four to five years and it is an increase of funding that they are asking for through them. Jerome said like he said to help fully fund this Adult Assessment.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0113-007;  
APPROVAL OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE BUREAU OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE  
(GLRI) FY2016 FOR NME (LAKE STURGEON) AND WILD RICE  
RESTORATION AND PROTECTION FOR \$185,000;** by Di Piazza;  
supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion. Johnson said he just wanted to add a couple of things or a couple of points here. Johnson said he appreciate the efforts that they are moving forward in the Sturgeon because he has seen a program now where the department has done an outstanding job over the past 12 years on this program. Johnson said he

sees a lot of good things happening here but also he sees an opportunity to get a better handle on their Ricing Program for their children because both areas are culturally sensitive for their children and is something that they can have as people in this room and part of their legacy to leave behind for their children. Johnson said when they get to their age they can see the things that they have done to help them out to support their culture on their behalf. Johnson said again, he wanted to say thank you to the department for all the hard work and they look forward to this grant submission.

**Roll Call #4**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**B. Budget Modifications**

Speaker Johnson noted they do not have anything for Budget Modifications.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**1. Authorization for Councilor Burger to travel and attend SGAC/TSGAC Self-Governance 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting**

The meeting takes place in Washington, D.C. on January 26-28, 2016 at the Hilton D. C. Convention Center.

**MOTION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR COUNCILOR BURGER TO TRAVEL AND ATTEND SGAC/TSGAC SELF-GOVERNANCE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTERLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING; by Di Piazza; supported by Wabindato.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #5**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Operations Report**

**November 2015**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OPERATIONS REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 2015 FOR FILING; by Wabindato; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #6**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

- B. Financial Report**  None Submitted
- C. Health Commission**  None Submitted
- D. Housing Commission**  None Submitted
- E. Natural Resource Commission**  None Submitted

Speaker Johnson said Council is still waiting on the Financial Report, Health Commission Report, Housing Commission Report and Natural Resource Commission Reports for November.

**V. New Business**

Speaker Johnson said at this point they do not have any New Business.

**VI. Concluding Business**

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 20, 2016**
- B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Ogema Romanelli said he really has very little on his update for this week. Romanelli said they have a lot of little operational issues going on that they are getting through. Romanelli said being in the new year they have a couple of requests for donations that he is looking at right now which one he has already passed onto Tribal Council and he will pass the second one on. Romanelli said he thinks that is pretty much it. Romanelli said the weather is doing what it does and here they are in winter.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she just had a couple of questions for the Ogema if he could give a brief overview or update of the Tribal Child and Family Service Education Day that happened. Wolfe said also the proposed Constitutional changes are going to be available for more explanation she is understanding at the next Elders Meeting which is in February and asked if that was open to all membership because she knows there is a different count with meal. Wolfe said she also thinks besides catering to the Elders it needs to be a general population Membership Meeting type of discussion where they can have input and understanding because of course they know that not everyone can navigate the website. Wolfe said then also there was in the newspaper about changes to the

Casino Board of Directors that the Ogema had mentioned and she wanted to see if he could update them on that. Wolfe said also the bi-lingual stop signs and can they have any more information besides where they are going or when they are going to be installed.

Ogema Romanelli said okay he can answer the first one. Romanelli said Julie Wolfe is talking about the Child Care Development Center that they are working on. Romanelli said they are submitting for a grant for \$600,000 to do some renovations to the old casino. Romanelli said he thinks that is about as much as he knows right now for an update on that.

Julie Wolfe said yeah because in the newspaper it said Tribal Child and Family Center Education Day so if they are presenting to outside agencies why haven't they presented or gathered input from Tribal membership.

Ogema Romanelli said he is not sure and cannot answer that one but they can present it and see if they can get some next week from probably Jason Cross. Romanelli said on the Constitution he guessed that would be a Council issue. Romanelli asked Julie Wolfe what was the third one. Romanelli said she talked about changes to the Board of Directors.

Julie Wolfe said the Ogema had mentioned in his letter in the newspaper that they were on-going or some things were happening and asked what the status was of that.

Ogema Romanelli said he thinks what they are talking about are some changes to the Board of Directors Act in general and that was Council's Resolutions to see or relooking at that again, yes.

Speaker Johnson said there is also a question about the bi-lingual signs.

Ogema Romanelli said those signs are starting to go up and believed they have some of these signs out at the Community Center is where they are starting and hope to have signs.....they are not.

Councilor Di Piazza said he doesn't know about that but knows that the casino has put them up.

Ogema Romanelli agreed and said they hope to have all their signs anywhere on their Tribal Properties up here all of them converted eventually to actually both English and their language on them.

Julie Wolfe asked if they were ordering them in and being installed.

Ogema Romanelli said his understanding is yes. Romanelli said he doesn't think they have ordered all the signs but the project hopes to do that eventually.

Julie Wolfe said okay and she just wanted to thank Council on that for the appropriation and making that happen because she is under the understanding that was no funding in the Executive side and Council took the initiative and appropriated funding so she is really thankful for that for their children.

Speaker Johnson said okay at this point he would like to address the one question that was left open yet and has to do with the Constitution. Johnson said what they are trying to do is from the last Elder's Meeting that they had there were questions that were asked about identifying what they mean the changes to it. Johnson said so what they are going to do is schedule at the next Elder's Meeting, after the Elder's Meeting, conduct it so that it will be open to the public. Johnson said so once the Elder's Meeting part concludes then the general public is invited to sit in to listen to what the Constitution means. Johnson said they are going to have an attorney there hopefully they are going to have some discussion about how they are going to present this so the membership understands what those changes are and what they mean to the membership. Johnson said 2:00 p.m. it looks like.

Julie Wolfe said 2:00 is a good time. Wolfe said if the Elder's Meeting finishes before would they start early or are they going to wait until 2:00 for people that may be travelling.

Speaker Johnson said he thinks they will wait until people are.....2:00 is 2:00 and he thinks it is only fair to give a time so everybody can convene at that point.

Julie Wolfe thanked Speaker Johnson for clarification on that.

Speaker Johnson said just a quick comment to the Ogema and he briefly talked to Frank Beaver about this but/and he thinks he is working on it. Johnson said there was a survey sent out to the members of the Tribe in regards to Harvest Reports and in that survey it said that there would be six winners of \$50.00 each but it didn't allow on the form where they could sign their name. Johnson said they need to make sure that is communicated out there that when they do fill out the survey somehow they identify if they want to their names so they can be eligible for the drawing because the envelop provided in the packet is a self-addressed envelope with no return address on it therefore there is no way of identifying who the respondent is on the survey. Johnson said it is just a small oversight that they made when they sent that out but again it is valuable information to help the department and the commission move forward on 2016 harvest. Johnson said again he wanted to thank the department for sending that out.

Ogema Romanelli said he will pass that onto the department.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was anything else under Business Updates.



Lee Mc Caslin, Tribal #0748, said just a little bit on that survey that just went out. Mc Caslin said he didn't receive a self-envelope stamped to bring it back so it is in New York and he has it filled out in two places at once and it is beautiful.

### **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody had any Legislative Affairs Updates. Johnson said everybody is aware that Councilor Burger is out there working with the Contract Support and he is sure that she will have a response when she gets back for them to share with them on her findings of that meeting.

### **D. Public Comment Period**

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she might have missed this and it might be a Legislative Update. Wolfe said due to the closing yesterday the work session for the Indian Preference Ordinance was that cancelled, moved, changed or does she have the wrong date.

Councilor Di Piazza responded that was on Thursday.

Julie Wolfe asked so what it is tomorrow. Wolfe asked if Councilor Di Piazza had a time on that.

Councilor Di Piazza said hold on a moment.

Speaker Johnson said they are checking into that.

Councilor Di Piazza said 8:30 tomorrow. Di Piazza reiterated tomorrow the 14<sup>th</sup> Thursday.

Ogema Romanelli said to Lee Mc Caslin that he just wanted to explain that he did speak with Public Safety after the meeting and asked if he had his questions resolved.

Speaker Johnson said to Lee Mc Caslin to please come forward so they can get it on the Recorder here.

Lee Mc Caslin said just to answer the question. Mc Caslin said they answered his question but it still isn't.....they are still embers in the fire there and asked if they knew what he was saying. Mc Caslin said it just gives him an opportunity on an out in case he needs to take it a step further.

Ogema Romanelli said he was in contact and did receive information back. Romanelli said he thinks part of it may be there might be issues that can't be discussed because of.....he doesn't think it was Lee Mc Caslin directly and there

was a third party so that might not be able to be answered. Romanelli said he thinks for the most part he is okay.

Lee Mc Caslin said yeah there is some other things or issues on that he would like to set up a meeting with the Ogema and discuss.

Ogema Romanelli said yes that offer is still on.

Lee Mc Caslin said okay and thanked the Ogema.

***The purpose of closed session is to discuss business matters considered privileged or confidential involving consideration of bids/contracts, pending legal issues, and/or personnel matters.***

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION;** by Medacco; supported by Riley.

**Roll Call #7**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

**VIII. Open Session**

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 11:39 a.m.

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION;** by Riley; supported by Wabindato.

**Roll Call #8**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session**

**MOTION TO MOVE CLOSED SESSION ITEMS C.1 AND C.2; RESOLUTION NUMBER, ROLL CALL, AND VOTE; AND MOTION, ROLL CALL AND VOTE FOR FOLLOW-UP ON C.2 TO OPEN SESSION;** by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #9**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

*The following items were moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0113-008,  
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH REBECCA LIEBING AS  
TRIBAL STAFF ATTORNEY; by Medacco; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-3**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent
J. Burger - Absent	M. Wabindato- Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

**MOTION FOR THE UNIFIED LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO  
CONTACT THE RESORT AND WORK OUT A PLAN FOR  
LEGAL COUNSEL WITH THEM; by Riley; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-5**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes
J. Burger - Absent	M. Wabindato- Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

*This concludes the items moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**IX. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; by Riley; supported by  
Wabindato.**

**Roll Call #10**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant

Joseph Riley II,  
Tribal Council Recorder